

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

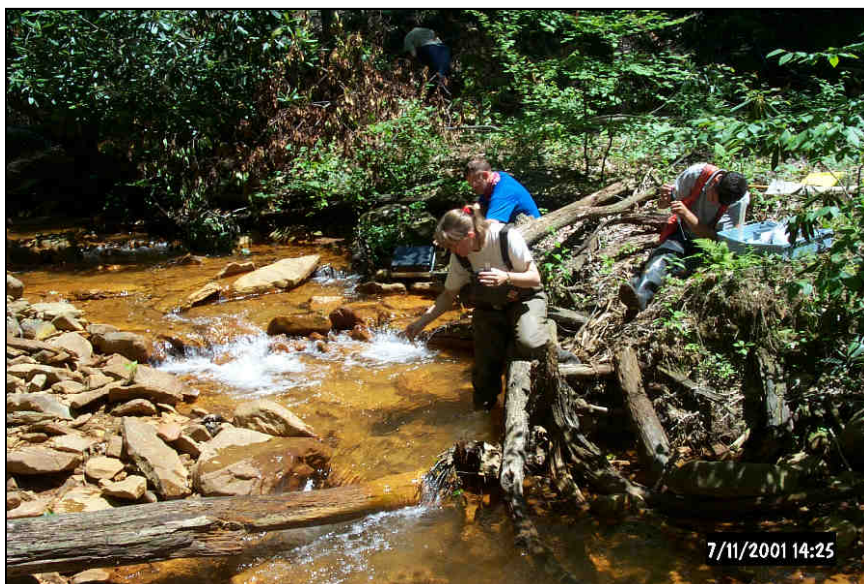
THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 12/8 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 11/10/05 Meeting Attendance: M. Brewer, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, D. Sloan, W. Taylor

SRWC and Jennings Participate at the Slippery Rock Heritage Festival

The Slippery Rock Heritage Festival was held on the campus of **Slippery Rock University** on September 18, 2005. The **Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC)** and the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC)** were asked to participate by the organizing committee. SRWC participants and local residents **Cliff Denholm** of **Stream Restoration Incorporated** and **Will Taylor** of the JEEC were on hand where they had the opportunity to talk about the watershed, coal mining, abandoned mine drainage, passive treatment, and of course the wonderful environmental education programs at Jennings. Food booths, crafts, a car cruise, pet parade, and flea market, along with various music and dance performances, offered much to be enjoyed on a beautiful September day. Other SRWC participants who came out to enjoy the activities and fine weather included **Dave Johnson**, **Janice Belgraden**, **Steve Smith**, and **Valentine** and **Galina Kefeli**. Thanks to the Heritage Festival organizers for inviting us and to all of the nice people who stopped by to talk! We look forward to doing it again next year!

SRI Makes Good Use of WREN Grant

The **Water Resources Education Network (WREN)** awarded grants to 26 community-based water resources education projects in 2005. WREN, a program of the **League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania Citizen Education Fund**, generously awarded more than \$106,000 in funding to community partnerships across the state. **Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI)** was pleased to receive WREN grant funding of \$5000 to help arrange for presentations, watershed displays and posters, children's source water educational activity books, and more for the **4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration**. Hundreds of individuals from dozens of counties participated in the July 27 Celebration, which featured a 3-hour riverboat cruise, to learn about the importance of protecting Pittsburgh's source water. To learn more about the WREN Project and its success in spreading citizen education regarding watershed and source water protection, visit their web site at: http://pa.lwv.org/wren/grants/grants_wren.html



SRI Assessment Photo to be Featured in New McGraw-Hill Book

The Professional Book Group of **McGraw-Hill, New York** is planning publication of the text book **Landscape Architecture, Fourth Edition** for July 2006. And on one of the approximately 352 pages of this book by **John Ormsbee Simonds** and **Barry W. Starke** will be a photograph from **Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI)**! Pictured to the left is a photo of a stream assessment done at Laurel Run in Indiana County, which SRI was honored to give permission for illustration use in this new book. In the photo are: SRWC participant **Melissa Busler** (sampling water),

volunteer **Lyle Alexander**, and former SRI intern **Chris Treter** (assessment organizer **Scott Alexander** and biologist **Shaun Busler** not pictured). How exciting to think this photograph will be viewed all throughout the world, in foreign-language translations, CD-ROM, and the Internet!



Was there a snake round-up at the Slippery Rock Heritage Festival?! Not this year, at least! SRWC participant Valentine Kefeli (center) holds up a snake replica often used at Jennings Environmental Education Center for educational purposes—not to scare people! Joining him in this photo at the JEEC poster display are Will Taylor (left) and Cliff Denholm (right). (See front page article for full story.)

