

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 11/9/06 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 10/14/06 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, K. Durrett, T. Grote, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor

### Volunteers Lend Hands to National Public Lands Day

More than **55** volunteers lent their hands to trail projects at Jennings Environmental Education Center on National Public Lands Day, Saturday, September 30. The event was part of a nationwide volunteer effort to improve and enhance public lands—the largest such effort in the United States! (In 2005 90,000 people across the country participated!) Dodging a few raindrops before and after the work session, eight crews worked hard throughout the morning to reroute, resurface and upgrade about 580 feet of the Oakwoods Trail. Jennings' longest trail, Oakwoods covers varied, forested terrain, passing by several historic man-made pits believed to have been excavated for clay that contained iron ore.



Bob Shirey hauled tools to the work site

Eight work crews, supervised by Jennings staff and led by experienced volunteers, were each responsible for a specific project area. Three groups corrected drainage, laid down geotextile filter material, and installed a gravel-filled paving matrix on portions of the trail that had been frequently wet and sometimes impassable. Two crews rerouted trail sections near the park's boundary, while two others covered the original trail sections, covering them with soil, leaves and branches and planting spruce trees as a view screen and forest habitat enhancement. The final crew cleaned and prepared a bridge for staining, and installed six water bars to divert surface water runoff and prevent erosion of steep trail sections.

In preparation for the work day, Jennings' maintenance staff moved over 60 tons of gravel into place along the trail. Administrative and education staff members coordinated, supervised and assisted the crews. Volunteer crew leaders included **Bob Shearer, Melanie Sturrock, Giz Goyak and Kay Gilman**. The **Elfun** volunteer group from **General Electric**; members of the **Butler Outdoor Club** and students from **Butler County Community College, Slippery Rock University**, and **Skills USA of New Castle** were all represented. Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition members **Charlie Cooper** and **Kyle Durrett** participated. Families and individual volunteers from surrounding communities completed the group. Several volunteers have even returned to Jennings since then to finish a few remaining tasks related to the trail projects.

In appreciation for their outstanding efforts, all participants received T-shirts and National Public Lands Day posters, and enjoyed a bountiful and delicious lunch upon completion of their work. Event sponsors, supporters and donors whose contributions made it all possible were **Butler County Garden Club, Butler County Outdoor Club, Clif Energy Bars, Dean Dairy, Giant Eagle, Toyota and Waste Management**.

National Public Lands Day is one of several opportunities at Jennings Environmental Education Center for volunteers to contribute in meaningful ways to managing the park's unique natural resources. Upcoming events include the annual Prairie Improvement Day scheduled for January 20, 2007 and Earth Day service projects to manage invasive plants. Indispensable, active volunteers also assist with environmental education programs, office tasks, ongoing monitoring and research. For more information, contact Jennings at **724 794-6011**.



One crew built water bars to divert runoff and control erosion on steep trail areas



National Public Lands Day volunteers (see article on first page).

### National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs

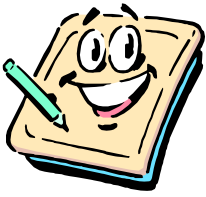
In addition to the hard-working and organized staff of the Montana Dept. of Environmental Quality, **Governor Brian Schweitzer and his dog "Jag" (!!!)** were on hand to offer a warm welcome to the attendees of the 2006 NAAML P conference. The theme of this year's conference, "We Proceeded On", (a quote from the Lewis & Clark Expedition) expressed the views of many involved in abandoned mine restoration activities, where there are numerous opportunities to overcome obstacles. Pennsylvania can be particularly proud of receiving the **2006 Eastern Region Abandoned Mine Reclamation Award!!!** The PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation received this award from the US Department of Interior Office of Surface Mining in recognition of "outstanding abandoned mine land reclamation" (!!!) for the Monongahela South No. 1 dangerous highwall reclamation project located in the City of Monongahela in Washington County. On hand to accept the award was BAMR Director Roderick Fletcher and Design Section Chief Eric Cavazza. Margaret Dunn was also honored to present information on the 2005 Nickle Plate Abandoned Mine Pool "Blowout" in McDonald, PA. Thanks to all who contributed to the presentation including Timothy Danehy, Richard Beam, Scott Horrell, Robert Dolence, Jeffrey Ankrom, Bruce Leavitt, Wayne Fuchs, Shaun Busler and Cliff Denholm. What a great opportunity to discuss "lessons learned" and advances in abandoned mine reclamation with people from other parts of the country, including AL, AK, AZ, AR, CO, ID, IL, IO, KS, LA, MD, MI, MO, NM, ND, OH, OK, TN, TX, UT, VA, WV and Indian Nations including the Crow, Hopi, and Navajo!!! Thanks again to the staff of the **Montana Abandoned Mine Program** for hosting this wonderful event!!!!

