

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on 10/11/12 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 9/13/12 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

11 Years and Still Counting on Fun: Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!

It was bound to happen one of these years! After 10 riverboat cruises, this one finally had something no previous event ever did—rain! But the damp weather didn't dampen the spirits of the hundreds of enthusiastic participants at the Ohio River Watershed Celebration on September 27th! This year's theme, "Our Rivers - Get to the Point," focused on how the three rivers that course through the Pittsburgh region have shaped the people and events that have influenced this country. The way significant milestones in our history can be traced back as the rivers changed from free flowing and wild to navigable industrial corridors was interestingly explored and discussed. Participants also learned how these once primarily utilitarian resources are being transformed into the life-blood of a new and more diverse and sustainable watershed.

With over 60 poster displays and attendees with a variety of backgrounds, the ORWC brought branches of commerce and industry, history and tourism, and recreation together for networking, education, and fun! Pre-cruise festivities in the morning gave participants the opportunity to see a working model of a lock and dam courtesy of the US Army Corps of Engineers and well as have their photo taken with "Wattley," courtesy of Duquesne Light! It's not every day one can see a propane bread truck, propane bi-fuel car, bi-fuel pick-up, Electric Mitsubishi Mie, and a propane school bus! Special thanks to the pre-cruise speakers, who included **John Arway**, Executive Director of the PA Fish & Boat Commission, and DEP Secretary **Michael Krancer** and a visit from Allegheny County Executive **Rich Fitzgerald**.

On board the *Empress*, 258 students, parents, and teachers became "habitat heroes", fly fishermen, bat biologists, monarch taggers and fighters of alien invasions, among other things. Thanks to the participating conservation and recreation organizations who facilitated activities aboard the boat, everyone participating on the "Imagination Cruise" learned how to take conservation personally in their watershed. The Carnegie Science Center kicked off the Imagination Cruise with a new assembly called "Take a Hike: Backyard Biodiversity." Students got an inside look at Rachel Carson's field notebook, and travelled along with her and other scientists to learn about everything from using wetlands to clean water to the benefits of using biodegradable materials instead of Styrofoam. Following the assembly, participants took to the three decks of the boat to participate in activities with the conservation and recreation groups on board. While having fun at each station, students also filled out Learner's Logs (for 4th –12th graders) and First Mate's Fun Pages (for Pre K – 3rd grade). These tools were specially designed to promote interaction with the organizations, to get the students thinking about conservation, and to provide a document of their journey. The stations were full of educational and entertaining activities, including identifying macroinvertebrates to determine stream health, tracking falcons, tagging monarch butterflies, building models of bats, casting a fly rod, and measuring big trees. The Pittsburgh Zoo and PPG Aquarium and the National Aviary also brought live animals for the students to observe.

Meanwhile, aboard the *Majestic*, participants 18 and over were treated to a spectacular guided narration during the sightseeing tour along portions of the Ohio, Allegheny, and Monongahela Rivers, compliments of **Maggie Hall** (PA DEP); **Geoffrey Goldberg** (Author, Bridges: A Postcard History); **Dave Plank** (PA DEP, retired); and **Joe Dinkel** (Municipal Authority of West View). Special presentations made during the cruise included **Sarah Powell**, Education & Advocacy Coordinator for the Nine Mile Run Watershed, who spoke on "Using Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management" and **Jack Felbinger**, Hydrologist with the Office of Surface Mining, whose talk was entitled "Coal Mining History in Western PA," as well as the Pro-Angler (FLW) who represented the Marcellus Shale Coalition Three Rivers Challenge.

Watershed Awards were presented by **R. John Dawes** of The Foundation for PA Watersheds to recognize the positive efforts and impacts of small local groups addressing watershed issues (which often operate on the proverbial shoestring budget). 4 groups won \$500 awards and 4 groups won \$250 awards in a fun poster contest: **1st place winners—Independence Conservancy, Paddle Without Pollution, Allegheny Clean Ways, Kiski-Conemaugh Stream Team and 2nd Place Winners—Evergreen Conservancy, Roaring Run Watershed Association, Shade Creek Watershed Association, Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center.**

Another highlight of the ORWC was the presentation of the 2012 Environmental Awards. Congratulations to the following winners: Energy Conservation: **Mr. Rick Price**, Executive Director of Pittsburgh Region Clean Cities; Government Service: **Jack Rokavek**, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission; Individual: **Doniele Russell**; and Recreation: **Dr. Vincent Troia** (Ohio River Trail Council).

We can't wait to see you all back again for next year's 12th Annual ORWC!!

2012 Ohio River Watershed
Celebration

“New Frontiers in Reclamation” at the PA AMR Conference

The 14th annual PA AMR Conference was held August 2-4 at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College, PA. With the theme “New Frontiers in Reclamation”, this year’s conference explored innovative ways to achieve abandoned mine reclamation in Pennsylvania. Those involved in AMD reclamation are recognizing that times are changing and we have indeed entered a new frontier in reclamation! The conference gave attendees the chance to share with each other some of the exciting opportunities that abound with new and emerging treatment technologies, in addition to partnership opportunities with industry in utilizing abandoned mine drainage and mine pool water.

The conference provided a useful forum for the dissemination of information and encouraged discussions between industry, watershed groups, and decision makers that can help to further innovations in public policy, abandoned mine reclamation, remediation, and restoration. Attending the conference from Stream Restoration Incorporated and BioMost, Inc. were **Tim Danehy**, **Margaret Dunn**, **Cliff Denholm**, **Shaun Busler**, and **Bryan Page**. Bryan was one of the Friday speakers with his presentation entitled “Micro-hydroelectric Power Generation Utilizing Mine Drainage.” Bryan discussed the two micro-hydroelectric turbines installed in 2012 at the Antrim Treatment Plant, the first project of its kind in PA that uses treated and untreated AMD to generate electricity. Shaun was another Friday speaker, with his talk on “Datashed 2.0.” Shaun presented basic information on the purpose and value of using Datashed, a free on-line, GIS-enabled database created to store water quality data and project-related information about watershed restoration projects. He discussed its importance as the single, largest-known, publicly-available repository of information related to specific individual passive treatment systems, and this information can be shared and utilized by many different groups and individuals. Check out the Datashed web site for yourself at www.datashed.org. Saturday’s line-up of speakers featured another passive treatment expert from SRI, Cliff Denholm. Cliff’s presentation was entitled “Passive Treatment System Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation Experiences.”

Other noted conference speakers were PA DEP Secretary **Michael Krancer**, who delivered the keynote address Friday morning, and **Ron Hamlen**, from the Lyme Disease Association of Southeastern PA. Ron spoke to a packed, standing-room-only crowd as he shared his expertise on lyme disease and its significance to those who often work outdoors. Another conference highlight was the presentation of this year’s MayFly Award, which went to **Bob Eppley** of the Blacklick Creek Watershed Association. The award itself was a beautiful one-of-a-kind welded sculpture by **Michael Bestwick** of Fennelton, PA.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Fantastic Fall Fun Facts

Fall is here! Pumpkins, acorns, changing leaves, crisp air... it's a great season of the year to enjoy some time outdoors! We have some cool fun fall trivia facts to share with you this month. To discover the amazing answers to the questions below, simply following the path and write down every 4th letter or number on the answer spaces in order. You'll be sure to learn something new to share with your friends or family! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!

1. The record for world's largest pumpkin was set last month. The pumpkin weighed ____ ____ ____ ____ pounds!
2. Squirrels aren't the only ones who enjoy acorns. People in Korea make ____ ____ ____ ____ out of acorns.
3. The full moon which appears closest to the first day of autumn has the special name ____ ____ ____ ____ ____ moon.
4. Researchers have found that people born in the ____ ____ ____ ____ have the highest chance of living to be 100 years old.
5. Farm raised turkeys cannot fly. But wild turkeys can fly for short distances at up to ____ ____ miles per hour!

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434 Spring Street Ext.
Mars, PA 16046

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A Huge Thank You to All the Generous Sponsors and Partners of the 11th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!

The success of the Ohio River Watershed Celebrations would not be possible without the tremendous volunteer support from generous Sponsors, Partners, and Facilitators! We thank the following organizations for their much-appreciated roles in allowing nearly 1000 participants to have an enjoyable and educational experience September 27th on Pittsburgh's Three Rivers! To view the record-breaking list of ORWC Partners, please check out our website at www.orwc.org/partners. Thanks again to our generous and valuable 2012 ORWC Sponsors:

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