

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Cancelled due to multiple schedule conflicts. Next meeting: 7 pm on Thursday 8/11/11 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 6/9/11 meeting attendance: B. Busler, C. Busler, M. Busler, S. Busler, D. Carney, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Silvis, W. Taylor

### Update on the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan (SRCWCP)

By Laurie Popeck



The final round of public meetings for the SRCWCP were completed during the last week of June 2011. Meetings were conducted at two locations in the watershed. Representatives from the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, the SRCWCP Advisory Council, Stream Restoration Inc., BioMost, Inc., and Planning & Economic Development Association Inc. were in attendance. The final meetings provided the opportunity not only to discuss the plan but also to answer questions from the local stakeholders. Thanks again to the municipal officials of Slippery Rock Township and the Boyers Sportsmen's Club for graciously allowing the use of their facilities. Thanks also to the public for attending the meetings as well as the Advisory Council members for their help throughout the project duration.

A couple of weeks prior to the meetings, **Laurie Popeck**, SRCWCP Project Facilitator, was invited to be interviewed for the SRCWCP project by **Dave Malarkey** of radio **WISR - AM 680** in Butler, PA. This was the second time that Dave welcomed Laurie to his program. Once again, he was a very knowledgeable host who asked great questions that helped to provide insights relating to the benefits of the SRCWCP to the stakeholders of the watershed. **THANK YOU** to Dave and everyone at WISR for providing a wonderful outreach opportunity!!



### **July SRWC meeting has been cancelled**

Due to multiple scheduling conflicts, the July SRWC meeting has been cancelled.

The next SRWC meeting will be held on

Thursday, August 11 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center.

All are welcome to attend!

(Did we mention the free pizza and pop?!)



Shaun Busler, center, is pictured during the June 2011 Slip Clinic, one of many exciting events sponsored by The Three Rivers Paddling Club. *Please see article, last page.*

**Join Us for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration**

**Registration Begins Monday, July 11 at 10 AM!**

The Ohio River Watershed Celebration (ORWC) is an annual, free, educational event that illustrates the value of watershed protection and conservation. The Celebration demonstrates, from the unique perspective of Pittsburgh’s Three Rivers, the economic, environmental, and cultural impacts the resources of the Ohio River Watershed have upon the region. Enjoyed by thousands of participants since 2001, this event offers something for everyone—and everyone is warmly invited to come! Attendees typically include watershed professionals, environmentalists, educators, students, folks in watershed groups, government officials, individuals in private business and industry, and interested citizens.

Last September over 700 people joined together and enjoyed a beautiful warm and sunny autumn afternoon in Pittsburgh. We look forward to seeing you there this year! There will be educational poster displays, informative and interesting speakers on a wide variety of watershed topics, excellent networking opportunities, guided narration of points of interest seen along the riverbanks, beautiful scenery, great giveaways, and much, much more! You won’t want to miss it!!!



The ORWC’s riverboat cruise event this year will take place on **Thursday, September 22nd** and will consist of two cruises from the Gateway Clipper fleet: the “Imagination Cruise” aboard the Empress for students, parents, and educators, and the “Networker Cruise” on the Majestic for adults (18 and over).

Online registration for the Ohio River Watershed Celebration will open on **MONDAY, July 11<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM**. There are a limited number of reservations which are given on a “first-come-first-served” basis. The link to register can be found by visiting the Stream Restoration Inc. homepage ([www.streamrestorationinc.org](http://www.streamrestorationinc.org)) then clicking on the link Riverboat Cruise.



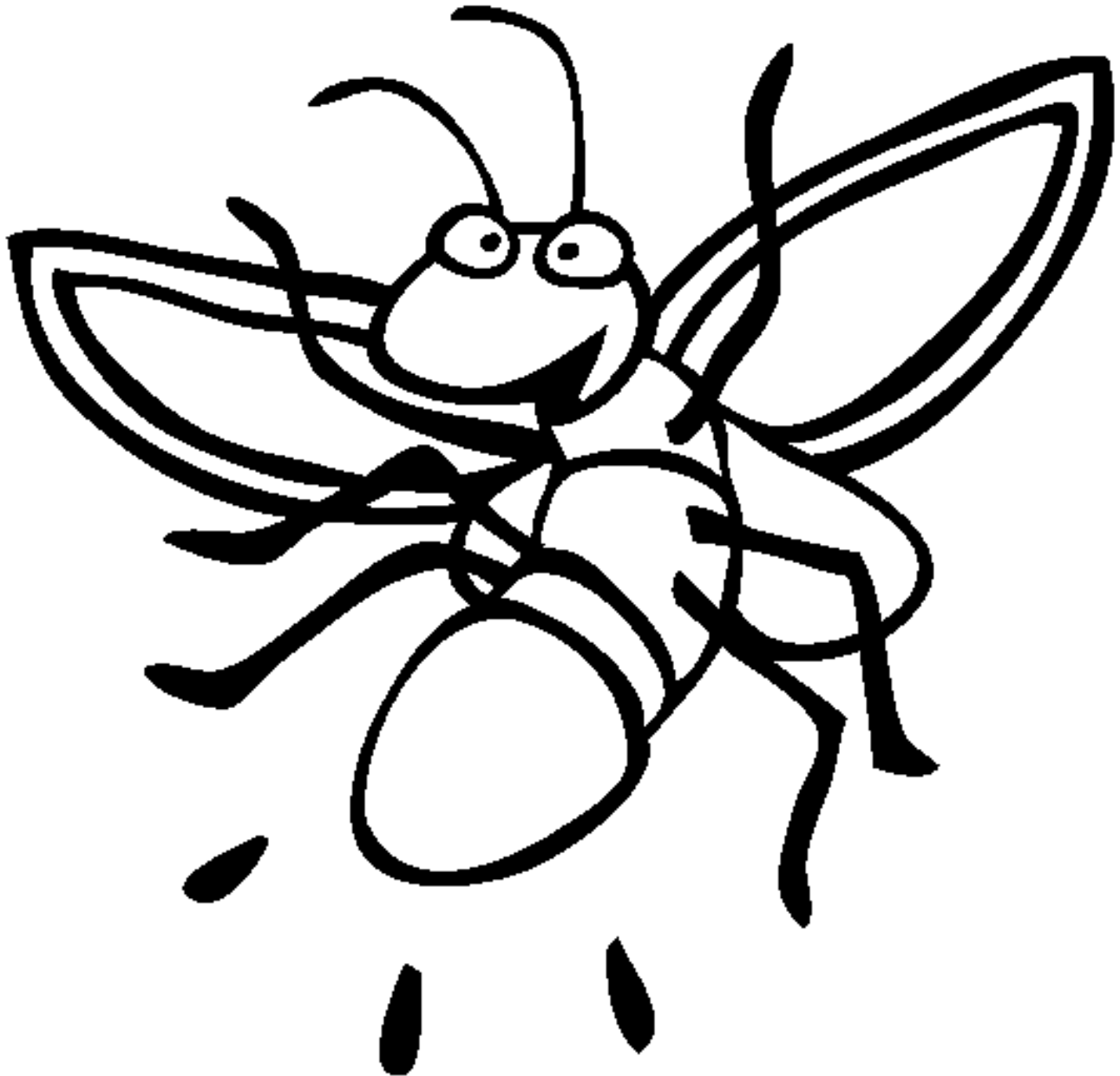
# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Lighting Up the Sky

