

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 5/14/09 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 6/11/09 attendance: D. Carney, S. Carney, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, T. Grote, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, B. Page

### **Stream Restoration Incorporated Named "Finalist"** **in Nature Conservancy Award!!!**

The Nature Conservancy's "Investing in Nature" Awards drew an excellent group of nominees from across the state of Pennsylvania. **Stream Restoration Incorporated** is pleased to have been chosen as a *Finalist* in the category of Innovative New Environmental Technologies Initiatives. Also placing as Finalist in this category was **Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens**.

An independent panel of judges evaluated the nominations and determined the finalists and winners in each of the six categories. The winners were:

**The Philadelphia Phillies, Philadelphia** – Energy Conservation Initiatives  
**Greenline Paper Company Inc., York** – Natural Resource Management Initiatives  
**McKissick Associates Architects PC, Harrisburg** – Green Building Design/Construction/Planning Initiatives  
**Saint Vincent College, Latrobe** – Environmental Education Initiatives  
**LandStudies Inc., Lancaster** – Innovative New Environmental Technologies Initiatives  
**Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Zelenople** – Ecotourism Initiatives

The Nature Conservancy and Journal Publications Inc. launched the statewide program to recognize and honor exemplary company initiatives that are improving the bottom line while achieving tangible, lasting conservation results. Nominations were limited to organizations that are headquartered, or have significant operations in, Pennsylvania. "Pennsylvania has long been a keystone of conservation, working to protect millions of acres of natural areas for future generations to enjoy," said Bill Kunze, Pennsylvania state director for the Conservancy. "Today it also is a leader in building a new, green economy that supports the natural world while creating jobs and investments in our future. "Our Investing in Nature program," explained Kunze, "recognizes those business initiatives that model strong conservation practices to improve the health of our world and our economy. I'm proud to say we had a very competitive field of nominees, all of whom deserve our appreciation for their contributions to Pennsylvania's economy and for their many initiatives that help us accomplish the mission of The Nature Conservancy of preserving the diversity of life on Earth."



For more information on the awards and about The Nature Conservancy, visit [nature.org/Pennsylvania](http://nature.org/Pennsylvania). The Nature Conservancy is the leading conservation organization working around the world to protect ecologically important lands and waters for nature and people. The Conservancy has protected more than 15 million acres in the United States – including tens of thousands of acres in Pennsylvania – and more than 102 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and the Pacific.

Stream Restoration Incorporated wishes to thank the Nature Conservancy for recognizing their efforts in the Watershed Passive Treatment Systems Initiative.



**Karl Zipper**, Associate Professor of Environmental Science at **Virginia Tech**, speaks at the Geomorphic Reclamation and Natural Stream Design forum about the Forestry Reclamation Approach. This picture shows Karl in his “native habitat”, providing people with the opportunity to learn!!!!

### Virginia is for Lovers .... of Stream Construction

The Geomorphic Reclamation and Natural Stream Design at Coal Mines National Technical Interactive Forum took place April 28-30 in Bristol, Virginia. Held at the Holiday Inn & Conference Center, the Forum was attended by folks from all over the country, including the SRWC’s **Shaun Busler**. Shaun was excited for the opportunity to learn more about natural stream design, and to put what he learned into practice in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed and other places in Pennsylvania. The goal of the Forum was to create an interactive environment that brings together OSM, states, tribes, industry, and academia to exchange technical innovations in the areas of geomorphic reclamation and natural stream design, share successes and failures, and discuss how to better implement geomorphic landscape and stream reconstruction into mined land reclamation.

An important purpose of the Forum was to show how modern design tools and a geomorphic reclamation approach can be used to reclaim highly disturbed lands and create fully-functional natural systems virtually indistinguishable from their surrounding landscapes. Shaun was glad to have participated in a full-day fieldtrip which took 120 forum attendees to have a hands-on look at several constructed streams in previously mined areas. The tour included stops at Paramount Coal Co. Black Bear No. 1 Surface Mine, where stream channels were restored using natural stream channel design; Lawson Hollow Surface Mine, with stream channel reconstruction and riparian vegetation; Toms Creek Gob Pile Removal, with natural stream channel design and improved aquatic habitat; and the Flint Gap Carbon Sequestration Project.

Shaun came away from the Forum with many new ideas and a better understanding of what goes into successful stream reconstruction. Dozens of interesting speakers had a lot of good information to share with the crowd. **Thanks to the US Dept. of the Interior Office of Surface Mining for putting on such a worthwhile conference!** We look forward to seeing more and more stable landforms and streams as we learn from nature!





# The KIDS Catalyst

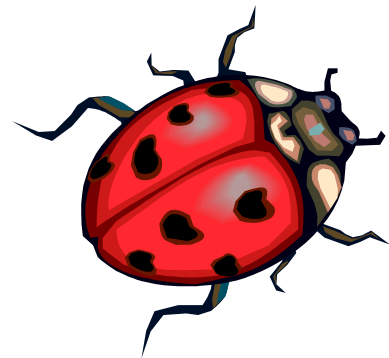
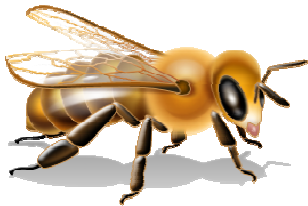
SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## Insect Scramble!

Bzzzzzz! It's that time of year! Insects of all sorts are starting to fly, crawl, hop, and BUZZ all around us! There are some fun bug facts listed below, with the answers all jumbled up! Use the letters provided to unscramble the name of each type of insect to reveal what is extra special about it. If you send us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

1. This is the fastest flying insect \_\_\_\_\_ OANFRYDLG
2. The queen of a species of this insect can lay 40,000 eggs per day! \_\_\_\_\_ EMEITRT
3. This insect can lift and carry over 50 times its own weight! \_\_\_\_\_ NAT
4. The heaviest insect in the world is the Goliath \_\_\_\_\_ TEEEBL
5. This insect can jump 130 times its own height \_\_\_\_\_ ELFA
6. This is the fastest running insect, which can go over about 1 foot per second  
\_\_\_\_\_ KAOROCCHC
7. This insect has 900 muscles! \_\_\_\_\_ PEGSAROHPSR
8. This is the loudest insect, which can be heard 1/4 a mile away (same length as 4 football fields!) \_\_\_\_\_ IDACAC



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
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## **Symposium at Slippery Rock University Showcases Students' Work**

A Symposium for Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity was held April 2-3 at Slippery Rock University. The SRU Center for Student Research supports and promotes high-quality student/faculty collaborative research, scholarship, and creative activity. This unique Center provides students with a resource for materials and information through the Faculty/Student Research Grant Program and a venue to showcase the collaborative efforts: the Symposium! Dozens of students gave oral and poster presentations on a wide range of topics!

Two of the students had been researching and studying alongside SRWC participant **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**, a soil scientist. Students **Shari Mastalski** and **Joshua McGinnis** contributed to the science component of the Symposium. We applaud Shari for giving not one, but TWO presentations: "Investigation of the Relationships of Buds, Leaves, Bark/Cambium, and Roots during Stem Cutting Regeneration for Biomass Accumulation" and "Incorporating Ecology and Permaculture Principles into the Sustainable Design Process." Congratulations for a job well done to Shari, and to fellow student Joshua for his excellent presentation entitled "Soil Composting: Biomass Pre-Treatment for Bio-Fuel Production."

The SRWC can not thank Josh and Shari enough for generously sharing their knowledge at our monthly meetings!!! Not only have you benefited from learning, but we have benefited by your willingness to share!!!!

