

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 1/10/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 12/13/07 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli

### Westminster College Students Present Sampling Results at November SRWC Meeting

At the monthly SRWC meeting held on November 8, 2007, Westminster College students from Dr. Helen Boylan's Advanced Laboratory class presented their results from water monitoring sampling events conducted at the De Sale Phase 1, De Sale Phase 2, and Erico Bridge Passive Treatment Systems. The work was completed as a Service Learning project to provide the students the opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge to help the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The students took turns presenting the laboratory methods that were used for each parameter and the data that were generated, which often led to interesting discussions between the students and the audience. The SRWC would like to thank those who took time out of their busy schedules to support the students' efforts.



We would also like to thank Dr. Boylan and the following students for their hard work and willingness to use our sites to provide meaningful and useful data about the effectiveness of our passive systems:

**Brittany Bivens**  
**Andrew James Brown**  
**Drew Davic**  
**Brian Domanski**  
**Reesha Jackson**  
**Leigh Ann Jordan**  
**W. Mike Kochemba**  
**Mallory Lichwa**  
**Skye Lyons**  
**Leah Maxwell**  
**Tara Pregibon**  
**Spencer Rohrbacher**  
**John Riott**  
**Theresa Swanson**  
**Brandi Weigand**



Coming up in next month's issue of the Catalyst:  
Our 2007 Year in Review!



**David Lamperski**, Butler County Conservation District Director, presents **Margaret H. Dunn** of Stream Restoration Incorporated with the Conservation Educator of the Year Award (See article below).

### **Butler County Conservation District 2007 Conservation Educator of the Year**

On Nov. 14, 2007, **David Lamperski**, Butler County Conservation District Director, presented **Margaret H. Dunn** of Stream Restoration Incorporated with the Conservation Educator of the Year Award at the Butler Farm-City Banquet sponsored by the Butler Rotary and the Agricultural Community. David Lamperski remarked on Margaret's "hands-on" approach to education and the success of the public-private partnership approach with the mining industry and local, state, and federal agencies, landowners, students, and volunteers.

Margaret noted that for more than a decade the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition and Stream Restoration Inc. (non-profit) have focused on providing educational opportunities relating to environmentally-friendly techniques to address the impacts from abandoned coal mine drainage in Butler County. Recognizing the talents of the people in the area to effectively "get the word out" and receiving support from volunteers and funding from the public and private sectors, an estimated 20,000+ people of all ages and interest levels have benefited. The people that have generously shared their gift of teaching include: **Dave Johnson** and **Wil Taylor** at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** by demonstrating innovative passive treatment technology, by writing **Accepting the Challenge**, a primer about the history, cause, and solutions to abandoned mine drainage, and by working in partnership with **RiverQuest** to provide student education activities for the annual **Ohio River Watershed Celebration**; **Bob Beran** of Beran Environmental Services, Inc. by providing opportunities to school students and youth groups to plant and learn about the value of wetlands; **Melissa Busler**, by writing and editing various student activity books and the monthly newsletter, "The Catalyst"; **Dave Lamperski** of the **Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance** by supporting the installation of a passive treatment system for the environmental education program at **Camp Lutherlyn**; and **Dr. Fred Brenner** of **Grove City College**, **Dr. Dean DeNicola** of **Slippery Rock University**, and **Dr. Helen Boylan** of **Westminster College**, who provide on-going student research projects to support the watershed restoration efforts.

A Nov. 23 online article about Margaret's award can be found at the **PA Environmental Digest** web site: <http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter>, and includes a video link to Margaret speaking on the value of watershed partnerships. The **Butler Eagle** also ran an article on 11/18/07, "Farm City Banquet—Awards given at annual event," featuring the exciting news about Margaret! We humbly thank you for your generous publicity and hope it encourages more citizens to volunteer and make a difference in their local watersheds!



