THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on Thursday 11/10/11 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 10/13/11 attendance: C. Deholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, R. Mahoney, W. Taylor

Westminster College Students To Present At November SRWC Meeting

Once again, **Dr. Helen Boylan's Advanced Chemistry students** from **Westminster College** participated in a water sampling event on October 14, 2011. The students worked with **Wil Taylor** of the Jennings Environmental Education Center and **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated. The students (see photos below) were given a tour of the De Sale Phase II site where they learned about the history of the area and the purpose of each component of the passive system. Following the tour, the students broke into groups to conduct the water sampling. The students took the samples back to their lab where they will perform the laboratory analyses. The students will present their findings at the next SRWC meeting which will be held on ***Thursday, November 10, 2011 at 7:00 pm***. Please come out and support the students!!!

Save The Date! Student Symposium On The Environment

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is once again partnering with Westminster College who will host the Student Symposium on the Environment. The purpose of the event is to highlight environmental study, research, artistic expression, and service work being done by students in the region. Students from all disciplines, ranging from high school through graduate school, are encouraged to participate. Research posters, art work, oral presentations, and even performances are welcome. The Symposium will take place on ***December 8, 2011*** in the Witherspoon Rooms of the McKelvey Campus Center (pictured at left) at Westminster College from 5:30 pm to 9:00 pm. A networking and poster session will begin at 5:30 pm with oral presentations to begin at 6:30 pm. Call for participants will be available online at www.westminster/environment.

For more information email Cliff Denholm at sri@streamrestorationinc.org or Dr. Helen Boylan at env@westminster.edu. This event continues to grow in participation, please come out and support the students!!!

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

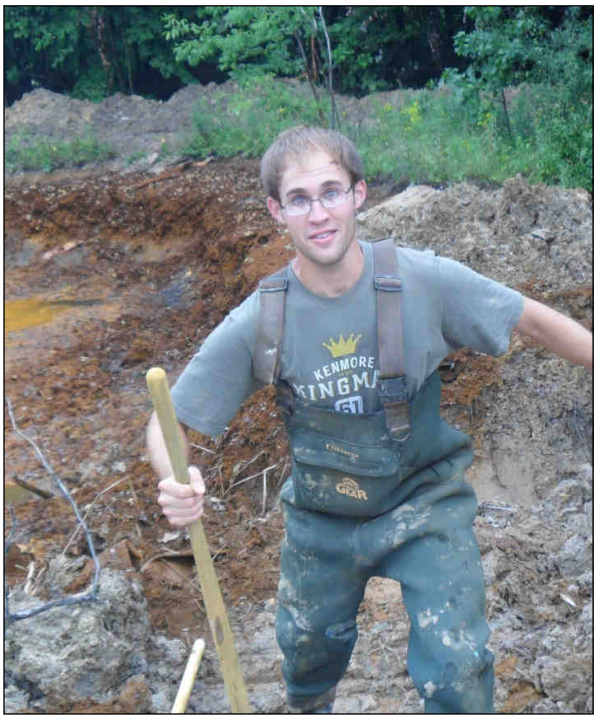
With the help of numerous partners, the McIntire Passive Treatment System in Butler County is being completed!!! Thanks to the PA DEP and US EPA 319 funding and landowners Linda Furst and Denny Tiche, the "worst" AMD in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed will be treated. More later...

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Tree Planting in Paradise

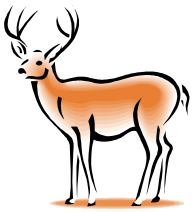
By Ryan Mahony

I am a graduate of Hampton High School in Allison Park, PA. Through my participation in scouts I gained a love for the environment which has remained with me since I was young. As an Environmental Science major at Slippery Rock University, completing an internship was a requirement for graduation which I needed to fulfill. I saw an opportunity posted along the hallway at school and inquired about it with one of my professors, Dr. Burkhart. He had me contact Tim Danehy, and there I was with an internship with BioMost, Inc. for the summer.



As part of my internship I worked at a mine site planting wetlands that flow to a stream which runs through the site. Along with planting trees and shrubs, I and the other interns worked to create habitat for animals along the channels flowing to and from each wetland. It was hard work and the weather was not always ideal, but the sense of accomplishment I had after seeing the site when we were finished was well worth the effort. While waiting for orders of plants to arrive, projects around the office such as constructing a iron oxide drying facility and cleaning out the garage for iron and manganese processing kept me busy. Another task I performed this summer was low-pH iron oxide recovery at De Sale 1 and McIntyre sites, both are passive treatment systems within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. I and the other interns quickly discovered why it was our job to reclaim iron. It was a very dirty process, but someone had to do it!

This internship has provided me with valuable experiences and useful new information about watershed quality. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to perform the work alongside people that also want to make a difference. I hope to have the opportunity to continue working with SRI in the future, and to be able to keep learning from my experiences with them to further benefit their efforts in improving water quality in the watershed.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

A Hunting We Will Go...

Hunting is a popular hobby in Pennsylvania. Deer hunting manages the population of deer in PA and other states where overpopulation of deer causes food shortage, disease, and frequent car collisions with the animals (there are about 1.5 million deer/vehicle collisions annually). Deer overpopulation also harms natural ecosystems. In high deer density areas, deer browsing prevents the regeneration of forests as deer eat nearly all the tree seedlings, destroy forest understory plants, and reduce overall species richness. Several studies found that deer browsing significantly reduces songbird numbers by destroying their habitats. Most states have hunting seasons to control the populations of deer. However, overpopulation is becoming common. At one point the deer population in North America was as low as 300,000 to 500,000 but has now risen to 27,000,000.