SRWC's Watershed Restoration Success Story Shared in IALR

The **International Affiliation of Land Reclamationists (IALR)** provides an international information exchange network for sharing technology related to the reclamation of lands disturbed by mineral extraction and processing. One of the most important services offered by the IALR is the opportunity for watershed groups, professional organizations, environmental professionals, volunteer groups, educational institutions, and others to share research accomplishments and/or experiences in reclaiming lands disturbed by mineral extraction and processing to achieve environmental, economic, and social objectives. The **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC)** was pleased to be featured in the **Volume 12 2004/2005 IALR Newsletter**.

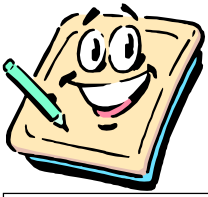
In an article written by SRWC participants **Cliff Denholm, Margaret Dunn, Tim Danehy, and Shaun Busler**, the history of the SRWC is examined and the authors focus on detailing several challenges and subsequent successes achieved by the Coalition in addressing abandoned mine drainage problems within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. Within a 27-square mile portion of the Slippery Rock Creek watershed headwaters, coal mining was conducted for well over 100 years. Many of the streams were lifeless due to the toxic effects of acid mine drainage. To address these problems, the SRWC was formed in 1994 through a volunteer effort by citizens, private industry, schools, government agencies, service groups, and others that lived and/or worked in the area. The SRWC's goals are to:

- Restore the headwaters to a viable fishery,
- Develop public-private partnership efforts not only to reclaim abandoned mine sites but also to demonstrate the multiple benefits associated with watershed restoration,
- Develop and improve treatment systems and land reclamation techniques that are environmentally-friendly, low cost, low maintenance, and long term or sustainable, and
- Provide educational opportunities to all interested in abandoned mine restoration.

Since 1994, the SRWC has constructed 16 passive treatment systems successfully treating over 750 million gallons of mine drainage each year. These systems are preventing about 200 tons of iron, 8 tons of aluminum, and 335 tons of acidity annually from entering Slippery Rock Creek! That is the amount of iron and aluminum to make approximately 200 trucks and 273,330 aluminum cans each year! The improvement in water quality has resulted in fish being observed in over 11 miles of stream probably for the first time in over a century. In addition to the treatment of mine drainage, about 100 acres of abandoned minelands have been reclaimed including the removal of over 125,000 cubic yards of coal refuse while over 10 acres of wetlands have been created.

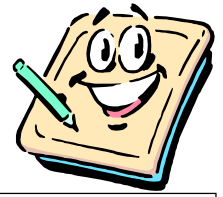
The SRWC would like to thank the IALR for the opportunity to share their story in the IALR newsletter!

The IALR has recently joined the World Wide Web! Their informative new web site can be found at: <http://ces.ca.uky.edu/asmr/IALR.htm> and includes such helpful services as a bulletin board of events, a listing of databases pertaining to land reclamation, relevant journals and periodicals, a listing of research centers who deal with land reclamation, helpful web site links, and much more!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

