

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 6/9 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 5/12/05 Meeting Attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, D. Keene, D. Sloan, S. Smith, W. Taylor

Come On Out and Join Us for...The Slippery Rock Watershed Festival!!

Join us in a day of celebration and exploration as the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, the Jennings Environmental Education Center and the Boyers Sportsman's Club team up to sponsor our first community watershed festival on Saturday, June 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be activities, programs and information for every age. All activities and events will take place within the headwaters area of the Slippery Rock Creek and will highlight the beauty and history of the creek and it's on-going recovery from the effects of abandoned mine drainage. Entertaining and educational children's activities will be conducted at all locations throughout the day! Food and refreshments will be available for purchase (\$3/person for lunch and \$6/person for dinner).

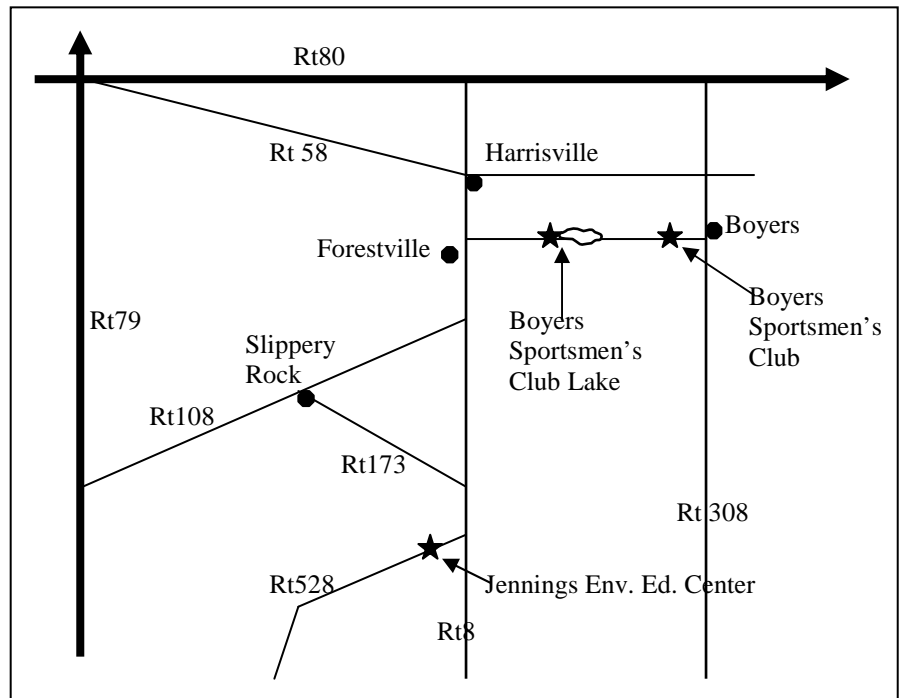
The entire family will enjoy discovering the Slippery Rock Creek through hands-on activities, all-access tours, and interactive demonstrations. All activities will originate at the Boyers Sportsman's Club and Lake located along Forestville-Boyers Road and are free and open to the public. Come on out:

- **Go fishing**
- **Tye-Dye a T-Shirt**
- **Explore an Abandoned Mine Drainage Restoration Project**
- **Tour a Limestone Quarry**
- **Help out with a conservation project**
- **See what is living in and around the creek**

Following the festival, stay for a chicken barbecue (\$6/person) or dine at one of Slippery Rock's restaurants before taking in an evening historical program at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Participants of the SRWC Watershed Festival will receive coupons to several of Slippery Rock's local eateries. What a great way to spend some time before seeing **Richard Pawling of History Alive**, reenact the life and times of a turn-of-the-century coal miner at 7:30 p.m. at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Mr.

Pawling's dramatic performance will expose the many dangers of "life below ground" through the persona of an Irish coal miner. He will describe the progression from breaker boy to a "miner with papers", life in the "patch", the company store, and the Mollie Maguires.

All activities and events are free and open to the public. For more information about the Slippery Rock Watershed Festival or to receive a free brochure contact Stream Restoration Incorporated at (724)-776-0161; sri@streamrestorationinc.org or Jennings Environmental Education Center at (724)-794-6011; jenningssp@state.pa.us. The brochure is also available online at www.srwc.org.



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Another Successful Student Symposium!

