

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 2/9 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 1/12/06 Meeting Attendance: C. Cooper, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, K. Durrett, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, J. Rankin

2005 Year in Review:

A Time of Partnerships and Progress

Education/Outreach Activities

- Annual Prairie Improvement Day at Jennings Environmental Education Center - 2/5
- Community Tree/Shrub Planting with Grove City Borough, Pine Township, and Beran Environmental Services, Inc. in Grove City, PA - 4/23
- Wolf Creek Upper Dam Tree & Shrub volunteer planting - April
- 10th Annual Earth Day Celebration at EDCO Park in Evans City, PA - 4/30
- 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration, Pittsburgh, PA - 7/27
- Citgo Bassmaster Classic "Family Fun Fest", Pittsburgh, PA - 7/28
- Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for John Jay Center, Robert Morris University - 9/12
- Slippery Rock Heritage Festival - 9/18
- "Garden Talk" WPTT radio Valentin Kefeli interview with Jane Nugent - 12/10
- "Adopt-a-Highway" program, Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101

Restoration Projects

- Improvements to DeSale I passive treatment system, Venango Township, Butler Co., PA
- Wolf Creek dam removal, clean-up, and restoration, Grove City, PA - Grove City College, Beran Environmental
- Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Assessment - ongoing

Conferences

- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Student Symposium at Westminster College - 4/14
- 26th Annual West Virginia Surface Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium in Morgantown, WV - 4/19-20 - presented paper on Erico Restoration, Venango Twp., Butler Co., PA
- Pennsylvania GIS Conference at Camp Hill, PA - 5/18 - presentation on "Datashed"
- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition 10th Annual Symposium at Boyers Sportsmen Club and Jennings Environmental Education Center - 6/11
- 22nd Annual American Society of Mining and Reclamation National Meeting in Breckenridge, CO - 6/18-24 - M. Dunn, 2005 ASMR President
- OSM Technology Transfer 2005 Mine Water Treatment Conference in Pittsburgh, PA - 8/16-18
- Pennsylvania GIS Day in Harrisburg, PA - 11/15
- Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals Western Section Meeting in Coraopolis, PA - 12/7

Recognition

- 9th Annual Carnegie Science Center Award for Excellence in Environmental category awarded to Margaret Dunn - 4/27
- Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition featured in 2005 International Affiliation of Land Reclamationists newsletter
- Dr. Fred Brenner elected to serve as District Governor of Rotary International



Kids have fun making "fish prints" at the 4th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration.



Beautiful sites in Breckenridge and surrounding towns added to the enjoyment of the ASMR Conference.



Ninety-one volunteers turned out for the 5th annual prairie improvement day held at Jennings Environmental Education Center on Saturday, January 21. Volunteers dedicated 270 hours of their time, and 8 restaurants donated hot, delicious soup.



Escape the Winter Blues with Fun Programs at Jennings

Who says you have to stay cooped up this winter? Take a break from your winter hibernation to join the knowledgeable staff at Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) for some interesting environmental education programs! JEEC, a state park dedicated to providing environmental education and interpretation to the community, is located in Slippery Rock 12 miles north of Butler on PA Route 528. JEEC offers a diverse array of environmental education programs year-round. Check out 3 of their fun upcoming events! These programs are offered at no cost, but interested individuals should call JEEC to sign up.

Program Title: Owl Prowl

Date: February 12, 2006

Time: 7:00 PM

Contact Info.: Will Taylor, Program Coordinator, 724-794-6011

Program Description: Princes of darkness and lords of the night time sky, owls are superb, highly specialized predators. Their nocturnal habits, silent flight and ghostly appearances have fascinated people for centuries. Come owling for the evening and explore the folklore, natural history and adaptations of the mysterious creatures of the night. Following a brief indoor presentation, prowl among owls and other nightlife on a guided walk along Jennings' darkened forest trails.

Program Title: Winter Tree Identification Hike

Date: February 26, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM

Contact Info.: Will Taylor, Program Coordinator, 724-794-6011

Program Description: During the leafless winter months many familiar trees seem to conceal their identities. However, true tree detectives notice clues in the bark, buds, and branches that remain during this frosty season. In fact, these distinctive characteristics are often easier to observe after the leaves have disappeared. Solve the mystery and learn to distinguish our common trees in their dormant state on a one and one half hour guided walk with the Jennings staff.

