

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on Thursday 8/11/11 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. (The July meeting was not held).

SRWC at the PA AMR Conference

The 2011 PA Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation (a.k.a. AMR Conference) took place August 4 through August 6 at the Best Western Genetti Inn & Suites in Hazelton, PA. "Working Together for Innovation and Success" was the motto this year, which marked the 13th annual PA AMR Conference and also coincided with the 15th anniversary of EPCAMR. The Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR) served as the host of this year's conference, which was attended by 2 participants of the SRWC, **Cliff Denholm** and **Shaun Busler**.

Shaun and Cliff participated in a fieldtrip Thursday, August 4th, which was a tour of Abandoned Mine Lands and Mine Drainage sites in the Tamaqua / Hazleton area led by a team of local watershed groups. The tour included AMD sites and treatment systems in the Catawissa Creek, Nescopeck Creek, and Schuylkill River Watershed. Thursday evening, Cliff and Shaun enjoyed a special dinner/fundraiser which was held to commemorate EPCAMR's 15th Anniversary. To aid in the celebration, **150 "fish-shaped" magnets** were presented at the special dinner. **A special "thank you" to ceramic artist Bob Isenberg of the Pottery Dome for creating the magnets and to Clean Creek Products for generously donating these mementos.**

Friday, August 5th, was a day filled with presentations for Cliff and Shaun. Over 20 presentations were offered to attendees and divided into two tracks to run simultaneously on Friday and Saturday. A half-day workshop on Grant Writing and Seeking Community Foundations for Support also ran concurrently with the Conference. The presentations included topics such as the Marcellus "Gas Rush" and ties to AMD / Mine Pool Use, Successful TMDL Implementation, PA Coal Mining History, Watershed Implementation Projects utilizing Landscape Architecture, Developing Qualified Hydrologic Unit Plans, Mine Pool Mapping, Showcases of Successes in AMD Treatment, and Partnerships between Watershed Groups and Industry.

The PA Department of Environmental Protection's Secretary, **Michael Krancer**, spoke at the conference on Friday, and Shaun was glad to personally meet him. Other speakers included Director of the Federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation & Enforcement, **Joe Pizarchik**, and Renew Growing Greener's Executive Director, **Andrew Heath**.

Friday evening, August 5th, Shaun and Cliff attended a dinner where the Mayfly Award was presented to this year's winner: **Dave Hess**, former Secretary of the DEP. The Mayfly Award is presented to those individuals who exhibit long-term efforts in addressing mine drainage remediation projects in PA and has contributed greatly towards cleaning up PA's environment from abandoned mine drainage impacts. Congratulations to Dave!

Cliff and Shaun led a hands-on training workshop on Saturday on the use of **Datashed**, a web site developed through a partnership effort to provide an open and easy-to-use repository of information related to passive treatment systems and abandoned mine land projects. At the workshop, Datashed 2.0 was debuted, which is the latest upgrade to the website. Although still in beta testing, Datashed 2.0 includes all of the features of the original site plus many additional capabilities. Anyone with access to an internet connection can view the valuable information that is regularly being updated as new data are collected. While the amount of documents and data available will vary from project to project, information such as treatment technologies, water monitoring data, site schematics, photos, Operation and Maintenance Plans, design and/or "As-built" drawings, directions to the project, aerial photos, various reports, etc. can be viewed on the website. During the workshop, Shaun and Cliff covered how to use Datashed to view project related information, create new projects, create new water sampling points, edit existing information, enter/upload data, upload project-related files, and more.

Shaun and Cliff were also encouraged by the interest in the products they brought to sell from Clean Creek Products (**www.cleancreek.org**). The jewelry they brought from the "green store" sold well; check out the full line of goods online if you haven't done so already! Remember everything is made in part by the metals recovered in treatment of abandoned coal mine drainage, with most of the proceeds going to local watershed groups to support their continued cleanup efforts!



Cliff Denholm, SRWC participant, speaks to attendees of the 2011 PA Statewide Conference on Abandoned Mine Reclamation.

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Ohio River Watershed Celebration: Reminders and Updates!

