

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 10/14/10 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 9/9/10 meeting attendance: D. Carney, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor, J. Winter

Still Fine at 9! The 9th Annual POP-ORWC is Fun for All!

The 9th Annual Port of Pittsburgh-Ohio River Watershed Celebration (POP-ORWC) was held on September 15, 2010. Over 700 people participated in this unique event which consisted of two cruises: the "Imagination Cruise" on the *Empress* for students, parents and educators, and the "Networker Cruise" on the *Majestic* for adults. The theme for this year's event was: "The Ohio River Watershed—Touch the Water". As we cruised along the Allegheny River, the restoration of the watershed along with historic and current roles of production and distribution of energy resources were highlighted during presentations and narrations. In addition, emphasis on watershed conservation underscored how new technologies lessen impacts on the watershed.

The POP-ORWC kicked off mid-morning with hands-on activities at the Station Square dock and parking areas. **Venture Outdoors** provided a fun climbing wall, **ALCOSAN** had testing equipment to analyze water quality, the **US EPA** had a wonderful selection of macroinvertebrates, **PA DCNR/Bureau of State Parks** provided a quick "crash course" on Geocaching, **Pittsburgh Center for the Arts** had a unique environmental craft, Commonwealth Connections Academy debuted their new mobile classroom, **RiverQuest** provided educational opportunities with their RiverWorks Discovery activities, and the **US Army Corps of Engineers** had a working model to help everyone visualize how a lock and dam operates. Before the *Empress* and *Majestic* set sail for the afternoon, participants from each cruise had the opportunity to visit displays and discuss the contributions of watershed organizations, government agencies, individuals, businesses and industries to the great improvement in water quality realized throughout the Ohio River Watershed.

Even though neither the *Majestic* nor the *Empress* were able to "lock through" during their voyages along the Allegheny River (due to reparation activities), the closure of the lock provided an educational opportunity to learn about how maintaining the locks and dams are so vital to Pittsburgh's Three Rivers. **Jim McCarville**, Executive Director of the **Port of Pittsburgh Commission**, explained the economic impact of the lock and dam system for the Ohio River Watershed while **Jim Klanica** of the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** described the repairs to the lock and dam. Participants had the opportunity to listen to three very dynamic presentations during the voyage. **Denny Fredericks** of **CONSOL Energy** discussed wetlands and longwall mining. **Josh McNeil** of **PA Conservation Voters** spoke about how to contact your legislators, and **Ernie Sota** presented about "Net Zero" energy buildings. **Maggie Hall**, **PADEP** and **Dave Plank**, PA DEP (retired) provided an educational and entertaining narration, highlighting many points of interest.

Thank you to the **POP-ORWC Steering Committee** for raising the funding for the event in order for the public to attend *free of charge*. Please see the comprehensive list of our wonderful Sponsors and Partners on the back page of the Catalyst, without whose generous donations of time, talents, and the "green stuff" this event could never have taken place!

One of the major highlights of the cruise was the presentation of awards to recognize the positive efforts and impacts of small local groups (with small budgets!) that address watershed issues. The awards were presented by **J. Scott Roberts, Deputy Secretary, PA DEP**. Funding was provided by **Dave Hess** (former PA DEP Secretary) and an anonymous donor.

Watershed Awards

Education and Outreach

1st place—**Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center** \$500.00

2nd place—**Crooked Creek Watershed Association** \$250.00

Most Innovative Project

1st place—**Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team** \$500.00

2nd place—**Stonycreek River Improvement Project** \$250.00

Best Display

1st place—**Shade Creek Watershed Association** \$500.00

2nd place—**The Awesome Spirit of Wildlife** \$250.00

Best Partnerships

1st place—**Washington County Watershed Alliance** \$500.00

2nd place—**Roaring Run Watershed Association** \$250.00

Additionally, the POP-ORWC recognizes individuals, organizations, and local government agencies that demonstrate a commitment to watershed or energy conservation.

Environmental Awards.

Government

Young Township, Indiana County

Individual Award

Pam Meade, Cowanshannock Ck. Watershed Assn.

Organization Award

Conemaugh Valley Conservancy

3rd Annual Energy Conservation Award

University of Pittsburgh Medical Center



Representatives from the Watershed Award Winners' organizations are pictured during the POP-Ohio River Watershed Celebration with J. Scott Roberts (Deputy Secretary, PA DEP) and Brandon Diehl (Foundation for PA Watersheds). And, yes, that IS a live snake! For more photos from the riverboat cruise see <http://www.streamrestorationinc.org/education/orwc/album/>.

