

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 4/9/09 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 3/12/09 attendance: D. Carney, S. Carney, S. Carusso, C. Denholm, T. Grote, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, F. Mastalski, S. Mastalski, J. McGinnis, B. Page, S. Smith, W. Taylor

Generous "Hartford Hero" Donates to SRI

What a wonderful, wonderful surprise!!! At the end of February, a \$250 check arrived in the mail made out to Stream Restoration Incorporated from the **Hartford Financial Services Group!!!** This contribution was made in honor of **Shirley Funkhouser**, who is a Hartford Hero in Community Service. She is one of several thousand employees who participate in company-sponsored volunteer programs or devote time to nonprofit organizations in their communities. Three times per year, The Hartford selects the names of 50 employees who have registered their volunteer hours in the Hartford Heroes database. Those chosen direct a \$250 corporate contribution to the charity of their choice. We want to give a huge "Thank You!" to Shirley for choosing SRI as the recipient of her reward and as an individual committed to bettering her community. Many of you may remember Shirley's daughter **Deanna Treter and her husband Chris** who helped us with so many of our outreach efforts, such as the ever-growing Ohio River Watershed Celebration and ever-popular coloring book, The ABCs of our Watershed. SRI will put this monetary donation to good use to continue these efforts!!!

PENNSYLVANIA MAGAZINE

Showcases Efforts to Restore Damaged Streams

The March/April edition of Pennsylvania Magazine featured the article "**Restoring Damaged Streams**" by local author **Bette McDevitt** which highlighted the work of dedicated groups across PA that are involved in the cleanup of mine drainage. How exciting and rewarding to have the efforts of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition included in the article!!!!

A basic explanation of typical methods used by the SRWC to restore streams was provided in the article, as were some photos of cleanup sites. As **Bruce Golden**, Director of the **Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**, said in reference to the impact of the drainage from numerous old coal mines: "It's the biggest problem in western Pennsylvania that no one ever heard of." Indeed, *5,000 miles* of streams have been adversely affected by AMD!

Also mentioned in **Bette McDevitt's** article is **Clean Creek Products** (www.cleancreek.org) a division of Stream Restoration Inc. which sells a line of pottery and other ceramics which use manganese oxides and/or iron oxides recovered from acidic water in the glaze. **Bob Isenberg** hand-makes each piece of pottery at the **Pottery Dome** near Grove City which has resulted in over **400 (!!!!)** Clean Creek mugs and other items being sold with a portion of all proceeds donated to watershed restoration efforts!!!!

The ingenuity already being shown by folks involved in the efforts to clean the streams of AMD means "the sky's the limit" for what these and other by-products can be used for! Thank you, Bette, for illuminating the problem of AMD to many people across the state who may not have been aware of it, and for showing some of the surprising uses for the reclaimed materials!



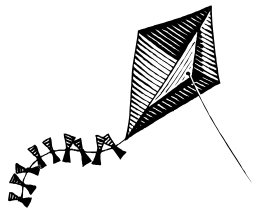
Ron Stowers (left) and Tim Frederich (right), from Diversified Ceramic Services, Inc. stopped by Stream Restoration Incorporated on March 4 to discuss potential marketing for manganese and iron material recovered from passive treatment systems. Tim is also a potter and is excited to test the materials in his glaze recipes. Margaret Dunn of SRI and an SRWC participant is pictured in the middle. Thanks to Ron and Tim for their interest in the Clean Creek Products!

St. Patrick's Day at WVU with the West Virginia Watershed Network

On St. Patrick's Day, over 60 individuals attended the West Virginia Forum on Statewide Water Sampling Programs held at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV. The forum was free to the public and **Shaun Busler** of Stream Restoration Incorporated and a participant of the SRWC was one of its attendees who thoroughly enjoyed the symposium. Shaun manned a poster display showcasing **Datashed**, and had a computer set up at his display with a live internet connection allowing him to demonstrate the various features and abilities of Datashed. Shaun spoke at length to those interested in the display about this fully-featured, GIS-enabled, Internet database designed to assist watershed groups, academic institutions, private industry, and government agencies in the operation and maintenance of passive treatment systems.

Datashed provides many valuable tools including: Important documents, such as O&M inspection sheets, site schematics, "As-Built" drawings, and dynamically-generated location maps; Individualized directions to project sites; Password-protected data submissions (i.e., upload field measurements and laboratory water sample analyses); Interactive GIS mapping depicting all known passive treatment systems in Pennsylvania; Printable monitoring reports and predefined graphs; Public access to all water sampling data; and more! To learn more about the capabilities of Datashed, visit www.datashed.org. Project Partners involved in developing and marketing Datashed include **241 Computer Services, Stream Restoration, Inc., Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and the EPA Watershed Initiative.**

The **West Virginia Watershed Network**, which sponsored the forum, is an informal group of state and federal agencies, as well as non-profit groups, committed to providing resources for watershed management in West Virginia. Its mission is to collaboratively support efforts necessary to empower local residents to make decisions for sustainable management of their resources. Their web site is www.wvca.us/wvwn/. And a special thank you goes to **Rick Buckley** of OSM, who invited Shaun to attend the forum. Shaun enjoyed the chance to interact with the participants in the "watershed network", including individuals from Friends of Decker's Creek, and Friends of the Cheat!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



"Spring has Sprung" Word Search

March 20 marked the first day of spring! To celebrate the warmer temperatures and sunshine, we have a special Spring word search this month! Try to find the 18 "signs of spring" hidden in the word search below. Circle the words, and return the page to us for a free gift certificate!

- | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Sunshine | Umbrella | Raindrops | Birdhouse | Bunny | Windy |
| Garden | Tulips | Puddles | Daffodils | Jacket | Kite |
| Robins | Green | Cardinals | Crocuses | Easter | Chicks |

R	A	V	W	D	A	B	J	R	F	F	M	I	O	L	P	C	Q	T	C
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J	R	A	I	N	D	R	O	P	S	K	I	E	T	P	U	I	V	L	D
Q	Z	C	T	H	V	D	W	U	K	L	L	E	J	W	B	C	N	I	R
U	R	S	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	C	R	O	S	S	K	V	P	A
A	M	U	T	V	B	C	E	W	D	Y	J	K	L	R	X	S	E	S	W
B	U	B	O	C	U	S	D	U	F	G	M	A	S	A	R	V	D	A	Q
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Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
 A PA Non-Profit Organization
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Maple Sugar March Madness!

Neither clouds nor rain nor chilly temps could keep away the maple sugar crowd on Sunday, March 29 at Jennings Environmental Education Center! About **100** excited fans of maple sugar (including SRWC participants **Shaun Busler** and his 2 young sons **Isaac** and **Ben**) gathered at Jennings to take part in one of its most popular programs. A crowd of all ages participated in the 2-hour hands-on program to learn about making maple syrup. Jennings' own **Wil Taylor** led the indoor component of the program, teaching participants about basic tree anatomy and going through some information on the different equipment used to tap maple trees. Participants learned that 54 maple trees are tapped at Jennings. Any kind of maple tree can be used, but sugar maple is the best (red maples are also tapped at Jennings). It takes about 40 gallons of sap to make 1 gallon of syrup, which sells for about \$50!

Tapping is done in February and March. In Colonial times, people would boil the sap in a large kettle over an open fire. Such a kettle was shown to participants, who also learned the colonists would use it for many other purposes—including bathing babies!

Several Jennings staff and volunteers led outdoor tours of about 20 folks each, in part to teach participants how to identify maple trees. Participants were shown how to make a tap using a brace drill and spile. The brace drill is held to the maple tree, and a handle is cranked to drill about 2 and a half inches into the tree. Drilling is done at an upward angle, with care made to keep impurities out of the hole. The sap which seeps from the hole is collected, and the water is then cooked off in "Sugar Shacks" to produce the tasty maple syrup. A 3-component evaporator was demonstrated and as a much-appreciated grand finale, everyone got a chance to sample some of the freshly-cooked maple syrup! **Joseph and Alethea**

Burkett of Old State Farms, a small family-operated maple farm in Emlenton, PA, were on-hand to show and sell some of their delicious maple specialties, including pure maple syrup candy, maple syrup-coated popcorn, maple syrup mustard, and maple syrup cream. Their farm covers 30 acres of hard maple trees and has over 10,000 gallons of storage space for fresh sap, not to mention several miles of plastic tubing! Check out their web site www.oldstatefarms.com to see a lot of tasty products and interesting information!

