

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 7/10/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 6/12/08 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, J. Winter

**!!!!Please note the August 2008 meeting will be canceled due to the PA AMR Conference!!!!**

### ARRI In the News...

There's more!!!! For those of you interested in learning more about the partnering effort with the **U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Surface Mining, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Quality Aggregates Inc.**, and the rest of us to implement a scale model of a new approach to re-establish productive hardwood forests at mine sites, here are some additional news items. These articles describing the "**Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative**" (ARRI) have since been published and are helping spread the news about the ARRI project and its value to the education and research program at Jennings.

The **Butler Eagle** newspaper printed an excellent article entitled "New Reforestation Technique is Tested at Jennings Center" on May 16. The weekly **PA Environment Digest** also published an article "Spotlight—Jennings EE Center Demonstrates New Approach to Hardwood Reforestation" on May 2, which is online at [www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/](http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com/newsletter/). In addition to a news clip, "Reforestation Practice on Display", **Andy McAllister**, Watershed Coordinator at the **Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Drainage (WPCAMR)** has a wonderful video (even includes music!!!) on WPCAMR'S May 5th Video Diaries recording the event at Jennings. The news clip and video can be viewed at [www.amp.wpcamr.org/archives/185](http://www.amp.wpcamr.org/archives/185). To our delight, there was even an article focusing on the educational opportunities in the **US Office of Surface Mining June ARRI newsletter** entitled "Pennsylvania Arbor Day Event Educates School Children" by **Dave Hamilton, OSM!!!**

Thanks much to everyone who contributed to these wonderful articles as word spreads locally and nationally about this brand-new, exciting method of hardwood reforestation! For those who are interested in ARRI, there is an up-coming conference entitled "Mined Land Reforestation" to be held in Logan, West Virginia, August 5-7 at the Chief Logan Lodge Hotel and Conference Center. Visit the ARRI web site to learn more: <http://arri.osmre.gov/>



An image from the past: a giant American chestnut tree towers over those posing for the photo before the turn of the century.



Please make a note! We have a new address! We have relocated to Mars! No, your mail won't need to travel via rocketship to reach us! We literally outgrew our previous office (which we will miss) in Cranberry, PA and moved about 10 miles east — to

Mars, PA. We have a spacious commercial-zoned-house with outbuildings on 3.5 acres (so now we have to mow!). All contact information stays the same, except for the new mailing address. Send correspondence for the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, SRI, and BioMost, Inc. to

**434 Spring Street Ext.  
Mars, PA 16046**



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Before last month's SRWC meeting, **Charlie Cooper** spent his time "keeping our highways clean"!!! Charlie says he has a "one-of-a-kind" technique and likes to perform this much appreciated volunteer effort by himself!!! Thank you, thank you for taking care of the I-79 roadside around mile marker 100!!!

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### New Intern Gets Down and Dirty

My name is Kelly Wacker and I am the new intern here at Stream Restoration Incorporated. I am a senior at the University of Pittsburgh and I am working towards a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies. I am a native of the city of Pittsburgh and have lived there all of my life, although I do like to travel and have been fortunate enough to see some wonderful places in the world. At the age of 20 I traveled to the country of Tanzania in eastern sub-Saharan Africa to do environmental volunteer work, including planting trees on the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro. That experience forever changed my life and heavily influenced my decision to pursue a degree in Environmental Studies.

This summer while working with Stream Restoration Inc., I am very eager to soak up as much experience as I am able to. I am particularly interested in learning about the ins and outs of active and passive treatment systems for degraded waterways. I am also equally excited to get my hands dirty and help make an impact in improving the quality of some of our region's natural beauty as well as helping to ensure its longevity, and overall making the earth a little bit greener!







