

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on 8/9/12 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 7/12/12 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, B. Neely, K. Palmer, W. Taylor, F. VanOto

Register Online at www.orwc.org.....There's Still Time!!!!

2012 Ohio River Watershed Celebration

Come join us to learn, network, and relax - all onboard the *Majestic*, the beautiful flagship of the Gateway Clipper Fleet! You can still sign up (and learn more about the event) at www.orwc.org to participate in the **September 27th celebration held on the rivers in Pittsburgh!!!** This free event is open to the public and yearly attracts hundreds of participants. Set against the lovely backdrop of Pittsburgh's autumn cityscape, the *Majestic* will sail from 1 PM to 4 PM. Watershed and Energy Efficiency topics will be presented and many points of interest, current and historical, will be highlighted with a very informative narration.

This year our Featured Speakers will be —

- ◆ **John Arway, Executive Director PA Fish and Boat Commission, and**
- ◆ **Michael Krancer, Secretary of PA Department of Environmental Protection.**

Over sixty (**60!!**) watershed and energy-related displays are expected to be on the *Majestic*, providing everyone with the opportunity to meet and talk directly with organization representatives. Everyone age 18 and older is welcome to attend, including Watershed and Energy Conservation Groups, Professionals, Government Personnel, Business and Industry Leaders, Educators, and Interested Citizens. Whether you have never come to the ORWC or always come, something is new each year! Please remember that each individual attending the cruise must register separately.

And don't forget that pre-cruise activities begin at 10 AM on the Gateway Clipper Dock at Station Square!

Please note at this time the children's **Imagination Cruise (K thru 12)** onboard the *Empress* is full. You can still register, however, to be added to a waiting list and will receive notification if spaces become available.



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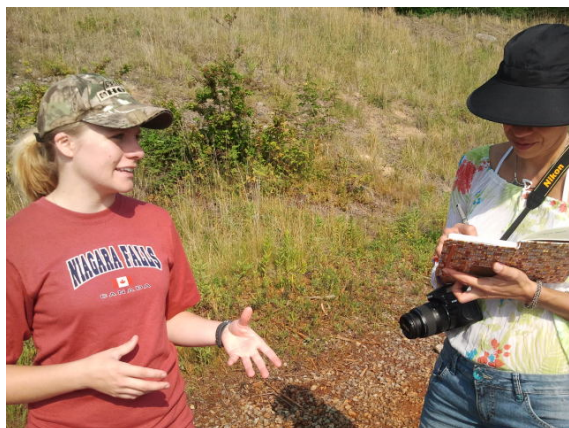
PA DEP Secretary Michael Krancer and Tim Danehy of BioMost, Inc. and SRWC participant, pose for a photo as the Secretary turns the valve to allow water to flow from the water treatment plant to the turbines to generate electricity at the **Babb Creek Watershed Association's Antrim Micro-Hydropower Plant Dedication Ceremony held July 18, 2012.**

(Please see H.O.P.E. article on back page).

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Beatriz Firpo of Brazil & William LaBarre of Colorado & Maryland Visit the Watershed

Restoration and remediation of land and water is a worldwide concern that has brought many scientists together to create solutions and share ideas. Doctoral environmental student and friend **Beatriz Firpo of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil** created an experience such as the one described when she came to tour some of the passive treatment systems in western PA. Along side of Beatriz traveled a master's degree student, **William LaBarre of Towson University in Maryland**. Leading the tour was **Kelsea Palmer, a student intern from St. Francis University**, working with the SRWC, Stream Restoration Inc., and BioMost, Inc. The first stop was a successful passive treatment system near the Pittsburgh International Airport installed through the efforts of the **Montour Run Watershed Association** and many project partners. On their way north, Beatriz and William also visited our office in order to check out the pottery of Clean Creek Products and learn more about the efforts of the SRWC to restore our streams. Of course, no tour would be complete without stopping by the **Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC)**. The JEEC site allowed Beatriz and LaBarre to see some new ideas in action such as the demonstration of the **Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative**, where chestnuts and other desirable species are prospering on abandoned mine soils, as well as innovations relating to passive treatment technology. In Brazil, Beatriz and her colleagues work toward the revitalization of the soil at abandoned mine sites and the re-vegetation that is required to restore and secure the ecosystem. LaBarre's studies have focused on the use and importance of wetlands, much like those used in passive treatment systems. The day of the tour consisted of much conversation about the progress and successful results of addressing environmental issues with passive technology.



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We always love to see our friends from Brazil and appreciate **Carlos Schneider** for recommending that Beatriz visit some of our sites and for his continued implementation and interest in environmentally-friendly mine restoration efforts!!



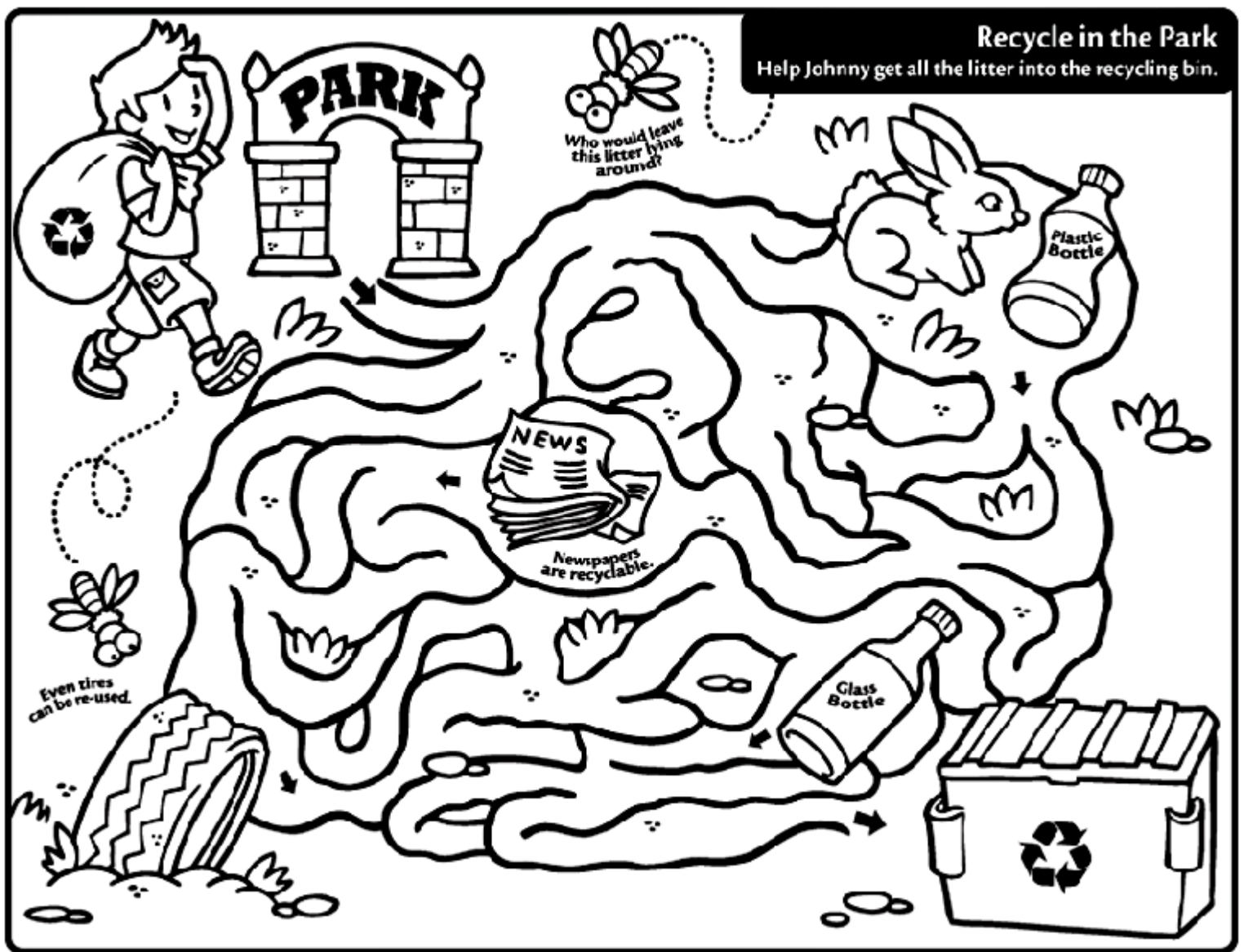
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Remember to Recycle!

Playtime at a park or playground is definitely a great part of summer! The next time you visit one of these fun places, you can do your part to contribute to the health and beauty of the area by checking around for litter and recyclable items. Newspapers (and most every other sort of paper), glass bottles, plastic bottles, and even tires can be recycled. You will be doing your community a great service by cleaning your park or playground, and encouraging your friends and family to do likewise. Don't forget to recycle in your home, too! The maze below takes a recycler through a path of discarded items he can recycle. Lead him the right way to let him collect all of the litter for the recycling bin! You can also color the picture, and mail it to us. 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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Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts (HOPE!)

Babb Creek Watershed Association — Antrim Micro-Hydropower Plant

A New Page in History!!!!

With the opening of a valve, a new page in history was written in the book of AMD treatment in Pennsylvania. PADEP Secretary **Michael Krancer** opened a valve as part of the July 18th site dedication, marking the beginning of a unique, renewable-energy, generator in Tioga County. The valve opening allowed treated acid mine water from the Antrim Treatment Plant to power a turbine and begin generating electricity to run the facility. Also on hand to participate in the celebration were **Mike Smith**, District Mining Manager, and **Mario Carrello**, Watershed Manager, both of the PADEP Moshannon Office, and SRWC participants and BioMost staff: **Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Shaun Busler, Sylvia Danehy, Bryan Page, Buck Neely, Ryan Mahoney, Kelsea Palmer, and Margaret Dunn.**

"This micro-hydro plant is the first of its kind in Pennsylvania to use acid mine water to generate renewable energy while creating no air or water pollution," Krancer said. "It helps to solve an existing water pollution problem by using a treated waste product from past mining activities to generate energy." *The Antrim Micro-Hydropower Project will be the first treatment plant in Pennsylvania to take acid mine drainage, a waste product, and not only create electricity but also sell a portion of the electricity back to the utility company without causing pollution!!!* Since the 1990's, AMD has been treated with lime at the Antrim Treatment Plant and, by 2002, 5 miles of Pine Creek had been restored to a viable fishery. Now, the plant does even more, and upon approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a portion of electricity generated will be sold to electric companies for revenue. **Bill Beacom**, the president of the **Babb Creek Watershed Association** said, "It is our hope that this project can be used throughout Pennsylvania and the United States so that they can produce revenue and get some more of these discharges cleaned up, and we'll have many more miles of polluted streams cleaned up."

The BCWA identified electric power production from the treatment plant discharge as a way to reduce the plant's operating costs and generate an additional revenue stream for the Antrim Treatment Trust, which was established by the Antrim Mining Company before going out of business. In 2008, BCWA received a DEP Energy Harvest Grant to install two hydroelectric turbines on the Antrim Treatment Plant effluent. In May of this year, BioMost, Inc. completed construction, which includes a small pond that collects treated water from the plant; 1,000 feet of pipeline; and a power house with two, 20-kilowatt turbines. One turbine is currently operating at the power house in order to supply electricity to operate the conventional treatment plant. When licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, however, both turbines will be used in order to supply power to "the grid", eliminating an estimated \$12,000 in annual electrical costs needed to operate the treatment plant and generating about \$10,000 per year in additional revenue for the Antrim Treatment Trust. **Woodlands Bank**, which administers the trust, and **Waste Management Inc.** were also involved in the project, teaming with the **BCWA, PADEP**, and **BioMost, Inc.** to form a partnership which has allowed this one-of-a-kind project to achieve success!!!!!!