

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 5/13/10 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 4/8/10 meeting attendance: D. Carney, S. Carney, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, J. McGinnis

### **Don't Miss Out!!**

### **The 2010 JOINT MINING RECLAMATION CONFERENCE is June 5-10 in Pittsburgh!!**

Mark your calendars and reserve your spot! The 27th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, 12th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, and the 4th Annual Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative Mine Land Reclamation Conference are taking place in **Pittsburgh June 5-10!** This year's conference is sure to be one of the best in years, with a theme of "Bridging Reclamation, Science, and the Community." Highlights include several excellent pre- and post-conference tours and workshops featuring the area's successful AMD treatment systems, incredible tourist attractions, and more; great networking opportunities; a wide array of presentations; and a fun riverboat cruise. Schedules and Registration Forms are available at: [www.PghMiningReclamationConf.com](http://www.PghMiningReclamationConf.com).

If you are a member of a PA Non-Profit Organization or a staff member of a PA Conservation District, you qualify for a special registration rate of \$135.00 for the full conference. Additionally persons in these groups may apply for scholarships online at: [www.treatminewater.com/scholarship10.htm](http://www.treatminewater.com/scholarship10.htm) Details on the website.

Two of the conference's special events include:

#### **"Decade-Old and Innovative New AMD Passive Treatment Systems and Reclamation Methods"**

Date: June 5 and 6, 2010 (Number of persons – Minimum of 10 Maximum of 50)

Departure – Saturday, June 5, Radisson Hotel at 9:00 am

Overnight – St. Mary's, PA - Best Western Hotel

Return – Sunday, June 6 at 5:00 pm

Description: Join us for a two-day field tour of sites illustrating various approaches to restore land and water resources impacted by abandoned coal mining activities in Pennsylvania. Described will be "lessons-learned", upgrades to older systems, and long-term maintenance requirements. The first day will highlight the 13-year old passive system treating iron- and aluminum-bearing acidic drainage and a demonstration of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative. Resource recovery of manganese-bearing solids will also be demonstrated at a passive system in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The evening of June 5 will be spent enjoying the beautiful rustic town of St. Mary's including a tour of the Straub Brewery, which boasts of an "Eternal Tap" for sampling. The second day will include the Dents Run Watershed in the Pennsylvania Wilds to visit both active and passive systems (We may also see an elk herd!!) with a guided tour by the PA Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation. This two-day tour is hosted by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bennetts Branch Watershed Association, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, Stream Restoration Inc., and BioMost, Inc.

Cost: \$180/person. Attendees bring: overnight bag that includes appropriate June hiking clothes; boots/walking boots, insect repellent and a hat. Binoculars and cameras recommended. SIGN UP NOW!!!

#### **"Three Rivers Boat Cruise and the PA AMR Mayfly Awards"**

#### **The Ohio River Watershed – Fuel for a Nation: Hosted By CONSOL Energy**

Date: June 8, 2010 Departs 7:00 pm - Docks 10:00 pm.

Departure: from Station Square, Pittsburgh, PA on the Gateway Clipper's Empress. Transportation provided to and from Radisson Hotel. Shuttle service to the dock starts at 5:30 pm. Return shuttle service starts at 10:15 pm.

Description: Hosted by CONSOL Energy (the nation's largest producer of high-Btu bituminous coal), the Three Rivers Boat Cruise is an opportunity to see Pittsburgh from a unique vantage point while learning about the region's rich past, mingling with representatives from the energy and mining industries, watershed organizations, municipal and state and federal agencies all while enjoying the flavor of Pittsburgh with an excellent Captain's Buffet in the company of local entertainers under a sparkling skyline. The PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference Committee will highlight the evening with the awarding of its Mayfly Award to an individual for their lifetime commitment to reclamation in PA. For over 250 years, Pittsburgh and its rivers have been the gateway through which coal, oil, steel, and other commodities have made their way to the rest of the country. Even today, the region's extensive network of waterways continues to be the lifeblood for commercial transportation--providing "Fuel for a Nation". This Cruise will include locking through the Braddock Lock and Dam with an explanation by the USACOE and the Port of Pittsburgh Commission. Join us and see why Pittsburgh is called "The City of Bridges"! If you have never experienced Pittsburgh's beautiful cityscape at dusk from the breathtaking vantage point of the water, you do not want to miss out on this!

Cost: \$60/person; casual attire. SIGN UP NOW!!!



Cal Butchkoski holds a little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) caught outside a large bat hibernaculum as part of an Indiana bat migration research project conducted by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. See the full article next month!

