

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 4/8/10 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 3/11/10 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor

Teacher For a Day (or Two)

Cliff Denholm from Stream Restoration Incorporated recently had the opportunity to play teacher for a day at both a university and a public school. On February 23, 2010 Cliff gave a presentation at the **University of Pittsburgh** for **Don Hopey's** Water Issues class of about 20 students. Based on their questions, the students recognized the need to gain an understanding about the cause and characteristics of AMD and the positive impact of passive treatment in stream restoration. Needless to say, the students' interest was very rewarding to Cliff, who always appreciates the opportunity to talk about the efforts of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition.

Two weeks later, on March 10, 2010, Cliff gave a presentation to the **Pittsburgh Public Schools Science and Technology Academy** of about 250 6-9th grade students. The new SciTech Academy of the Pittsburgh School District was designed to have a strong focus on (yep, you guessed it) Science and Technology. All students are provided with a laptop and by 10th grade will enter a "major" area of concentration in Computer Science, Engineering, Biotechnology, or Environmental Science. Every other week the school invites a speaker for their Science Forum. Cliff was invited by teacher **Deb Santilo** who worked with Cliff as a student teacher at Ellwood City's school district. Cliff was a little worried about "boring the students to tears", but was very impressed and pleasantly surprised by the number and variety of questions that followed. After the presentation, Cliff was invited to participate in the Science Forum Club where about a dozen students had a chance to ask additional questions in a more personal setting. Cliff found the opportunity to talk about orange water and restoring streams in Pennsylvania to be very rewarding.

Many thanks to **Don Hopey** and the University of Pittsburgh and **Deb Santilo** and **Edwina Kinchington** from SciTech for their hospitality and interest!!!!

NCECA News: Green Task Force, Upcoming Conference

The National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts (NCECA) has been busy lately! Having made a promise at last year's NCECA conference to "go green", NCECA has taken the first step by recently forming a Green Task Force (GTF) made up of Board, staff and NCECA members. This GTF is now carefully examining how NCECA can look to the future in ways that support their efforts to become environmentally friendly, both in their home office and at the national conference. Additionally, the GTF is seeking input for ways that its ceramists can address this important issue within their own individual studios. With plans to promote green ideas through their website and publications and in future conference programming, they are seeking input from members and others in the environmental fields. To learn more about the mission and latest happenings of the GTF of NCECA, you can visit the web site **www.nceca.net**.

Thank you (!!!!!!!), Green Task Force, for including **Clean Creek Products** in their web site's "Important Links From the GTF." The GTF describes Clean Creek Products as "the company doing mine reclamation that results in iron and manganese for use in ceramics" and provides the web site link **www.cleancreek.org**. We are very thankful for this special acknowledgment, and also for the personal invitation from the GTF's **Kristin Schimik** to attend the upcoming 44th Annual NCECA Conference as a special guest and co-presenter at the GTF's display! **Laurie Popeck** is excited to represent Clean Creek Products at the NCECA Conference, which will be held March 31 to April 3 in Philadelphia. With an appropriate theme of "Independence", this year's conference will celebrate the independent spirits of traditionalists and groundbreakers.



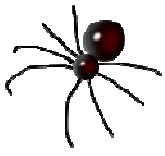
A kayaker enjoying the rapids of McConnell's Mill State Park, located in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, is the subject of a striking photo by amateur photographer Sandy Carney (*see article below*). Located in Lawrence County, the park encompasses 2,546 acres of the spectacular Slippery Rock Creek Gorge. Created by the draining of glacial lakes many years ago, the gorge has steep sides and the valley floor is littered with huge boulders and is a national natural landmark. A gristmill built in the 1800s is open for tours.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: Beauty in our Watershed

We at the SRWC were blown away by the inspiring photography of **Sandy Carney**, a retired math teacher who most recently worked in the Apollo Ridge school district. The location of her home, right along Slippery Rock Creek, lends itself to her photography hobby. As she jokes, depending on the weather and precipitation, sometimes she's closer to the creek than other times! Sandy was kind enough to share with us some of her photos of the natural beauty found in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The subjects of her photos cause us to pause and appreciate the amazing life found in the habitats we work so hard to clean up and improve. It would have been too tough to choose only one of Sandy's photos to use as our "Photo of the Month", so we have decided to print several of them for our Catalyst read-

ers to enjoy. Thank you, Sandy, for sharing your special talent with us! Pictured clockwise from the top left are a fish-hawk in flight, two fawns exploring their world, Slippery Rock Creek, and the SR173 Bridge.

