

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 4/10/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 3/13/08 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, C. Denholm, K. Durrett, T. Grote, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, J. McDowell, S. Smith

Margaret's Making News!

Margaret Dunn of Stream Restoration Inc. and a participant in the SRWC was honored on 1/26/08 in the **Pittsburgh Tribune-Review**. Below is a reprint of the "Newsmaker" column. **Thank you Bobby Kerlik!!!!**

NEWSMAKER

Margaret H. Dunn

Age: 59

Family: Husband, Mike

Residence: New Sewickley, Beaver County

Education: Master's degree in geology, Virginia Tech; bachelor's degree in geology, Florida State University

Occupation:

Dunn is the founder and president of Cranberry-based Stream Restoration Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to working to restore watersheds. She also works for BioMost Inc., a Cranberry-based company dedicated to treating drainage problems at abandoned mines.

Noteworthy: Dunn recently was awarded the Conservation Educator of the Year Award by the Butler County Conservation District for her work and approach to education.

Quote: "It's the most meaningful and rewarding time of my life. It's not just a job. I feel like I'm doing something. In Pennsylvania, 4,000 miles of streams are impacted by abandoned mines, and it's very devastating in some areas."

— Bobby Kerlik



Creativity Abounds at the NCECA Conference

Stream Restoration Inc. branched out into the world of ceramics at the **42nd Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts** held at the David L. Lawrence Convention Center in Pittsburgh. Over 4000 attended this exciting and interesting conference. The positive response to **Clean Creek Products** (See article on page 2.), a division of Stream Restoration Inc., was overwhelming!!!! We can't thank **Jane Nugent**, "**Garden Talk**", **WPTT 1360 AM** enough for taking time to be with us in support of the watershed clean up efforts!!! As many potters are avid gardeners, Jane was able to provide tips to many international visitors!!!! (See Photo of the Month on page 2.) **Tom Grote, Tim Danehy, Shaun Busler, Cliff Denholm, and Margaret Dunn** were on hand to showcase the manganese and iron oxides recovered from acidic mine drainage during passive treatment. CCP is acquainting various industries to these "green" materials.

And of course, the exhibit wouldn't have been possible without the **FABULOUS POTTERY**, with glazes containing the recovered material, by **Bob Isenberg (Pottery Dome, Mercer, PA); Pam Esch, Sarah Clague, and Carl Morrison (MEC-Clay Studios, Cleveland, OH); and Paul Jay (Little Creek Fine Arts, Harmony, PA)!!**

With **Lois Hamilton**, owner of the Pottery Dome, and **Pam Esch**, answering in-depth questions about glazes and pottery, about a thousand (!!!!) or more people expressed interest in using the materials and encouragement in continuing recovery efforts and the environmentally-friendly treatment of abandoned mine drainage!!!! The supply of the 900 sample packets was depleted before noon on Friday!!!!!!

The NCECA conference, which ran from March 19-22 with the theme "Confluence: Innovation, Community, Environment", was attended by student and professional potters from all over the world! There were many interesting presentations and demonstrations. Exhibitors included companies selling ceramic supplies, pottery tools, and glazes; art departments from colleges and universities; ceramic and art-related magazines; and much more.

Standard Ceramic Supply Company hosted a post-convention reception at their headquarters in Carnegie, PA. All buildings were open for art exhibits and Tom, Pam, Margaret, Tim, Shaun, and Cliff were thankful for the invitation and enjoyed the tour of the facilities (as well as the delicious food and beverages after a long day at the conference!)

The purpose of NCECA is to promote and improve the ceramic arts through education, research, and creative practice. NCECA members include artists, educators, students, patrons, retailers, and manufacturers. Visit their web site www.nceca.net to learn more! The NCECA conference was a great experience, and the representatives of Clean Creek Products were thrilled to meet so many people in the ceramic field and to learn about the variety in the world of ceramic arts!



Helping at the CCP display at the NCECA conference (left to right): Pam Esch (MEC-Clay Studios), Jane Nugent (WPTT radio personality), Margaret Dunn (SRI), Tom Grote (SRI), Bob Isenberg (Pottery Dome), and Betty McDewitt (Pottery Dome).

Introducing Clean Creek Products

Since 1995, participants of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition and Stream Restoration Inc. (SRI) have installed 15 passive treatment systems which treat over 750 million gallons of abandoned mine drainage every year! Slippery Rock Creek is free of 190 tons/year of acidity, 8 tons/year of aluminum, and 150 tons/year of iron. Until recently, there was no definitive answer to the question of what to do with the large amounts of byproducts retained in the treatment systems.

