

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 10/8/09 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 9/10/09 attendance: M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, A. Rehm, R. Rehm, T. Rehm, V. Rehm, J. Winter

**U. S. Environmental Protection Agency**  
includes  
**De Sale Restoration Area**  
in new  
**“Greener Cleanups” Web Page!!!!!!**

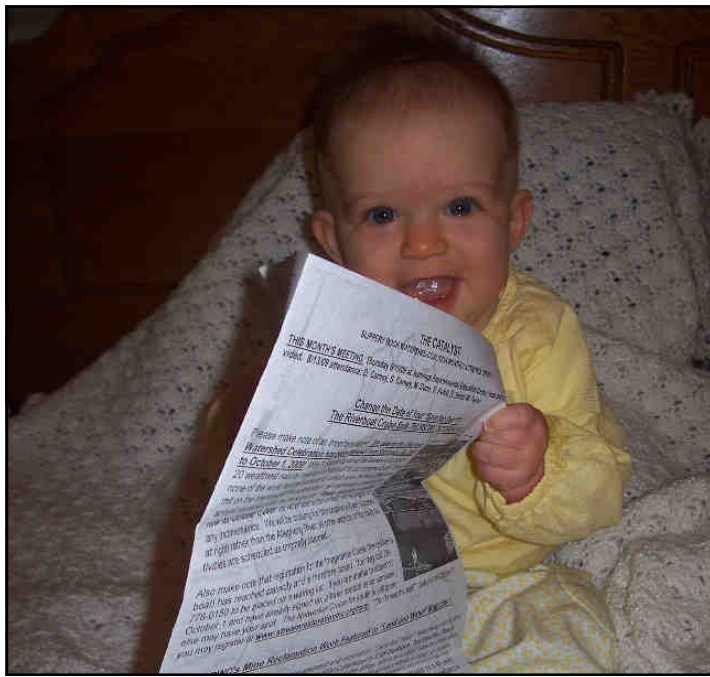
On 9/9/09, the the De Sale Restoration Area was included in a new U. S. EPA new web page entitled **“Greener Cleanups”**. This page can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/greencleanups/studies.html>. We were thrilled to learn that the **first case study listed was the De Sale Restoration Area in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed headwaters!!!!** As noted, the featured sites includes “state-of-the-art technologies, novel field methods, and “tried and true” design and engineering techniques [that] can be combined to address the core elements of greener cleanup”. You can click on “De Sale Restoration Area, Slippery Rock Watershed, PA” to read a brief review on the web page entitled “Green Remediation”.

To view 25 other case studies from across the United States, be sure to click on “Profiles & Case Studies of Green Remediation”. (The site names are in alphabetical order.) This information has been provided by **Clu-In** which offers many examples of sustainable cleanups in a user-friendly chart that highlights which projects best followed each of the core elements. Some of the core elements listed for the De Sale Restoration Area include Stewardship, Materials & Waste, Land & Ecosystem, and Water. On this page, you can also submit information about your site under “Suggest a Profile”!!!!

There is much, much more to learn at this website and at [www.cluin.org](http://www.cluin.org). Be sure to check out greener cleanups, greener cleanup tools, links, and resources!!!

### **A “Thank You” Note**

How fortunate we are to have someone like **Jay Winter** contribute to the understanding of the long-term function of a passive treatment system. Jay, a geologist with the **PA DEP, California District Office**, saw the value of documenting and evaluating, a more than a decade old, constructed wetlands at **Moraine State Park** in Butler County. Jay explained his findings in a 9/20/09 power point presentation at the Moraine Learning Center. People of various ages and interests (who appeared to have one thing in common - boating and enjoying Lake Arthur!!!) attended the presentation, including business owners, engineers, students, environmental consultants, etc. Thanks, Jay, for providing the presentation and the site tour, and thanks so much for contributing to our understanding of the long-term function of passive treatment. By the way, we almost forgot the most important part: the system continues to work very well with only occasional minor hand-maintenance. Look for the monitoring analyses to be posted on Datashed!!!! Thanks again!!!



