

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 5/14/15 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 4/9/15 meeting attendance:

Robert Morris University and Slippery Rock Rotary Club

SRWC Presentations

Cliff Denholm of **Stream Restoration Incorporated** was asked to speak to two of **Dr. Valentin Kefeli's** Nutrition and Health classes at **Robert Morris University** on March 2, 2015. Cliff spoke about the importance of clean water to human health, challenges to providing clean water throughout the world, various sources of pollution and, of course, our favorite topic: acid mine drainage. Cliff then discussed technologies to treat mine water as well as our efforts to recover the iron- and manganese-bearing material from our passive treatment systems and to find economic uses for those materials.

Cliff was also invited to speak at the **Slippery Rock Rotary Club** meeting held on March 9, 2015. He was joined by **Margaret Dunn**, also of SRI and an SRWC participant. They spoke about the history of the SRWC and our efforts to restore streams located in the Slippery Rock Watershed that are impacted by abandoned mine drainage. They also discussed



our education programs and materials and briefly touched on our involvement with stream bank restoration. Margaret (*pictured in photo to the right*) and Cliff enjoyed getting out and meeting with others who are supportive and genuinely interested in our partnership efforts. They also had the opportunity to hear about some of the interesting work that the Slippery Rock Rotary Club is conducting including installation of a water well for a school and community in Uganda. Thanks to Rotarians **Ron Fodor** and **Valentin Kefeli** for the invitation to speak!

The SRWC is Now on Facebook!

Be sure to "like" us and please share with your friends! The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is now on Facebook! We'll be sharing our latest news, events, information, and photos in the fun world of Facebook. Look for great links to educational resources and much more!



Save-The-Date

June 25 & 26 — PA AMR Conference

Circle June 25th and 26th on your calendars! With the theme of "Reclaiming our Communities", the PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference is to be held at the Ramada Inn and Conference Center in State College, PA. Over 20 presenters are already scheduled to speak on a variety of interesting watershed-related topics, ranging from mine fires to water quality monitoring apps to wild edibles, and so much more. The conference is a wonderful opportunity for networking and sharing ideas. Don't miss out on it! Registration is happening now at the www.2015.treatminewater.com website.



Margaret Dunn and Cliff Denholm of the SRWC pose for a photo with Ron Fodor, President, Slippery Rock Rotary Club, who is also District Manager, Butler County Conservation District, and Mayor, Slippery Rock Borough. Thanks to you Ron and these organizations for the wonderful environmental and humanitarian accomplishments.

U. S. Office of Surface Mining Welcomes Korean Visitors

The first Pittsburgh Field Division newsletter of the new year by the U. S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (US OSM) featured the October 2014 visit by representatives from the **Korea Environment Corporation**, a government organization involved in stream restoration and protection. The visiting professionals were able to glean much insight from a roundtable discussion in the Regional Director’s Office that was led by **Ben Owens, Divisions Chief**, and **Rick Balogh, Supervisory Program Specialist** and from tours to several treatment sites in PA. The US OSM Appalachian Regional Office, along with Stream Restoration Incorporated, the SRWC, PADEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and others, shared experiences related to the remediation of mine drainage. We had a wonderful couple of days spending time with our new friends, **Min Ju Kang** and **Young-Min Lee**, who face the task of drafting regulations to address regulatory control and the remediation of existing drainage from a variety of coal and non-coal sources. We look forward to continuing a relationship with our new friends and wish them luck in their efforts to restore watersheds in their home country. Check out the March 2015 *Catalyst* for details about the tour that included sites in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed!!!



Learn From a Guest — Learn From the Best!

SRWC soil scientist, **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**, is enjoying teaching classes at **Robert Morris University**. One of his newest classes focuses on a series of guest speakers that share their personal expertise in areas relating to abandoned mine reclamation, the history of coal mining in western PA, passive treatment systems, the importance of public-private partnerships like the SRWC, environmental regulations, and more. **Wil Taylor, Jennings Environmental Education Center**, and **Cliff Denholm, Stream Restoration Incorporated**, also participants in the SRWC, have served as two of Dr. Kefeli’s guest lecturers. Dr. Kefeli’s emphasis on sustainability, uses for fabricated soil, agro-ecology, and eco-technology certainly make for some interesting and exciting topics for students to study!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Mined Products Pathways

We don't often think about all of the different metals and minerals that make up so many products we use and enjoy in our daily lives. Mining is an important process in carefully removing these useful materials from the earth. Below are the names of 8 common earth materials mined today which are used in many products you will recognize. Trace the path connecting each mineral to examples of what it is used in, then write the name of the mineral or metal on the line in each box. If you send us your completed paper, we will give you a \$1 credit to spend on Amazon.com! You can save up your credits to buy something really great!

Sulfur			Food seasoning, fire extinguishing, mouthwash _____
Silver			Batteries, mirrors, jewelry _____
Quartz			Statues, animal feed, glass, paper _____
Halite			Medallions, coins, jewelry, dentistry _____
Copper			Pottery, plastics, toothpaste, paint pigment _____
Calcite			Electric wires, plumbing, cook- ing utensils _____
Fluorite			Explosives, fuels, fertilizers _____
Gold			Prisms, TVs, computers, soap, sandpaper; most common mineral in earth's crust!! _____

Name _____ Age ____

Address _____

Parent's email address for Amazon.com gift credit:



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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Grove City College **Alumni Career Panel Night**

Grove City College students had a chance to connect with alumni for valuable information and advice about careers during the Alumni Career Panel Night held on Thursday, March 26th in the Hall of Arts and Letters on campus. Close to 80 alumni professionals from 17 different career fields provided students with the opportunity to gain an understanding of the variety of available career paths after graduation.

Shaun Busler of Stream Restoration Incorporated and an SRWC participant was asked to be on the alumni panel and excitedly accepted the chance to share his job experiences with current GCC students. Shaun discussed his work with watershed groups, non-profit organizations, state and federal agencies, and the mining industry in the restoration of watersheds affected by abandoned mine drainage. He also shared his work experiences with permitting, wetland mitigation, GIS activities, map creation, and more. His advice to current college students interested in a science career path was to seek internships and volunteer opportunities to gain hands-on experience in their fields of study.

Shaun also welcomed the opportunity to speak with several college students, who asked great questions. He and other alumni panel members were treated to a yummy dinner and delicious dessert reception as part of the evening. Panelists also received a lovely Grove City College keepsake from Wendell August Forge.

Interestingly, another Grove City College alumna on the sciences career panel was none other than **Candace McClure**, a former intern at SRI! Candace is currently a senior medical research biostatistician with North American Science Associates, Inc. (NAMSA). Her advice for students was to establish a group of multidisciplinary mentors who can give advice on career decisions and provide recommendations and networking contacts.

The SRWC is always ready to work with college volunteers to assist with meaningful, exciting projects in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming involved in the SRWC, please contact us via email (sri@streamrestorationinc.org) or phone (724-776-0161).