

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 2/14/13 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 1/10/13 meeting attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, E. Hartmann, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, W. Taylor, S. Smith, F. VanAtta

### **Successful Stream Bank Stabilization at Carney Site**

When we talk about poor water quality in Pennsylvania, AMD almost always takes center stage. However, an increasingly larger problem, namely sediment pollution of our streams, is often left out of this conversation. According to a DEP study in 2000, mine drainage was a problem in 15% of PA streams. The same study also noted that channel sedimentation was a problem in 19% of streams.

A recent project of the SRWC focused on stream bank stabilization and habitat restoration of an area in Slippery Rock, PA, near the Slippery Rock Campground. In 1997, a new bridge was constructed across Slippery Rock Creek on West Park Road heading to Moraine State Park off highway SR108. Since bridge construction, neighborhood residents directly downstream have noticed accelerated erosion of the stream banks. One resident lost nearly 75 feet of their backyard to erosion, so efforts were needed to preserve the remaining property.

Construction for this project was performed during August of 2012 by **Shaun Busler** (who earlier completed the design and permitting) and **Ryan Mahoney** of **BioMost, Inc.** The long-term solutions integrated multiple technologies and methods. For instance, root wad revetment was used both to stabilize the stream bank and to provide in-stream habitat for aquatic life, especially fish, while boulders were utilized to strengthen the base of the slope while also providing support and structure for the root wads. Live stakes and brush layering were also placed along the length of the stream bank to provide vegetative support. In addition, the slope of the bank was reduced to about 4 horizontal :1 vertical in order to provide a gradual area for the establishment of vegetation and further reduce erosion. Grass seed was also spread prior to placement of coconut fiber blankets to further strengthen the bank above the water line to deter erosion during high flow events.



Shaun Busler uses a Bobcat 337 Excavator to regrade the stream bank along Slippery Rock Creek.

This stream bank stabilization project will have preserved and enhanced 200 linear feet of stream bank. Planting of native trees and shrubs in the near future will aid the restoration of natural habitat for wildlife along the stream. Needless to say, the SRWC is pleased to be a part of a project which both helps to reduce the amount of property lost to the owners along the creek and provides natural habitat.

A special thanks to **Deb and Gary Priore**, **Rich Gasior**, and **Darrel Carney**, who provided access to the project site and use of their land to complete the project, and to our funding partner, the **Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds**, and to partner **Allegheny Mineral** for providing the R6 and R7 riprap for the job, which was in short supply!

**If you wish to be a part of the project, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition volunteers will be helping in the planting of trees and shrubs this spring. If you are interested in joining us, please contact Shaun Busler at (724) 776-0161.**



Photos pre- and post-construction for the stream bank stabilization at the Carney project site, located about 500' downstream of West Park Road and across the stream from the Slippery Rock Campground in Slippery Rock, PA. (See front page article.)

### **Free Datashed Training to be Offered in March and April**

**FREE** Training Workshops are now available for those interested in learning how to fully utilize the features of Datashed ([www.datashed.org](http://www.datashed.org)). Datashed is a **free**, interactive, online tool, used to store, manage, and access data gathered from passive treatment systems across the commonwealth. Datashed allows watershed and passive treatment system data to be more easily shared and studied by volunteers, students, professionals, industry, and government agencies. In addition to storing and managing water monitoring data, the web-site can be used to store electronic copies of documents, such as, construction drawings and photographs, in order to further provide a resource for education and outreach efforts.

The training workshops will be held at the following dates and locations:

<b><u>Workshop Date</u></b>	<b><u>Register By</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
3/09/13	3/04/13	St. Francis University, DiSepio Institute and Wellness Center, Room 213/214
4/12/13	4/08/13	Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), office
4/19/13	4/15/13	Westminster College, Field Station

The workshops will cover such topics as Finding, viewing, and using stored information; Creating webpages for projects not on Datashed (Passive and Active Systems, Streams, Restoration Plans, etc.); Creating sample points in the database and uploading water monitoring data; Uploading documents, photos, etc.; Recording site inspections, maintenance events, and field data; Using the help section ... and more

All training sessions start at **10AM** and are planned to end by **4PM** with an hour break for lunch. Lunch is on your own and options will vary depending upon location. Additional time will be available to address specific questions of participants. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop, if they have one. As most locations have a limited number of laptops or desktops for use, when registering, please let us know if you will or won't be able to bring a laptop. Space is limited and participants are strongly encouraged to register. Additional specific information will be provided to participants prior to the events.

To register, please contact Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Inc. at 724-776-0161 or [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org).

Datashed is made possible through a partnership with the following organizations: 241 Computer Services, BioMost, Inc., EPCAMR, EPA Watershed Initiative, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, PA DEP, Stream Restoration Incorporated, and WPCAMR.





