

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 8/10/06 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 7/13/06 Meeting Attendance: B. Busler (3 months old!), I. Busler, M. Busler, S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, K. Durrett, W. Taylor, K. Williams

### Independence Day at Harrisville Community Days

The SRWC wants to thank the organizers of the Harrisville Community Days for the warm welcome to the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration. We also want to especially thank **Heidi Solley** from the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** for "thinking on her feet" and "going the extra mile" to make this event possible. With Heidi's quick thinking, she drove out on her way to borrow a tent large enough for both the JEEC hands-on activities and the SRWC display. In addition to the excitement of helping Heidi erect this type of tent for the first time, **Kyle Durrett, Cliff Denholm, Janice Belgraden, Steve Smith, Valentin & Galina Kefeli, Kim Williams, Charlie Cooper, and Margaret Dunn** were all present to provide educational opportunities for the public to learn about geology, coal mining history, Abandoned Mine Drainage, passive treatment, and watershed restoration. Attendees could not miss us as **Charlie Cooper floated a large helium-filled balloon with SRWC** written on the side above our display. The Tie-Dying activity with iron oxides recovered from the passive treatment system at Jennings was a hit as was the opportunity to talk with **Trapper John**. People were also extremely interested in the pottery with a glaze containing manganese recovered from the nearby De Sale passive treatment systems and with plants grown in fabricated soil created by soil scientist **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**. We can not express our



thanks adequately to all of the people who stopped to talk to us and offer words of encouragement and appreciation for the improvement that they see in their streams!!!! (This makes it all worthwhile!!!!!!) We also loved learning about the history of the area from people who actually worked in the old mines or on the railroads!!!! There were many opportunities to contribute as **Charlie Cooper** and **Kim Williams** graciously volunteered to park cars for **5 (!!!) hours** prior to the wonderful fireworks celebration and **Will Taylor** from Jennings volunteered numerous hours working with the Harrisville Community Days organizing committee. If you didn't make it this year, save the date for next year. There is "fun for all" with numerous vendors, amusement rides, games, a parade, live music, bingo, a raffle, a Chinese auction, and the famous Harrisville Fireworks. **We are already looking forward to being there next year!!!!**



Trapper John (left) chats with Kyle Durrett



Heidi Solley running the tie-dying table

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3-month old Benjamin Busler is the newest participant of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. Here you see him catching up on a Catalyst issue while doing a little fishing.

### **Technology Meets Acid Mine Drainage**

*Its mission?* To identify, evaluate, develop, and disseminate information about cost effective, environmentally sound methods and technologies to manage mine wastes and related metallurgical materials for abandoned, inactive, active, and future mining and associated operations and to promote understanding of these technologies.

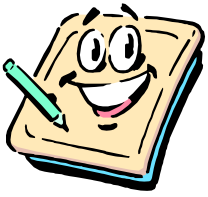
*Its members?* A technically focused consensus group of volunteer representatives from state and federal government, academia, the mining industry, consulting firms, and other interested parties who are involved in the environmentally sound management of metal-mine wastes and drainage quality issues.

**ADTI** is a technology-based initiative aimed at reducing the formation of acid pollutants that can drain into streams and rivers when coal is mined, launched by state and federal mining agencies and the mining industry. In 1995 federal agencies, the National Mining Association, and the Interstate Mining Compact Commission started the **Acid Drainage Technology Initiative (ADTI)** in order to identify, evaluate and develop cost-effective and practical acid drainage technologies. In 1999, ADTI was expanded through the addition of the metal mining sector group, which began organization efforts in 1998. ADTI addresses drainage quality issues involving metal mining and related metallurgical operations and acid drainage from coal mines, for abandoned, active and future mines.

The vision statement of ADTI is to use “consensus to promote scientifically sound mineral development that minimizes adverse impacts on water and maximizes beneficial post-mining land uses.” With the guiding principle of building a consensus among industry and federal and state regulatory agencies, ADTI focuses its efforts on technology development and technology transfer in the areas of mine drainage prediction, sampling/monitoring, modeling, and avoidance/remediation.

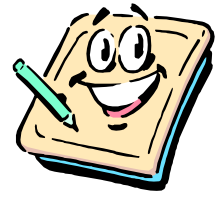
The ADTI Coal Mining Sector Annual Meeting was held April 19 and 20 at West Virginia University’s National Mine Land Reclamation Center at the National Research Center for Coal and Energy Building. This meeting included summaries and discussions regarding current coal-related AMD research activities, funding sources for ADTI research activities, emerging priorities for the coal mining sector, and more.

Several individuals at **West Virginia University** are actively involved in ADTI as part of the university’s Water Research Institute: **Jeff Skousen, Ph.D.**; **Paul Ziemkiewicz, Ph.D., Director**; and **James Stiles, Ph.D., P.E., Environmental Engineer**. Check out the recently updated ADTI information on West Virginia University’s web site at <http://www.wri.nrcce.wvu.edu/programs/adi> or contact **Jeff Skousen** for more information at **304-293-6256** or email [jksousen@wvu.edu](mailto:jksousen@wvu.edu).



# The KIDS Catalyst

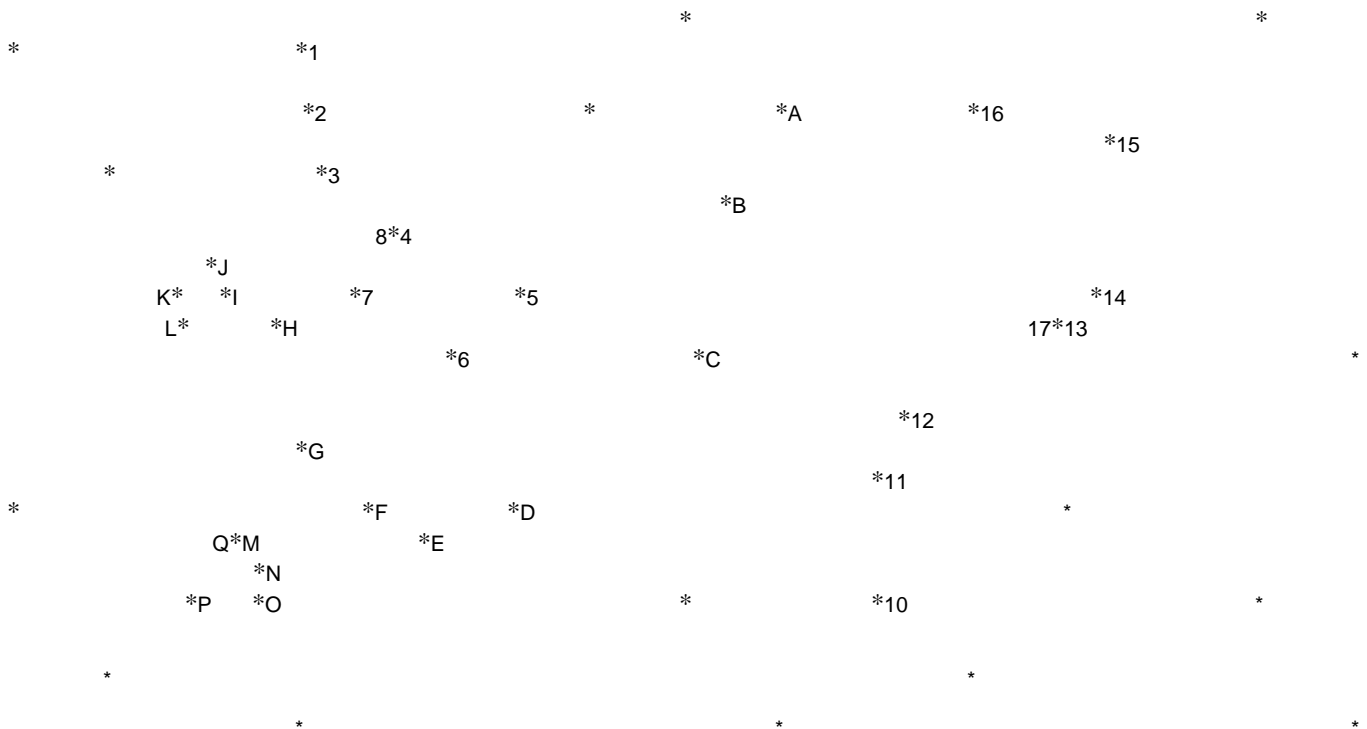
## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Look up in the sky! It's a bird, it's a plane... it's...  
*Meteor showers and constellations!*