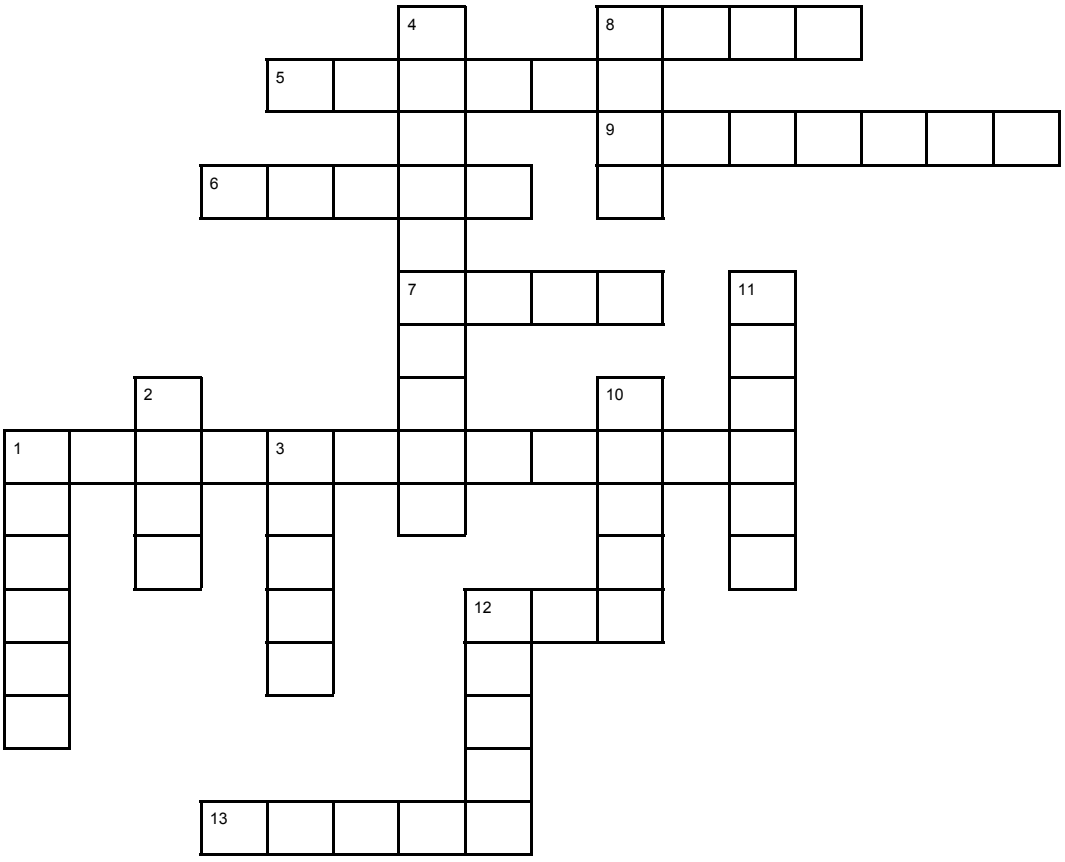
Try out this month's hunting crossword puzzle below. If you can fill in all of the clues and send us your paper, we will mail you a free gift certificate!

DOWN

1. A hunted animal that says "gobble, gobble!"
2. It is important to obey the rules, or _____, when hunting
3. Hunters use a _____ to skin the deer
4. Hunters wear _____ clothing to blend in to their surroundings so deer won't notice them
8. Some people go black _____ hunting
10. The gun a hunter uses
11. Hit the bull's-eye on the _____ when you practice
12. Hunted animals that say "quack, quack!"

ACROSS

1. Many eat the animal from #1 Down for dinner on this holiday
5. Many hunters are required by law to wear a certain amount of this color, for safety purposes
6. Some hunters hunt with a bow and _____
7. Most hunting takes place in this season
8. Another name for a male deer
9. Hunters hope to get deer with large ____ on their heads
12. A female deer
13. Another name for the forest where hunters hunt



Age _____

Name _____

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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H.O.P.E.

(Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts)

Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment (AWARE)

On 10/4/2011, fourteen student volunteers from **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** along with their professor and AWARE President, **Dr. Brian Okey** and **Stream Restoration Inc.'s Shaun Busler and Ryan Mahony** "pitched in" to plant the newly constructed wetland at the Reeds Run AMD Remediation Site in Indiana County, PA. This was one of the few remaining efforts needed to complete a project that was made possible by a **PA DEP Growing Greener Grant** and the generous support of **numerous partners** to clean up the site, which polluted a 3½-mile stretch of Reeds Run. The site was previously the home of 72,647 tons of coal refuse which was the main cause of pollution. This coal refuse was removed from the site and transported to the Seward Plant near Johnstown to generate electricity. As part of the project, a ¾-acre wetland was created, which during the dry summer/fall months is expected to be the primary source of water to Reeds Run. With a decrease of an estimated ***9 tons*** of acidity and ***5 tons*** of metals annually to Reeds Run, future monitoring will document the impact to stream water quality and aquatic habitat.

"Stay tuned" for further information on this site!!! Congratulations to AWARE and their partners!!!