

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 8/9/07 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. July's meeting was cancelled.

Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

Public Informational Meetings

The Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (**SRCWCP**) is being developed through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program in order to focus on the improvement, restoration, and enhancement of natural, recreational, and cultural resources. This study is to include an inventory of existing features, the identification of public interest, and a description of future potential projects. The study is sponsored by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Western Pennsylvania Watershed Program, and in-kind contributions.

Currently, support for the SRCWCP has been received not only by more than half of the county and local government agencies in the watershed but also by businesses, watershed and community service groups, non-profit organizations, and citizens interested in the stewardship of the natural resources and prosperity of their communities. Through this broad-based support and encouragement, Stream Restoration Incorporated, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is working with all stakeholders interested in complementing and enhancing well-considered efforts important in community, county, and overall watershed planning.

In order to provide an opportunity for participation by all residents of the over 400-square mile Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, which covers portions of Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties, four public meetings are scheduled. At the meetings, residents may complete a written Citizen Survey as well as make public comments expressing their interests regarding the land, water, cultural/historical and recreational resources within the watershed. Questions received during the meetings regarding the Watershed Planning Process will also be addressed. A Citizen Survey form may also be downloaded online at www.streamrestorationinc.org. In addition, residents may contact Stream Restoration Inc. to request a copy of the form. Future meetings are also planned to encourage interested residents to comment on the draft and final version of the completed plan. Public comments will be summarized and all completed surveys received from the residents will be attached to the final plan.

Special and unique aspects of the watershed as identified and described through the public participation process may include, but are not limited to, the historic impacts of coal mining, development along the Interstate-79 corridor, and unique natural and cultural resources such as McConnell's Mill State Park, Moraine State Park, Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Pennsylvania State Game Lands.

The Public Informational Meetings begin at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday, August 7, 2007

Grove City High School Auditorium, 511 Highland Avenue, Grove City, PA 16127

Wednesday, August 8, 2007

Plain Grove Twp. Municipal Building, 1029 Plain Grove Rd., Volant, PA 16156

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

Boyers Sportsmen's Association, 1103 Boyers Road, Boyers, PA 16020

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Slippery Rock Twp. Municipal Bldg., 203 Branchton Rd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in order to help identify and integrate the diverse interests relating to watershed stewardship.

Watershed or River Conservation Plans have been completed throughout Pennsylvania. To learn more, go to: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/rivers/riversconservation/registry/.



12 Years of Sampling Continues!

Slippery Rock University faculty **Dr. Michael Stapleton**, **Dr. Dean DeNicola** and SRU student **Matt Tagard** (Butler, PA) collected water and biological samples in the Slippery Rock watershed on June 7th as part of an on-going biomonitoring project that began in 1995. They were assisted by **Tim Gillen** of the PA DEP Knox District Mining Office who has provided assistance since the beginning of the project. By the end of this summer, all the monitoring samples will have been analyzed and data compiled. Dr. Stapleton and Dr. DeNicola hope to publish the study in a paper next year utilizing the collected data and believe this to be the most long term study of stream recovery following installation of passive treatment systems for AMD.

Join us for the Riverboat Cruise!



Participants in the 2005 ORWC enjoy the view while soaking up some sun on the top deck of the *Majestic*.

It's known locally as "The Mon." It was the site of the Whiskey Rebellion in 1794, of a historical early battle in the French and Indian War, of a famous B-52 plane crash in 1956, of many steel plants and other industry, and much more. It's the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh! And we hope you'll join us for a fun, exciting, educational voyage aboard the Gateway Clipper Feet's vessel *Majestic* as we learn all about the past, present, and future of The Mon! The riverboat cruise is the featured event of the **6th annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration**, set for **Thursday, September 20th**.

Pre-cruise festivities begin at 11:00 AM, with a day full of lots to do! We will sail The Mon from 1 PM to 4 PM on a trip which includes passing through the Braddock Lock and Dam, a really cool experience! We hope you will "C' MON" along with us as we share a day of watershed education and celebrate the local waterways. Featured topics will include watershed stewardship, river history, aquatic life, Pittsburgh's energy leadership, river recovery, river resources, and more. There will be educational poster displays, hands-on exhibits, interesting speakers giving mini presentations on a variety of watershed topics, watershed and environmental awards, live entertainment, and much more! Narrators will provide a guided narration of landmarks and sites of interest as we journey on The Mon, and there will be ample time for networking among the cruise attendees.

Don't forget that **watershed groups** are eligible to win **CASH** awards based on their watershed display for the following categories:

- Best Overall Display
- Best Partnership Effort
- Community Outreach/Education
- Most Innovative/Cutting Edge Project

This free event annually attracts hundreds of individuals involved with watershed groups, environmental professionals, business and industry, educators and students, local, state, and federal government, interested citizens, and many other folks! *We urge you to consider being a Sponsor!* Registration will be done online and is already underway— with over 500 signed up already! To register, and for more information, please visit **www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp**.



