

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 5/11/06 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 4/13/06 Meeting Attendance: C. Cooper, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, S. Smith, W. Taylor, S. VanDerWal, K. Williams

On the Road Again...To St. Louis

On March 25, 2006, **SRWC** participants **Margaret Dunn, Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Kyle Durrett, Tom Grote, Valentin Kefeli, and Galina Kefeli** piled into two vehicles and hit the road to St. Louis, Missouri to attend the **ICARD/SME/ASMR** meetings. The Seventh International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage was held in conjunction with the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration, Inc. Annual Meeting, and the American Society for Mining and Reclamation, March 27-30, with the theme "*Leadership: Gateway to the Future.*" With numerous opportunities to attend interesting presentations, check out the local sites, sample the local cuisine, and man the posters and displays, it was a busy week for the attendees. Kyle Durrett and Tom Grote manned the **Environmentally Innovative Solutions** booth, while Tim, Cliff and Valentine gave the following poster presentations:

"Funding Requirement for Long-Term Post-Mining Discharge Treatment" by Tim Danehy

"Precipitating Iron Minerals at Low pH: A New Consideration in Passive Technology" by Cliff Denholm

"Microbial Activity in Fabricated Soils for Landscape Rehabilitation" by Valentine Kefeli



Left: Seated with us are **Craig McCouley and Aisling O'Sullivan (New Zealand!), Matt Owens, Buchanan Consultants (NM), and Bob Zick, Veolia Water (PA)**



What we have to do at conferences!

Ellwood City Ledger Includes SRI Feature!

SRWC participants **Margaret Dunn, Tom Grote, and Shaun Busler** were pleased to recently meet with **Ellwood City Ledger** staff writer **Eric Poole** at their **Stream Restoration Inc.** office in Cranberry, PA. Eric interviewed the trio to better understand the work they do using passive treatment systems to clean up streams and land adversely impacted by abandoned mine drainage, and also to discuss a new river conservation plan in the works. The group has submitted a proposal to obtain a state grant through the **Department of Conservation and Natural Resources** to institute a river conservation plan for the entire Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, which includes 41 municipalities in 5 counties. Ellwood City residents have an interest in the plan due to the fact they get their drinking water from Slippery Rock Creek. According to Tom, a river conservation plan means more resources and economic growth for the included regions. Another point made during the interview was the group's focus on cooperative projects with landowners to clean up streams. In addition, an emphasis on the benefits clean streams have to outdoor recreation and tourism was discussed. Said Margaret of a branch of the Slippery Rock Creek, "If they can see fish which have not been there for 100 years, it's exciting to me."

Eric's article, which ran in the March 16 edition of the newspaper, can be read in its entirety online at http://www.zwire.com/site/index.cfm?newsid=16315151&BRD=2724&PAG=461&dept_id=563781&rfi=8

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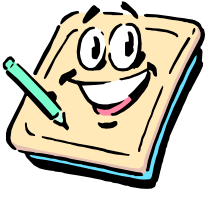
A new arrival to the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, Willow Katrina Danehy, was born on February 7, 2006.

PA DEP, EPA, and Army Corps of Engineers Tour Slippery Rock Watershed

On April 19, 2006, the Slippery Rock Watershed was included as part of a PA DEP and EPA 319 Tour that lasted several days and spanned multiple counties throughout Pennsylvania where the participants could view environmental projects that have been completed utilizing EPA 319 and PA Growing Greener funding. Participants of the tour included representatives from the **PA DEP, US EPA, US Army Corp of Engineers,** and the **Butler County Conservation District.** The tour was given by **Will Taylor of Jennings Environmental Education Center** and **Margaret Dunn of Stream Restoration Incorporated.** SRWC participants **Jeff Reidenbaugh, Cliff Denholm, Valentine Kefeli, and Charlie Cooper** were also present on the tour. The tour started off at Jennings Environmental Education Center where the SRWC installed its first vertical flow pond with EPA 319 Funding. After Jennings, the tour headed to the Erico Bridge passive treatment system, which contains one of the largest known Anoxic Limestone Drains. Following the SRWC portion of the tour, participants stopped by to chow down at the Family Tradition restaurant in Harrisville.

