

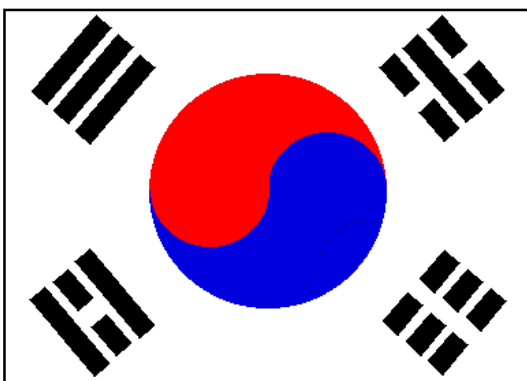
THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 12/11/08 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 11/13/08 meeting attendance: W. Taylor, V. Kefeli, J. McGinnis, S. Mastalski, D. Johnson, T. Grote, M. Dunn, C. Cooper, C. Denholm, C. Leininger

From Korea to Slippery Rock!

The “regular” participants at September’s meeting of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition were pleasantly surprised to be joined by a special guest—all the way from Korea! **Sang-Woo Ji** is a graduate student at Penn State University and he journeyed all the way to Slippery Rock from Happy Valley to sit in on the meeting and learn more about the AMD remediation work done by the SRWC! It was an honor to meet and speak



with Sang-Woo, who is a senior researcher in the Geological & Environmental Hazards Division at the **Korea Institute of Geoscience & Mineral Resources**. Isn't it fascinating to know a similar problem of water impacted by acid mine drainage from abandoned coal mines exists all the way in Korea?! Indeed, AMD affects many countries having historic or current mining industries. Preventing the formation or the migration of AMD from its source is generally considered to be the preferable option, although this is not feasible in many locations around the world; in such cases, it is necessary to collect, treat, and discharge mine water. We were thrilled to spend time with Sang-Woo and learn from each other! We hope to see him again in the future!

Our Russian Connection: As Busy as Ever!

As one of the SRWC’s most active and dedicated participants, soil scientist **Dr. Valentin Kefeli** involves himself in many different watershed-related research projects and activities. This fall, Dr. Kefeli, a native of Russia, taught a class at Slippery Rock University as part of the school’s **Institute for Learning in Retirement**. Dr. Kefeli enjoyed teaching a course entitled “Russian III: Russia’s Neighbors from Finland to Japan”, in which the participants studied Russia’s neighbors, their cultures, history, and main activities. Dr. Kefeli shared his own personal impressions which he has accumulated over many experiences of travel to these areas. No doubt his students learned a lot!

Also noteworthy is the fact that Dr. Kefeli recently had a scientific research article published in a Russian journal! His paper, called “Role of Phenol Compounds in Plants” was written in collaboration with four scientists from Moscow: **L.D. Prusakova, S.L. Belopukhov, V.V. Vakulenko, and S.A. Kuznetsova**. Their research focused on the role of phenol-containing plant growth regulators to stimulate and inhibit the growth and physiological processes in plants. They also examined the findings that some phenol compounds have wide applications as plant growth regulators in agriculture to increase crop quality and quantity, accelerate the ripening of fruits, facilitate mechanized harvesting, and more!



SAVE THE DATE!!

SRWC Student Symposium

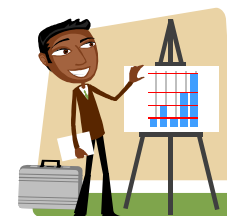
5:30 PM

Thursday, December 4th, 2008

Room 219 (Mueller Theater)

Andrew J. McKelvey Center, Westminster College

New Wilmington, PA





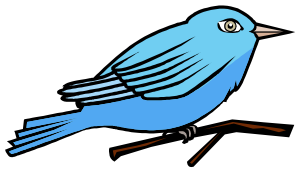
One of the youngest participants in the SRWC, Ben Busler (age 2) poses in front of the coyote display at a recent SRWC meeting at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Adult male eastern coyotes typically weigh between 45 and 55 pounds. Coyotes use a variety of yips, barks and howls to communicate and periodically assemble into larger packs. Coyotes prefer heavy brushy cover, such as clearcuts, and often live along edges between forest and agricultural areas where prey is abundant. The diet of the coyote is quite varied, and can include rabbits, woodchucks, small mammals, plants, fruits, and birds, with deer being the dominant food. The eastern coyote is now more common in PA than black bears, bobcats, and otters! But there is no need to fear these creatures—they steer clear of humans!

