



James Spayd, Data Systems Coordinator with PASDA, was on-hand at PA GIS Day to display some new features on the PASDA web site. (See article on GIS Day, page 1.)

## Documenting Stream Recovery: Sharing Success at the Conservation District Watershed Specialist Conference

The Nittany Lion Inn at State College, PA, was the site of the **7th Annual Conservation District Watershed Specialist Training/Meeting** on October 16-18. SRWC participants **Shaun Busler** and **Cliff Denholm** joined forces with **Scott Alexander** and **Malcolm Crittendon**, both of the PA DEP, in presenting “Documenting Recovery in an AMD-Impaired Stream.” Their power point presentation included information on biological and water monitoring, GIS and easy and free alternatives to commercial GIS software, an explanation of Datashed, and community involvement. Two streams, Seaton Creek and Wells Creek, were used as examples of how different organizations have documented recovery efforts. Seaton Creek was the most impacted stream in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed and has seen a tremendous improvement in water quality. Wells Creek is located in Somerset County and, with the completion of several passive treatment systems, is now stocked with trout! Shaun, Cliff, Scott, and Malcolm appreciated the opportunity to make the “Documenting Recovery” presentation to a diverse and interested audience.

Other topics at this year’s conference included invasive species management in streams and buffers, fish habitat improvement and stream bank stabilization, biological tools for stream assessment, web design basics for small organizations, dealing with the aftermath of flooding, stream access and navigable stream law, preparing public presentations, working with watershed groups, and much more! Conference attendees learned a lot about these and other watershed topics at this informative gathering of Watershed Specialists and Managers.

Serving a range of agricultural and urban interests and PA Conservation Districts participate in a wide variety of resource programs, including erosion and sediment pollution control, storm water management, abandoned mine reclamation, nutrient management, waterway protection, dirt and gravel roads, bio-solids permitting, agricultural land preservation, Chesapeake Bay Program, forest management, wildlife management, environmental education, county Envirothon, Pennsylvania State Envirothon, and floodplain monitoring.

A special “thank you” goes to **Steve Lathrop** of the **PA Department of Environmental Protection**, who organized this worthwhile event and invited Shaun and Cliff to speak! Other **speakers** at the conference included several folks from the **DEP, PA Fish & Boat Commission, Natural Biodiversity, Inc., Stroud Water Research Center, USDA-NRCS, National Wildlife Federation, and Conservation District Watershed Specialists from Wayne, Susquehanna, Bucks, Crawford, Franklin, Elk, and Westmoreland Counties**. Shaun and Cliff appreciated the opportunity to share their experiences as well as learn from others. Thanks you!!!



# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## December Word Search

December is a fun month, and we hope you have fun doing this word search! Try to find all 24 words hidden in the puzzle below, and circle them. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

DECEMBER  
WINTER  
CHRISTMAS  
COLD  
SNOWSTORM  
COOKIES

SNOWMAN  
SLED  
ICESKATES  
SCARF  
MITTENS  
HOT CHOCOLATE

ICICLES  
DECORATIONS  
LIGHTS  
PRESENTS  
WREATH  
STAR

REINDEER  
VACATION  
SNOWMAN  
ANGEL  
CANDYCANE  
CAROLS

D	E	C	C	O	R	D	E	R	M	O	N	C	O	O	K	I	E	S	M	A	R	C
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M	I	R	T	P	H	A	H	O	L	I	G	L	H	T	V	A	C	A	T	I	O	N
Y	U	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D	L	E	T	I	D	R	G	R	E	D
E	M	T	E	Y	N	G	S	O	F	L	O	C	O	M	F	A	J	F	O	C	P	Y
M	R	A	S	R	A	K	R	E	S	C	L	I	G	H	T	S	C	H	I	A	S	C
B	O	W	E	Q	N	T	T	Z	N	S	T	W	A	M	A	N	G	W	C	R	Y	A
C	T	A	R	N	G	D	E	S	E	I	C	I	C	O	O	D	S	D	K	O	L	N
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Y	W	M	C	O	L	M	M	A	T	N	D	T	H	A	Y	O	L	C	U	S	L	B
S	O	T	A	R	L	V	Q	U	I	X	K	P	O	J	E	B	A	E	R	V	E	P
O	N	L	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S	W	R	E	A	S	C	M	H	R	I	S
T	S	L	O	E	R	E	D	A	S	A	N	V	I	U	O	R	L	B	A	S	N	O
V	I	O	T	L	L	E	Q	T	R	W	O	E	A	C	X	W	R	E	A	T	H	C
D	E	N	C	C	S	L	I	C	A	R	W	R	E	D	E	A	R	R	D	J	E	S
U	I	S	I	P	L	E	A	S	T	E	M	H	W	L	P	O	R	M	W	V	A	C
W	A	C	T	C	X	I	C	E	S	K	A	T	E	S	C	H	O	C	V	A	C	A
M	I	T	S	N	O	T	I	O	N	S	N	O	R	M	R	E	E	D	N	I	E	R

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_



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## **SRWC Participants at SRU's Institute for Learning In Retirement**

Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition participants were invited to teach a course and a workshop at Slippery Rock University's Institute for Learning In Retirement. On September 17, 2007 **Margaret Dunn** and **Cliff Denholm** provided a one-day workshop on the restoration of the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek. The lecture portion provided an overview of past vs. present mining methods, formation of Abandoned Mine Drainage (AMD), and passive technology used to treat AMD in the watershed. Following the lecture, a field tour was conducted at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** where participants had an opportunity to see several passive treatment system components discussed during the class. By coincidence, **Wade Libecco**, part of the maintenance staff at Jennings, was on site during the field tour. Wade gave an impromptu explanation of the upgrades that are being completed for the passive system as well as an explanation of the **Aquafix** system that was used during a recent stirring of the Vertical Flow Pond treatment media.

