

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 10/11/07 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 9/13/07 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, C. Denholm, R. Donlan, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor

Smooth Sailing at the 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!

It was a day to soak up the sun aboard the *Majestic*, as about 800 individuals participated in the **6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!** Watershed professionals, environmentalists, educators, students, folks in watershed groups, government officials, individuals in private business and industry, and interested citizens joined together and enjoyed a beautiful warm and sunny afternoon in Pittsburgh. The fun kicked off at 11 AM with several activities on the dock, including making fish prints, creating backyard wildlife food cones, and trying out what it feels like to sit and paddle in a kayak. The ORWC Environmental Awards were awarded during a pre-cruise ceremony (see box below). After the presentation of the awards, **Ed Perry** of the National Wildlife Federation delivered the keynote talk, followed by brief remarks from **Jane Nugent**, host of "Garden Talk" on WPTT-1360 AM.



Riverboat cruise participants boarded the Gateway Clipper Fleet's *Majestic* at 12:30 to the lively music provided by **Mike Gallagher** and **Bob Banerjee**. The *Majestic* set sail at 1 PM, with **Maggie Hall** and **Dave Plank** (both of the PA DEP) providing an interesting, fact-filled guided narration describing the features observable along the Monongahela River. Everyone learned something about watershed health, ecology, river history, river resources, energy, and much more! One of the highlights of the three and a half-hour cruise was the exciting event of "locking through" the Braddock Lock on the Monongahela River. **Brian Greene** of the US Army Corps of Engineers provided cruise participants with an informative explanation of the science behind locks and dams.

During the cruise, special educational presentations were made for cruise participants to learn more about a variety of watershed-

related topics. The 3 presenters were **PA American Water & GTECH**, **Rachel Carson Institute**, and **RiverQuest**. Following the special presentations was the watershed awards ceremony. During this time, 8 watershed groups were acknowledged for their hard work and volunteer effort in having a positive impact on their local watersheds despite limited budgets. Special thanks to the Master of Ceremonies **David Hess**, former Secretary of the PA DEP!

Many excellent poster displays and hands-on activities were available to cruise participants during the voyage on the Monongahela River. Many home-school students attended the ORWC event and had fun with "Macroinvertebrate Mayhem" by **Jennings Environmental Education Center**; **RiverQuest's** river education activities; and the Watershed Treasure Hunt, a game where participants had to search displays for the answers to questions like "What is Fluvial Geomorphology?" and "How many gallons of water are used by the average person per day?" Completed papers were returned on the main deck to receive a unique memento from the trip.

This fun, educational event was made possible by dozens of folks dedicated to watershed education and stewardship

And the Winners Were...

The ORWC Environmental Awards went to...

DEP Deputy Secretary for Mineral Resources J. Scott Roberts for Individual
Growth Through Energy & Community Health (GTECH) for Business
Sharpsburg Borough, Allegheny County for Local Government

The Watershed Awards went to...

Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team (\$500) and **Sewickley Creek Watershed Association** (\$250) for Best Overall Display
Cowanshannock Watershed Association (\$500) and **Mountain Laurel Trout Unlimited** (\$250) for Best Partnership Effort
Blackleggs Creek Watershed Association & Trout Nursery (\$500) and **Youghiogheny River Environmental Education Center** (\$250) for Community Outreach and Education
Wells Creek Watershed Assoc. (\$500) & **Neville Naturalists** (\$250) for Most Innovative Approach

who volunteered countless hours to make it a great success enjoyed by many people! Please see the back page of the Catalyst for a list of **ORWC Sponsors and Partners**. We urge you to consider joining us as a Sponsor or Partner for next year's Celebration, and we look forward to seeing you on the water!



There were plenty of fun and educational activities for the kids who participated in the Ohio River Watershed Celebration!

Catalyst Reader Shares Poem

Thank you, **Emily Pedigo** from Flat Top, WV, for sending us your lovely poem, “Rose.” Emily is a talented teenager and “Rose” has been published on poetry.com. We encourage Catalyst readers of all ages and talents to mail us your original creative works (poems, stories, drawings...) relating to nature, wildlife, the environment, etc. Maybe you’ll see your masterpiece printed on these pages in the near future, with over a thousand people viewing it!

Rose

A darkened rose of mystical endeavor
 Forever growing closer to wither
 Its perfume sends delicate scented pleasure
 Torn from its roots, its half will live again never.
 Hopefully my last remains will pollinate,
 Leaving me to suffocate; you.

Aquafix System Comes to Jennings

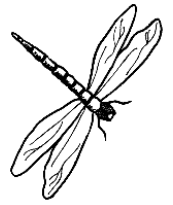
A new AMD-treatment system using an old concept and featuring a simple design was recently moved to **Jennings Environmental Education Center** from the **Blacks Creek watershed** thanks to the **US Department of Energy, National Energy Technology Lab**. In August 2007, the Aquafix system was installed at JEEC with the help of **George Watzlaf** and other participants in the SRWC. Key to the operation of the **Aquafix** system is the ancient concept of the water wheel. Water passing through the water wheel of the Aquafix system drives the auger, which distributes lime pellets into the affected stream. JEEC is excited to have the Aquafix system to demonstrate a practical, effective method of treating AMD in educational programs! For more information about the Aquafix System visit the web site at www.aquafix.com.