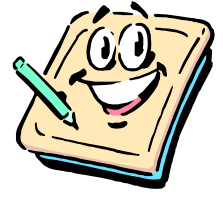


Tour Attendees: EPA - Fred Suffian and Suzanne Hall; DEP - Glenn Rider, Russ Wagner, Karl Rohr, Gary Price, Glenda Serree, Fran Koch, and Donna Carnahan; Army Corps of Engineers - Christina Schroeder and Kathy Anderson; Butler County Conservation District - Ryan Harr; Jennings Environmental Education Center - Will Taylor; Aquascape - Jeff Reidenbaugh; Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition - Charlie Cooper, Cliff Denholm, Margaret Dunn, and Valentin Kefeli



The KIDS Catalyst

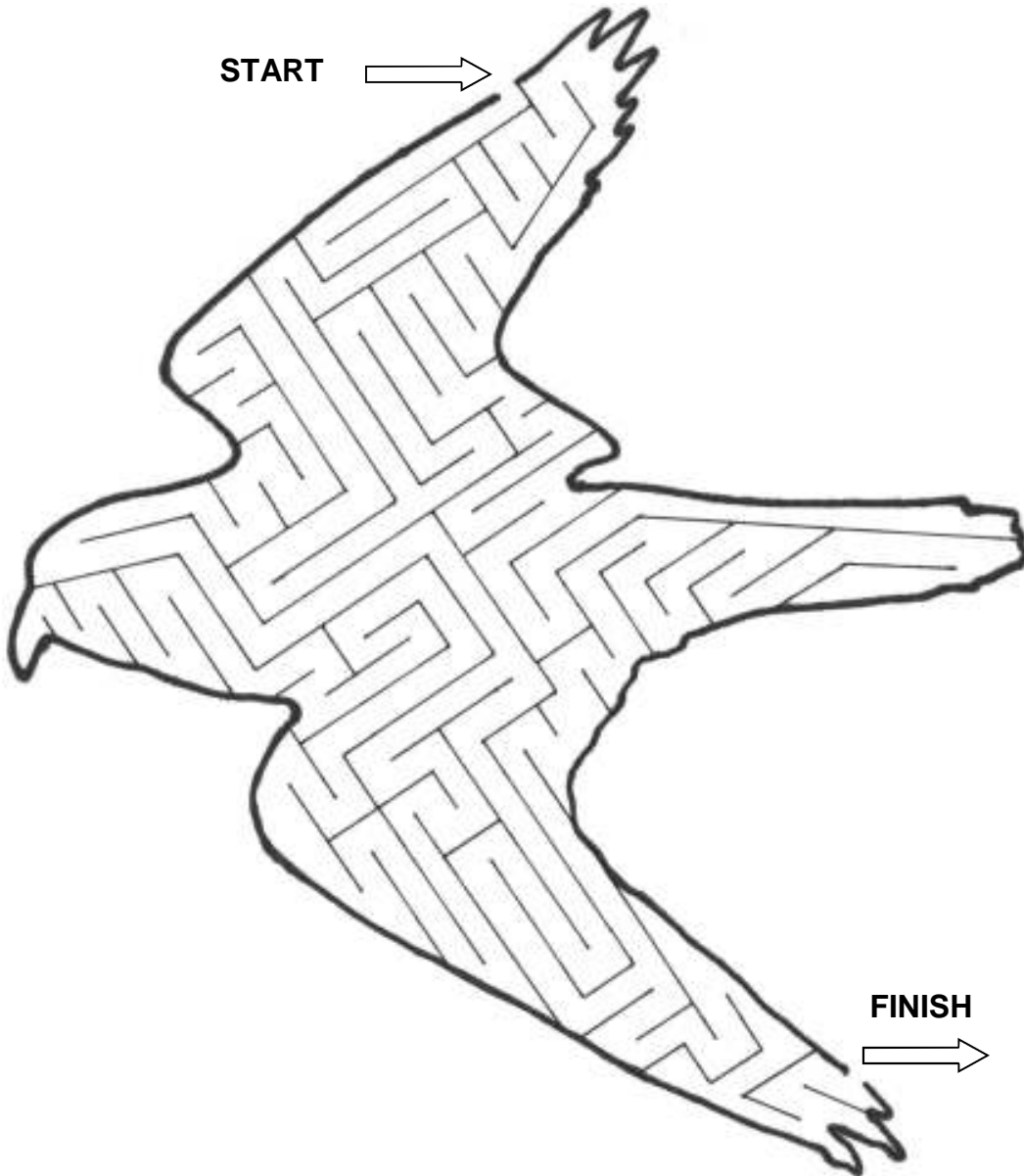
SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



