

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 3/8/07 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 2/8/07 Meeting Attendance: S. Busler, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, R. Donlan, T. Grote, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, B. Lupold, W. Taylor

Thank you Jane Nugent!!!

Jane Nugent, host of "**Garden Talk**" **WPTT 1360 AM** on Saturdays from 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM, invited the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition to share her booth Saturday (1/27/07) and Sunday (1/28/07) at the

Pittsburgh ExpoMart Indoor/Outdoor Home Show!!!! What a wonderful opportunity to "spread the word" about watershed restoration and the ability of everyone to "make a difference" by partnering with federal, state, and local agencies, local businesses, and volunteers of all ages. We were surprised when so many people who stopped by to chat knew of the watershed efforts in western PA and, of course, knew about the Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!! We also learned about native plants, soils, and composting from Jane Nugent and her listeners!!! For instance, did you know that oak leaves do not break down as readily as maple leaves during composting? This may come in handy when formulating recipes for compost used in passive treatment!!!



Thanks again to Jane Nugent for providing this tremendous outreach opportunity!!!



A Guest Lecture...In Germany!!!

Participants in the SRWC have given their fair share of guest lectures before, but never this far from home! **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**, soil scientist and participant of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, will have the special opportunity to give a lecture this month at the **Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany!** Dr. Kefeli will be speaking to students regarding his recent work on landscape recultivation, phytodesign, and the phenolics cycle. Dr. Kefeli will guest lecture in the class of **Dr. Rudolph Edwald**, where the students are particularly interested in the metabolism of phenolic compounds due to some biotechnical work on microcapsules prepared from pine pollen that they have done.

Dr. Kefeli plans to speak about how university students can participate in the conception of industrial landscape rehabilitation. Dr. Kefeli will speak about the creation of fabricated soil with long-lasting materials that are sources of carbon and nitrogen. Students will learn how this special soil can be applied to a bituminous mining landscape and for the cultivation of woody plants and poplars. The importance of cloning and biodiversity will also be discussed, as will the protective roles of willow and poplar plants against disease. Dr. Kefeli has been working with college students in the western Pennsylvania area for years to research these topics and others for use in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, and he plans to share the results of individual student projects with the university students in Germany.

Save the Date: the 2007 Ohio River Watershed Celebration

Push the "winter blues" out of your mind with thoughts of a cruise... the 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration cruise, to be exact! This year's riverboat cruise will be on September 21, once again onboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet's awesome vessel the *Majestic*. Over 700 folks learned a lot and enjoyed a fun-filled voyage on Pittsburgh's three rivers last year! We want YOU to join us this year! Mark the date on your calendar and look for details on how to register for the cruise in future Catalyst issues. Bon voyage!



Tom Grote, SRWC participant, performs some minor maintenance during an inspection of the passive treatment system at De Sale Phase III. More next month...

Spring is Coming...Come to Jennings!

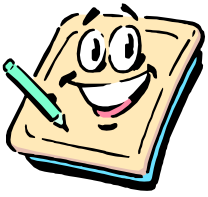
If you live in or near western Pennsylvania, you must take advantage of the special natural treasure that is **Jennings Environmental Education Center!** This state park is a tremendous resource for anyone wanting to increase their knowledge and awareness of the beauty and importance of our natural resources. JEEC contains a 20-acre prairie ecosystem, home to distinctive prairie plants and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. It is the only public and protected prairie in PA! If hiking is your thing, JEEC offers many opportunities with over five miles of trails that traverse varying terrain and diverse habitats. The North Country National Scenic Trail, a trail system that will eventually link North Dakota to New York, traveling through seven states for a distance of over 3,200 miles, passes through the park as well. As spring approaches, staff at JEEC are prepared to offer a variety of great education programs. Contact **Wil Taylor** with any questions at **724-794-6011** or email **jenningssp@state.pa.us**. For a complete calendar of events, please visit <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar> and select JEEC under "Calendar of Events." Here is a sample of what you can enjoy this spring at Jennings!