The South 10th Street Bridge over the Monongahela River in Pittsburgh in 2005 (photo: Wikipedia)

The KIDS Catalyst

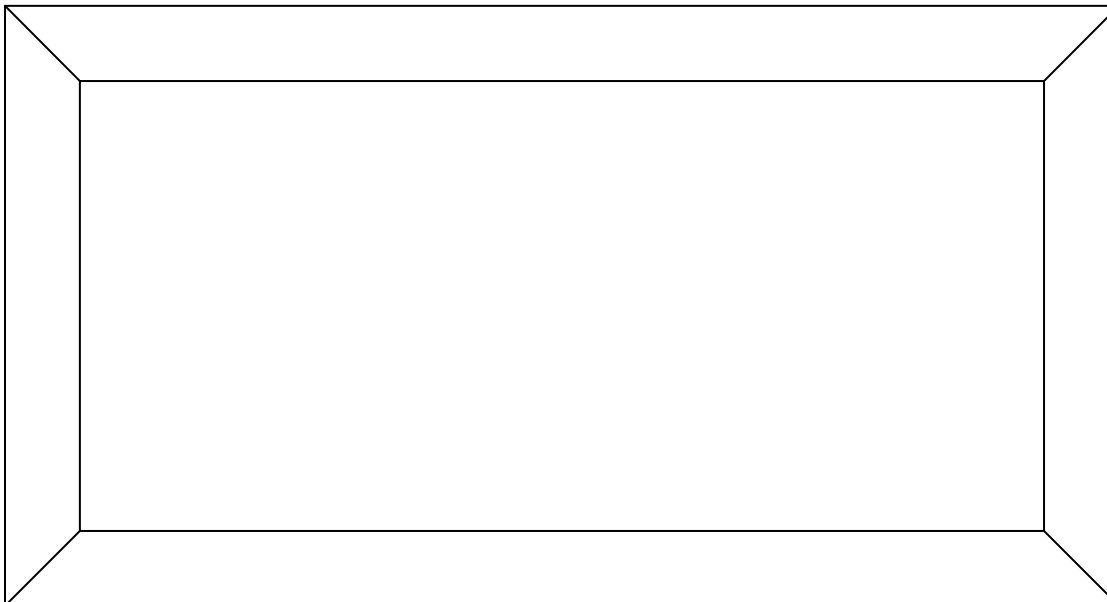
SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Sounds of Summer

Word Scramble

Part of being a good scientist is being a good observer of your surroundings. When scientists make observations during experiments, they use their 5 senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch). Summer is a great time to use your ears to make observations about the world around you. It can be fun to go outside and sit and close your eyes and try to guess what is making the different sounds you will hear with your ears. Below are some common summer sounds—with the letters all scrambled up! Use the clues given to unscramble the words and write them on the lines. Then choose your favorite sound from the list and draw a picture of where it comes from! If you send us your paper, we will mail you a free gift certificate! And you might even see your drawing in a future issue of the Catalyst!!!

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. "CAW" _____ ORCW | Large black bird, likes to eat corn |
| 2. "RIBBIT" _____ GOFR | Amphibian; likes the water; can jump |
| 3. "KA-BOOM" _____ UEHDTRN | Loud noise heard during storms with lightning |
| 4. "WHOO-WHOO" _____ WLO | Bird of prey; is active at night |
| 5. "TRICKLE" _____ RMTASE | Small body of water running over rocks |
| 6. "COO" _____ GIPNOE | Bird known for having large flocks in city parks |
| 7. "QUACK" _____ DKCU | Waddles when it walks; has webbed feet; swims |
| 8. "BZZZZ" _____ EBE | Insect that makes honey; can sting |
| 9. "CHEEP" _____ BDIR | Can fly; makes nests; lays eggs |
| 10. "HONK" _____ EOGOS | Large bird; some fly in a "V" formation |



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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SRWC Volunteer Work Day

On May 5, 2007, about a dozen volunteers participated in an SRWC Volunteer Work Day to work on three projects at two restoration sites.

The first of the three projects consisted of minor maintenance at the SR114D passive treatment system, which consists of an ALD, settling ponds, and wetlands constructed in 1995. Vegetation consisting predominantly of cattails as well as accumulated iron solids had clogged the effluent spillway of one pond, resulting in the backup of water within the pond. This backup caused the water to slightly overtop the berm. **Charlie Cooper** and **Cliff Denholm** were able to clean the spillway with relatively minimal effort, using simple hand tools to restore proper flow from the pond.

When Charlie and Cliff were finished at SR114, they joined the rest of the work crew consisting of **Scott VanDerWal, Scott's son, Valentine and Galina Kefeli, Will Taylor, Eric Best, Kyle Durrett, and Tom Grote**. This sizable volunteer group was already busy at the De Sale Phase II passive system transplanting willows grown in fabricated soil made by Dr. Valentine Kefeli at the Jennings Environmental Education Center. Not only will the willows provide shade and wildlife habitat for the treatment wetland, but they also will be able to be used as sources of cuttings for future wetland plantings.



The third project completed at De Sale Phase II consisted of installing screening at the end of the Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed (HFLB). The screen was installed by Kyle Durrett and Tom Grote. The purpose of this project is to determine if dissolved manganese, which is currently forming solids within the HFLB, will also accumulate on the screen. If successful, the screen may be another potential method of recovering manganese from passive treatment systems.

If you would like to participate in future Volunteer Work Days, contact Stream Restoration Incorporated at sri@streamrestorationinc.org or call 724-776-0161.