A-Maze-ing Peregrine Falcon

Peregrine falcons can dive after prey at approximately **200 mph!!!** These birds used to be some of the most widespread in the world, with over 350 nesting sites east of the Mississippi River before the 1960s. Sadly, by the year 1965 there were NO successful nestings east of the Mississippi. This decline was due mainly from pesticides like DDT, which accumulated in falcon food chains and caused the birds' egg shells to crack during incubation. The peregrine falcon was one of the first species listed as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act of 1974. It is no longer on the federal list of Endangered Species because their numbers have recovered. However, this bird is still listed as a Pennsylvania Endangered Species.

One of the best-known falcon nesting sites in PA is on top of the Rachel Carson state office building in Harrisburg. A special web camera has been set up to allow anyone to see what the falcons are doing at any given time! Go to the web site <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/dep/falcon/> if you want to peek in on the falcons! There are also peregrine falcon nesting pairs at the Gulf Tower in downtown Pittsburgh (<http://www.paconserve.org/rc/gulfvideo.html>) and at the University of Pittsburgh Cathedral of Learning (<http://www.paconserve.org/rc/pittvideo.html>)—the only ones known to nest in the western half of Pennsylvania. Peregrines usually nest on cliffs or sometimes tall buildings and large bridges. The male and female falcon remain paired for life. The typical clutch has 4 eggs. The male and female share the duties of incubation for approximately 31 days. Many challenges face the falcons (a red-tailed hawk was killed in a battle over territory with one of the falcons this March!), but their overall recovery has been a wonderful story! See if you can make your way through the peregrine falcon maze below. If you mail us your completed 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
3016 Unionville Road
Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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May Is Watershed Awareness Month!!

Celebrate Watershed Awareness Month in May! Members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate have passed resolutions to designate May as Watershed Awareness Month. With over 50 House members sponsoring [House Resolution 711 \(Adolph-R-Delaware, George-D-Clearfield\)](#), and over 27 state Senators sponsoring [Senate Resolution 291 \(Rhoades-R-Schuylkill, Musto-D-Luzerne, White-R-Venango\)](#), the important contributions local watershed groups make to improving water quality are being recognized. With the theme “The Power of Positive Action is Restoring Our Watersheds”, the House resolution includes this text: “*The Commonwealth recognizes and celebrates the efforts of hardworking volunteers within watershed groups who improve their communities today and for future generations.*”

The importance of watershed groups should not be overlooked! These groups are helping to improve water quality and restore watersheds all over the state. Did you know...

- Watershed groups have reclaimed over **5,000** acres of abandoned mines, planted over **1,000** miles of stream buffers and created or restored over **3,000** acres of wetlands since 1999
- For every \$1 invested by the State, watershed groups have matched it with \$1.25 of their own funds, more than *doubling* the Commonwealth's investment
- Over **11,000** volunteers are actively involved in water quality sampling across the state

The work is far from complete, however. More than 10,762 miles of streams in PA are still so polluted they don't meet water quality standards; this includes over 4,000 miles of streams impaired by AMD. With the hard work of watershed group volunteers, however, we know these numbers will continue to improve!

Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

A Call for Articles!

Nobody knows a watershed better than those who are directly involved with its care, clean-up, and unique resources! We want to hear from you, other watershed organizations, about your group's partnership efforts at restoration, including success stories, challenges, accomplishments, personal stories, etc.! If your article is chosen for publication in H.O.P.E., we will recognize your non-profit organization with a **\$25 award!** Articles may be sent via email in care of Stream Restoration Inc. to sri@streamrestorationinc.org (please refer to “Catalyst H.O.P.E. article” in email Subject).