

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

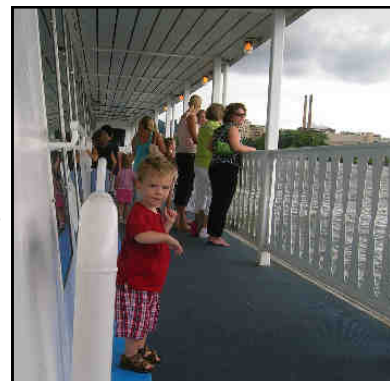
THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 9/8 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/11/05 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor

Fun at the 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!!

It was a beautiful day in the watershed neighborhood on Wednesday, July 27, as hundreds of individuals gathered in Station Square in Pittsburgh to be a part of the **4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!** Thanks to an amazing partnership (*see list of Sponsors and Partners on back page*) of dozens of groups and individuals with a variety of backgrounds and areas of expertise, this year's Celebration was extremely rewarding. Volunteers from watershed groups, private foundations, local businesses, students and educators, local residents, mining companies, local, state, and federal agencies, environmental professionals, private industry, and others gave of their time and resources to help make the Celebration both fun and educational.

The 27th seemed to be the first day in weeks in the Pittsburgh area that the temperature wasn't hovering in the 90s! The cooler air and brief sprinkles were welcome aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet's largest vessel, the *Majestic*, which transported participants through parts of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers on a 3-hour tour. The riverboat cruise gave everyone a chance to view Pittsburgh's landmarks and learn its older and more recent history in a fun and unique way. **Maggie Hall** and **Dave Plank**, both of the PA DEP, provided a detailed narration of points of interest along the riverbanks.

Many watershed-related topics were discussed and presented on the voyage, including the relationship between our watershed and our drinking water; aquatic life; water quality; economic development and revitalization of the rivers; energy; river history; the many and varied uses of the rivers; and more! Environmental Excellence Awards were given out for the second year. **Independence Marsh Foundation** was the winner in the category "Watershed Group", while the **West View Water Authority** won the "Company" award, and the "Individual" award went to **Denny Tubbs** of the **PA Fish and Boat Commission**. These are dedicated people that work tirelessly to better our watershed!



Participants had a lot to see and do! Everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery and many took advantage of the learning opportunities both on the boat and at the dock area. Educational watershed-related poster displays from many of the supporting partners could be found on the *Majestic* and at the dock area, with ample time for networking with environmental professionals and others. There was musical entertainment, delicious snacks for everyone, a variety of door prizes, and even live fish aboard the boat! Everyone got to take home a collector's edition souvenir guidebook, created by **Megon Laudenslager**, full of interesting facts and maps of the Pittsburgh area. Children were given a fun activity book with a **source water theme**, created by **Melissa Busler**, funded by a grant from the **PA League of Women Voters**.

This year's Celebration was unique in that it coincided with the week Pittsburgh played host to the **CITGO Bassmasters Classic** fishing tournament (*see article p.2*). We were pleased to include many of the families and sponsors of the Bassmasters Tournament in our festivities.



The cruise was held on the Official Practice Day of the Bassmasters Classic, and it was exciting to see all the bass pro boats as we cruised the Three Rivers!

Plans are already underway for the **5th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration**, scheduled for the **Fall of 2006**. We hope you will join us then for a fun, free, educational, exciting trip exploring Pittsburgh's valuable waterways!



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Many enjoyed the pre-cruise activities at the 2005 Ohio River Watershed Celebration.

Mastering the Bass

Shaun Busler and **Cliff Denholm** from Stream Restoration Inc. were happy to lend a helping hand at the 2005 **Citgo Bassmaster Classic's** "Family Fun Fest." Because many of the families of the fishing tournament sportsmen traveled along to Pittsburgh, several activities were planned to make the trip more enjoyable for those who were not actually doing the fishing! The Family Fun Fest was held at Point State Park from 7:30 am to noon on Thursday, July 28 and featured a kids fishing clinic where all of the young participants received a free fishing rod. Hundreds of kids took part in the fun, which also included making fish prints. Shaun and Cliff helped dozens of kids spread paint on a fish mold and press the replica onto paper to create their own fish print artwork masterpiece. Many thanks go to **Denny Tubbs**, an aquatic resources specialist for the **Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission**, who was the main catalyst for bringing the Classic to Pittsburgh.