Program: The Eastern Mountain Lion: Beyond the Sightings
Contact: Wil Taylor, Program Coordinator
Date & Time: April 15, 2:00 p.m.
Description: Cougar, panther, puma, catamount... whatever it has been called; rumors, speculation and misconceptions seem to surround the status of the eastern mountain lion in Pennsylvania. Are they living in Pennsylvania? Are they making a comeback? Should we be concerned? Kerry Gyekis, author, forester and member of the Eastern Cougar Foundation, will answer these questions and more! The Eastern Cougar Foundation conducts extensive investigations to document cougar presence in eastern North America. Discover where and how these investigations have been conducted and what they have revealed. Mr. Gyekis will share his extensive knowledge of the history, range, biology and future of this magnificent predator that seizes our attention and demands our respect.

Program: Migration Marvels: Neotropical Birds
Contact: Becky Lubold; Environmental Education Specialist
Date & Time: May 6, 2:00 p.m.
Description: What are the connections between tropical forests, northern boreal forests, and the birds whose songs lift our hearts and brighten our days during spring in Pennsylvania? How can you help maintain these connections? Dr. Gene Wilhelm will offer a photo-illustrated explanation of where these globe-trotting birds travel. An accomplished birder, Dr. Wilhelm is chair of the Bartramian Audubon Society's Sanctuaries program. Following the short indoor presentation, he'll lead participants outdoors to look and listen for Scarlet Tanagers, Wood Thrushes, various warblers and other returning migrants.

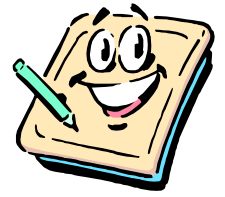
Program: Take Back the Woods: Battling Invasive Species
Contact: Heidi Solley; Environmental Education Specialist
Date & Time: April 21, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Description: Help restore native habitats in your state park. Second only to habitat loss, invasive plants are a major factor in the decline of native plant species. The Jennings staff is looking for interested groups and individuals willing to spend an early spring day pitching in at the park to help manage these invasive plants. As a special thank you lunch will be provided and each participant will receive an invasive plant cookbook commemorating the event. Tasty samples of some invasive recipes will be available, Participants must be age 12 or older and must register for the program by contacting the Center at 724-794-6011 no later than April 13.

Program: Spring Wildflowers
Contact: Wil Taylor; Program Coordinator
Date & Time: May 13, 2:00 p.m.
Description: Wildflowers have been admired for their beauty and usefulness as foods and medicines for countless generations. From the elegant lady's slipper to the common dandelion, each wildflower has its own uses, stories and magic. Discover the personality, folklore and history of the season's first blooms on this one and one half hour guided walk along Jennings' trails.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

