

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 6/12/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 5/8/08 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, J. Winter

### Nature Detectives Investigate Vernal Pools at Jennings

Nature Detectives were hard at work at the Jennings Environmental Education Center on April 4, 2008 investigating life at vernal pools (see photos below). The program, which was geared towards children as well as the young at heart, provided the participants a hands-on, fun-filled afternoon to learn about vernal pools, the variety of life that utilize the pools, and the challenges facing several species to get back to the pools in order to continue their species. After a brief introduction, the children and some of the adults took part in an interactive game where they could take on the roles of spotted salamanders, predators, cars, and volunteers to see the many challenges that salamanders face to get back to the vernal ponds to reproduce. The game quickly made those challenges apparent. Following the game, the detectives hiked through the woods in search of vernal pools and had the opportunity to look at a selection of various aquatic insects, frogs, and salamanders that reside in the vernal pools at Jennings. Once again, the staff at Jennings did a wonderful job! For more information about Jennings and to see a calendar of future events go to their website at [www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/jennings.aspx](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/jennings.aspx).



### Save the Date! 7th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration

Circle this date on your fall calendar: **Thursday, September 25!** This is the date of the always-thrilling, always-educational Ohio River Watershed Celebration! Some new and exciting things are planned for this year's riverboat cruise and we hope you will join us and be part of the fun! As a new feature this year, there will be TWO Gateway Clipper Fleet vessels sailing the three rivers of Pittsburgh, one specifically geared towards children K-12 (with activities and games, etc.) and the other set aside for the adult crowd. Everyone is welcome to attend! Last year over 800 individuals participated in the September 20th 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 autumn afternoon in Pittsburgh. We look forward to seeing you there this year! There will be educational poster displays, informative and interesting speakers on a wide variety of watershed topics, excellent networking opportunities, guided narration of points of interest seen along the riverbanks, beautiful scenery, great giveaways, and much, much more! You won't want to miss it!!! Registration will begin soon, look for more details upcoming in the Catalyst. If you have questions in the meantime, please email **Tom Grote** at [tfgroute@verizon.net](mailto:tfgroute@verizon.net).



Wil Taylor accepts the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Award on behalf of the Jennings Environmental Education Center. Each year at the Awards Banquet, individuals and organizations are recognized for the contributions they have made to the field of environmental education. Congratulations, JEEC! *Look for an article coming soon!*

### PA GIS Conference

**Shaun Busler** of the **SRWC** and **Stream Restoration Inc.** was glad to have attended the 16th Annual PA GIS Conference! With the theme of “Sustaining and Leveraging our Geospatial Investment”, the conference was held May 14-15 at the Radisson Penn Harris Hotel and Convention Center in Camp Hill, PA. One focus of the conference was the uncertainty of the sustainability of the PAMAP Program. PAMAP is the foundation of PA’s spatial data infrastructure, and is facing great peril with the possibility of not receiving any budget allocation next fiscal year. **Dr. David J. Harding**, Geophysicist at NASA’s Planetary Geodynamics Laboratory in Greenbelt, Maryland gave the keynote address to open this year’s conference. In addition to enjoying Dr. Harding’s talk, Shaun also found the session led by **Greg Michael** to be excellent—a presentation about Web Mapping Application Development. Shaun also enjoyed viewing the Harrisburg Area Community College’s (HACC) map display gallery and competition in the main plenary hall.

It was another exciting conference, as geospatial technology moves ahead with unprecedented growth, with more methods and tools for geospatial analysis and information management. How thrilling to see our geospatial assets continue to grow as local governments and private industry invest in data, people, and services. The PA GIS Conference once again provided attendees with a forum for learning, debating, sharing, and exploring new ideas. Thanks to all who helped make the conference a success!

### Coming up Soon...The AMD/AMR Conference!

The Annual Pennsylvania Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation is celebrating its 10-year anniversary this year! The conference will be held on **August 12 - 14, 2008** at the Ramada Inn in State College. A new component is being added to this year’s conference, focusing on coal mining heritage and its preservation. This newly added aspect seeks to meet the desire and interest of the many individuals involved in abandoned mine reclamation work who express interest in the culture and history of coal mining, especially on the local community level.

The usual opportunities for learning, sharing, and networking for those involved in Abandoned Mine Reclamation work will still be offered, and the Coal Mining Heritage will add to the rich experiences available at the conference. Thank you to the 2008 Planning Committee, led by Bruce Golden and Andy McAllister of the [Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#), and Robert Hughes and Michael Hewitt of the [Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation](#); and thanks to the invaluable Conference Sponsors: the PA DEP, the Foundation for PA Watersheds, and the Office of Surface Mining. For more information or to register for the conference, visit <http://2008.treatminewater.com>.

# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

## PA Wildlife Word Search

Pennsylvania is blessed with a wonderful variety of beautiful, exciting wildlife to observe! As the weather grows warmer, we'll be seeing more and more kinds of birds, mammals, insects, reptiles and amphibians! Try to find the names of all 24 PA species listed below hidden in the word search. Circle the words, and if you mail us your paper we'll send you a free gift certificate!

Gray squirrel  
Chipmunk  
Porcupine  
Beaver  
Black bear  
Bald eagle

White tailed deer  
Red fox  
Cottontail rabbit  
American toad  
Snapping turtle  
Mourning dove

Hummingbird moth  
Monarch butterfly  
Luna moth  
Swallowtail butterfly  
Mallard duck  
Red-winged blackbird

Green heron  
Canada goose  
Cormorant  
Garter snake  
Rattlesnake  
Bluebird

P	O	L	V	A	M	T	I	B	B	A	R	L	I	A	T	N	O	T	T	O	C	O	B	S
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B	C	H	E	L	A	C	M	U	H	E	C	J	E	N	I	P	U	C	R	O	P	E	C	P
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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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## **Family Service Corp Volunteers Lend a Hand at Jennings**

As part of a **Jennings Environmental Education Center** watershed educational program on Friday May 9th, a group of adults from the **Family Services Corp** located in Butler, PA volunteered to install protective tree guards around the newly planted ARRI (Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative) trees. The tree seedlings were originally planted at the ARRI dedication in April and the new plastic tree guards will protect the young seedlings from being browsed by deer. The group also potted 40 additional tree seedlings that will be planted in other areas of the park later in the year. Trees are our renewable resource! Many thanks to the folks from the Family Services Corp who donated their time to help give the newly planted trees at Jennings a better chance of survival. To learn more about ARRI and what they do, visit their web site at: <http://arri.osmre.gov>

