

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 11/13/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. **10/9/08 meeting attendance:** N. Batey, H. Boylan, G. Buckholtz, T. Danehy, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, B. Eash, L. Farnham, S. Gollos, T. Grote, M. Hall, C. Hamill, N. Kassim, G. Kefeli, V. Kefeli, T. Kindling, S. Mastalaski, N. Mizenko, S. Smith, W. Taylor, K. Worst

“STAY TUNED” next month — 11/13/08 Westminster College student presentations!!!!

Fun for All at the Ohio River Watershed Celebration!

A refreshing cool breeze complimented the bright sunny skies to provide a perfect day for sailing Pittsburgh's Three Rivers on September 25 at the 7th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration! **Over 900** individuals participated in the ORWC festivities, which were highlighted by the 3-hour riverboat cruise. Participants interested in networking to learn about local watershed and energy conservation projects sailed aboard the Gateway Clipper's *Majestic*, while the "Under 18" student crowd enjoyed their own specially-tailored "imagination cruise" on the *Empress*. Before the boats set sail, all ages visited the environmental displays on both ships to participate in a fun "Watershed Treasure Hunt" designed for folks to search the dozens (~70!!!!) of displays for answers to questions such as "What mineral is responsible for causing PA's biggest water pollution issue, AMD?" and "List 1 benefit of wetlands." Those who completed the forms turned their papers in for a special cruise memento!!!

Two boats was not the only change to this year's event! Also new was a special focus on energy, a topic on many Americans' minds. Following welcoming remarks by **Scott Roberts (PA DEP Deputy Secretary)** and **Jane Nugent ("Garden Talk" WMNY 1360AM)**, excitement grew in anticipation of the Watershed Awards Ceremony onboard the *Majestic*, with **David Hess (former PA DEP Secretary)** serving as the Master of Ceremony. A total of 8 volunteer organizations throughout the 24-county Ohio River Watershed were awarded cash prizes totaling \$3000 for their positive efforts in local watershed stewardship. Please see p. 2 for award winners!. **Maggie Hall (PA DEP Regional Mgr, Energy & Tech. Deployment)** gave an overview of energy conservation and introduced **Nathaniel Doyno (Steel City Biofuels)** talked about the subject of alternative fuels; and **Dick Rosey (Solar Power Industries)** provided a presentation on solar power. A guided narration of landmarks and points of interest by **Dave Plank (ORWC volunteer)** and **Joe Dinkel (West View Water Authority)** gave insight during the trip along the Ohio River, as everyone enjoyed the beautiful scenery and a chance to share with others dedicated to working together to improve our environment. Both ships voyaged through a lock, a fascinating experience, whether it is one's first time or tenth time! Thank you, **Don Zeiler, US Army Corps of Engineers**, for the "guided tour" as we "locked" through. Did you know that the Emsworth Lock and Dam was first operational in 1921 and averages about 550 commercial lockages every month, plus another 350-400 lockages of pleasure craft during the busy summer months?!?

Wil Taylor of Jennings Environmental Education Center deserves outstanding recognition for all of his hard work in organizing the Imagination Cruise for the student participants. Twenty-one organizations were involved in supplying educational displays, activities, demonstrations, and lessons for the kids onboard the *Empress*. Four thematic areas set up throughout the boat contained several activities created to instill an appreciation of the watersheds in which we live, and it was a non-stop learning adventure for the students as they tried hard to fit it all in! The "River of History" learning area gave students the unique opportunity to interact with re-enactors who were dressed in period costumes of the 1700s. An Indian trader, trapper, and settlers had fascinating stories to tell, skills to show off, and lots of equipment for kids to touch and explore. Mixing old with the new, historical landmarks were tracked with GPS units from the top deck of the boat, as students were taught how to use these technical devices. In "River of Life", students got up close with the animals that call the Ohio River Watershed home. Live specimens of turtles, salamanders, snakes, and toads were present, as were macroinvertebrates, for students to identify and learn more about. Birding was offered on the top deck (several folks observed a great blue heron at the lock and dam!), as was a fun water cycle activity. "Conserve Me a River" provided students hands-on science experiments and exhibits to show the value of regional conservation projects. There was an AMD investigation, waste water treatment activities, household hazardous wastes exhibit, microscope and leaf activities, and more! Lastly, in "Craft Me a River", students were able to make fish-print t-shirts, tie their own fly for fishing, and learn about fish adaptations by designing their own fish specific to a unique habitat! Thanks to every single person who helped the students learn so much and have a great time doing it!