South American and Brazilian Delegations Tour Passive Systems in Watersheds of Raccoon Creek, Montour Run, Chartiers Creek, & Slippery Rock Creek

Abandoned mine drainage isn't a problem just for Pennsylvania! International professionals in the treatment of mine drainage recently visited our state just to learn about our accomplishments and to share their experiences. Attending from Brazil were **Marcio Zanuz**, mining engineer, and **Roberto Romano Neto**, geologist from **SATC/SIECESC**, and **Lindomar Santos**, biologist, from the **Brazilian Geological Survey** and from South Africa were **Norman McGeorge**, Sr. Manager Project Services, **Wendy May**, Project Manager, **Sharon Clark**, Env. Practice Lead, and **Ritva Muhl-bauer**, Study Manager, from **BHP Billiton Energy Coal**. On 8/30/10, the tour started at the McCaslin Road passive treatment system (PTS) with **Bill Macek**, **Ed Nelson**, and **Dave McMillian** of the **Montour Run Watershed Association** providing a warm welcome and continued on to the Boggs Road PTS and North Fork Montour Run PTS. After lunch, the tour stopped at the JB2 PTS, where **Gary Stokum**, District Manager, **Washington County Conservation District** and **Vicky Michaels**, Director, **Independence Marsh Foundation**, provided an informative presentation. The tour also visited the sites of the 2005 Nickle Plate Coal Mine "blow out" in the town of McDonald and the relocated drainage, which was completed through an emergency contract with the **PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation**, **Quality Aggregates, Inc.** and **BioMost, Inc.** After the tour, everyone enjoyed relaxing and having dinner at the Georgetown Inn on the top of Coal Hill (a.k.a., Mount Washington).

On 8/31/10, the group began the day by meeting with **Wil Taylor** at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** and touring the Jennings PTS. Then it was on to visit Erico Bridge, De Sale I and II, McIntire (under design), BC16, and BC19/19B. Another great dinner followed at the **North Country Brewery**, a supporter of the SRWC.

After spending two days with the SRWC and SRI contingency, the South American and Brazilian delegations were off on a tour with the **PA Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation**.

Tim Danehy, **Cliff Denholm**, **Shaun Busler**, **Bryan Page**, **Cody Neely**, and **Margaret Dunn** count it a blessing and an honor to share not only our successes, but also our solutions to problems, with our old friends from Brazil and our new friends from South Africa. Hopefully their experience here will aid them in their respective countries.





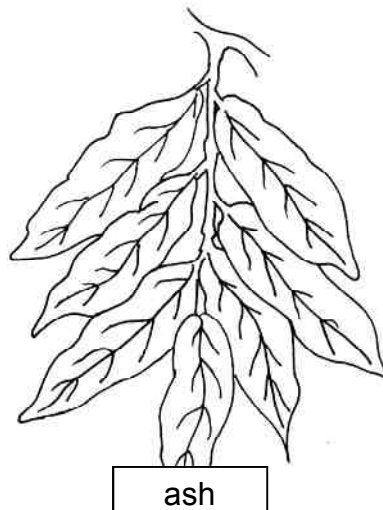
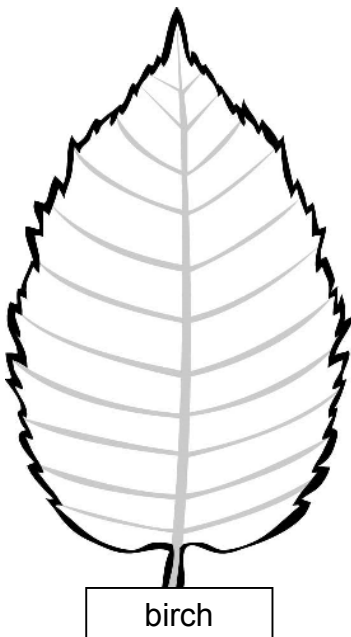
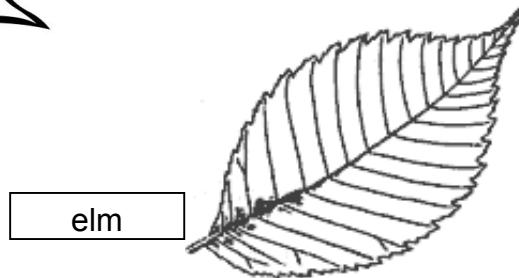
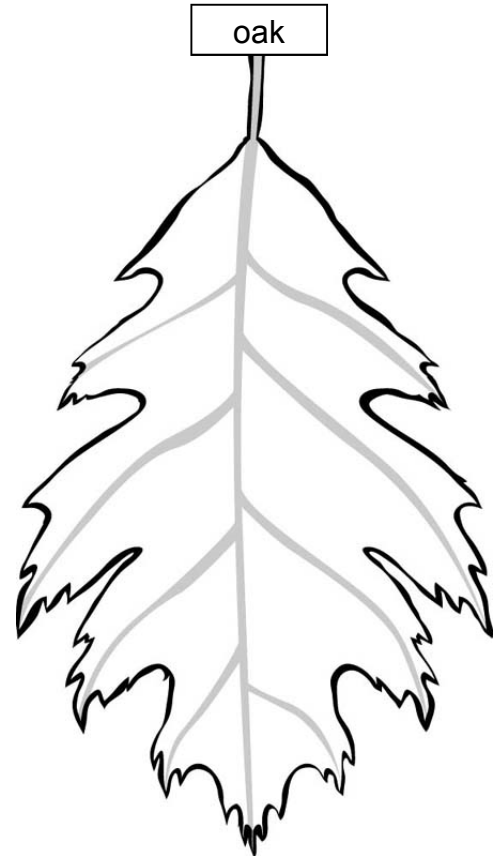
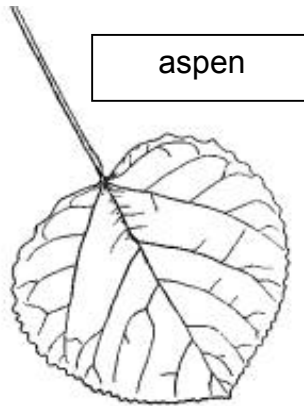
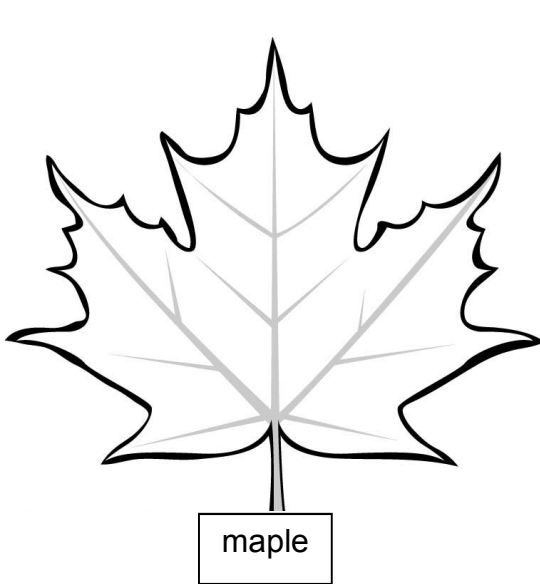
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Autumn Leaves Are Falling Down