### The Slippery Rock Creek River Conservation Plan

Stream Restoration Inc. is pleased to announce that it has received a grant from the **PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR)** to prepare a River Conservation Plan (RCP) for the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The **PA Rivers Conservation Program** has been developed to conserve and enhance river resources through locally initiated plans. The purpose of this RCP is to compile existing information on the natural, recreational, and cultural resources as well as discuss methods to enhance and restore the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. A RCP is a guide that everyone throughout the watershed can use.

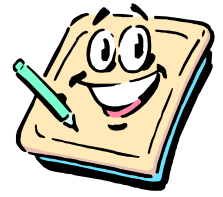
The process of preparing a RCP will seek the public's participation through: the formation of an advisory committee, a citizen survey, and community meetings. The public's input is vital in having the plan reflect the attitudes and desires of the people living throughout the watershed. More details will be forthcoming in future issues of the Catalyst and through press releases. Please consider being a part of this very important planning process.





# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



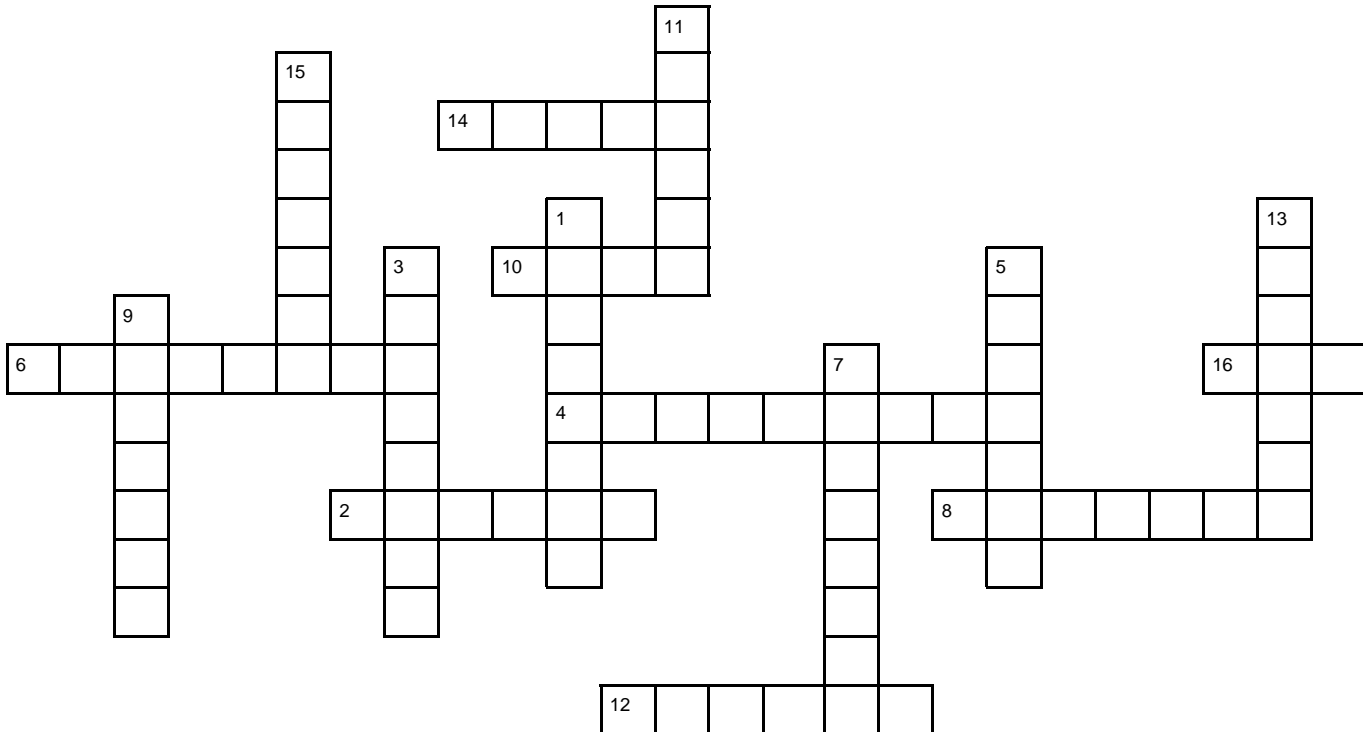
### Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle

#### Down

1. Thanksgiving is celebrated in this month
3. What Rock did the Pilgrims land on?
5. What is it called when you give some of what you have to someone else?
7. This sport is watched by millions of Americans on Thanksgiving
9. \_\_\_\_\_ pie is enjoyed as a dessert by many people on Thanksgiving
11. Thanksgiving occurs during this season of the year
13. Floats and bands march in big \_\_\_\_\_ on Thanksgiving Day
15. The Pilgrims sailed to America from this country

#### Across

2. What bird is associated with this holiday (and is often eaten)?
4. What was the name of the ship the settlers came over on?
6. What day of the week does Thanksgiving occur?
8. Who shared the feast with the pilgrims?
10. \_\_\_\_\_ was an important vegetable at the first Thanksgiving
12. The sound turkeys make
14. When you "\_\_\_\_\_ your blessings" you are saying what you are thankful for
16. Many stuffed, sleepy people like to take a \_\_\_\_\_ after the big Thanksgiving meal



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_



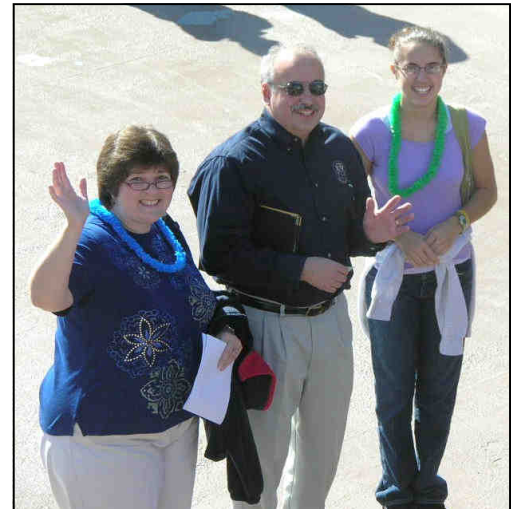
Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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Cranberry Twp., PA 16066

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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](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). Nov. distribution: 1333

## **Appreciation Letter for the Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!**

The September 21 Ohio River Watershed Celebration was honored to have a representative from the **Federal Environmental Executive Office of the White House** address the crowd onboard the *Majestic* and read a letter of greeting and recognition from **President George W. Bush and his wife Laura!!!** Mr. Edwin Piñero was appointed in September 2004 to serve as the Federal Environmental Executive and previous to this appointment, Mr. Piñero was owner of Piñero Consulting, an environmental management consulting firm in Pennsylvania. He also worked for then-Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge from 1998 to 2001 as Director of the Bureau of Environmental Sustainability in the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, as well as the State Energy Director.



In his letter, President Bush acknowledged the value of our waterways and recognized the importance of being a good steward of these water resources. The President expressed appreciation to the participants of the 5th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration and Stream Restoration, Inc. for their hard work and dedication to conserving our environment. He ended the letter by stating: *“Your commitment to cooperative conservation helps ensure our waterways are clean, healthy, and productive for future generations.”* The strong bipartisan support for this event is greatly appreciated and this special keepsake will be cherished.

The Office of the Federal Environmental Executive states for its vision a federal government that applies sustainable environmental practices, with a mission of promoting sustainable environmental stewardship throughout the federal government. To learn more about the FEE, check out the web site **[www.ofee.gov](http://www.ofee.gov)**.