

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 8/11 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 7/14/05 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, K. Durrett, D. Johnson

ASMR at High Altitude!

"Raising Reclamation to New Heights" was indeed an appropriate title to this year's ASMR Conference, as the **22nd Annual American Society of Mining and Reclamation National Meeting** was held in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado—at an altitude of 9603 feet! The Rocky Mountains made for an exciting and fun-filled setting for the 200+ attendees. The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition was well represented with several participants making the journey across several states. These included **Margaret Dunn (2004-2005 ASMR President), Dr. Fred Brenner, Tim and Annette Danehy, Pam Esch, Cliff and Kathryn Denholm, Shaun and Melissa Busler**, and three of the youngest members: **Alayna and Sierra Denholm** (age 3) and **Isaac Busler** (age 18 months). The meeting was held June 19-24 at the **Beaver Run Resort and Conference Center**, surrounded by beautiful mountains and park land. No one was skiing with temperatures near 80 degrees, though! Members of the SRWC enjoyed activities such as hiking in the nearby Arapaho National Forest, bike riding, touring a gold mine, horseback riding, train tours, and more! It was interesting to see real beaver dams, even if the beavers were well hidden, and observe coyotes wandering the sidewalks near the resort!

ASMR attendees and their family members were treated one evening to a BBQ picnic dinner catered by **Mike McCrea** at one of Breckenridge's parks. Those in Colorado must like their BBQ sauce HOT! "**Big Mike**" prepared his special sauce, sold in a 5-state region and growing, for ASMR guests who dared to try it, and the report was that it was melting the remaining spots of snow on the Rockies! Big Mike has been featured on the Food Network show "Food Finds" and has a web site www.bigmikes.com for those who like their BBQ sauce with kick! Thanks to Big Mike for a delicious dinner!

Conference attendees had many interesting workshops and technical sessions to choose from, with several related to the mining in Colorado. A favorite workshop attended by Shaun Busler was hosted by **Katherine Salsbury** of Intermountain Aquatics, Inc. The workshop focused on stream restoration and included trips to local restoration areas. An unimpacted upstream region of Blue River was examined, as well as the restored portion in the middle of the town near Main Street. The Blue River and Snake River are part of the Blue River Watershed which supplies water and supports the recreational activities of residents and tourists of Summit County. Shaun learned about how historic mining activity has resulted in water quality impairment associated with AMD in the watershed. Blue River was dredged during a successful gold-dredging boom from 1898 to 1942. A two-story, pontoon boat supported an armature that carried a line of moving buckets that dug up placer mining ground to depths of 48 feet in the riverbed. The dredge removed all vegetation and buildings in its path. The riverbed was literally turned upside-down, ultimately causing flow to disappear. Restoration workers put in a liner and lined the stream, using stream restoration techniques to construct a natural looking, functioning stream. Today, Blue River is a beautiful photogenic waterway meandering the quaint shops, historic buildings, and flower gardens in the Victorian-style town square.



Several SRWC participants enjoyed a visit to the Country Boy Mine. Founded in 1887, it is one of the oldest and most famous mines in Summit County, Colorado. Mining was and still is an integral part of Colorado's history. The valuable ore brought out of the Country Boy Mine and the hundreds of other mines in the area played a significant role in shaping the West and bringing prosperity to the U.S. Early in its over 100 year history, the Country Boy Mine was known for its gold and silver production and later earned national fame by producing large quantities of high grade lead and zinc for use in World War I and World War II.

From Gold Boom to Recreation Boom, with visitors from around the globe, who would guess Breckenridge came close to being a ghost town in 1930, when it was decided that it had been excluded from maps of the United States and the population was around just 250! A big thank you goes out to **Terry Toy**, Chair of the organizing committee for the 2005 Meeting in Breckenridge! The SRWC would also like to express thanks to the many individuals who stopped by the **Stream Restoration Inc poster display** and mention how nice it was to reconnect with old friends, meet new people involved with mining and reclamation, and share new ideas. **The 2006 ASMR meeting will be held March 26-30 in St. Louis, Mo. Come join us!!! "Google" ASMR to learn more!!!**

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ASMR attendees enjoy the BBQ picnic dinner. Look for folks with flames shooting from their mouths, thanks to Big Mike and his BBQ sauce!

SRWC's Dr. Brenner Elected as District Governor of Rotary International

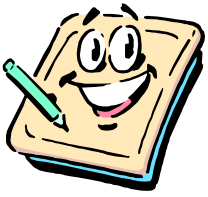


Congratulations to **Dr. Fred Brenner**, professor of Biology at **Grove City College**, who has been elected as a **District Governor of Rotary International** and will take office in two years! Dr. Brenner, who is a participant in the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, is currently an assistant district governor and co-chairman of the International Water Project for the District, which strives to provide clean drinking water to all people of the world. Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build peace and goodwill in the world. Approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 31,000 Rotary clubs located in 167 countries. February 23rd marked the 100th anniversary of Rotary!

Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program a Winner

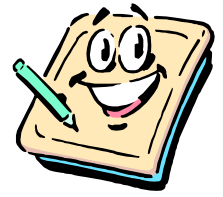
When the **Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards**, sponsored by the **Dominion Foundation** and the **PA Environmental Council**, were given out in late May, it was no surprise to see **The Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program (WPWP)** among the honorees. The WPWP won in the category of "Community" and was honored for its role as a leader in aiding local organizations to restore the "worst of the worst" and preserve the "best of the best." The WPWP has been active in campaigning for reauthorization of the federal Abandoned Mine Land Fund, which uses money assessed on mined coal tonnage to fund abandoned mine land restoration projects. **John Dawes**, founder of the WPWP, has been a valuable partner with the SRWC and Stream Restoration Incorporated by contributing funding to help with projects and events such as the Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration. The WPWP is committed to fostering the work of small, locally based watershed associations and offers such services to its grantees as technical assistance, funding development, board development assistance and communications.

SRI was happy to have nominated John for this award, which honors the achievements of organizations, programs, and individuals in a variety of environmental areas. The WPWP should be proud of this recognition, as only five winners were selected from 16 finalists. Winners were honored with a special dinner, presentation, and a donation of \$1000 made on their behalf to the local nonprofit environmental organization of their choice. **Congratulations to John and the WPWP!**



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Monarch Butterfly Coloring Fun!

The monarch butterfly is a brightly patterned black and orange butterfly and can be seen in Pennsylvania in the summertime. It has a life cycle involving four distinct stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult butterfly. This is known as complete metamorphosis. Monarch butterflies are totally dependent on milkweed during their larval stage. The sap of the milkweed that they eat as a caterpillar contains a chemical which tastes terrible to most birds. Birds trying to eat a monarch butterfly soon spit it out! A monarch's bright colors are a signal to predators of its bad taste. Viceroy butterflies look almost exactly like monarchs but are not bad tasting to birds! This trick helps them avoid being eaten. Unfortunately, the number of monarchs is decreasing. The largest threat to the monarch butterfly is human activities within their wintering grounds. The butterflies are highly concentrated and vulnerable to threats in wintering areas in Mexico. Habitat destruction and changes caused by logging are a constant threat. In California, where many western monarchs spend their winter, the effects of tourism and poorly planned management and development are a problem, and at least seven of the 80 known monarch sites have already been destroyed. Milkweed is widespread and abundant in Canada and the United States, and is often considered a weed. Some researchers think the spraying of pesticides for weed control are killing milkweed plants and may be endangering the habitat and food source of the beautiful monarch butterfly. Have fun coloring the pretty monarchs in the picture below, and if you send it in to us we will mail you a free gift certificate!



Name _____ Age _____
 Address _____

Illustration by Natalya Zahn
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Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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THE STORY OF OUR WILD NEW INTERN...IN HIS OWN WORDS

My name is Kyle Durrett and my journey to Stream Restoration started from far away. I come from the Pacific Northwest in the land of clouds, mountains, and giant evergreen trees. I have lived in the dry desert land, home to Saguaro cacti, tumbleweeds, and Roadrunners. I spent 8 years in the snowcapped mountains with boundless vistas, and hills where you can still hear the Wapiti bugle in the cool morning air. These days I put down roots in the land of rolling green hills where every season brings new life. I have traveled around the world far and wide, and my eyes have seen wild places on three continents, and in my adventures I've had death flash before me more than once. I most recently lived in the Swan Valley of northwestern Montana, surrounded by a wilderness largely untouched by man, and mountain streams full of endangered trout. After attending the University of Montana for a time, I came back to western Pennsylvania to finish my degree in Environmental Science at Slippery Rock University.

In my quest to stay working and interested in the field of my degree I began volunteering at SRI and monitoring water quality in the Slippery Rock watershed this spring. Now this summer I lend a hand here doing whatever I am asked, whether it be planting a wetland or typing reports. I am proud to say that I have added some color and **FLARE** to our projects at SRI with splashes of watercolor and an artistic eye here and there. I am excited about the work that I am doing and all that I am learning in my time here, and maybe soon I'll see you at a watershed meeting and tell you about it too!