The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Fun Animal Facts—in Code!

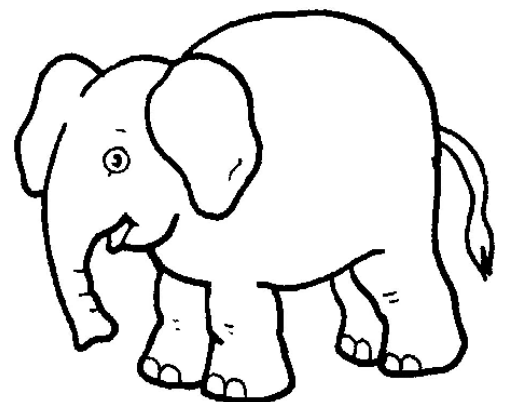
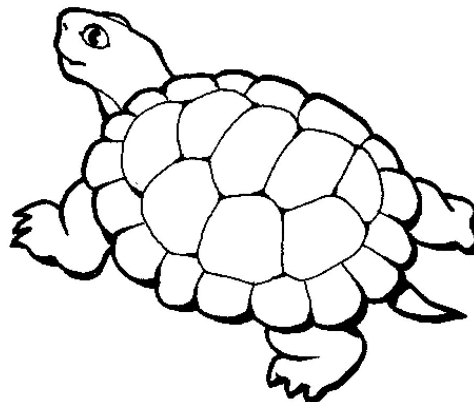
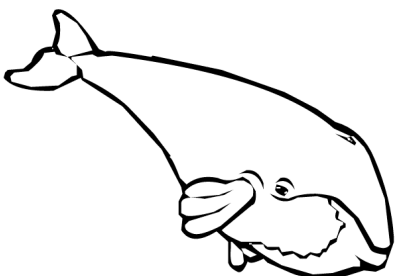
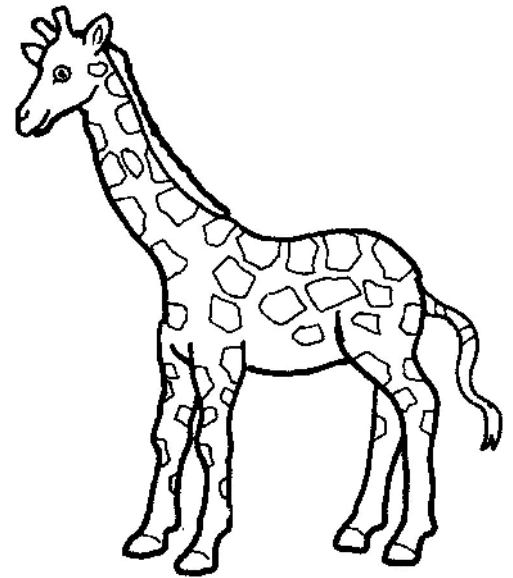
Some really cool animal facts are ready for you to discover below! To find the answer to each of the 12 Fun Facts, use the code in the box. Each letter of the alphabet is code for a number. Look at the letters of the alphabet shown in parentheses after each clue, then check the box to see what letter each number stands for. Then you will have your answers! Some of the animals mentioned in the Fun Facts are pictured at the bottom of the page for you to color. If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

A, B, C = 1	M, N = 5	U, V, W = 9
D, E, F = 2	O, P = 6	X, Y, Z = 0
G, H, I = 3	Q, R = 7	
J, K, L = 4	S, T = 8	

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

- Camels have this number of eyelids on each eye: _____ (H)
- Cats have this number of muscles in each ear: _____ (GD)
- Giraffes' tongues are this many inches long: _____ (FA)
- Peregrine falcons can go this fast, in miles per hour: _____ (EZX)
- Humans can go this fast, in miles per hour: _____ (DQ)
- The largest blue whale recorded was this many feet long: _____ (BYW)
- The largest shark ever recorded was this many feet long: _____ (MU)
- Dragonflies are the fastest insects, moving up to this many MPH: _____ (HP)
- The world's oldest living animal was a turtle who lived to be: _____ (BRP)
- The largest colony of bats is in the Bracken Bat Cave in Texas, where there are this many MILLION bats: _____ (GZ)
- The African elephant is the heaviest land animal, weighing as much as this many pounds: _____ (CPNXY)
- Hummingbirds typically beat their wings this many times per SECOND: _____ (RY)





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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THANK YOU!!!

A special thank you to the invaluable Sponsors and Partners of the 6th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration! Your dedication to the health and improvement of local watersheds, and to increasing watershed education and awareness, is applauded:

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- Jane Nugent—WPTT—"Garden Party"
- Jennings Environmental Education Center, PA DCNR
- Kiski-Conemaugh River Basin Alliance
- Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team
- Mike Gallagher
- PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- PA Department of Environmental Protection
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