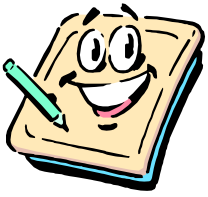
Many bright young minds gathered together at the Andrew J. McKelvey Campus Center at Westminster College in New Wilmington on the evening of April 14 for the Annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Student Symposium. Entitled "Investigating Watershed Issues: Supporting Student Research Through Public/Private Partnerships", the program gave local students the unique opportunity to present research findings to their peers, professors, and potential employers, as several local watershed professionals were in attendance to support the students' efforts.

The evening began with refreshments and time for presenters and the audience to mingle. A retrospective speech reflecting on student involvement in research and field study given by **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated opened the program, after welcoming remarks from **Dr. Helen Boylan** of Westminster. Moderating the program was **Felicie Reid**, a student at Westminster. Thank you, Felicie! And a special thanks to **Westminster** and to **Dr. Boylan**, professor of Chemistry at Westminster, for being a wonderful host for this event.

The SRWC would like to acknowledge the following student presenters, their schools, professors, and research topics and commend them for a very professional job well done!

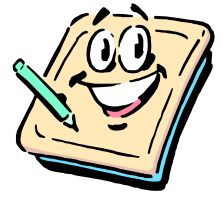
Student	College	Professor	Topic
Matthew Myers	Westminster College	Dr. Joseph Balczon	Ciliate Infection in Zebra Mussels
Prutha Raithatha	Carnegie Mellon University	Dr. Stephen Lee & Dr. Valentine Kefeli	Plants for Daylight Atriums on Fabricated Soil
Stacey Natale	Slippery Rock University	Dr. Julie Snow	An Analysis of Atmospheric Transport Pathways of Sulfur in the Ohio River Valley
William Headlee	Slippery Rock University	Dr. Bruno Borsari & Dr. Valentine Kefeli	The Stimulating Effect of a Papyrus and Chlorophytum Plant Community in Water Culture on a Selected Indicator Crop
Sheri Timko	Thiel College	Dr. Andrea Pavlick	Measuring the Acidity of Acid Mine Drainage
Aaron Howard and Robin Pearson	Grove City College	Dr. Fred Brenner	Plant Survey of a Constructed Wetland
Sanath Kalidas	Carnegie Mellon University	Dr. Aziazan Aziz	Supply and Waste Water Management for the Building As Power Plant (BAPP) Project.

Special thanks also to the Student Symposium Organizers: **Janice Belgraden** of the SRWC, **Cliff Denholm** of SRI, and **Will Taylor** of the Jennings Environmental Education Center.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

