

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Thursday 12/9/10 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 11/11/10 meeting attendance: W. Taylor, C. Denholm, V. Kefeli, T. Curtis, S. Smith, J. Belgraden, M. Dunn

### A New Treatment Technology Experiment At Jennings

Well once again with the help, understanding, and gracious generosity of the **Jennings Environmental Education Center**, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition has taken on a new experiment by demonstrating a treatment technology being developed by **Dr. Philip Sibrell** of the **United States Geological Survey** called a Pulsed Diversion Well. The Pulsed Diversion Well consists of a tank filled with limestone sand that receives periodic "pulses" of abandoned mine drainage via a separate siphon vault that delivers the water to the well. Requiring no electricity, the water enters the well under enough pressure due to differences in elevation to fluidize the sand and to discourage coating of the sand particles by metals. Keep your eyes open for future updates on progress!

### Washington County Commissioners Issue Recycling Day Proclamation

The Washington County Affiliate of **Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**, led in part by **Laurie Popeck** of Stream Restoration Incorporated and the SRWC, would like to thank the **Washington County Commissioners** for proclaiming November 15, 2010, America Recycles Day (ARD). ARD is the *only* nationally recognized day dedicated to the promotion of recycling programs in the United States. The members of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Washington County Affiliate have a goal of educating, motivating, and inspiring individuals to recycle. Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful appreciates that the Commissioners recognize the importance of protecting and preserving our natural resources.

Each year, Americans generate nearly 230 million tons of municipal solid waste, which is more than 4.5 pounds per person per day! While the nation has reached an overall recycling rate of 33%, much more can be done. The members of Keep PA Beautiful believe Americans must commit especially to closing the recycling loop by purchasing products made with recycled content. Their Washington County survey (conducted in 2005) revealed 126 illegal sites that contained at least 317 tons of trash! The Washington County Affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful (formerly PA Cleanways) was established in July 2009. Since then, 8 cleanups have been conducted along with several educational and outreach events. Volunteer efforts by local stakeholders have helped the Affiliate achieve impressive statistics for their first year: at illegal dump site cleanups, the volunteers have **removed 4.65 tons of trash, 1 ton of scrap, and recycled 1,353 tires!**



The Washington County Affiliate of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful receives an official proclamation from the Washington County Commissioners to mark November 15 America Recycles Day. Pictured from left to right are: State Representative Jesse White, Commissioner Magi, Laurie Popeck, Steve Popeck, Commissioner Burns, and Commissioner Irely.

"America Recycles Day" will be a significant annual event. Partnership efforts are vital to the success of each event conducted. Contact Laurie at 724-413-5528 or [washcokpb@gmail.com](mailto:washcokpb@gmail.com) to discuss the many ways in which you, your organization, or your business can contribute to the environmental health and economic prosperity of our community. Thank you for your support!



Check out the new jewelry at Clean Creek Products on [www.cleancreek.org](http://www.cleancreek.org). Remember, you will receive free shipping with a \$50 purchase!

Just in time for Christmas!!

### Lock Haven University Geology Students Visit Slippery Rock Creek Watershed



On October 15, 2010 geology students from **Lock Haven University** visited portions of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed as part of a three day field trip of Northwestern Pennsylvania. The field trip was organized and led by geology professor **Dr. Khaleqzaman (aka Dr. K)**. One of the stops in the watershed was at the Erico Bridge Restoration Project. **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated was on hand to provide a tour of the project where he discussed the history of the site, formation

of abandoned mine drainage, passive treatment systems, and land reclamation (see above photo). Following the tour at Erico Bridge, the students continued on to see some of the interesting geologic features at Moraine **State Park** and **McConnells Mill State Park** (see photo to the right) before heading out to explore other areas of beautiful Northwestern PA.



### Allegheny College Student to Conduct Biological Monitoring of SR Creek Watershed

**Zach Bell**, a student at **Allegheny College**, is going to be completing biological monitoring at multiple locations in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek. Many of the locations are those that Slippery Rock University professor **Dr. Dean Denicola** has been sampling with his students for the last 15 years. Zach will be able to compare his data with the data collected by Dr. Denicola's students. On October 14, 2010, **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated met with Zach and his professor, **Dr. Scott Wissinger**, to show them around the watershed and help them find and select sampling locations. We are all anxious to see Zach's results to learn how the streams are doing.

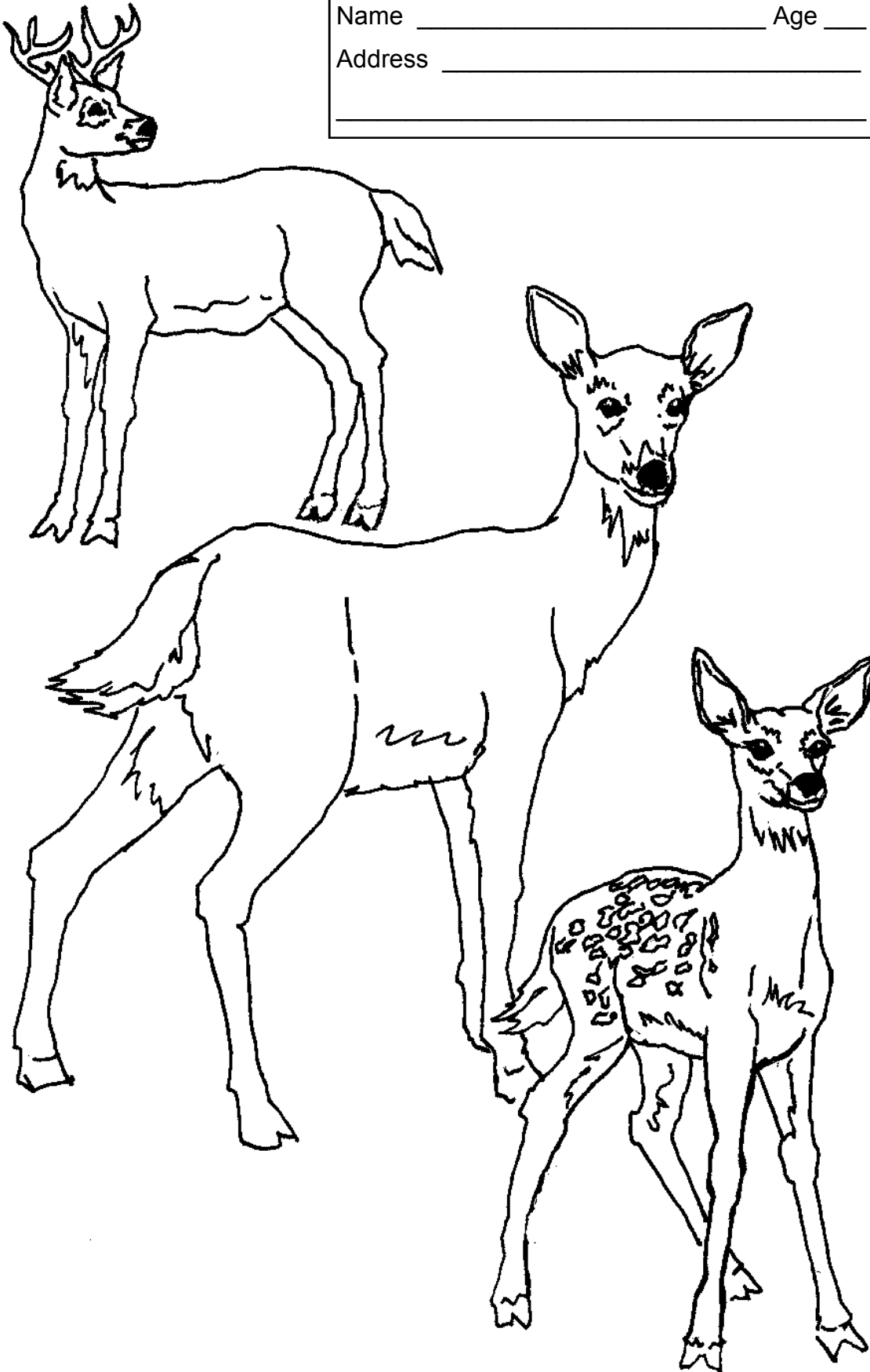


# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## Winter's White-Tailed Deer