SRWC participant **Dr. Valentin Kefeli** (pictured at the far left in the photo at right) also taught a course for the Institute. Dr. Kefeli instructed a class on the Russian language. Dr. Kefeli, who is a soil scientist conducting research on using fabricated soils derived from waste materials to be used in landscape rehabilitation such as on abandoned mine lands, is originally from Russia and is fluent in several languages.



## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

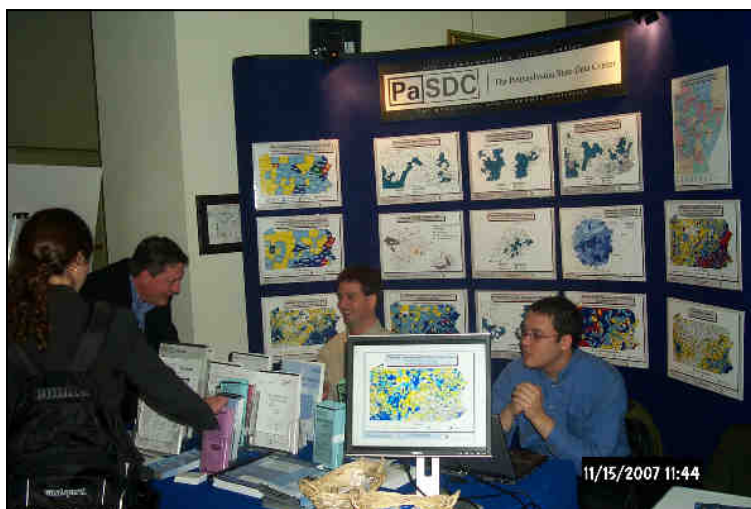
**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 12/13/07 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 11/8/07 meeting attendance: B. Bivens, H. Boylan, A. Brown, C. Cooper, T. Danehy, D. Davic, C. Denholm, B. Domanski, R. Donlan, M. Dunn, T. Grote, D. Johnston, L. Jordan, G. Kefeli, V. Kefeli, M. Kochemba, M. Lichwa, S. Lyons, L. Maxwell, T. Pregibar, S. Rohrbacher, J. Rott, S. Smith, T. Swanson, W. Taylor, B. Weigand

**Stay tuned!!! Next issue: Westminster College Student Presentations**

### "Fifty States for the Nation, 67 Counties for Pennsylvania"

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania celebrated International Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day on November 15 with the theme "Fifty States for the Nation, 67 Counties for Pennsylvania". **Shaun Busler** from Stream Restoration Inc. was on hand with a poster exhibit featuring information on **Datashed** and the **recovery of Seaton Creek**. The annual GIS Day provides an excellent opportunity for exhibitors to showcase GIS usage across the state. Attendees include GIS professionals, businesses, school students, government agencies, and the general public. From 9 AM to 3 PM in the Capitol's East Wing and Main rotundas in Harrisburg, exhibitors promote geospatial technology literacy and the importance in homeland security, economic growth, environmental restoration, natural disaster preparedness, etc.

The "Fifty States Initiative" refers to an effort to bring together multi-jurisdictional stakeholders to form effective partnerships to reduce duplication in local and state government GIS data layers. The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) was created by Executive Order and has the technologies, policies, and people necessary to promote sharing of geospatial data throughout all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community. (See [www.fgdc.gov/nsdi/nsdi.html](http://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi/nsdi.html).) Implementation of the initiative is focused on improving quality and reducing costs related to geographic information, improving accessibility and availability of geographic data to the public, increasing the benefits from available data, and establishing key partnerships with states, counties, cities, tribal nations, academia, and the private sector.



"67 Counties for PA" refers to local governments and geospatial stakeholders collaborating to create the PA Spatial Data Infrastructure (PSDI) to support the NSDI as well as create statewide geospatial framework data layers for roads, buildings, streams, parcels, and more.

Exhibitors at GIS Day included the **Governor's Office of Administration, Geospatial Technologies Office; PASDA; PA Dept. of Military & Veterans Affairs; PA DEP; PA Dept. of Health; PennDOT; PA State Data Center; County Commissioners Assn. of PA; PA Historical & Museum Comm.; Harrisburg Area Community College; PA Dept. of Public Welfare; PA Game Commission, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Center; William F. Gooding Regional Advanced Skills Center; County GIS Professional Association of PA; and Stream Restoration Inc.**

Shaun enjoyed sharing information about the efforts of our partnership with **WPCAMR** and **241 Computers** in the development of **Datashed** and the use of GIS in abandoned mine drainage restoration efforts. Thanks to **Jim Knudson, Bari Dzomba, and Stacey White** of the **Geospatial Technologies Office** for inviting us to the event!