

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on Thursday 9/8/11 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/11/11 attendance: C. Denholm, P. Dillaman, R. Dillaman, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, S. Smith, W. Taylor

McIntire Passive Treatment System: Construction Update!

Groundbreaking and construction are underway at the McIntire site in Marion Township, Butler County, which is also known as **the worst AMD in the Blacks Creek Watershed (!!!)** with respect to pollutant loadings. The planning and funding efforts for the McIntire project has been in the works for nearly a decade, and finally the end is in sight. Much appreciation goes to the landowners **Linda Furst & Denny Tiche** for allowing the treatment system to be constructed on their property to address this problematic discharge!!! We also wish to thank our many partners that have been steadfast in their support including the **PADEP EPA 319 Program, Foundation for PA Watersheds, Butler County Conservation District, PADEP Knox District Mining Office, WPCAMR, Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club, and the Butler County Planning Commission!!!!**

Quality Aggregates Inc. was awarded the construction contract and **Wayne Fuchs** and **Joe Puryear** are spear-heading the passive treatment system installation. Wayne and his construction team are building the upper portion of the system which consists of an oxidation-precipitation channel, limestone auto-flushing vertical flow pond, and settling pond. Joe's construction crew are building the lower portion of the system which includes a Jennings-style vertical flow pond, settling pond/wetland, and horizontal flow limestone beds. Each construction crew is making good progress in the joint effort to make this treatment system successful in cleaning up Blacks Creek.

Wayne and his team are also assisting in recovering low-pH iron material which has been accumulating in an existing pond. BioMost Inc. summer interns **Quinten Cameron** and **Ryan Mahony** have played an important role in the manual recovery efforts to this point. Once the iron from this pond is extracted, it will be processed in order to yield a product that local potters use as a colorant in their pottery glazes, with all proceeds from pottery sales going back to support the watershed.

Needless to say, we are very excited about the potential for the new McIntire project to change the face of the watershed and greatly improve its water quality!

For more information, check out the 8/8/2011 **PA Environment Digest** at www.paenvironmentdigest.com!!!



Wayne Fuchs, excavator operator for Quality Aggregates, Inc., loads a rock truck being driven by his daughter, Lindsey.



Joe Puryear excavates part of the wetland.

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Quinten Cameron (left) and Ryan Mahony (right) are pictured harvesting iron from an old treatment pond at the McIntyre Passive Treatment System site.

See the article on the last page for more about Quinten.

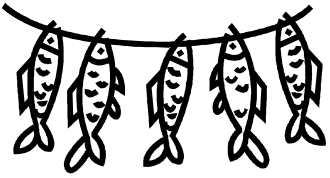
Dr. Fred Brenner Elected President of PA Chapter of American Fishery Society

Dr. Fred Brenner, Professor of Biology at Grove City College and participant of the SRWC, was recently voted in as the president-elect of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Fishery Society and he was re-elected as co-chairman of the Forestry and Wildlife Technical Division of the American Society of Surface Mining and Reclamation. Dr. Brenner will assume the Presidency of the PA Chapter of the American Fishery Society in August of 2012. Dr. Brenner has previously served as President of the PA Chapter of the Wildlife Society, President of the PA Academy of Science, President of the National Academies of Science, and as Regional Vice President of the Beta Beta Beta Biological Honorary.

The book Pandemic Influenza Viruses: Surveillance and Public Health co-edited by Dr. Brenner was released in early August. This is the 14th book co-edited by Dr. Brenner, who also contributed two book chapters in Pandemic Influenza Viruses, and recently had three papers published in Vol. 84 and 85 of the Journal of the Pennsylvania Academy of Science. Through his projects, Dr. Brenner worked with several Grove City College students, including the SRWC's **Shaun Busler**.

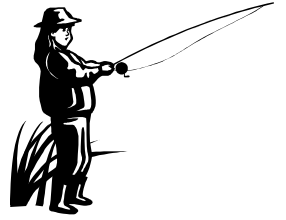
Don't Miss the Boat! 10th Annual ORWC on September 22nd!

The boat sails soon! If you haven't registered yet to be a part of the fun and excitement on September 22, don't delay! Register today! This is your chance to be at the largest gathering of individuals, watershed groups, educators, local governments, and businesses concerned about the health of our watershed! The "Networker Cruise" aboard the Gateway Clipper's *Majestic* for those age 18 and older still has space available. Boarding begins at 12:30 PM sharp. Please register online by visiting the Stream Restoration Inc. homepage (www.streamrestorationinc.org) then clicking on the link Event Registration.