The ORWC, open to the public and free of charge, is planned and organized by an all-volunteer committee. As this annual event continues to grow in scope and style we acknowledge everyone for playing a crucial role in this valuable partnership which helps make the cruises so fantastic! Please see the back page of the Catalyst for a list of ORWC Sponsors and Partners (there are many people to thank!!!) and consider joining us on next year's cruise!!!



2008 ORWC Watershed Award Winners

Front Row

Kristin Sewak, Natural Biodiversity; Pam Meade, Crooked Creek Watershed Association; Drew Banas, Susan Huba, Loyalhanna Watershed Association

Back Row

Fran Hopkins, Group Against Smog and Pollution; Kim Lanich, Elk County Freshwater Association; Alex Petridis, Justine Lechner, The Awesome Spirit of Wildlife, Inc.; Gary Stokum, Washington County Watershed Alliance; Len Lichvar, Amanda Deal, Somerset County Conservation District; Dave Hess, Former Secretary of the PA DEP and Master of Ceremony.

!!!Congratulations!!!

And the Winners Were...

It was an honor to highlight the positive efforts and impacts of small local groups who address watershed issues at the 7th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration! The efforts of these dedicated volunteers continue to be vital in the overall recovery of our local streams and rivers. Thanks to the private donations that make this possible!!! The Award Winners were:

- Best Display: **The Awesome Spirit of Wildlife** - \$500; **Somerset County Conservation District** - \$250
- Most Innovative Project: **Loyalhanna Watershed Association** - \$500; **Natural Biodiversity** - \$250
- Outreach & Education: **Crooked Creek Watershed Assn.** - \$500; **Washington Co. Watershed Alliance** - \$250
- Best Example of Partnerships: **Group Against Smog and Pollution** - \$500; **Elk Co. Freshwater Assn.** - \$250

Our annual ORWC Environmental & Energy Conservation Awards were also presented to recognize an individual, business/industry, and local government agency that have demonstrated a commitment to watershed or energy conservation. Winners receiving this award were:

- Individual: **Greg Phillips**, Westmoreland County Conservation District
- Government: **Allegheny County Council**, Joseph Catanese accepting
- Business/Industry: **Artemis Environmental Building Materials**, Janice Donatelli accepting
- Energy Conservation: **Marty McKinney**, Cranberry Township

Congratulations to this year's award winners! Your hard work is making our watershed cleaner and greener!

SAVE THE DATE!!!! Return of the SRWC Student Symposium

After a couple of years on hiatus, the SRWC Student Symposium returns this year on Thursday, December 4, 2008. The student symposium provides the opportunity for students from local colleges and universities to present their research, projects, and discoveries related to water quality, ecosystem restoration/recovery, soil science, sustainable systems, environmental education, etc, to professionals, professors, members of the community, and their peers. The event also gives the students as well as anyone interested the opportunity to meet and network with professionals in the mining, environmental, and educational fields.

The event will be hosted by Westminster College this year and will take place in the McKelvey Theater. A networking and poster session will begin at 5:30 PM and end at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Student oral presentations will run from approximately 6:30 to 9:00 PM.

Time slots and poster space are still available. Interested students can contact the SRWC at 724-794-6011 or email wilbutaylo@state.pa.us.

Please come out and support the students!!!! We hope to see you there!!!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Recycling Word Search

Recycling occurs when you save and take reusable materials to places where they can be remade into either the same product or new products, rather than to just toss them in the trash. Making new items from recycled ones also uses less energy and other resources than making products from brand new materials. What you can personally recycle varies from community to community, but if you want to make a difference by recycling you can always be the one to transport the recycled items to a special recycling center or marked bins in your town or nearby city. Recycling saves energy, money, landfill space, clean air and water, natural resources, and creates jobs! Recycling is something we can all do. Below is a list of 20 items which can be recycled. Your township might not recycle all of the things in our list, but with a little work and research you can always find a place to take these to be recycled! Try to find all 20 items hidden in the word search below, and circle them. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

junk mail
wrapping paper
magazines
newspaper
brochures

phone books
tissue boxes
coupons
food cans
computer paper

plastic bottles
envelopes
glass bottles
cereal boxes
batteries

leaves
milk jugs
tires
cardboard
cell phones

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Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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Thank You! We Appreciate Your Partnership!

The success of the Ohio River Watershed Celebrations would not be possible without the tremendous volunteer support from generous Sponsors, Partners, and Facilitators! We thank the following organizations for their much-appreciated roles in allowing nearly 1000 participants to have an enjoyable and educational

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