

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**THIS MONTH'S MEETING:** Cancelled due to Student Symposium on the Environment being held at Westminster College on December 8 at 5:30 PM. 11/10/11 attendance: H. Anderson, J. Belgradan, E. Best, M. Biedka, H. Boylan, P. Brown, E. Brown, G. Brown, S. Cornich, J. Daum, M. Dunn, D. Figueron, N. George, V. Kefeli, G. Kefeli, B. Lupold, O. Miller, B. Miller-Parrish, B. Neely, J. North, C. Parrish, M. Pryts, J. Puskas, S. Smith, S. Welsh

### “Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System”

#### SRWC Volunteer Training A Success



Well it has been a long time coming. The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition has finally established our volunteer water monitoring program called “Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System”. The program provides the training and tools to help volunteers inspect, monitor, and maintain specific passive treatment systems that are located within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The volunteers will become the eyes and ears of the SRWC as they perform monthly site inspections and use field kits to conduct water monitoring. They will then enter their data onto Datashed ([www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org)), an on-line interactive database created by Stream Restoration Incorporated and 241 Computers.

The very first training session for the volunteers was conducted on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC)**. The training was conducted by **Wil Taylor**, JEEC Manager, and **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Inc. **Ten volunteers** took part in the **5-hour training session** which covered the formation of AMD, passive treatment components, water monitoring, site inspections, a tour of the Jennings passive system, etc. Each volunteer was given a vest, clipboard, 5-gallon bucket, 1-gallon bucket, thermometer, pH kit, iron kit, alkalinity kit, and a training manual. Each volunteer will also be given a tour of their assigned system. The SRWC is very excited about this program and is looking forward to seeing the data collected. **What a wonderful team and what a great contribution to the community and to the sustainability of the environmental restoration efforts!!!**

We would like to thank our volunteers for donating their time to this important cause:

- **Gary Watt**
- **Todd Bluedorn**
- **Ed Hartmann**
- **Keith Vensel**
- **Ron Greenwald**
- **Jonathan Cameron**
- **Jim North**
- **Joseph Puskas**
- **Bob Shearer**
- **Brent Silvis**



Wil Taylor demonstrates proper technique in using one of the stream quality field kits 10 volunteers were trained to use as part of the first watershed monitoring training session of the Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System program.

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Brian Okey, President of AWARE, describes the decade-long effort to monitor the AMD impacts to Reeds Run (Indiana Co.), to evaluate options, to develop partnerships, and to fund the recently completed (and very successful) restoration effort. See article on the last

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### **6th Annual NW PA GIS Conference**

Clarion University played host to the 6th Annual Northwest PA GIS Conference on October 13 & 14, and **Shaun Busler** of SRI and the SRWC enjoyed his time spent at the event. Shaun had a poster on the **Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan** and appreciated the chance to speak with many folks, mainly students, about its purpose and importance. With 5 tracks available to participants, there were panel discussions and poster sessions with something to offer everyone. GIS in Education, GIS in Action, Emerging Technologies and Leveraging Solutions, Natural Resources Management, and Oil & Gas/Marcellus Shale issues gave attendees plenty to discuss and to learn about. Shaun especially enjoyed the keynote talk by speaker **Douglas Kuntz**, President and CEO of Pennsylvania General Energy, and **Maranda Nemeth's** (Allegheny College) power point presentation "GIS to identify lands for wetland restoration in Crawford County." New to this year's conference was a unique **Hands-On Learning Lab**, a training resource provided and developed by **ESRI Training Services**. The Lab was an excellent way to introduce users to a variety of ESRI software solutions and training opportunities while learning to use ESRI software. Thanks so much to the 11-member Conference Planning Committee for their hard work in putting together this successful event!

### **Reminder: No Regular SRWC Meeting in December!**

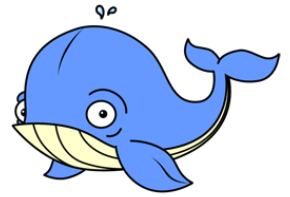
### **Come Instead to Our Student Symposium on the Environment!**

The 7 PM meeting of the SRWC normally held the second Thursday of the month has been cancelled for December and replaced with the awesome Student Symposium on the Environment! Please come support our area students on December 8 at Westminster College, as they share their talents and accomplishments in a vast array of disciplines. These include projects in environmental study, research, artistic expression, and service work being done by students in the region ranging in age from high school to graduate school. Students from all disciplines will have this unique opportunity to showcase their skills through a variety of means such as research posters, art work, oral presentations, and even performances. The Symposium will take place on December 8 in the Witherspoon Rooms of the McKelvey Campus Center 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. Show your support for the passions of these students and let's give them a great audience! We appreciate the students' hard work and willingness to share with the public, and we hope you will join us for this great community-based education event! The next regular meeting of the SRWC will be held Thursday, January 11, 2012!



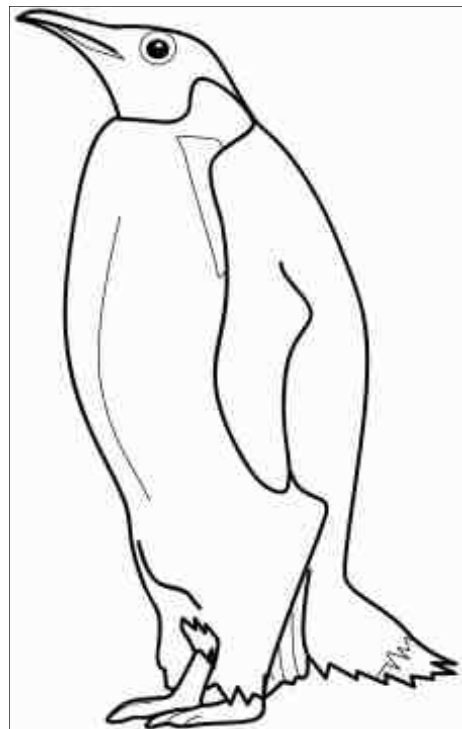
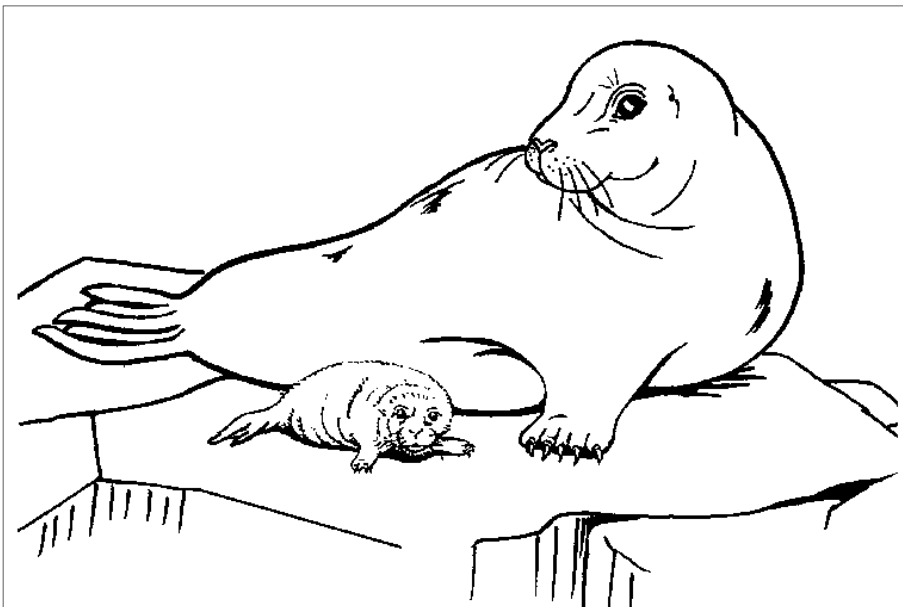
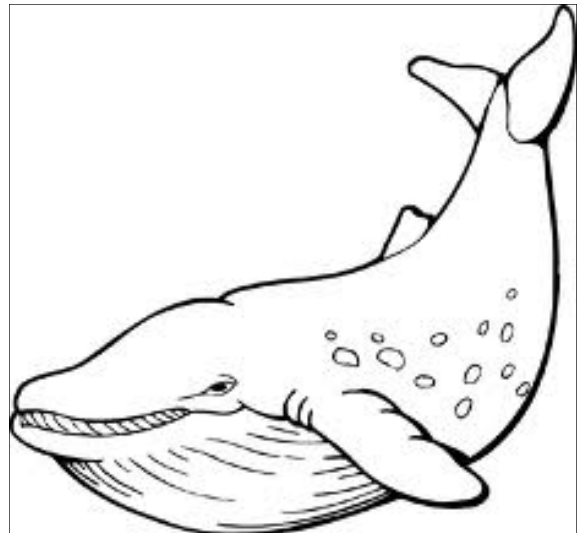
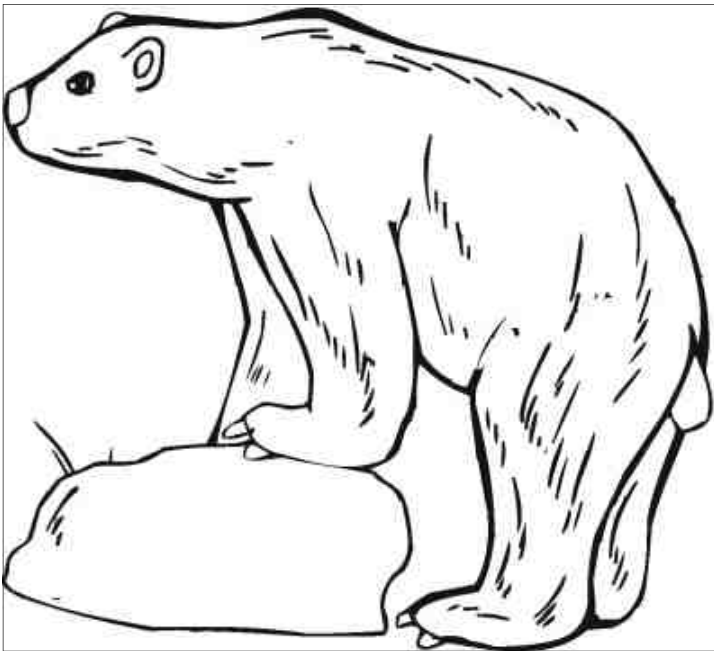
# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Cold Critters Coloring

While some animals hibernate or migrate to warmer areas during the cold winter months, there are some animals who **love** the cold! There are special things about these animals' bodies that allow them to live in the coldest places in the world. **Whales** have a thick layer of fat, called blubber, under their skin that keeps them warm. Harbour **seals** also have a thick layer of blubber to keep them warm, and they also have a very high metabolic rate to generate body heat. There are 17 types of **penguins** in the world. Penguins have a layer of blubber, and on top of their blubber is a layer of fluffy feathers called "down". On top of the down is another layer of thick feathers to keep the warmth in. Sometimes when it is really cold, penguins huddle together in groups of up to 5,000 to keep warm. They take turns moving to the inside of the group where it is warmer. **Polar bears** have a thick fur coat that looks white, but is really translucent. Each hair is a hollow tube that channels the warmth of the sun straight to the skin to help keep it warm. Polar bears also have a thick layer of fat. They dig out dens on snowy slopes to take shelter during blizzards, curling up to let snow drift around their bodies to form an insulating layer. Color the creatures below who love the cold, and if you send us your paper we'll mail you a free gift certificate!



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



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 A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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**H.O.P.E.**  
 (Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts)

**REEDS RUN RESTORATION PROJECT**  
**SITE DEDICATION**

**Over 30 (!!!)** volunteers and professionals braved a steady, cold rain, to dedicate the Reeds Run Restoration Project in Armstrong Township, Indiana County on November 15, 2011. The dedication included comments of encouragement and appreciation from **Rod Ruddock, Indiana County Commissioner; John Stefanko, Dep. Sec., PADEP, Office of Active and Abandoned Mine Operations; Jonathan Longwill for Rep. Dave Reed; Glen Carnahan and Rodger George, Armstrong Twp. Supervisors** and many others. **Brian Okey, Aultman Watershed Association for Restoring the Environment (AWARE)** explained the restoration effort and project partners **Jim Panaro, Robindale Energy Services; Bill Abatte, Harsco Minerals; Tom Roberts, Seward Generating Station; John Foreman, PG, Central Blair Electric** provided a brief overview of their roles in making this public-private partnership effort successful. Groups were also taken on a walking tour of the site to see first-hand the improvements to Reeds Run.

The Reeds Run AMD Remediation Project is the fruition of nearly a decade of work to restore the headwaters of Reeds Run, a tributary to Aultmans Run. A small Growing Greener grant was awarded in 2004 to Stream Restoration Inc. to assess one of the largest sources of AMD in the watershed and develop a design to treat the discharge. Partial funding was also received from the County Environmental Initiative Program in 2007 to permit and construct a portion of a passive treatment system. Through an innovative public-private partnership effort this project was **expanded at no additional cost to the Commonwealth** to not only construct a 3/4-acre aerobic wetland, but actually remove a major source of the AMD, a small refuse pile. **After more than 50 (!!!!!) years, fish have returned to a section of stream that had been devoid of life due to the impacts of AMD.** For more information about the site, please visit Datashed at <http://www2.datashed.org/reeds-run/> or contact Shaun Busler at Stream Restoration Inc.

This “success story” would not have been possible without project partners:

- |                        |                                      |                                 |                                |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>AWARE</b>           | <b>Central Blair Electric</b>        | <b>US Env. Research Serv.</b>   | <b>Robindale Energy</b>        |
| <b>Harsco Minerals</b> | <b>Saddle Creek Farms Bedding</b>    | <b>Quality Aggregates Inc.</b>  | <b>Indiana Co. Cons. Dist.</b> |
| <b>BioMost, Inc.</b>   | <b>Seward Generating Station</b>     | <b>Indiana University of PA</b> | <b>PA DEP</b>                  |
| <b>G&amp;C Lab</b>     | <b>Indiana Co. Solid Waste Auth.</b> | <b>Stream Restoration Inc.</b>  | <b>WPCAMR</b>                  |