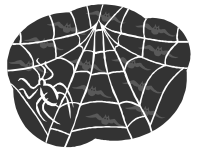




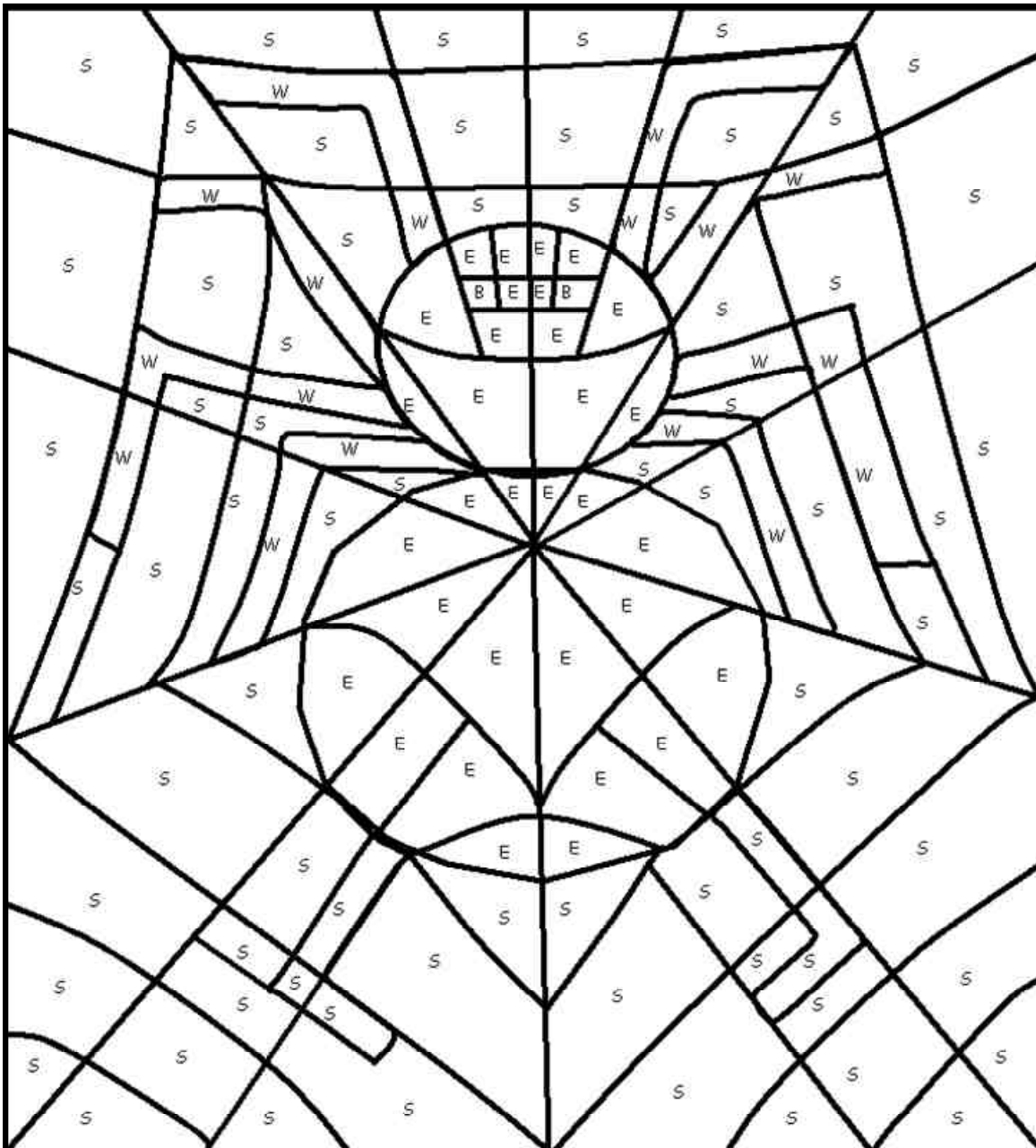
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Springtime Spider Coloring Fun



Spiders differ from insects in that they have eight legs, eight eyes, in most cases, no wings, and have only two parts to their bodies, one of which produces silk. Most spiders have three pairs of tube-like spinnerets near the ends of their bodies that produce a fluid that hardens as it is drawn out into silky threads. The silk strained through tiny holes in the body is in liquid form, but immediately takes on a solid form, much like cotton candy does, when exposed to air. Not all spiders spin webs, but most do. The webs can be spun into many different shapes, and they are used to protect eggs, catch insects for food, or move a spider through the air. Spider webs look delicate, but they are actually very strong: when compared with an equal amount of steel, spider silk is five times stronger. Spider webs do not last long; they are damaged by the capture of prey or by weather conditions, and some webs simply dry out after a day or two. Some spiders need to spin a new web every day, a task that can take about an hour. Spiders play an important role in controlling insect populations. An arachnologist (a person who studies spiders) in the United Kingdom once calculated that the weight of insects eaten by spiders in that country every year exceeded the weight of the people who live in the U.K.!! Most spiders are not poisonous to human beings. There are about 3,000 different spiders in North America, but only a few of them cause problems for people. Use the Color Key to color the spider picture below. If you send us your completed picture, we'll mail you a free gift certificate!



Color Code Key:

W = black
E = Gray
B = Red
S = Purple

Name: _____

Age: _____

Address: _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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Published at Last!!!!
Landscape Rehabilitation and Sustainability Book
Co-Authored by SRWC's Soil Scientist!!!!

It's official! The book Mechanisms of Landscape Rehabilitation and Sustainability has been published!! The fruits of their labor have come to realization, as SRWC's soil scientist **Valentin Kefeli** and co-author **Winfried Blum** have had their book published in this the year of 2010! Dr. Kefeli and Dr. Blum worked tirelessly in a cooperative effort to author the 159-page book, which is broken into 4 main parts. Part 1 is entitled "Soil as a Component of the Biosphere", Part 2 is called "General Characteristics of Fabricated Soil", Part 3 is on "Biomass Accumulation and Growth Regulation Processes in Plants Growing on Fabricated Soil", and Part 4 is "Water Cycle and Plant Activity."

Published by **Benthan Science Publishers Ltd**, the book is edited by **Dr. Narcin Palavan-Unsal**. Professor Palavan-Unsal works in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics at Istanbul Kultur University in Turkey. There is a definite international flavor to the makings of this book, as Valentin originates from Russia, and Professor Blum teaches at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences in Vienna, Austria! There is no doubt this book is the product of 3 very intelligent minds who are experts in their fields. Anyone interested in learning more about the link between landscape rehabilitation and the natural processes occurring in the soil and in plants, as well as soil function and ideas about sustainability and regeneration of ecosphere elements, and human activity in these processes, will no doubt benefit from reading this publication!

For information on how to obtain a copy of this book, please email **Dr. Narcin Palavan-Unsal** at **n.palavanunsal@iku.edu.tr**.