## Update on The Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan

By Laurie Popeck

The Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (SRC WCP) is underway! The Plan provides critical data for stakeholders and enables sustainability and viability of the watershed. The Mission of SRC WCP is to “provide the general public, municipalities, watershed community, and government agencies with a concise, easily read and used repository of the natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources while emphasizing opportunities for stewardship and economic growth within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed.” Along with the Advisory Council, Community Outreach has been essential in identifying watershed-specific problems, issues and concerns. The online Citizen Survey is open to the residents of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. Please complete the survey at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SRCWCPcitizen> and let your voice be heard! **This is your watershed!**

We are working diligently to have a draft plan completed by the end of 2010 and public meetings in early 2011. The SRC WCP Advisory Council has been a vital source in this early phase of the plan. Right now, we are collecting data and writing each individual section of the plan. These include: Project Area Characteristics, Land Resources, Water Resources, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, and Management Options. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping will be a major part of the plan and will provide an overall picture of the watershed describing various sorts of information (i.e. population, land use, wetlands, etc).

We are excited about the SRC WCP and hope that it can be utilized in the future by watershed groups and other stakeholders to help ensure the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed remains a unique and amazing place in Pennsylvania. Additional updates of the plan will be announced and can be viewed on the website: <http://www.streamrestorationinc.org/srwcp/srwcp.php>

## SRWC Congratulates Frances Anne Tosto!

Congratulations to **Frances Anne Tosto**, a student who recently competed in the PRSEF (Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair) and received an award for one of the best water-related science fair projects! This award qualifies Frances Anne to compete in the State Stockholm Junior Water Prize Competition. **Cliff Denholm** of the **SRWC** worked with Frances this fall on a Leaf Pack study in Blacks Creek. Cliff was impressed by her tremendous work ethic, and he was glad to help her select locations and provide her information. In February she competed in PJAS (Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science) and received a first place award, so she will now advance to the State Competition at Penn State. We are happy for Frances Anne’s success with this project and were glad to provide her some help starting up. Frances Anne has also presented at the SRWC’s Annual Student Symposium. We are always excited when students get involved in watershed-related projects! Best of luck to Frances Anne in her future competitions!



# The KIDS Catalyst

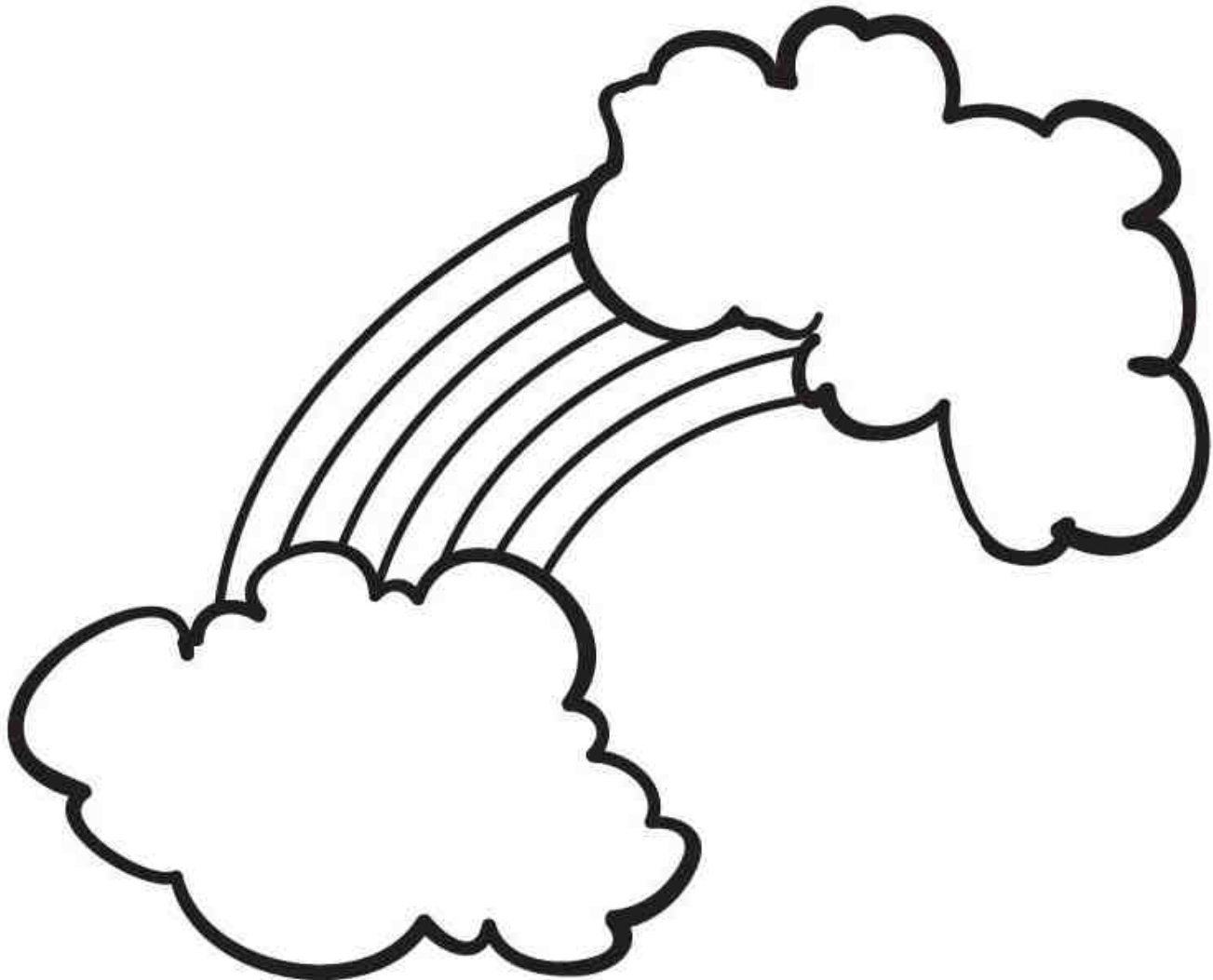
## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### All About Rainbows

