

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 9/14/06 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/10/06 Meeting Attendance: J. Bowers, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, K. Durrett, J. Fend, S. Garrison, V. Kefeli, B. MacDonald, D. Oesterling, P. Oesterling, R. Nicholas, T. Sisinni, W. Taylor, J. Uyperbogaart, K. Williams

Participate in National Public Lands Day at Jennings!

The staff at Jennings Environmental Education Center is searching for groups and individuals interested in helping at the park to celebrate National Public Lands Day, the country's biggest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands Americans enjoy. Close to 90,000 volunteers participated in National Public Lands Day in 2005! Americans all across the United States built bridges and trails, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive species. The 13th Annual National Public Lands Day is **Saturday, September 30**. Jennings staff would love to see you come out and help us in caring for our land! The event at Jennings will run from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. Participants are required to be at least 12 years old and must register in advance by September 16 by contacting Jennings at **724-794-6011**. Each participant will receive a special thank you lunch, as well as a commemorative t-shirt. Please contact **Will Taylor** at Jennings with any questions.

Riverboat Cruise Reminder

The **5th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration** is set for **Thursday, September 21!!!** With 800 people already registered, this year's cruise looks to be even bigger and better than last year! Remember to come early to the docks of the Gateway Clipper at Station Square, as pre-cruise festivities will begin at 11 AM. Enjoy interesting speakers, informative displays, hands-on tables with activities such as fish printing, educational games, opportunities to network, and much more! A variety of folks will be participating in the celebration of the Ohio River Watershed and sharing ideas on local watershed protection. Individuals from watershed groups, state and local government agencies, teachers, environmental professionals, local business and industry, students, interested citizens, and others will be on-hand to discuss issues critical to our watersheds. Come have fun as we sail the Three Rivers onboard the *Majestic*, with a 3-hour guided cruise featuring narration of the sites/landmarks of interest, beautiful scenery, yummy snacks, lots of informative displays and posters, educational presentations, and valuable door prizes! Featured topics this year include river history, aquatic life, energy leadership, river recovery, and river resources. Remember that boarding of the Majestic begins promptly at 12:30 PM and we set sail from the dock at 1 PM! To sign up for this great event, go to www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp.

SRWC's Trash-Picking Machine!

We applaud the extreme effort of SRWC participant **Charlie Cooper** in his quest to clean up our adopted stretch of I-79! Charlie was a One Man Show one hot day this June, spending the majority of the day picking up trash between mile markers 100 and 101. As part of the **Adopt-A-Highway Program**, the SRWC routinely maintains this 1-mile patch of interstate, with Charlie spearheading the majority of our cleanup days. Thank you, Charlie, for your dedication to keeping our adopted road clean and green!! If you would like more information on when and how you or your organization can help us with our next Adopt-A-Highway clean-up, please contact **Cliff Denholm** at 724-776-0161. We provide a free lunch (yes, there IS such a thing!), gloves, and fashionable orange safety vests!



Charlie Cooper using a remote control camera set-up (more next month) to take his picture next to the Adopt-A-Highway sign.

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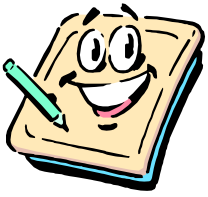
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Visiting the National Aviary on International Migratory Bird Day

On the weekend of May 13, *hundreds of thousands of people* all over the world celebrated International Migratory Bird Day! **Margaret Dunn** of the **SRWC** and **Stream Restoration Incorporated** (see photo above) was glad to accept an invitation to the **National Aviary** in Pittsburgh to take part in the IMBD festivities! In addition to the chance to view over 600 exotic and endangered birds from around the world that are housed at the National Aviary, visitors had the opportunity to meet and talk to a variety of environmental organizations and vendors, play games, make crafts, hear live music, and watch a circus/acrobatic performance. Margaret enjoyed the opportunity to talk to people about AMD, passive treatment, watershed restoration, manganese recovery, and the upcoming Ohio River Watershed Celebration.