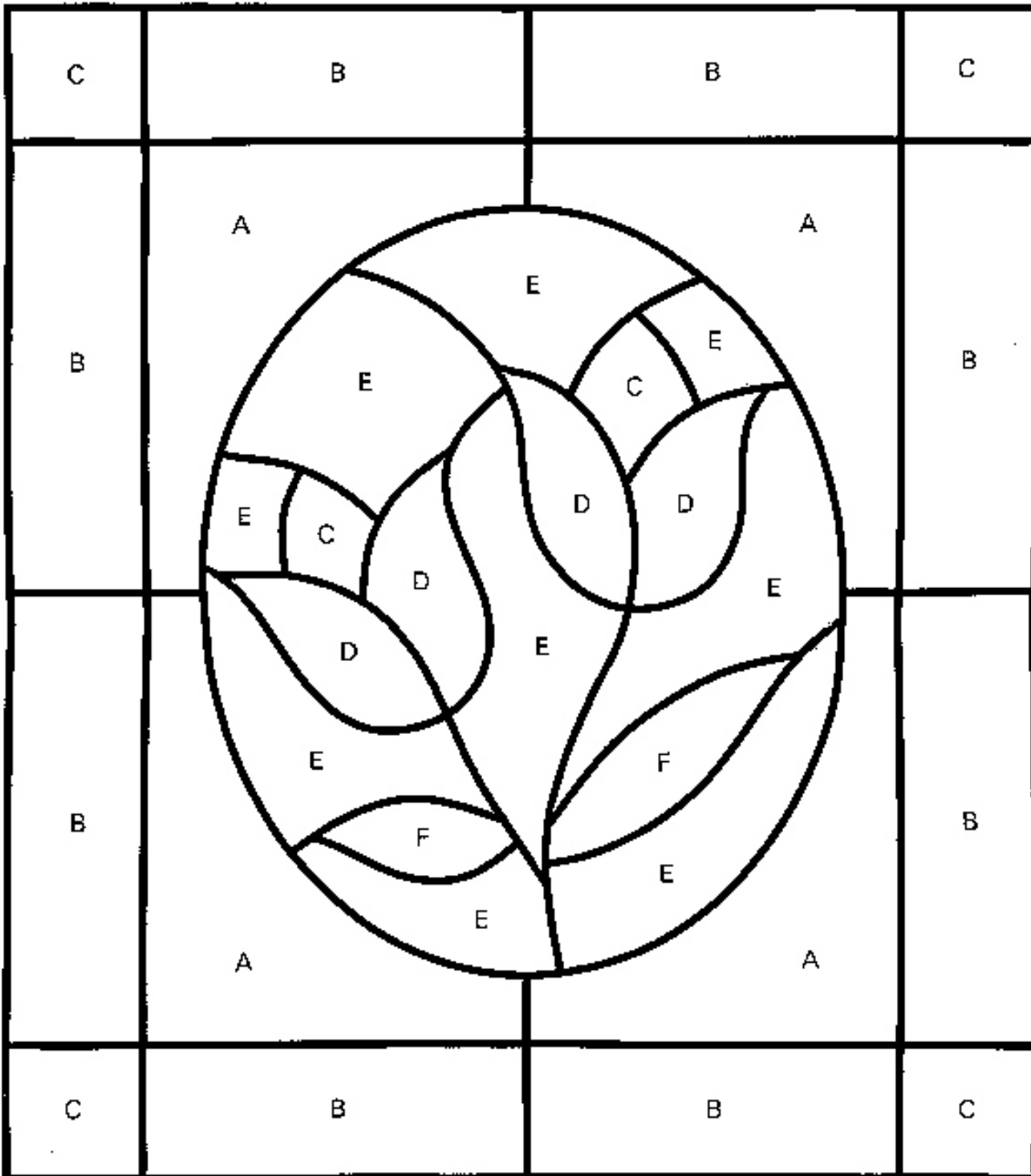


Spring Tulip Color-by-Letter

One of the first signs of spring is the blooming of several types of beautiful flowers! Some of the first flowers of spring in Pennsylvania are the crocus, daffodil, hyacinth, violet, buttercup, and tulip! A color-by-letter tulip picture with a stained-glass theme is pictured below for you to color. Use this key for coloring:

A = yellow **B = purple** **C = orange** **D = red** **E = blue** **F = green**

And if you mail us your colored picture, we'll 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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New Grant Pays for Monitoring AMD Treatment Systems

A new grant program in Pennsylvania will cover the costs of chemical analyses to monitor passive mine drainage treatment systems. The **FACTS Grant** ("Funding AMD Chemistry in Treatment Systems") will ease the financial burden on cash-strapped grassroots watershed organizations that have accepted the responsibility of maintaining passive treatment systems.

In addition to funding laboratory analyses, the FACTS Grant streamlines the transfer of test results from laboratories using an Internet repository for water sampling data, called **Datashed**. Laboratories upload analysis results to Datashed using unique Sample IDs that link each water sample to a specific date, treatment system, and sampling location. Datashed will store the complete history of a passive treatment system, helping to diagnose problems and allowing researchers to study and evaluate various abandoned mine drainage treatment technologies.

The **Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation** (WPCAMR) oversees the FACTS Grant. The Datashed software is a collaboration by WPCAMR and Stream Restoration Inc. (to check it out, visit www.datashed.org).



Nonprofit watershed groups, county conservation districts, local governments, and RC&D councils in Pennsylvania can apply to the FACTS Grant program on the Web at <http://www.wpcamr.org/facts>. This site provides information including an overview of the FACTS program, details of FACTS for watershed groups, application requirements and materials, OM&R Plan requirements, a list of participating laboratories, and more.

WPCAMR has been providing hope for polluted lands and streams impacted by coal mining since 1982. WPCAMR is a coalition of 24 county conservation districts which work with citizen volunteers, students, industry, government agencies, watershed volunteers, environmental remediation experts, and others local grassroots efforts. The FACTS Grant is another fine example of their dedication to halting AMD and to an alliance of cooperative organizations in the bituminous coal region of western Pennsylvania.

A map showing the 24 counties served by WPCAMR