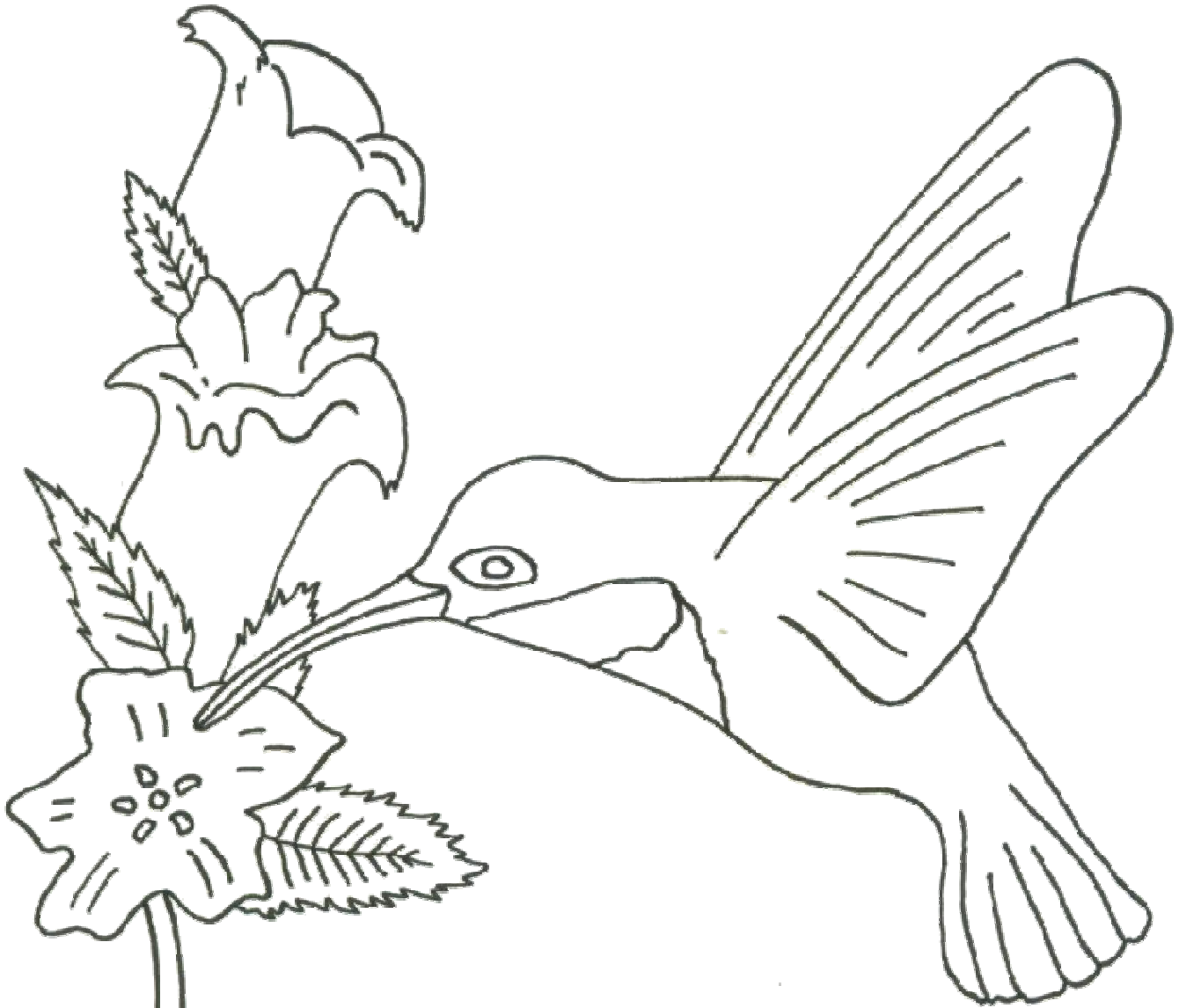


COLOR A HUMMINGBIRD!

Hummingbirds are amazing creatures! There are many unique characteristics of these birds. They are the smallest birds in the world, with an average length of 3 and a half inches! Their wings beat an average of 70 times per second in flight! Their hearts beat over 1000 times per minute while flying. Some types migrate over 2000 miles! Eggs are the size of a small jellybean.

If you want to attract hummingbirds to your yard, they enjoy the nectar from: bee balm, butterfly weed, butterfly bush, cannas, columbine, honeysuckle, impatiens, lilac, phlox, salvia, snapdragon, trumpet vine, and zinnia, among others. They are attracted to the color red, and if you buy a hummingbird feeder you should fill it with a mix of 1 part sugar to 4 parts water and change the sugar water every 4 to 5 days.

The ruby-throated hummingbird is the one you'll most likely see in western Pennsylvania. An adult male is shown below. He has a black face, brown bill, emerald green back, ruby red throat with a small patch of white feathers underneath, gray belly, and black tail.



If you mail us your coloring, we will send you a free gift certificate! Name _____
Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
 A PA Non-Profit Organization
 3016 Unionville Road
 Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, BioMost, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 3016 Unionville Road, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066, (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, sri@streamrestorationinc.org, www.srwc.org. June distribution: 1245

Maple Sugar for 600, Please!



Pennsylvania state park manager trainee **Sean Benson** leads a group of students during the maple sugaring program.

2005 marked the 23rd year that the annual maple sap run has been celebrated at **Jennings Environmental Education Center**. An assortment of Jennings staff, environmental educators from other state parks, volunteers, practicum students and interns collaborated to teach the program, which encompasses the historical course of maple sugaring from early Native American collection methods to contemporary plastic spiles and pipelines. Jennings hosted almost **600 students** and **Scout troops** throughout the week of March 14, and 95 people braved a cold rain to attend the public program on Sunday, March 20th. As always, it was the intention of Jennings staff to affect the students in some permanent, if small way, and hopefully to impress upon them the importance and relevance of environmental awareness.

Intern **Andy Steele** of Slippery Rock University, who led his own group of children in a maple sugaring excursion, wondered

if perhaps some of his students from this year will one day find themselves at the teacher's end of the evaporator, inhaling the sugar goof's fumes, and be transported back in memory as he was. Andy fondly recalled how, as a young child, he was led by a green-clad, brown-booted man through a bare, late-winter forest, with a remarkably sweet scent wafting through the crisp air. Aaah, maple sugar at its finest!



SRU intern **Andy Steele** displays hot maple sap to a group of students at Jennings Environmental Education Center.