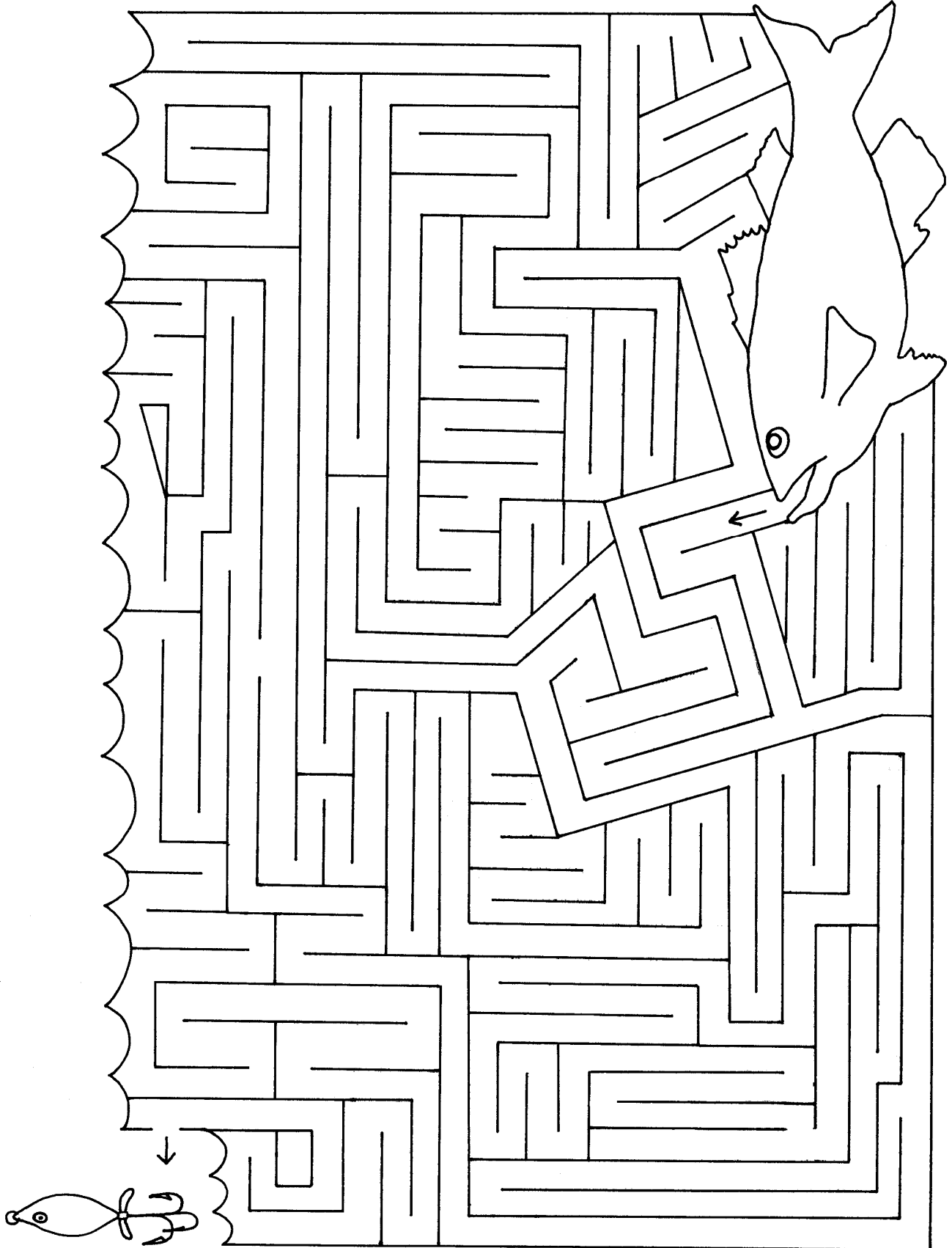
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



A-Maze-ing Fish

Hi kids! Did you know over 50 species of fish live in Pittsburgh's rivers? The rivers are clean and healthy and make a good home for many kinds of fish, even some that are endangered species! Try out this fish maze by starting at the fish's mouth and ending at the lure. If you mail us your completed 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

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An Intern's Introduction... Quinten Cameron

Hello, my name is Quinten Cameron, but more well known as "Q". I was born and raised in "Flood City USA" Johnstown, PA. Upon graduating from Westmont Hilltop High School, I ventured to Slippery Rock University for a degree in Secondary Education Mathematics. Within a short semester I realized this major had the potential to make me like Russell Crow in the movie a "Beautiful Mind". I reached a dilemma as to what I should switch my major to because I was set on education and did not want to teach anything but math and try to make it more fun. I resorted to my next passion of the environment to lead me to the honey hole of majors. I settled into Environmental Science with minors in Geology and Biology.

Now going into my last semester, a requirement for my degree is completion of an internship. I spent the past two years applying to REU's (research experiences for undergraduates); unfortunately, nothing came through. I also spent time contacting Stream Restoration Inc. for an internship opportunity after hearing about a previous intern Bryan Page's experience, but they were not seeking any interns. While roaming the halls in the Geography, Geology, and the Environment Dept. of SRU, Dr. Patrick Burkhart conveniently placed an internship opportunity with BioMost Inc. on classroom doors at eye level to do wetland planting. I was eager to land this internship, being it was with a company I had been seeking to work with for two years and has a mission similar to my future goal as a profession.

Next thing you know, I am working on a GFCC mine site planting hundreds of bare root trees a day into rock hard spoil in the hot summer sun, delightfully providing sun poisoning at first and then a wonderful tan. If not planting trees, I was harvesting iron oxide from passive treatment ponds for SRI's resource recovery program to use in Clean Creek Pottery glazes. I and two other interns also built a greenhouse to dry the iron before processing. This then led to processing manganese, another metal oxide removed from some passive treatment. The resource recovery program is almost now in full swing.

I wish to extend thanks to everyone at BioMost Inc. for their amazing character, knowledge, and passion for watersheds. The experience gained cannot be traded for anything and I hope to maintain a close relationship.