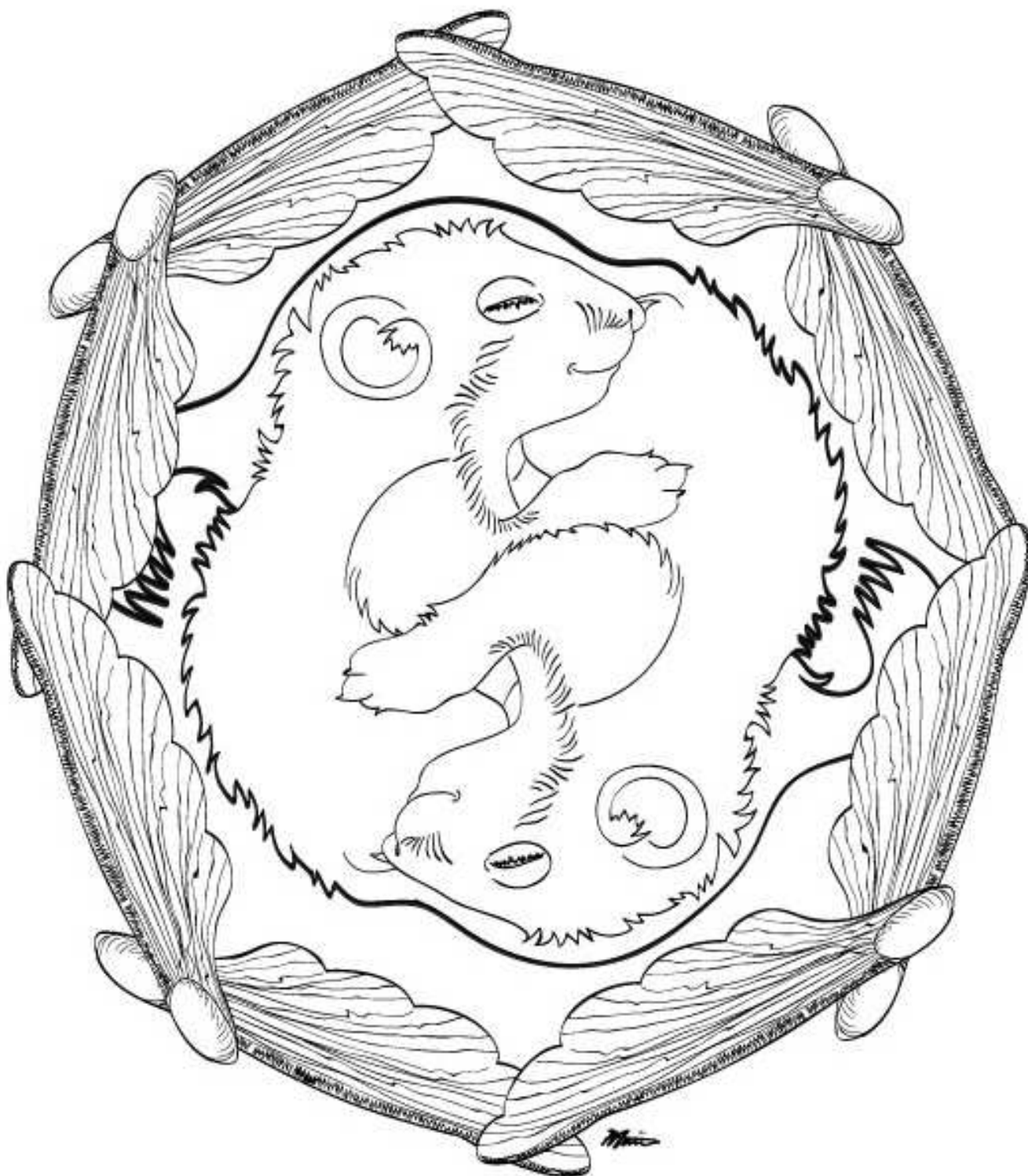
# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Hibernation Time

Winter brings cold and snow to many places, and animals in the wild have to do all they can to survive the harsh conditions. Some animals hibernate. Hibernation is an inactive, restful state when an animal's body temperature drops to a little below zero and metabolic activity is reduced to nearly zero. Bears, bats, turtles, bumblebees, snakes, hedgehogs, and chipmunks are some of the more well-known hibernating creatures. Enjoy coloring the picture below, and if you send it to us we will mail you a free gift certificate!



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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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## **Thank You “Adopt-A-Passive System” Volunteers!!!**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition hosted a Thank-You Dinner for our “Adopt-A-Passive System” Volunteers. The event, which took place at North Country Brewing in Slippery Rock, was held to honor and show appreciation for the service of our volunteers. These valuable volunteers donate their time to inspect our passive treatment systems and conduct water quality monitoring in order to make

sure the systems are functioning properly. These individuals act as our “eyes and ears” by helping us to measure the “pulse” of the systems and can alert us to when there are problems that need to be addressed. We would like to offer a **HUGH THANK YOU** to **Joe Puskas, Nora Puskas, Jim North, Brent Silvis, Keith Vensel, Ed Hartmann, Ron Greenwald, and Bob Shearer** for their service this past year! We look forward to another great year! Volunteers make all the difference and we are lucky to have partnered with so many great folks over the years! Thanks also to North Country Brewing, which always provides a fun and welcoming atmosphere for SRWC events—not to mention delicious food!