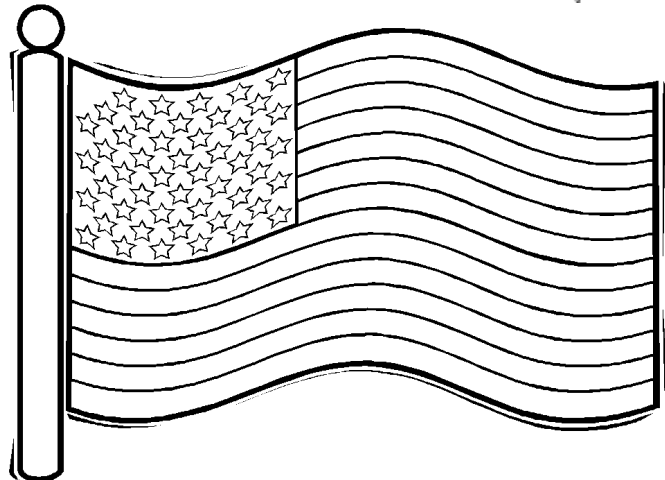
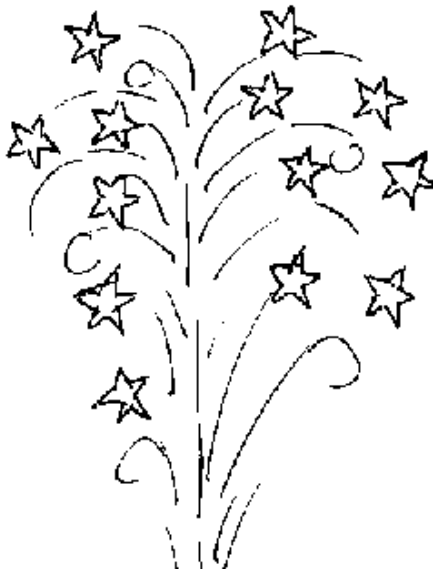
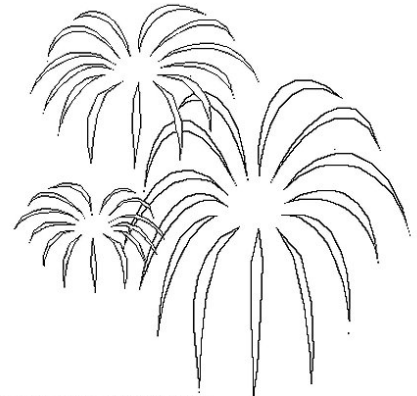
# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### The Science Behind Fireworks

It is believed that a cook in China accidentally created the first fireworks in the kitchen by lighting a mixture of three basic kitchen ingredients of the time - sulphur, charcoal and salt petre. The basic ingredients in fireworks in general have never really changed; they are still made of a source of fuel and an oxidizer. The purpose of the fuel is to provide heat, and the oxidizer provides more oxygen than the atmospheric air can supply, to speed up the burning process. To slow down the burning in order to give the audience a great visual effect, chemists use big grains of chemicals (the size of a small grain of sand) and they don't blend the ingredients of the "black powder" together very well. That makes it harder for the fuel and oxidizer to combine and burn, and produces a longer and brighter effect. The different colorant chemicals in fireworks each emit light at a specific wavelength, producing different colors: the element strontium produces red, copper produces blue, barium makes green, sodium makes yellow and orange. Colors can also be mixed; strontium (red) plus copper (blue) equals purple. Have a fun Independence Day and enjoy the fireworks you might see this 4th of July and throughout the summer! Color the fireworks page below and send it to us for a free gift certificate!



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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
434 Spring Street Ext.  
Mars, PA 16046

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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), 434 Spring Street Ext., Mars, PA 16046 (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). July distribution: 1355 copies

## **“The Point North Magazine” Points to the SRWC, Clean Creek Products**

The April and June issues of “The Point North” magazine both featured articles connected to the SRWC and SRI. **Cliff Denholm**, of SRI and an SRWC participant, contributed the article **“Pottery: Helping the Environment? Are You Kidding!?”** This article was featured in the April issue and described the problem of AMD in PA and the efforts of the SRWC and SRI to clean the drainage using passive treatment systems. The pottery connection? Cliff explained how the thousands of pounds of metals removed from the water are being used in pottery glazes (other potential uses under consideration). The iron oxides (that precipitate under acidic conditions) and the manganese oxides (that precipitate under more alkaline conditions) are being used by ceramic artists to produce various colors and effects in their pottery glazes. As interest is growing, SRI created a new division, called “Clean Creek Products” and developed a website [www.cleancreek.org](http://www.cleancreek.org) in order to provide those interested an opportunity to purchase these unique items. **(A portion of all proceeds are donated to restoration efforts by watershed groups and volunteers!!!)**

For the June “Point North” publication, the article was entitled **“Making a Difference: A Fishy Epiphany”**. The article describes how the SRWC’s restoration efforts in the town of Erico, Butler County does indeed matter. Cliff mentions how in 1908 there were a reported 25 coal companies at work in Butler County, which employed 2000 men who produced 865,000 tons of coal a year. After closing the mines at Erico (named for the Erie Coal Mining Company), hundreds of gallons a minute of orange water left the mine and entered Seaton Creek—every minute of every hour of every day for **more than 70 years!** The resulting refuse pile and polluted stream were **cleaned up in 2 (!!!) years’** time by the partnership efforts of the landowners, community, a mining company, a private foundation, youth groups, and local, county, and state agencies. And, when Cliff was rewarded with the sight of a small school of fish swimming in Seaton Creek, which had been devoid of life for so long, he knew his work made, and continues to make, a difference! **Many thanks to “The Point North” magazine for caring!!!!!!! Check the current issue out at [www.thepointnorth.com](http://www.thepointnorth.com).**

### **Remember the Riverboat Cruise!**

Registration will soon be up and running for the **7th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!** As this fun, exciting, educational, (and free!!) event continues to grow in popularity, we will have two boats this year with one dedicated to youth education. So mark your calendars and be sure to register for the **Thursday, September 25th** event. You may contact us by phone at 724-776-0150 or register online at [www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp](http://www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp).