

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 7/9/15 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
 6/11/15 meeting attendance: B. Busler, C. Busler, I. Busler, M. Busler, S. Busler, C. Denholm, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

No “Horsing Around” at the ASMR Conference in Lexington **(well, maybe just a little)**

The 32nd Annual Meeting of the **American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR)**, in conjunction with the 9th Annual Meeting of the **Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI)**, was held from June 7 through 11 in the horse capital of the world: Lexington, Kentucky. With the theme of “Reclamation Opportunities for a Sustainable Future”, participants from across the country and internationally joined together for the technical sessions, exhibitors’ hall, workshops, tours, and meetings.

Making the trip to Lexington from western PA and representing the SRWC and Stream Restoration Incorporated were **Margaret Dunn, Tim Danehy, Ryan Mahony, Dan Guy, and Buck Neely**. Everyone in the delegation participated in the conference. Buck and Ryan were moderators for some of the technical sessions. Dan gave a presentation on the successful streambank stabilization project at the **Slippery Rock Campground**. Ryan gave a presentation about maintenance activities at some of the passive systems including **DeSale Phase 2** in the headwaters of Seaton Creek within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. Tim and Margaret spoke about the **Babbs Creek Watershed Association’s** micro-hydropower facility which is the **first (!!!!)** to receive a Traditional License to become a net producer that uses AMD to generate electricity. They also announced the upcoming installation of a pico-hydropower demonstration system using abandoned mine drainage at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center!!** Margaret also was very honored to be asked to speak about her on-going enthusiastic support of young professionals at the meeting of the **Wild Women of Reclamation!!!** SRWC and SRI also had a display which showcased ceramic mugs, jewelry, and other items from **Clean Creek Products**. **Excitingly, every ceramic item displayed at the ASMR conference was sold with all proceeds going towards maintenance of passive treatment systems!!!**

As always, ASMR offered an excellent chance to catch up with old friends and establish new relationships with those in the reclamation field. Participants also enjoyed many interesting extra activities which showcased some of the unique features that make the “Bluegrass State” such a beautiful area. Home to some of the world’s finest racehorses, the world’s longest cave (Mammoth Cave), birthplace of the song “Happy Birthday to You”, and the sole manufacturer of Post-It notes, Kentucky has a lovely charm that was enjoyed by all who attended this year’s conference. The Evening Social with a delicious dinner took place at the 1250-acre Kentucky Horse Park. Other fun outings included the Spouse Events: a Forestry Field tour, a tour of historic sites in Lexington which included the Hunt-Morgan houses, Henry Clay Estate, and Shaker Village.

The June 9th ASMR-ARRI Field Tour took participants to the eastern Kentucky coalfields. At the PVB Wildlife Management Area that was mined in the early 2000s, the activities focused on invasive species removal, American Chestnut plantings, climate change adaptation studies, and native warm-season grass experiments. The Little Elk mountaintop removal surface mine had activities where Pine Branch Mining provided a demonstration of grading techniques used in the Forestry Reclamation Approach, as well as a visit to an 18-year old forest which was planted on low-compaction soil plots.

Special thanks to the ASMR Program Committee and to the planning committee members for the opportunity to learn more and to contribute to the understanding of mine restoration!



Stream Restoration Inc. and Clean Creek Products exhibit at the 2015 American Society of Mining and Reclamation annual conference in Lexington, Kentucky.

Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Passive Systems “The Renaissance Begins”

As many of us know, drainage from abandoned coal mines is one of the largest sources of stream impairment in Pennsylvania, degrading over 5,500 miles of streams. To help to continue to address this legacy issue, the Abandoned Mine Drainage Abatement and Treatment Program (**AMDATP**) was created along with other programs through Act 13 of 2012. The Commonwealth Financing Authority (**CFA**) of the PA Department of Community & Economic Development (**DCED**) administers the AMDATP.

Stream Restoration Incorporated with the SRWC applied for and received funding through the AMDATP in 2014 and has recently started work on their “Slippery Rock Watershed Renaissance” project. The focus of the “Renaissance” this summer is all about on-the-ground construction efforts, which includes repair, maintenance, and improvement activities at 3 passive treatment systems located in Marion, Brady, and Venango Townships, Butler County.

The Act 13 funding has also allowed for the acquisition of additional water sampling equipment and laboratory analysis of samples for the **SRWC’s “Adopt-a-Passive-System” volunteers** for ongoing monitoring and performance evaluation of our passive systems; the installation of a **nano-power system to use treated AMD to generate electricity at the Jennings Environmental Education Center**; the elimination of leakage in the treatment wetland and other maintenance to add to the performance of the McIntire PTS, which continues to show tremendous success in removing iron, manganese, aluminum, and improving pH; and the removal of sludge at the Erico PTS which has been operational since 2004. (Hard to believe that the Erico PTS has been online for over a decade!!!) We are thankful and excited to put the Act 13 funds to good use as we work on mid-term maintenance and repair of systems that have proven very valuable to the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed in terms of the improvement in stream quality, wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreation for many residents and visitors! What is also exciting is that through the grant, additional funds are being provided to help with long-term O&M of our passive systems!!!

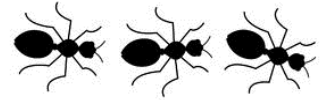
We will never be able to adequately express our thanks to our partners who have provided generous and valuable support for ongoing monitoring and maintenance activities at the sites:

- Colcom Foundation
- Harsco Minerals
- US Office of Surface Mining
- PA DEP
- WPCAMR
- Jennings Environmental Education Center
- BioMost, Inc.