Fireflies can be found on every continent except for Antarctica, so there's a good chance you have seen some lighting up the night sky in your backyard recently. Fireflies use a chemical reaction called bioluminescence to produce light in special organs located on a firefly's lower abdomen. When fireflies glow as larvae, it appears to be a warning signal for predators to stay away, since many firefly larvae contain chemicals that taste bad or are toxic. When the adults glow, they are trying to find the right mate and the flashes of light are a way to communicate. Not all fireflies produce light, however. And did you know female fireflies have short wings and usually cannot fly? (Males are able to fly). Different species flash different colors, which can be green, yellow, blue, or amber. Pick a color for the friendly firefly below! If you mail us your colored picture, we'll send you a free gift certificate!



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

Address \_\_\_\_\_



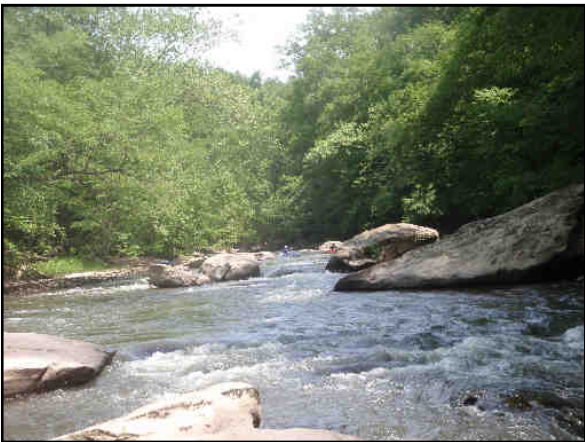
Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
434 Spring Street Ext.  
Mars, PA 16046

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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). July distribution: 1355 copies

## **Kayak Clinic Shows Off Adventurous Side of Our Watershed**

No doubt outdoor recreation is mighty popular amongst the citizens of western Pennsylvania! Fishing, hunting, biking, boating, hiking, etc. are all activities enjoyed by many of the folks in and around the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. Indeed, the area has been blessed with a beautiful environment rich in aesthetics and wildlife conducive to these and other outdoor activities. Part of the mission of the SRWC is to care for and improve this environment, both for the sake of the creatures and wildlife which call nature their home, but also for the enhancement of residents' and visitors' experiences in these great outdoors. We are excited to have installed 15 passive treatment systems which are treating over 750 million gallons of abandoned mine drainage every year! Cleaner streams and reclaimed mine lands are a passion, with many more restoration projects ahead!



On the weekend of June 3rd, **Shaun Busler** (a participant in the SRWC) had a fun opportunity to partake in a whitewater kayak clinic on "The Slip" as the locals so call it. The **2011 Slip Clinic** took place June 3-5, and was immensely enjoyed by Shaun and other participants. The Slip Clinic offers paddlers of all ages and skill levels the chance to improve their paddling skills and techniques. Participants are placed in groups according to paddling experience, and even children had the chance to join in the kayaking fun.

Shaun's group was led by instructors **Phil and Jen Raber**. On Saturday, the group practiced at Eckert Bridge, learning things such as how to "surf", make eddy turns, ferry, etc. On Sunday the group paddled the lower Slippery Rock Creek, putting into action what they had practiced the prior day. Shaun had a great time paddling the Class 2 whitewater and plans to keep up involvement with **The Three Rivers Paddling Club**. It may be new to some to know the upper Slippery Rock Creek offers Class 3 whitewater rapids, a potential new exciting hobby for those who love a little thrill.

Shaun mentioned the SRWC and their work in the watershed to his instructors during the Slip Clinic, and they were glad to know the water quality is improving. You know the habitat is pretty nice when you are able to watch a **bald eagle** soar overhead from your spot in a kayak on the Slippery Rock Creek, as Shaun did!