Westminster College Students Present Findings at SRWC Meeting

At the October SRWC meeting, Westminster College students from **Dr. Helen Boylan's** Advanced Chemistry course presented their findings on the effectiveness of the Erico Bridge passive treatment system as part of an on-going service learning project. The project is a partnership between **Westminster College, Jennings Environmental Education Center, and Stream Restoration Incorporated** to provide the students with a hands-on experience utilizing the skills they have gained in a practical application while learning about abandoned mine drainage and at the same time provide the SRWC with valuable water quality data for selected passive systems. The students had previously collected water samples from each of the passive system's components, which included three anoxic limestone drains, five settling ponds, two wetlands, and a horizontal flow limestone bed. The students then took the samples back to Westminster College to perform a variety of laboratory analyses. At the meeting, the students took turns presenting various aspects of the data to the SRWC. The students did an excellent job explaining their methodology and presenting their data. As usual, the SRWC was very appreciative of the student effort and provided positive feedback. As the presentations seem to get better every year, we can only imagine what next year will bring!!!

SRWC Participant Goes "Back to School"

On October 16th, SRWC participant **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated gave a presentation to a biology class at **Lincoln High School** located in Ellwood City, PA. Cliff's presentation provided an overview of how and why abandoned mine drainage occurs, the differences in mining techniques of the past and present, and conventional chemical vs passive treatment options. In addition, Cliff spoke about the focus and accomplishments of the SRWC within the headwaters of the watershed. The presentation was quite relevant to the students since they had just completed a stream study of their own and Slippery Rock Creek flows through Ellwood City before it confluences with the Connoquenessing and then flows into the Beaver River. Cliff was pleasantly surprised with a thank you card from the students and their teachers. We can only hope that we left a positive impression on the students!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Crack the Code: Official State Wildlife

Did you know the official state bird of Florida is the mockingbird? And the official state animal of Maine is the moose! Every state has an "official" bird, insect, flower, mammal, etc.! We listed 4 of Pennsylvania's official state wildlife below, along with 8 others of nearby states. But the trick is that they are encoded! To find out the answers of the names of the official state wildlife types, you need to crack the code using the special alphabet key in the box below. Each letter of the alphabet is represented with a symbol. Simply check the box to see which symbol stands for which letter and convert the symbols you see into letters and words to get your answers! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate! Have fun!

1 = A	8 = H	% = O	! = V
2 = B	9 = I	^ = P	? = W
3 = C	0 = J	& = Q	÷ = X
4 = D	~ = K	* = R	√ = Y
5 = E	@ = L	+ = S	\$ = Z
6 = F	# = M	{ = T	
7 = G	\$ = N	[= U	

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

The official animal of Pennsylvania: ?89{5 {19@54 455* _____

The official flower/plant of Pennsylvania: #%[\$ {19\$ @1[*5@ _____

The official fish of Pennsylvania: 2*%%~ {*%[{ _____

The official insect of Pennsylvania: 69*56@√ _____

The official animal of West Virginia: 2@13~ 251* _____

The official flower/plant of West Virginia: *8%4%45\$4*%\$ _____

The official bird of West Virginia: 31*49\$1@ _____

The official insect of West Virginia: 8%\$5√255 _____

The official flower/plant of New Jersey: !9%@5{ _____

The official insect of Ohio: @14√2[7 _____

The official animal of New York: 251!5* _____

The official bird of New York: 2@[529*4 _____



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, www.srwc.org. Dec. distribution: 1256 copies

Announcement & Call for Papers! 2009 Joint Conference: 26th Annual Meeting of American Society of Mining & Reclamation and 11th Billings Land Reclamation Symposium

We are excited to announce the 2009 Joint Conference of the American Society of Mining & Reclamation and Billings Land Reclamation Symposium is to be held in Billings, Montana **May 30 - June 5!** With a theme of "Revitalizing the Environment: Proven Solutions and Innovative Approaches", the 2009 conference promises to be a worthwhile event for all those professionals in the reclamation and mining fields. This is an excellent opportunity to be a part of a large forum of people from all across the country for the sharing of information through presentation of research findings, workshops, field tours, and open discussion of public policy relating to mining, reclamation, restoration, and land management issues.

The Program Committee is currently inviting the submission of abstracts for oral or poster presentations for the technical sessions. Topical areas which will be a focus of the 2009 joint conference include: water management, soils and overburdens, forestry and wildlife, ecological topics, geotechnical engineering, refuse and tailings management, land use and design, and much more. To learn more about the conference, visit <http://billingslandreclamationsymposium.org/>

OSM's 2008 Pennsylvania Annual Evaluation Report: Check Out Who's Inside!

How great to see the 2008 PA Annual Evaluation Report by OSM include 2 of the SRWC's most valued partners in reclamation work!! The **Office of Surface Mining** included under its "Major Accomplishments and Innovations" report section a feature on the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI), of which **Jennings Environmental Education Center** was mentioned as host of a special tree planting event in honor of Arbor Day. The principles of OSM's unique Forest Reclamation Approach (FRA) were demonstrated at the Jennings Arbor Day event, with a focus by The American Chestnut Foundation on developing blight-resistant chestnut trees. Under the "OSM Assistance" section of "Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program", the dedication of the North Fork **Montour Run Watershed Association** (MRWA) was described! On June 25, MRWA hosted a special public event to note the project's importance within the rapidly-developing watershed. Here's hoping we see some trout once the water quality is improved by this system!