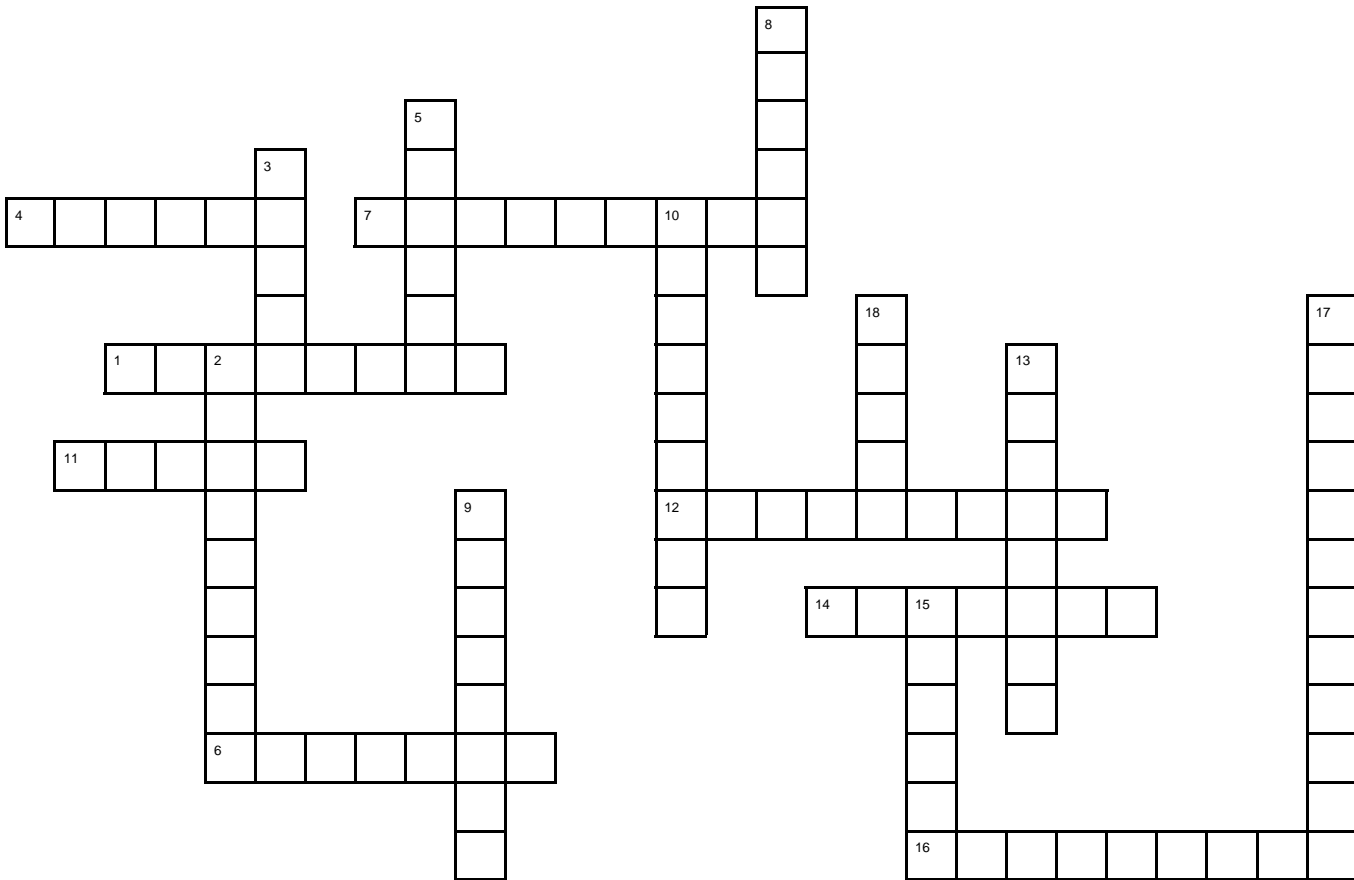


Winter Crossword Puzzle

Kids: Read the clues about winter, and fill in the spaces of the puzzle vertically or horizontally! If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate! Have fun this winter!

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____



Across

- The first day of winter is in this month.
- A Snow Day means _____ has been cancelled!
- Frosty the _____ was a jolly happy soul, with a corncob pipe and a button nose and 2 eyes made out of coal.
- Some animals _____ (go into a deep sleep) during the winter to cope with cold temperatures and lack of food.
- You wear a _____ around your neck to protect it from the cold winter air.
- Lots of people like to drink hot _____ as a treat to warm up on a cold winter day.
- Some animals, like many birds, "fly south" or _____ for the winter, where the weather is nicer and more food is available.
- These animals are known for collecting nuts and storing them for the winter

Down

- We celebrate _____ on December 25.
- No two snowflakes are _____.
- An _____ forms from the freezing of dripping water and looks like a sharp spear pointed downward.
- A sport played in the winter where players wear iceskates and shoot a puck with a stick.
- A severe winter storm with high winds and lots of blowing snow is called a _____.
- An _____ happens when a large amount of snow, ice, and mud slide down a mountain.
- The Super Bowl is the championship game of this sport, and is played in the winter season.
- Wear these on your hands to keep them warm!
- It's fun to roast these gooey sugary treats on a stick over a fire
- In an emergency, Eskimos build this kind of a house made of snow and ice.



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. Dec. distribution: 1275

Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!) Montour Run Watershed Association Wetland Planting



SRWC participants have been enjoying working with the **Montour Run Watershed Association (MRWA)** on a passive treatment system project at Boggs Road, Findlay Township, Allegheny County. The site is the first of several remediation projects to be constructed within the Montour Run Watershed and was dedicated on September 30. Speakers included **Sen. John Pippy, Chairman of Findlay Supervisors Tom Gallant**, and officials of state and federal agencies involved in the project.

The passive treatment system at Boggs Road consists of a forebay (the area where the discharge is collected), bioswale (a narrow wetland with a deep and a shallow area), and two other wetlands, followed by a pond. Examination of the water's iron content shows evidence of how well this system is working. Recent data shows 88.75 mg/L of iron in the raw water, while the treated water contains just 0.1 mg/L—a **remarkable 99.89% reduction!** This system will remove 3.5 tons of iron positively impacting 14.5 miles of stream!



On Saturday, October 8, SRWC participants joined with 8 dedicated MRWA members to plant a wetland at the Boggs Road site. The 10 volunteers worked hard, planting hundreds of plants in a few hours. Burreed, wool grass, and soft stem bulrush were some of the plant species. In addition, many burreed seeds were scattered throughout the wetlands.

What's next? Water samples will continue to be collected and analyzed. All indications are the findings will show cleaner water, and with the dedication of the MRWA, this project will surely result in a healthy habitat for many years to come! Thanks to **Keith Kropf, BFI, and Imperial Land Development** for making this project possible! For more information visit the Montour Run Watershed Association website at www.mrwa.info