SRI found a use by accident... **Pam Esch**, a potter and lifelong friend of Margaret Dunn, saw a pile of “black dirt” in a pipe cap in the office of SRI that was cleaned from one of the effluent pipes of a Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed. She surprised everyone in the office when she recognized that this “black dirt” was manganese. As a potter she purchased manganese from commercial suppliers for use in her glazes. She took a portion of the manganese back to her studio and tried using it. She loved it!!! She has since used manganese and iron oxide from passive treatment systems in the Slippery Rock Creek watershed on many pieces of pottery.

SRI is excited to announce the formation of **Clean Creek Products (CCP)**, a division of SRI focused on marketing the metals recovered in treating abandoned mine drainage (AMD). CCP is promoting these metals as raw “green” materials to many industries.



A new e-commerce website, www.cleancreek.org, is now available to purchase pottery online. There are beautiful vases and containers, tableware, mugs, serving dishes, and more available for purchase right now. Each piece is locally made and hand thrown using the recycled material as a colorant. A variety of styles and glaze patterns will continue to be added to the website as they are created.

We are very excited about the potential of CCP to creatively and effectively use literally tons of iron oxide and manganese oxide leftover from treating AMD! Thank you to everyone who helped see CCP through from conception to fruition!



Your purchase will help the environment!! CCP donates a portion of all proceeds to help local watershed groups keep their streams clean!!!! Please see the unique pottery available on the CCP website www.cleancreek.org. Consider making a purchase and doing your part to support “green technology!”



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



The 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

Do you know your 3 R's? *Reduce, reuse, recycle!* These 3 words give us all 3 important things we can do to help keep our environment clean. Recycle means to process old, used items in order that the material can be used to make new products. Examples of things that are often recycled are glass, plastic, newspapers, aluminum cans, used motor oil, and batteries. Reduce refers to lessening the amount of items or resources that are consumed, using only the amount that is needed, and looking for alternatives that will lessen our use. An example is using less water by taking a shorter shower. And reuse means extending the 'life' or repurposing an item rather than discarding or throwing it away. Examples include putting kitchen waste like eggshells and banana peels in a compost bin, and using plastic lids from coffee cans as coasters or for under plants to protect tabletops. Now that you have learned your 3 R's, it's time to find the R's hidden in the picture below! There are 3 letter R's hidden in the picture. Circle the R's and color the picture. If you send us your completed paper, we will mail you a free gift certificate! Don't forget to try doing the 3 R's around your house!



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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Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, BioMost, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 3016 Unionville Road, Cranberry Twp., PA 16066, (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, sri@streamrestorationinc.org, www.srwc.org. April distribution: 1349

WINTER AVIAN PROGRAMS OFFERED AT JENNINGS

Jennings Environmental Education Center provided two public programs this winter dedicated to the lives of our avian fauna and the roles they play in our local environment. On Saturday, February 16, a program was presented on the national **Great Backyard Bird Count**. This activity is a citizen scientist project, sponsored by the **Cornell Lab of Ornithology** and the **National Audubon Society**, which recruits the public to dedicate one weekend of counting the birds they observe at their feeders. This information is entered on Cornell's web site, where it will be used to monitor the winter locations of the birds of North America. The Jennings event featured natural history information, identification and feeding tips, as well as instructions on how to correctly gather and enter the information into the online database. There were 20 participants in attendance, and **Kathy Setzer** of the **Birdwatcher's Store** along with members of the **Bartramian Audubon Society** provided resources for further involvement in the hobby.

Jennings' annual bluebird program was quite a "**Fledging Experience**", bringing out a crowd of 150 people! **Harry Schneider**, "the Ambassador for the Bluebirds", shared his passion for the feathered creatures at Jennings on Sunday, February 24. As a citizen scientist Harry maintains several bluebird trails and keeps specific data and pictures of each box. He uses this information to teach others the importance of bluebirds and the struggles the birds must overcome. He shared habitat and food preferences, bird box placement tips and information regarding the species that are a threat to the bluebirds' numbers. Each visitor had a chance to join the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania and received a bluebird box while supplies lasted. As a result the society gladly accepted close to 30 new members!

Contributed by:

The eastern bluebird is pictured at left and right. These birds are an important predator on destructive insects such as grasshoppers, caterpillars, crickets, katydids, and beetles. Their diet also consists of various berries, spiders, sow bugs, earthworms, and snails.