We are pleased (but not that surprised!) to announce that the **Imagination Cruise** event of the **Ohio River Watershed Celebration filled up in 23 (!!!!) minutes**. Registration opened at 10 AM on July 11th and reached its max at 10:23 AM! If you were unable to register for this children's riverboat cruise and would like to be placed on the waiting list, please send every person's name to this email address: orwc@streamrestorationinc.org. You will be contacted in the event there are cancellations.

While the Imagination Cruise is at capacity, there is still space available on the adult cruise for those who are 18 and older. If you would like to attend the Networker Cruise at the ORWC on **Thursday, September 22nd**, simply register online by going to <http://www.streamrestorationinc.org/rsvp/>. The Networking Cruise is for adults involved in watershed groups, energy conservation, environmental professionals, government personnel, environmental education, business and industry leaders, and interested citizens. Many points of interest, current and historical, will be highlighted with a very informative narration. Over 50 watershed- and energy-related displays are expected! All participants will have the opportunity to meet and talk directly with organization representatives.

Participants of all ages should plan to come early for the pre-cruise festivities which will begin at 10 AM. You won't want to miss the *many* fun activities at the dock area and onboard the vessels! Please remember boarding for each of the boats (the Empress for the Imagination Cruise, and the Majestic for the Networker Cruise) will begin at 12:30 PM and **we will set sail at 1 PM sharp** from the Station Square dock in Pittsburgh! Expect to cruise the rivers for approximately 3 hours, but please understand this is an estimated time.

Sign up soon if you haven't done so and be there to help us celebrate the **10th anniversary of the ORWC!** With the theme "**Our Rivers: Then and Now**", the event will feature 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!!!

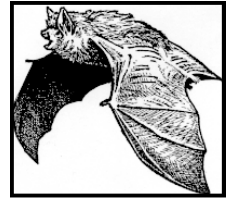
As usual, this event is free and open to all who are interested, thanks to the generous time and monetary donations of many sponsors and partners. If you or your organization would be interested in becoming a sponsor or partner, please email the above-mentioned address or call 724-776-0161. Any gift of any size is appreciated, and anyone can now donate quickly and easily by giving your gift through a secure online donation using Paypal.

See you on the river!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Endangered Species Word Search

There are more than 1,970 endangered species of wildlife (including plants!) in the United States. The term “endangered” means the animal or plant species is in danger of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers or is threatened by changes to its habitat or predation. Other species are called “threatened”, which means the species are vulnerable to endangerment in the near future. The American bald eagle is one of the best-known animal species which used to be on the endangered species list. In the early 1960s there were only about 450 nesting pairs of bald eagles in the lower 48 states. Bald eagles were officially declared an endangered species in 1967 in all areas of the United States south of the 40th parallel. The Endangered Species Act was signed into law in 1973 by President Richard Nixon. On July 4, 1976, the US Fish and Wildlife Service officially listed the bald eagle as a national endangered species. With the help and protection of these laws, the number of pairs of nesting American bald eagles increased to over 4500 in the 1990s. Today there are an estimated 9789 pairs of nesting bald eagles, and the bald eagle was removed from the endangered species list in June 2007. It is still protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. 15 of Pennsylvania’s endangered species are listed below, and hidden in the word search. Find and circle all 15 species, mail us your completed paper, and we’ll send you a free gift certificate!

Lake sturgeon
 Longear sunfish
 Bog turtle
 Southern leopard Frog
 Massasauga rattlesnake

Rough green snake
 Northern cricket frog
 Green salamander
 Eastern Redbelly turtle
 Spotted darter

Indiana bat
 Northern flying squirrel
 Peregrine falcon
 Great egret
 Black tern

Name _____ Age _____
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Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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WANTED

Volunteers

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is seeking volunteers who are willing to "**Adopt A Passive Treatment System**" by assisting with water monitoring and site inspections. The volunteers will be asked to go to one or more passive systems, preferably on a monthly basis, to inspect the systems and conduct basic water monitoring using test kits and then enter the information into "Datashed", an internet-based database. Water quality test kits as well as training on conducting the inspections, using the test kits, and entering the collected data on-line, will be provided. For more information, please contact Cliff Denholm of Stream Restoration Incorporated by phone at 724-776-0161 or email at sri@streamrestorationinc.org or Wil Taylor of the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 724-794-6011.