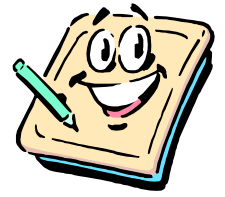
Set on the second Saturday in May each year, International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) was created specifically to highlight the migration of nearly 350 species of migratory birds between nesting habitats in North America and non-breeding grounds in South and Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. However, the day serves as an opportunity to celebrate all the species of birds whose annual movements enliven our lands, waters and skies. Migratory birds are some of the most beautiful, observable, and remarkable wildlife that share our world. Many know migratory birds as symbolic harbingers of spring and melodious songsters of the woods. Migratory birds are also an important economic resource, controlling insect pests and generating billions in recreational dollars. Unfortunately, research has shown that many migratory bird species are in decline, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter habitats. Thus, IMBD, in addition to being a day to foster appreciation, is a call to action. IMBD is the hallmark outreach event for **Partners in Flight** (PIF)—a unique, diverse consortium of individuals and groups who share a vision of healthy bird populations. Partners in this consortium include government agencies, conservation organizations, private businesses, academic institutions, chambers of commerce, and everyday citizens.

The theme of this year's IMBD was the Boreal Forest. North America's boreal forest encompasses about 1.5 billion acres and stretches from Alaska to Newfoundland. The region includes one of the world's largest intact forests dotted with lakes, rivers, and wetlands. More extensive than the Brazilian Amazon, the Boreal offers refuge to grizzly bears, caribou, wolverines, gray wolves, and a variety of other wildlife. The region's importance, however, extends far beyond Canada and Alaska to the lower 48 states, Mexico, the Caribbean, and Central and South America. Billions of birds of over 270 species migrate long distances from these locations to the Boreal where they nest and raise young in what is known as "North America's Bird Nursery." Nearly 400 species of birds are known to occur somewhere within the Boreal Forest! Some familiar examples are the American Goldfinch, Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Mallard, and Bald Eagle. The boreal is threatened by development, agriculture, fuel, and timber.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Pumpkin Coloring Fun!

There's a lot you probably don't know about pumpkins! Did you know pumpkins are a fruit, not a vegetable? It takes 90 to 120 days for a pumpkin to fully grow, after it has been planted. The flowers of pumpkins can be eaten! Pumpkins are 90% water. The biggest pumpkin ever grown weighed more than 1,140 pounds! And the biggest pumpkin pie ever made was over 5 feet across and took 6 hours to bake! Pumpkins used to be recommended for curing snake bites and removing freckles. We've given you a blank pumpkin picture below to color and decorate any way you want to! Have fun, and if you mail us your picture 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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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: 1330

Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!) *The Renewal of Dents Run*

On Wednesday August 9, over 85 people took part in the Dents Run Renewal Celebration in the Bennett Branch Watershed, Elk County, to celebrate the mine restoration work completed in the watershed over the last five years. The event was held to thank and applaud the efforts of elected officials, agencies, and dedicated local individuals who have been diligently working on projects that will reclaim numerous acres of abandoned mine lands and to abate acid mine drainage that has left miles of Dents Run essentially devoid of aquatic life. The cleanup efforts also have beneficial effects on local elk herd habitat. Over half the restoration work needed in the watershed has been finished or is under contract to be finished, with all of the 250 acres of mine land restoration set to be completed in 2007! The celebration was held on the Gilbert Farm on Winslow Hill Road near the Elk Viewing Area outside of Benezette. **Margaret Dunn** and **Tim Danehy** of **BioMost, Inc.**, who designed and are overseeing construction of a passive treatment system for discharges on site 3895, were on-hand to join in the Celebration.

Dr. Colson Blakeslee served as master of ceremonies for the event. He was one of the inspiring forces behind the Dents Run restoration projects and the Bennett Branch Watershed Association, and currently serves on the Board of the **Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program**. Dr. Blakeslee introduced the special guests in attendance representing local elected officials, state and federal officials, and representatives of the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Department of Environmental Protection, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, BAMR and OSM**. **Dave Hess, former Secretary of the PA DEP, Eric Cavassa, BAMR**, and all of the other speakers at the celebration highlighted the partnerships the Bennett Branch Watershed Association, federal, state and county agencies, and coal companies have formed to restore the watershed over the last few years. First to speak was **Congressman John Peterson**, who was instrumental in getting funding for the Dents Run project. He noted that the local people and watershed organization played a very important role in the project as they organized and developed the plan that the state and federal government felt could work. **Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program director John Dawes** talked about the bill relating to the **AML Fund** in Congress and urged those in attendance to show support by contacting their representatives.

The Bennett Branch Watershed Association is dedicated to the protection, sound management and enhancement of the watershed community. The association was formed in 1998 to conserve the natural integrity and the historical and cultural resources of the watershed. Reversing the detrimental effects of over 100 years of mining in the Dents Run area took a combined effort and the cooperation of many people. For more information on the Bennett Branch Watershed Association, contact **Ken Rowe**, Medix Run, 23154 Quehanna Hwy., Weedville, PA 15868; phone 814-787-4460; email: elkcountry@alltel.net.