The newest participant of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is thrilled to have the September edition of the Catalyst... so she can try to chew it up, naturally! If you can't read it, eat it! That's the motto of 8-month old Cassie Busler, pictured to the left.

## Upcoming Autumn Fun at Jennings

Autumn is a great time to get outside for some clean, crisp, fresh air! What better place to go than to Jennings Environmental Education Center, located at 2951 Prospect Rd. in Slippery Rock?! Here are 4 fun educational, and FREE, programs coming up this fall that are sure to be a hit and offer something great for all ages! If you see something that interests you, please call to register for the program(s) at 724-794-6011.

### Program: **DiscoverE: Change is All Around You**

Dates: 10/07/2009 - 12/02/2009

Time: 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM EST

Description: In this DiscoverE interactive series, children ages 4-5 will become Hide-N-Seekers as we use exciting games, creative crafts, and outdoor adventures to teach children about the changing seasons of fall and winter. Program will be every other Wednesday beginning October 7 and ending December.

### Program: **Owls and Owl Prowl**

Date: 10/12/2009

Time: 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM EST

Description: Bartramian Audubon Society invites the public to join their monthly meetings at the Jennings Environmental Education Center. They are held the second Monday of each month. October's meeting is titled, "Owl and Owl Prowl." Avid birder Gary Edwards will give a power point presentation on the owls in our region. Learn field marks and calls. We will take the program outside to see if Gary can "call in" an owl or two. Bring binoculars if you have them!

### Program: **Autumn Leaves**

Date: 10/18/2009

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM EST

Description: As the summer heat gives way to cool fall breezes, the forest's colorful drama unfolds. The brilliant leaves are part of a well coordinated process that prepares trees for winter survival. It is a time of incredible change. Animals must adapt and prepare for the coming winter months or migrate to warmer parts of the world. Wildlife foods, such as nuts and berries, become abundant during autumn and the forest is alive with activity. Join the staff at Jennings for a leisurely one and one half hour guided trail walk exploring the multitude of changes occurring with the fall forest.

### Program: **Night Flight**

Date: 10/25/2009

Time: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM EST

Description: Perhaps no other animal represents the spirit of Halloween as well as the bat. Unfortunately, being the spokesperson for a spooky holiday has not helped this misunderstood mammal's reputation. Truth is, most bats have migrated or are hibernating by Halloween and are rarely present this time of year. Learn to distinguish bat fact from bat fiction and discover the benefits this valuable insectivore provides. Tips about how to exclude bats from your home while still providing roosting opportunities will be shared. Following an indoor introduction to bats, venture into the forest at night to gain a new appreciation for how our only flying mammal makes its living in the dark.



# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Scientific Thinking

Two of the skills used by any good scientist are those of critical thinking and observation. To observe something means to examine it very carefully. Observation is usually the first step taken in a scientific investigation. Below there are several groups of words. One word in each group does not belong there. Your job is to examine the words and think carefully about the things in each group. Circle the one that does not belong, and write the reason why it does not belong on the lines provided. An example is given for you. In the space at the bottom of the page, show off your artistic talent and draw a picture of one of the animals whose name is used below. If you mail us your finished paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