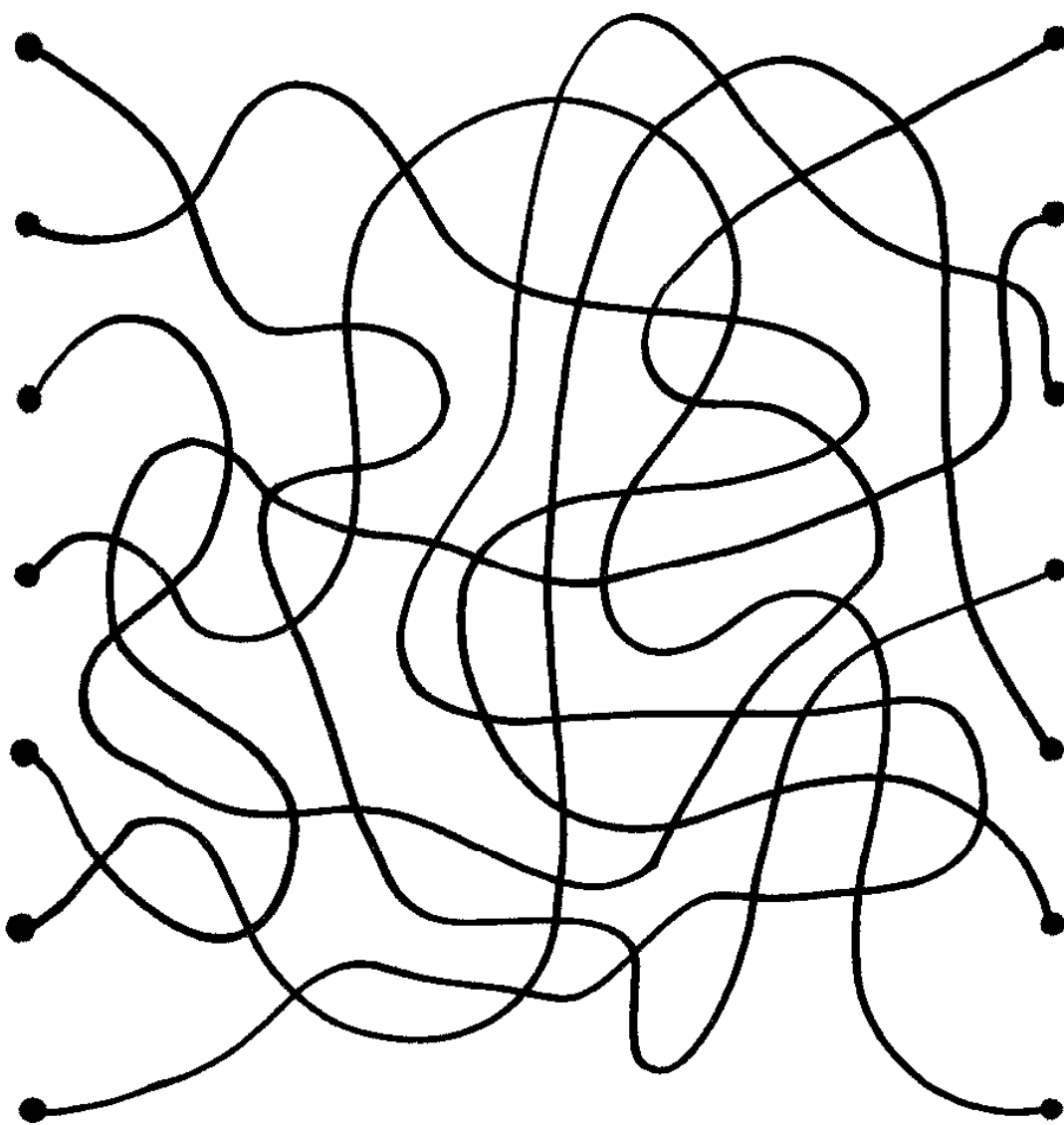
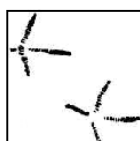
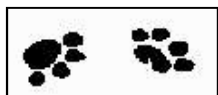
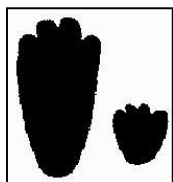
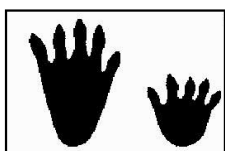
# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## Track That Animal!

Back when people had to hunt for food, tracking game animals was an important skill. Today, many people enjoy tracking animals as a fun hobby. A light snow often makes it easier to follow animal tracks. Every track tells a story about the animal that left it behind. Animals leave behind other clues about their behavior, too, that you can search for in your own backyard. Squirrels leave nutshells behind; birds can snag feathers on a tree branch; every animal leaves behind droppings; some animals rub or scratch themselves on tree trunks and leave behind small pieces of fur. When tracking animal prints in the wintertime, remember to be careful and quiet. During winter, animals need all their strength to survive. If you startle an animal away from its young, it may abandon them. Or it could exhaust itself running away from you and not have any energy left to hunt for its food. Learn to be a wise tracker, and have fun searching for these prints (and others) in your yard, woods, etc. After following the special paths below to trace the animal track to its owner, you can write the animal name under the box with its track. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!



Squirrel

Skunk,  
Weasel

Deer

Raccoon

Turkey

Rabbit

Cat

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
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## Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

### Clearfield Creek Watershed Association Completes Major Project

On November 29, 2007, **Margaret Dunn** and **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated had the wonderful opportunity to spend the day with **John Foreman** of **US Environmental Research Service**. John gave Margaret and Cliff a tour of the **Klondike Mine Drainage Treatment Project**, which had recently been completed by the **Clearfield Creek Watershed Association (CCWA)**. The project consisted of installing two passive systems which were constructed to treat two discharges of the long-abandoned underground Klondike Mine, which operated in the 1940's and 1950's. Accord to the CCWA website ([www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org](http://www.clearfieldcreekwatershed.org)) the two discharges were responsible for about a third of the acid load to Little Laurel Run, which significantly impacts Clearfield Creek. In addition, as part of the project, a stream channel was reconstructed to prevent clean water in the stream from entering the underground mine, therefore reducing the generation of new mine drainage. Funding for the project came from the **PA DEP Growing Greener Program, US EPA 319 Program, US Office of Surface Mining Appalachian Clean Stream Program, and the Western PA Watershed Program**. The passive system was designed by **Dr. Art Rose** and **John Foreman**. Landowners who gave permission to the CCWA to conduct the project included the **Blair County Solid Waste Authority, the Hite-Dodson family** whose ancestors once operated the Klondike Mine and **Cooney Bros. Coal Co.** The system was constructed by **Ligonier Construction Company**. Congratulations to the Clearfield Creek Watershed Association on a job well done!!!!



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