The leaves on Pennsylvania's trees are starting to change color and fall to the ground. Do you know why this happens? Plants know to get ready for winter when they notice the days are getting shorter. Plants make a food called glucose (a kind of sugar) for energy and growth, and a chemical called chlorophyll helps them do this. Chlorophyll gives plants their green color. During winter there is not enough light or water for the trees to make food. They will rest and use the food they stored during the summer. As they shut down their food-making factories, the green color fades from the leaves. As the green fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. We just can't see them in the summer, because they are covered up by the green chlorophyll. The bright reds and purples we see in leaves are made mostly in the fall. In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn turn this glucose into a red color. The brown color of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves. Enjoy coloring the leaves below in pretty shades of red, orange, yellow, purple, and brown! Maybe you can even find some leaves in your yard and use these pictures to identify the tree they fell from! If you mail us your paper we will send you a free gift certificate!



Name _____

Age _____

Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
 A PA Non-Profit Organization
 434 Spring Street Ext.
 Mars, PA 16046

NONPROFIT
 ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 63
 MARS, PA

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, www.srwc.org. Oct. distribution: 1193 copies

Thank You, Partners and Sponsors
Port of Pittsburgh—Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!

The POP-ORWC (See article on p.1.) was **free of charge** to the public and could not have taken place without many generous donations and grants from the following ***Sponsors***:

- Prime CONSOL Energy

- Platinum PA DEP Environmental Education Grant
 Port of Pittsburgh Commission
 Foundation for PA Watersheds
 Dominion Foundation
 BioMost, Inc.

- Gold Municipal Authority of West View
 Anonymous

- Silver PA DCNR - Jennings Environmental Ed. Center
 Dave Hess
 Three Rivers Regatta
 PlasTie, Inc.
 Allegheny Power
 PA American Water
 Commonwealth Connections Academy
 Society of Analytical Chemists of Pittsburgh

- Bronze ALCOSAN
 Shenango Inc.
 W. K. Merriman, Inc.
 Quality Aggregates Inc.
 Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh
 Municipal Authority of Westmoreland County

We also wish to thank our valuable ***Partners***, who added fun content and worthwhile information to the event!

- US Army Corps of Engineers
 (Pittsburgh District); PA Department of
 Environmental Protection; PA Fish &
 Boat Commission; Jennings Environ-
 mental Education Center (PA DCNR);
 US Office of Surface Mining
 (Pittsburgh); Creek Connections; West-
 ern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine
 Reclamation; Westview Water Authority;
 National Aviary; RiverQuest; Pittsburgh
 Conference on Analytical Chemistry &
 Applied Spectroscopy; Family Tyes;
 Commonwealth Connections Academy;
 Venture Outdoors; US Environmental
 Protection Agency; 241 Computers;
 Gateway Clipper Fleet; Kiski-
 Conemaugh Stream Team; US Carbon
 Sequestration Council; Slippery Rock
 Watershed Coalition; Dave Plank;
 Stream Restoration Inc.; Pittsburgh Zoo
 & PPG Aquarium; PittCon; Friends of
 the Riverfront; Allegheny Cleanways;
 Western Pennsylvania Conservancy;
 Scrubgrass Generating Plant; Audubon
 Society of Western Pennsylvania; Ghost
 in the Head