Kevin VanDam, the 2005 Bassmaster Classic Champion, brought a five-bass limit to the scales that weighed 4 pounds, 13 ounces on the last day of the 3-day tournament. That limit was enough to overtake second-round leader Aaron Martens by a mere 6 ounces. VanDam, from Kalamazoo, Michigan, finished with a three-day total of 12 pounds 15 ounces. He is a three-time Bassmaster Angler of the Year and has now won two Bassmaster Classics. VanDam winnings for the Classic amounted to \$200,000, moving him within \$35,000 of all-time BASS leading money winner Denny Brauer.

An amazing 76,872 spectators participated in Bassmaster Classic activities in Pittsburgh, including 29,295 individuals who attended the weigh-ins at Mellon Arena. About 396,000 homes tuned in to see the Day 1 weigh-in, the largest audience for Day 1 of the tournament in ESPN's 5 years of televising the event! Pittsburgh was proud to host this year's tournament, as the city's three main rivers (the Monongahela, Ohio, and Allegheny) are home to over 50 species of fish.

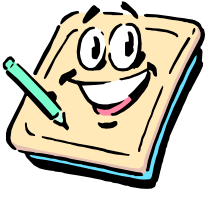


Kevin VanDam celebrates his victory!

While catfish and carp (pollution-tolerant species) comprised the normal catch of a fisherman decades ago, Pittsburgh's rivers are now a healthy and vibrant fishery with lots of variety—even including several fish on Pennsylvania's list of endangered, threatened, and candidate species!

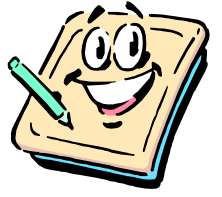


John Crews hoping there are bigger ones yet to come



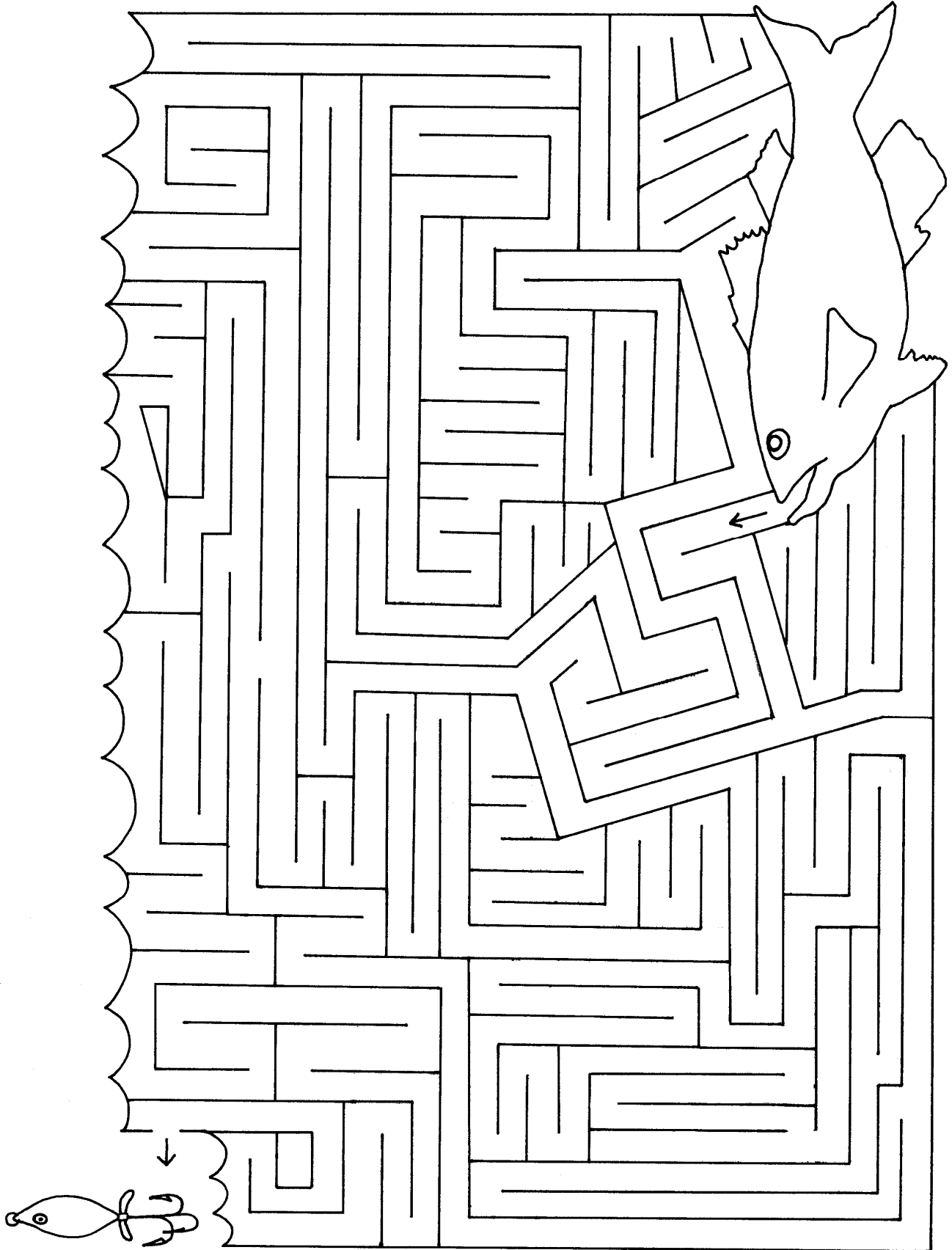
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



A-Maze-ing Fish

Hi kids! Did you know over 50 species of fish live in Pittsburgh's rivers? The rivers are clean and healthy and make a good home for many kinds of fish, even some that are endangered species! Try out this fish maze by starting at the fish's mouth and ending at the lure. If you mail us your paper 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
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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. Sept. distribution: 1268

“Thank You” 2005 Ohio River Watershed Celebration Sponsors and Partners!!!

Sponsors:

The Western PA Watershed Program; PA Department of Environmental Protection; Washington County Conservation District; CONSOL Energy; West View Water Authority; Dominion Foundation; CEMEX; PA Fish & Boat Commission; PA Section American Water Works Association; Calgon Carbon Corporation; Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh; Capital Technologies “Biodiesel Factories of the Future”; PlasTie LLC; Audubon Society of Western PA; Pittsburgh Voyager; League of Women Voters WREN Program; Jane Nugent’s “Garden Talk” WPTT 1360 AM; Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team; Gateway Clipper Fleet; 241 Computers; Society for Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh; Michael Gallagher; Holston & Crisci; Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County; Aquascape; Quality Aggregates Inc.; BioMost, Inc.; Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC; Stream Restoration Inc.

Partners:

WV Dept. of Environmental Protection; Steel Valley Council of Governments; CITGO Bassmaster Classic; Donna Bour & Assoc.; US Environmental Protection Agency; PA Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources; Jennings Environmental Education Center; Carnegie Science Center; Westsylvania Heritage Corporation; US

Army Corps of Engineers; Johnstown Area Heritage Assn.; Windber Coal Heritage Mu-

seum; Mountain Streams; Friends of the Riverfront; Port of Pittsburgh Comm.; Grandma Bowser’s; Douglas Wood “Ostenaco”; Pittsburgh Convention & Visitors Bureau; Venture Outdoors; King’s Family Restaurants; Wilderness Voyagers; Hilton Towers; Red Fin Blues Restaurant; Home Depot-Ross Park; PA Cleanways Allegheny Co.; Historic Arcadia Theater Windber; Eat n’ Park; Saltsburg River & Trail Co.; Kayak Pittsburgh; Whirl Magazine; Washington’s Landing Marina; Inn at Georgian Place; Carnegie Mellon Univ.; Allegheny Co. Economic Development; Green Building Alliance; Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition

