

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 3/12/09 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. No February meeting was held.

EPA 319 Past, Present, and Future Tour

On Thursday, February 26, 2009, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition participants **Margaret Dunn** and **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated hosted a small tour of past, present, and future EPA 319 projects. Participants of the tour included **Donna Carnahan** of the PA DEP 319 Program, **Ely Heferle** of the PA DEP Knox District Mining Office, **Rich Reutzel** of the Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club, and **Carl Undercofler** who in our opinion should just be called Super Man or at least Super Volunteer.

The tour began at the recently constructed BC16 Project, which consists of a settling pond to capture the alkaline mine discharge emanating from what appears to be an old oil well. The polluted water then flows through an aerobic wetland to remove iron and then into a Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed (HFLB) to remove manganese and add alkalinity. The uplands and wetlands will be planted this Spring. Anybody interested in volunteering for the plantings can contact Stream Restoration Inc. at 724-776-0161.

The second stop of the tour was the McIntire site, which along with BC16 is located in the Blacks Creek subwatershed of Slippery Rock Creek. These sites were identified in the Blacks Creek Restoration Plan as the #1 and #2 priority sites accounting for about 50% of the AMD that enters Blacks Creek. Funding to complete the McIntire site was recently announced by the PA DEP.

From the McIntire site the group traveled to the SR101A project located on PA State Game Lands #95 along Slippery Rock Creek. SR101A was constructed in 1998 and functions very well after almost 11 years of continuous operation with essentially no maintenance. The AMD is treated by an Anoxic Limestone Drain (ALD) followed by two constructed wetlands before flowing into an existing natural wetland and then into Slippery Rock Creek.

The last, but certainly not the least stop on the tour was the passive treatment system located at the Jennings Environmental Education Center "where it all began". It is at Jennings where we have experimented which has contributed to the development of passive treatment technology. Jennings' own **Wil Taylor** led the tour, which included the parks first attempt to treat the mine drainage in 1988 with a series of anaerobic and aerobic wetlands. An ALD was then installed in 1994, which plugged within a year, demonstrating the plugging problems of ALDs with aluminum-bearing discharges.



Finally in 1997, a Vertical Flow Pond (VFP), Bioswale, and wetland/settling pond were constructed through an EPA 319 grant that have been successfully treating the discharge ever since. Maintenance primarily has consisted of stirring the VFP treatment media twice within the almost 12 years of operation. Other reclamation efforts included experimental test tanks, an Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative demonstration project completed last Spring and the efforts to restore a one-room school house constructed over 100 years ago that began last fall.



What a great day it was to reflect upon the past and look forward to the future while spending the day outside with some wonderful people. A good time was had by all!



"Leaving a Healthy Environmental Legacy for Generations to Come" is the slogan posted on a Blacks Creek restoration site BC 16 sign pictured at the left. See article on front page for more!

Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

Online Citizen Survey

The Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (SRCWCP) is being developed through the Community Conservation Partnerships Program to provide the general public, municipalities, watershed community, and government agencies with a concise, easy-to-use, repository of the natural, historical, cultural, and recreational resources within the 400-square mile watershed. With emphasis on stewardship and economic growth opportunities, the study, covering portions of Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties, is sponsored by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, Stream Restoration Inc., and in-kind contributions.

Everyone that lives, works, and/or enjoys the wonderful recreational and educational opportunities within the watershed is encouraged to participate in the planning process by taking an online survey. A link to the Citizen Survey form is found at www.streamrestorationinc.org. (Click Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and open Citizen Survey link.) All completed surveys will be attached to the final plan. To guarantee inclusion in the final plan, please complete the surveys by June 1, 2009. Additional recommendations may be submitted at future public meetings, which are to be held upon completion of the draft version of the watershed conservation plan.

Watershed or River Conservation Plans have been completed throughout Pennsylvania. The plans have common elements but are also unique to reflect the different features within the watersheds. If the plan meets or exceeds the standards established by the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the watershed or river may be placed on what is known as the River Registry. To learn more about the over 80 watersheds and rivers included on the list, go to the following website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/brc/rivers/riversconservaton/registry/.

Written support of the SRCWCP has been received not only from the county governments and more than half of the local municipalities but also from local businesses, watershed and community service groups, non-profit organizations, and citizens interested in the stewardship of the natural resources and prosperity of their communities. Through this broad-based support and encouragement, Stream Restoration Incorporated, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is working with all stakeholders interested in complementing and enhancing well-considered efforts important in community, county, and overall watershed planning.

Contact Information:

Tom Grote, Watershed Conservation Plan Facilitator
Stream Restoration Incorporated
434 Spring Street Ext., Mars, PA 16046
phone 724-776-0150; fax 724-776-0166
tfgrote@streamrestorationinc.org



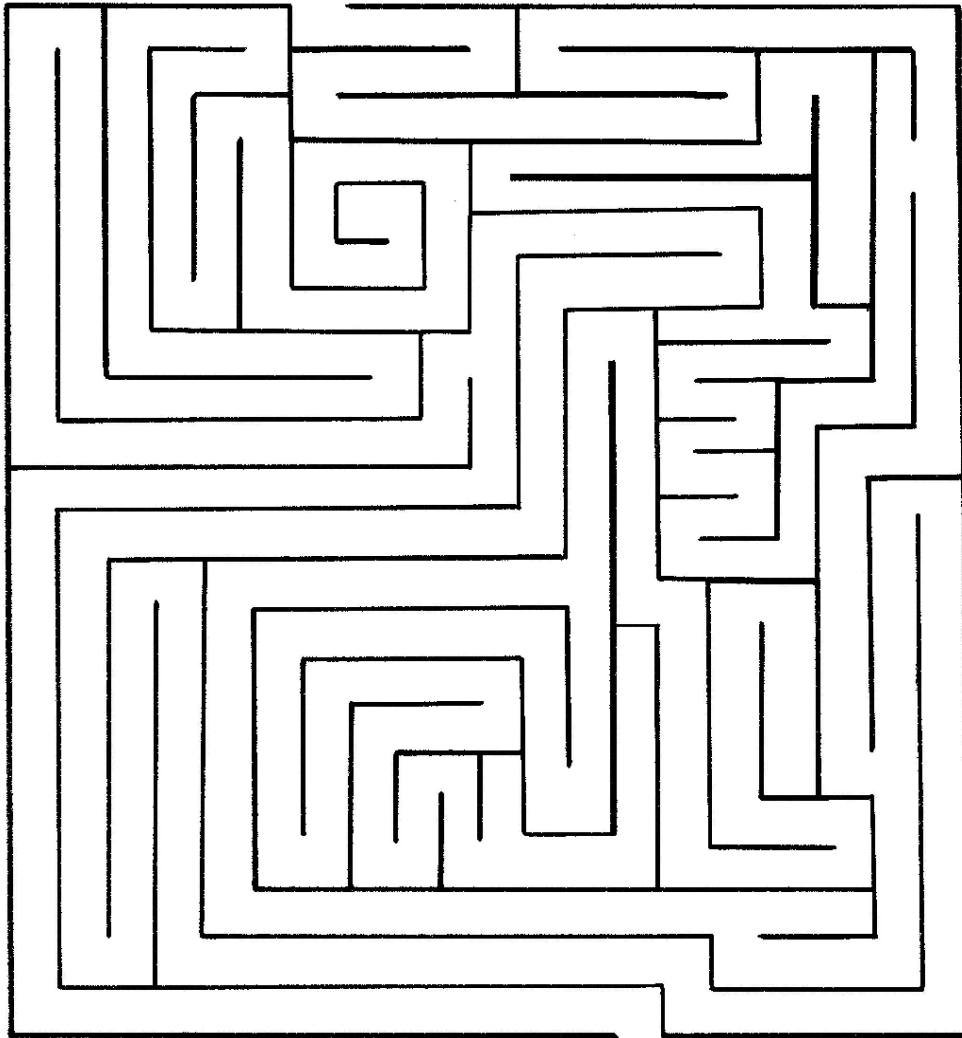
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Amazing Birds Maze

As spring draws near, we soon will notice more and more migratory birds returning to their northern homes from their warmer wintering grounds! Many birds will be preparing nests to get ready for their young. Did you know the smallest bird's egg, the hummingbird's, is only less than half an inch long? And the largest bird's egg, the ostrich's, is 6 to 8 inches long?! Try to help the bird below through the maze and to its new spring nest. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you 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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Mark Your Calendars for...
The 2009 Ohio River Watershed
Celebration!!!



Yes we know it's still cold
 But we'll soon see the sun
 Grab your calendar and pen
 And prepare for some fun!
 For we now know the date
 Of the 2009 Riverboat Cruise
 Read on for the details
 Of the date we did choose!
 Come one and come all
 Come from the south and the north
 Join us on the Three Rivers
 On **September 24th!**
 Sail the Majestic on this special date
 With hundreds of others
 Now won't that be great?!
 We will network and learn,
 We will sight-see from the boat,
 With presentations, displays,
 And people named Tom Grote!
 So please plan on coming
 To the city of Black and Gold,
 If you forget and miss out,
 Don't blame us—you've been told!
 If you have any questions,
 Please let us know.
 Call 724-776-0150.