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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

As winter gets closer, you may have noticed fewer animals around your backyard and in your neighborhood. Some animals migrate for the winter, others hibernate, and others stick around and “tough it out.” In Pennsylvania, there are some animals we are used to seeing outside even when it is cold and snowy, like the white-tailed deer. In spring and summer, deer eat green plants. In fall and winter they switch to acorns and other nuts, twigs, and buds. As you color this month’s picture of a buck, doe, and fawn, you can draw in a winter scene or the food the deer like to eat in the winter months! Well-nourished female deer normally have 2 or 3 fawns (twins or triplets!) every year. It is hard to believe the white-tailed deer had almost disappeared in western PA by the year 1900! They are now a very common sight. Keep an eye out for them this winter—they have been known to help themselves to what’s in the birdfeeder! If you mail us your picture we will send you a free gift certificate!



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

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## **Datashed Featured in *Reclamation Matters* Magazine!**

*Reclamation Matters*, the official publication of the **American Society of Mining and Reclamation**, included a 4-page article on Datashed in their Autumn 2010 edition! Contributing authors were **Shaun Busler** of Stream Restoration Incorporated, **Peter Drake** of 241 Computer Services, **Bruce Golden** (formerly of the Western PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Drainage), **Andy McAllister** (the Regional Coordinator of WPCAMR), **Cliff Denholm** (SRI), **Tim Danehy** (SRI), **Tom Grote** (SRI), and **Margaret Dunn** (SRI).

Datashed is a one-of-a-kind interactive online database for passive treatment systems, which was created in 2002 by Shaun Busler and Peter Drake. The informative article included descriptions of the many features of Datashed, which include: I-Map, an interactive GIS map showcasing all known Pennsylvania passive treatment systems at abandoned mine sites; data submission capabilities, such as field data, which are password protected; multiparameter project searches; instant 24/7 access to important documents such as Operation and Maintenance Plans, inspection sheets, directions to project sites, topographic maps, and aerial photos.

Entitled “Datashed: An Online Tool for Passive Treatment System Monitoring and Maintenance”, the article also features a history of Datashed, its downloading abilities, descriptions of the types of water quality data which can be entered into the system and the processes of viewing and downloading it; its use of wikis, and the partnership of the Datashed creators with **WPCAMR**. WPCAMR’s FACTS program (Funding AMD Chemistry for Treatment Systems) has generously supplied funds to allow Datashed to continue to expand its capabilities. Thank you, WPCAMR!!!

In the fall of 2009 and spring of 2010, approximately 230 of the 280 publicly-funded passive treatment systems in PA were assessed in a massive partnership effort to determine their quality and effectiveness. These 2 water quality “snapshots” consisted of collecting water samples for lab analysis and also measuring selected field parameters. This monitoring was done by a **team comprised of PA DEP BAMR, Stream Team, PA Senior Environmental Corps, Mill Creek Coalition, Babbs Creek Watershed Association, Broadtop Township, and SRI**. Data from the “snapshots” for 166 passive treatment systems throughout the state are now available online. Datashed provides its users with many valuable tools, and this research dataset will surely be another one!

If you have never visited the Datashed web site, what are you waiting for?! See what’s new on the “Weekly Project Spotlight.” Check it out at [www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org). If you are involved with treating AMD, there is bound to be something beneficial there waiting for you!