Example: cardinal robin crow rabbit owl a rabbit is not a bird

1. firefly bat blue jay mouse mosquito \_\_\_\_\_

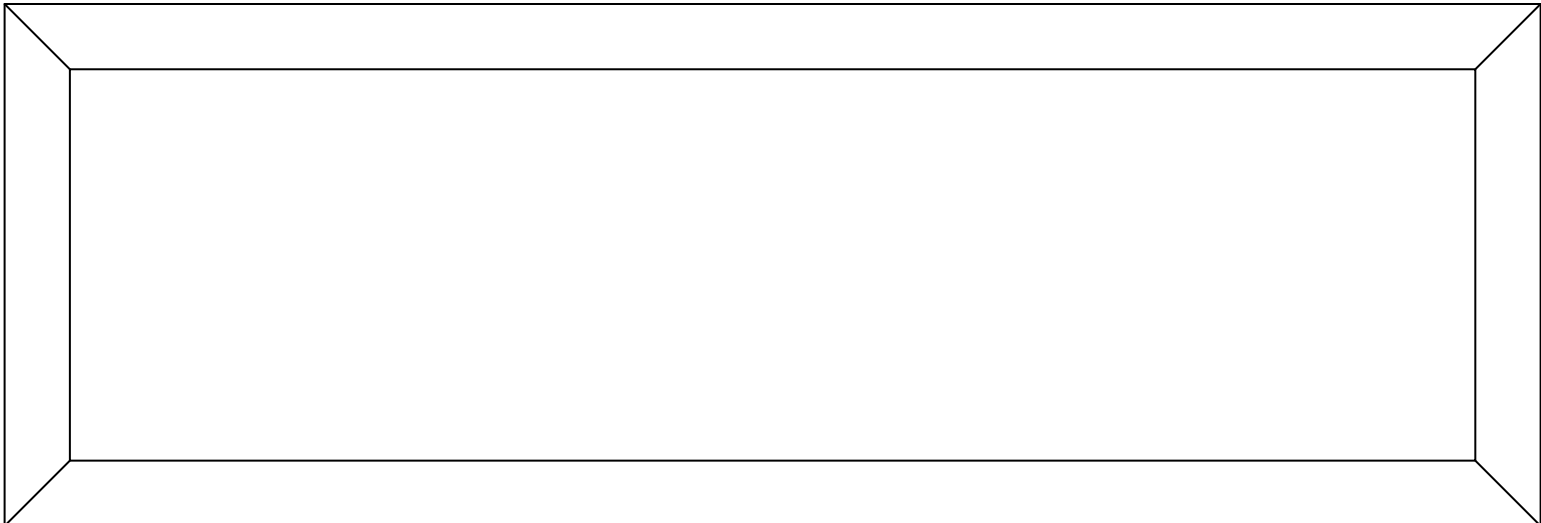
2. tulip lilly maple sunflower daisy \_\_\_\_\_

3. frog grasshopper toad cricket ladybug \_\_\_\_\_

4. cardinal ladybug rose poinsettia blue jay \_\_\_\_\_

5. hummingbird owl bat fox raccoon \_\_\_\_\_

6. trout llama camel lizard scorpion \_\_\_\_\_



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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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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](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). Oct. distribution: 1355 copies

## How Could We Forget... Harrisville Community Days?!

Independence Day probably feels like it was ages ago, but in the hustle and bustle of summer watershed activities, we neglected to include a *Catalyst* feature about one of our favorite summer community outreach events: Harrisville Community Days! **The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** and the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** were on-hand to celebrate Independence Day on July 4<sup>th</sup> in Harrisville, Butler County, PA. **Wil Taylor and Stephanie Taylor** from Jennings Environmental Education Center, and **Tom Grote, Valetin Kefeli, and Galina Kefeli** of the SRWC were all present to lend a hand in order to provide educational opportunities for the public to learn about geology, coal mining history, Abandoned Mine Drainage, passive treatment, and watershed restoration. Many people were very interested in the beautiful original glass-blown Christmas ornaments and variety of pottery on display at the SRWC table that used a glaze containing manganese recovered from the nearby De Sale passive treatment systems! These items are some of the products available through Clean Creek Pottery ([www.cleancreek.org](http://www.cleancreek.org)). Another popular display was on Fabricated Soil, featuring lots of great information and photos, manned by Valetin Kefeli, our resident soil expert!

This year's event provided the always-appreciated opportunity to meet and talk with people in the watershed about the activities of the Coalition and the progress of restoring the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek. It was particularly interesting to talk with those who actually worked in some of the old underground mines in the area. If you didn't make it out this year, save the date for next year's celebration. In addition to the SRWC booth, there were vendors, amusement rides and games, a parade, several music acts, bingo, a raffle, a Chinese auction with many interesting items, and of course the famous Harrisville Fireworks. A big "thank you" goes out to the **Community Day Organizing Committee** for allowing us to be a part of the fun!!!



By the way, don't forget to stop in at the **Harrisville Volunteer Fire Department's Christmas Bazaar** to be held on **Saturday, 11/7/09!!!** (Can you believe it is that time of year already??) See you there!!!