Also known as “shooting stars”, meteors are small pieces of cosmic debris that crash into Earth’s atmosphere at several thousand miles per hour! Every August, sky-watchers are treated to the Perseids meteor shower, an event which displays anywhere from just a few to hundreds of meteors shooting across the sky every hour. The Perseids are caused by the comet Swift-Tuttle. When it visits our solar system, it leaves behind trails of tiny particles made of dust and ice that are thousands of miles long. As Earth makes its annual journey around the Sun, it passes through the tail of this comet. And as our planet goes through this trail, the particles burn up in our atmosphere, resulting in the meteor showers that we see in the sky. There are dozens of meteor showers that take place around the same general times every year. This year, the peak of the Perseids meteor shower is August 12. Two other of the bigger showers are the Orionids (October 21) and Leonids (November 19), but the Perseids are nice because you don’t have to worry about frostbite if you are observing from Pennsylvania like us!

If you look up in the sky to search for some meteors, you might see a star picture like the one below. Connect all of the stars with numbers 1 through 8 to make the Little Dipper, connect 10 through 17 to make the Big Dipper, and then connect all of the stars in order A through Q to make Draco the Dragon. You will have a connect-the-dots picture of some constellations in the summer night sky (Northern Hemisphere) that you can try to find at night from your own backyard! Have fun connecting the dots, and 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  
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## Two Important Reminders!

*Save the dates for...*

**FOUR \$500.00 WATERSHED AWARDS** will be given away on the **5<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration on Thursday, September 21 !!** These awards will focus on the efforts and impacts that small local watershed organizations have had on the restoration of the Ohio River watershed. **How can your group be a recipient of one of these awards?** Register and bring a Poster Display to the Riverboat Cruise. Your display will be judged and voted on by all the participants before and during the trip. Your poster should focus your organizations accomplishments in one of the following award categories: Community Outreach and Education, Most Innovative/Cutting Edge Project, Best Example of Partnership Group, and Best Overall Display. The Awards will be given at the end of the cruise. Registration for the Riverboat Cruise and the poster contest can be done at [www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp](http://www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp).

**The 8th Annual Pennsylvania Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation** will be held **August 24 to 26** at the Atherton Hotel in State College with the theme "Back to Basics." Basic materials will be presented to watershed groups on subjects important to them, with the program and workshops featuring topics such as passive mine drainage treatment systems, evaluating water monitoring results, identification of funding sources for projects, AMD chemistry, an update on SMCRA Title 4 Reauthorization, and more. Watershed groups, public agencies, consultants, local and state officials will all be in attendance to network and share their craft. For more information or to register for this conference, go to the Statewide AMD and AMR Conference website [www.treatminewater.com](http://www.treatminewater.com)

## Seneca Valley Intern Helps the SRWC Web Site

If web sites had feelings, ours was beginning to feel neglected! So it's a good thing **Alaina Somers**, a recent graduate of **Seneca Valley High School**, decided to join us as an intern for a few months! Alaina completed an update of the SRWC website, <http://www.srwc.org>, so be sure to visit the site and check out what's new! Alaina's work has made the site more streamlined and includes lots of great new information. All SRWC project sites within the watershed are now included on the web site, and pictures have been added to a new photo gallery. If you are interested in becoming involved with the SRWC, check out the updated list of ways to do so! The web site now contains descriptions of several of the SRWC's community-and-watershed improvement activities, including Adopt-a-Highway, Stream Clean-Up, the Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebrations, Annual Get-Together, Annual Symposium, and more! Thank you, Alaina, for your great work updating the web site!