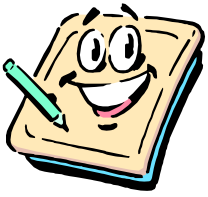
Program Title: The Fur Trade: Its Origin and Importance

Date: March 12, 2006

Time: 2:00 PM

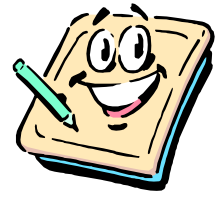
Contact Info.: Will Taylor, Program Coordinator

Program Description: With the arrival of Europeans the Iroquois and Algonquin tribes in North America turned from using natural resources for survival to depending on imported manufactured goods. This provided France and England with an economic source of power and put thousands to work to meet the demands of the Indians in North America. Dressed as an early trader with an intriguing supply of furs and 18th century artifacts, artist and historian Fred Threlfall will make this historical period come alive with his fascinating presentation.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Groundhog's Day Phun with Phil

Groundhog's Day is February 2! On this day, lots of people will be tuning in to hear the news of the famous groundhog, Phil, who lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if it is sunny on Groundhog's Day then Punxsutawney Phil will come out of his burrow and cast a shadow, meaning there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If Phil comes out of his hole and doesn't see his shadow, tradition says there will be an early spring! Phil has been used to predict the weather since 1887! Most of the time, Phil has seen his shadow.

Groundhogs and woodchucks are common names for the same animal, a rodent that can actually climb trees and swim! During the winter, groundhogs go into a deep hibernation that lasts until early February. It is believed that growing amounts of sunlight trigger the groundhogs to wake up from their hibernation time. Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion greens, clover, plantain, grasses, and are tempted by nearby garden vegetables. Adult groundhogs weigh about 10 pounds and are about 2 feet long.

Below are several words related to Groundhog's Day that are hidden in the word search. Try to locate and circle all of the words. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

Groundhog	Punxsutawney	Tradition	Winter	Predict
February	Pennsylvania	Forecast	Phil	Hibernate
Spring	Shadow	Burrow	Woodchuck	Sunny

B	U	S	O	Q	A	N	T	R	A	W	O	O	D	C	H	U	C	K	W	O	K	S
F	E	H	M	P	H	C	V	N	O	J	Z	Q	F	B	Y	J	U	N	A	S	I	P
S	R	I	M	S	H	J	O	A	E	C	H	V	E	E	I	L	P	I	O	U	H	R
Z	G	B	R	B	Q	I	J	C	H	E	R	T	S	K	M	L	E	N	P	N	U	E
Y	R	E	R	N	T	P	L	E	N	N	S	Y	P	L	V	A	I	W	Q	N	Z	D
E	X	R	L	I	M	W	N	Y	F	K	F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	E	Y	P	I
N	P	N	D	D	I	C	M	O	O	Q	D	N	I	N	N	O	W	S	H	Z	A	C
W	O	A	C	R	B	S	C	U	O	P	L	J	N	C	K	W	N	T	E	S	R	T
A	R	T	Z	C	G	O	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	Q	F	U	H	M	R	Y	W	O
T	O	E	N	N	A	V	T	A	D	R	E	G	H	U	P	I	O	D	R	S	A	B
U	Q	T	Y	B	H	D	C	W	D	P	K	Y	B	F	R	T	H	A	M	V	U	E
S	I	W	I	N	T	E	R	W	A	O	I	C	B	W	W	O	U	C	H	R	C	K
X	P	U	N	X	T	Q	U	N	X	E	W	U	K	L	O	R	B	E	R	A	E	P
N	E	N	N	S	Y	B	Q	W	P	Y	I	V	C	X	B	Z	U	O	S	T	R	E
U	T	H	Y	A	I	N	A	V	L	Y	S	N	N	E	P	Q	W	E	N	T	I	L
P	E	C	B	Q	S	A	T	F	J	C	N	O	F	O	S	A	F	E	B	M	S	W

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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Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

Drilling in Raccoon Creek Watershed

To help help restore the degraded waters of Raccoon Creek, preliminary site investigations are being conducted to install a new passive system to treat an 800-gpm discharge from an abandoned underground coal mine site in northern Washington County near the small town of Joffre on property owned by the **Petricia Family**. **McKay & Gould Drilling, BioMost, Inc., and Quality Aggregates** braved a blustery January day to install test boreholes and establish water monitoring wells. The wells will help to define the characteristic of the mine pool that surfaces a few hundred yards away from Raccoon Creek. This restoration project will reinforce progress that the **Washington County Conservation District** and the **Raccoon Creek Watershed Association** have been making upon this impaired watershed already. Funding has been provided by the **PA Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener** program, the **Office of Surface Mining**, and in-kind contributions from project partners. Thanks **Mike Hollabaugh** and **Steve Doyle**, McKay & Gould Drilling (pictured below)!!!