You've probably heard the saying "April showers bring May flowers." But the rain showers we'll see the next couple months may also bring some rainbows! Have you ever wondered what makes a rainbow? Ordinary white light, like that from the sun, is made up of many different colors. Each of these colors has a different wavelength. Normally, when we see light from the sun, it appears colorless. However, Isaac Newton discovered in 1666 that when he passed regular sunlight through a prism (basically, a triangular piece of glass), the prism would split the light up into a band of colors. The band of colors is called the spectrum, and it appears in the order of red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. When it rains, the air is filled with raindrops. These raindrops act like a prism. If sunlight passes through the raindrops at the proper angle it is split into its spectrum, which is made up of the colors of the rainbow.

**TRY IT:** You can make your own rainbow at home by filling a plastic box with water and placing it near a sunny window. If the wall next to the window isn't white, place a piece of white paper next to the window. Next, place a mirror inside the box of water facing the window. The mirror needs to be tilted towards the sunlight. The wedge of water in the front of the mirror acts like a prism and the mirror reflects an image of a rainbow right there on your wall! Have fun coloring the rainbow below, and if you mail us your picture we'll send you a free gift certificate!



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

Address \_\_\_\_\_



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**H.O.P.E.**  
**(Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts)**

In honor of Earth Day, a small group gathered in a volunteer effort to work with **PA Clean Ways** to clean up a trash-filled area of Canton Township. Several participants of the **Chartiers Creek Watershed Association** and residents of the **Buffalo Creek Watershed** were on hand to pitch in, and there was a lot of garbage that had been pitched, unfortunately, over hillsides and onto the creek bed!

Led by **Laurie Popeck**, who serves as the chapter coordinator of PA Clean Ways in Washington County, the enthusiastic volunteers certainly made a difference in the area they cleaned up, though many were overwhelmed at the amount of trash present. Their amazing tally in this their second of 4 spring cleanups included more than 430 (!!!!) tires, 35 bags of trash, two televisions, two toilets, two tables, two box springs, and an assortment of building material.



**Ronald "Rocky" Harton**, township roadmaster, was amazed by the number of tires collected. "It is unbelievable," Harton said. "I think someone is getting paid to dispose of tires and instead, just dumps them on the side of the road." He noted that it cost the township \$400 last year to dispose of the tires found along the road.

The Earth Day Network Action Center suggested five things on their web site which any ordinary person could do for Earth Day to make a difference in improving the environment around them. Laurie and the other volunteers "took action" by following the "action point" of "I will organize a clean-up in my community and pick up litter whenever I see it."

"They did a great job," said Popeck. "Plus we had help from the Canton road crew. We do need more volunteers so we can get more done." For more information or to volunteer in the worthwhile efforts of PA Clean Ways, visit their web site at [www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org).

Thanks to **Kathie O. Warco** of the **Observer-Reporter** for including the group's valiant clean-up efforts in an article. To view this article, please visit the web site: