

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: CANCELLED! Please join us on Thursday, March 12 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 1/8/09 meeting attendance: C. Cooper, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, D. Johnson

2008 Year in Review: Sharing our Dedication to Watershed Improvement

Education/Outreach Activities

- AML Campaign Meeting, Huntingdon Farm Alexandria, PA—1/17
- “Green Day” event at Boscov’s Department Store, Clearview Mall, Butler, PA—1/19
- 2008 Indoor/Outdoor Home and Garden Show, with Jane Nugent (“Garden Talk” 1360-AM WPTT), Monroeville Expomart—1/24-27
- BAMR AMD Remediation Focus Group Meeting, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Slippery Rock, PA—1/31
- Slippery Rock University MS3 Program students present research findings at SRWC meeting—2/14
- Guest lecture at University of Pittsburgh, Don Hopey’s class—3/18
- 5th Annual Environmental Science Advisory Board Dinner and Meeting, Robert Morris University 3/27
- ARRI Demonstration with OSM at Jennings Environmental Education Center—4/25
- Dedication of North Fork Montour Run Restoration facility, Allegheny County—6/25
- Harrisville Community Day—7/4
- Aultman Watershed Association “Great Goldfish Roundup” event—8/3
- Margaret Dunn guest speaker at Zelienople Rotary Club—8/22
- 7th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration—9/25
- Dr. Valentin Kefeli teaches course in Russian at Slippery Rock University’s Institute for Learning in Retirement—Fall ‘08
- Westminster College Advanced Chemistry students present research findings at SRWC meeting—10/9
- Cliff Denholm guest speaker at Lincoln High School, Ellwood City, PA—10/16
- SRWC Student Symposium, Westminster College 12/4
- “Adopt-a-Highway” Program, clean-up effort for Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101

Conferences

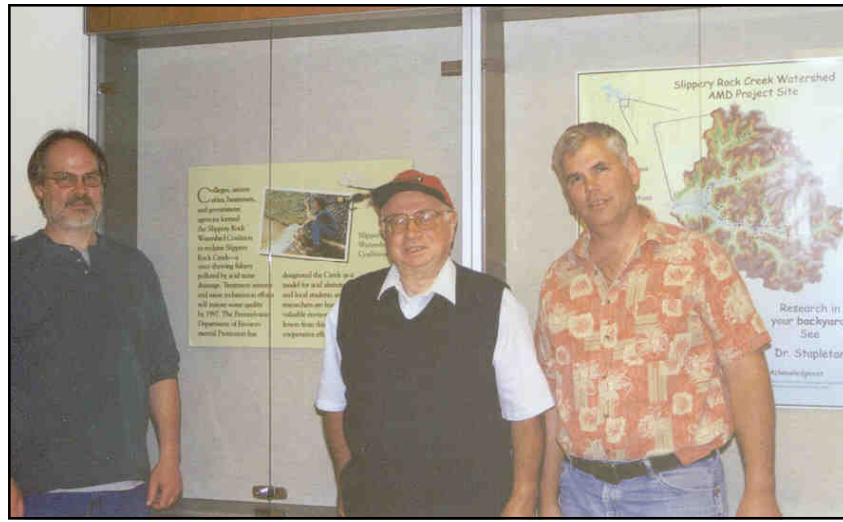
- 42nd Annual National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts, Pittsburgh—3/19-22
- Southwestern PA Commission LiDAR Workshop, Pittsburgh, PA—4/21
- West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium, Morgantown, WV—4/22-23
- Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals Annual Conference, Harrisburg/Hershey, PA—5/7-9
- PA GIS Conference, Camp Hill, PA—5/14-15
- 25th Annual ASMR Meeting, Richmond, VA—6/15-18
- 2008 AMD/AMR Conference, State College, PA 8/12-14

Recognition

- Margaret Dunn (SRWC, Stream Restoration Inc.) recognized in Pittsburgh Tribune-Review “Newsmaker” column—1/26
- “Point North” Magazine features 3 articles on the SRWC: restoration efforts in Erico, Butler County; Clean Creek products; and JEEC invasive species prevention—4/08, 5/08, 7/08
- US EPA “Technology and Trends” publication features article on SRWC’s passive treatment system success—7/08
- US EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response profiles SRWC’s work on Green Remediation web site—Fall ‘08

Restoration Projects

- Construction of BC 16 restoration site nearing completion—wetlands to be planted 2009
- Rivers Conservation Plan for Slippery Rock Creek Watershed—on-going



Thanks to **Chris Leininger** (PHD candidate, Carnegie Mellon), **Dr. Valentin Kefeli** (SRWC), and **Dr. Jack Livingston** (Chair, SRU Dept. of Geology, Geography, and The Environment) for providing this wonderful picture of the **SRWC display** in the new science building at **Slippery Rock University**.

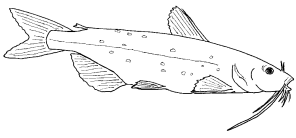
Save the Date!
30th West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium

The **West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium** turns the “Big 3-0” in 2009! This year’s Symposium is slated for **March 31-April 1**, in Morgantown, West Virginia. Registration materials will be posted on the Task Force web site by the middle of January: **www.wvmdtaskforce.com**. **Shaun Busler** and **Margaret Dunn** of the SRWC are excited and thankful for the opportunity to participate in the Symposium! In addition to a **display highlighting the pottery glazed with manganese and iron recovered from passive systems**, Shaun and Margaret will be giving a presentation on April 1 entitled **“Datashed: An Online Tool for Passive Treatment System Monitoring and Maintenance”**. Other topics to be presented and discussed at this year’s meeting include the status of mining and reclamation in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Canada; methods for estimating mine infiltration; legislative issues on mining, reclamation, and water quality; specific conductance of water and its effect on benthic macroinvertebrates; several success stories of regional watershed improvement; and much more!

Many thanks to **Tom Kovalchuk** for suggesting the presentation and **Jeff Skousen**, the program chair, for his hard work and efforts in planning and organizing this worthwhile event! Hope to see you there!

JEEC Study Featured in Journal of Pennsylvania Academy of Science!

It’s no secret to those in western PA that **Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC)** is a jewel for teaching, learning, researching, experimenting, and discovering interesting and exciting things about treating acid mine drainage. Now the success of the bioswale & wetland constructed as part of the passive treatment system in 1997 has been provided via a peer-reviewed article in the **Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science!** **Dr. Fred Brenner**, professor of Biology at **Grove City College** and a participant of the SRWC, is the corresponding author of “Successional Changes in Plant Community in an Acid Mine Drainage Treatment Wetland.” The results suggest that natural succession affected the number and changes in species composition in the wetlands, but that the survival and ultimate composition of these communities may depend on the tolerance of invading species to acid and metal loading into these systems. Congratulations to **Dr. Brenner, Aaron F. Howard, and Robin Pearson** on the publication of their research in this Journal! The use of wetlands in treating AMD is well-established at JEEC and Dr. Brenner and his students continue to study this treatment method to learn and share even more with the environmental community.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



4 Worlds of Water

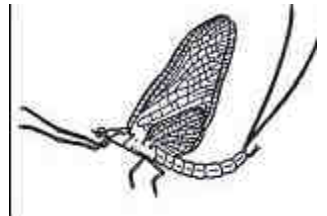
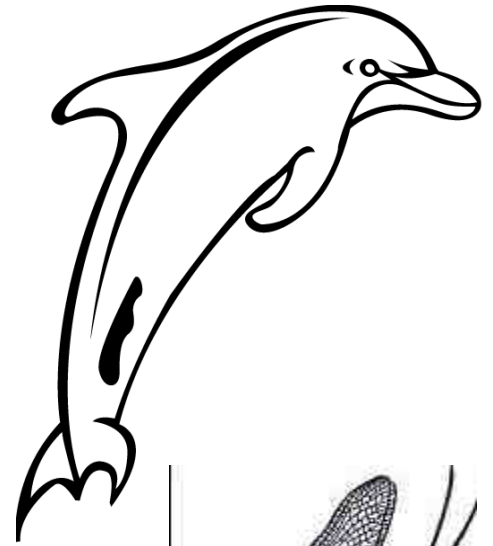
Water is a wonderful habitat for many, many special creatures! For example, over 1 million species of known plants and animals live in the ocean! 4 different water habitats are shown in the boxes below: stream, river, lake, and ocean. In each box is a list of creatures that live in that particular habitat—except for 1! In each box, there is 1 creature listed that does NOT belong there, that does NOT make its home in that place! Your job is to carefully check over each of the 4 lists and circle the 1 living thing in each list that does NOT belong! You can also color the pictures of the different water-loving creatures shown below, or draw us a picture of your favorite one and send it to us! We love getting mail from young Catalyst readers! If you send us your completed paper, we will mail you a free gift certificate!

STREAM

Crayfish
 Mayfly
 Frog
 Lobster
 Stonefly
 Sculpin
 Salamander

RIVER

Seahorse
 Catfish
 Smallmouth bass
 Salmon
 Pike
 Musky
 Caddisfly

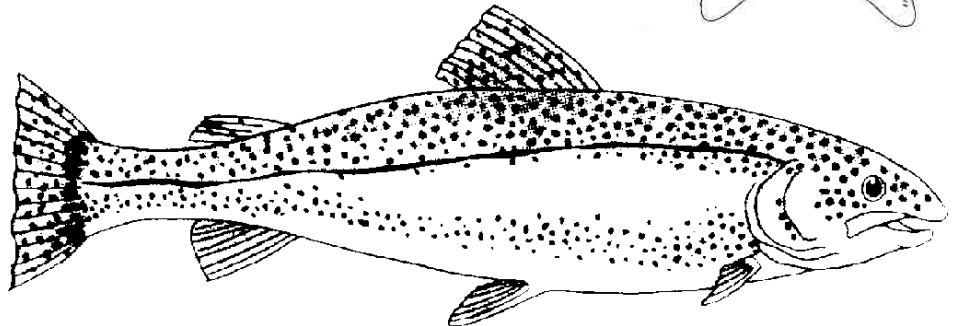
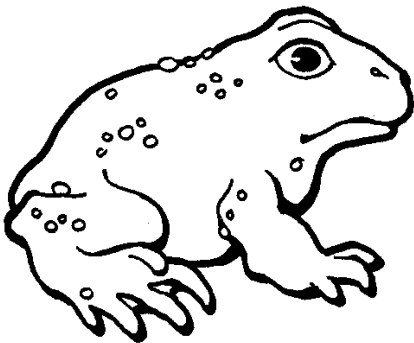
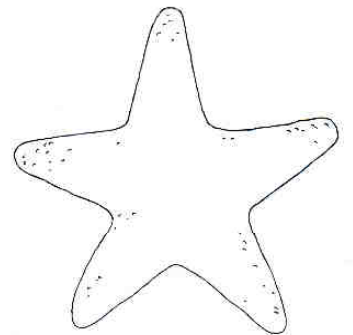


LAKE

Carp
 Yellow perch
 Walleye
 Pumpkinseed
 Hammerhead shark
 Lake trout
 Rainbow trout

OCEAN

Great white shark
 Starfish
 Barracuda
 Dolphin
 Brook trout
 Sand dollar
 Humpback whale



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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ORGANIZATION
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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. Feb. distribution: 1221 copies

ATTENTION!!!

**February's SRWC Meeting is
CANCELLED!!!**

Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 12

Upcoming Winter Fun at Jennings!

If you're looking for a cure for the wintertime blah's, come on over to **Jennings Environmental Education Center** in Slippery Rock, Butler County! JEEC is full of activity and fun this winter, with several upcoming educational programs sure to teach and entertain the participants! For more information on these programs and others, and for registration information, please call **724-794-6011** or visit the web site: **www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/**

"The Great Backyard Bird Count" February 14, 2009; 9 AM to 12 PM

Learn the basics of bird identification and feeding, and contribute to research about bird populations. Join Jennings staff and Bartramian Audubon Society for an informative mini-workshop and birding session. Observe and count birds at the feeders and find out how to contribute data to the Great Backyard Bird Count, then use your new skills to observe birds and submit your own data from home.

"Western Pennsylvania and The Fur Trade: Its Origins and Importance" February 22, 2009; 2 PM to 4 PM

Discover the significant role western Pennsylvania played in shaping history as France and England competed for the area's wealth of natural resources. Furs from a variety of native animals were traded by Indians for the imported manufactured goods on which they had become dependent. Dressed as an early trader with an intriguing supply of furs and 18th century artifacts, Fort Pitt Museum's Chris Kubiak will make this historical period come alive with his fascinating presentation.

"iConserve! Eating Green isn't Just About Vegetables" March 8, 2009; 2 PM to 4 PM

What better way to "take conservation personally" than by considering the foods we eat? Our food choices are directly related to the energy and materials needed to support our lifestyles, to our health and to local economies. Do you know where your food comes from—how it's grown, processed and packaged? Could you become a "locavore"? What's a "CSA"? Join Jennings staff, members of the Northwest Pennsylvania Growers Cooperative, and others for a forum on foods that will explore the why and how of thinking about the source of what you eat. There will be information and resources to help you eat more sustainably, as well as tasty samples of nutritious, naturally and organically produced foods available close to home.