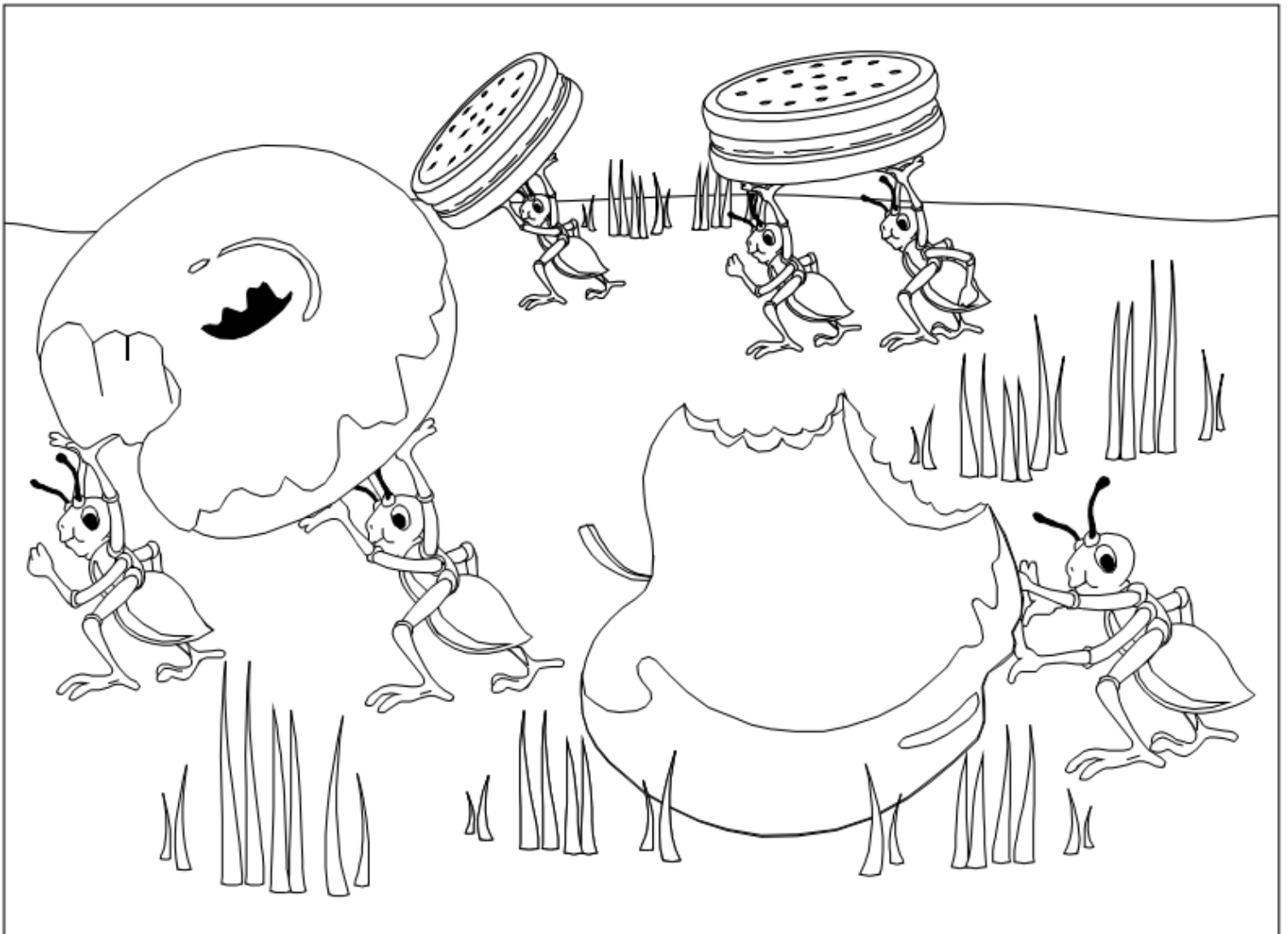
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Amazing Ants!

Maybe you've heard the joke about ants carrying away your picnic basket. Ants actually are extremely strong insects for their size! Did you know the leafcutter ant can lift and carry in their jaws something 50 times their own body weight? That's like a person lifting a truck with his teeth! And an Asian weaver ant was photographed carrying 100 times its own weight! Different types of ants will eat different things, depending on their species. Some eat wood, some eat fruits, others will eat other ants! Have fun coloring the ant picture below, and if you send us your completed paper we'll give you a \$1 credit to Amazon.com that you can save and collect more of, to buy something really cool!



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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Mark Your Calendar for the Lake Arthur Regatta

Moraine State Park is a beautiful setting for the exciting Lake Arthur Regatta! This 2-day event will take place Saturday and Sunday, August 1st and 2nd, at the South Shore of Lake Arthur. With no admission or parking fee and with many free events, the Regatta is the perfect family outing for those who love the outdoors.

Over 9500 visitors came to the 2014 Regatta, experiencing the many land and lake activities, along with new opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of the 3225-acre park. 40 miles of scenic shoreline await you! Some of the many activities planned for the weekend include: sailing races, fireworks, several live musical performances, Sirkus Dayz Fire Hula Hooping, windsurfing, paddleboarding, kayaking, fly casting, dead fish canoe polo, Puddle Duck Racer World Championships, PA SUP Championship, PDGA Pro Disc Golf World Championships, swimming, sand volleyball games, mountain bike group ride, dozens of food, craft, merchandise, non-profits, and business vendors, and much more!



Children's activities include: free mentored family fishing, Field & Stream archery, boat-building with The Home Depot, Touch-a-Fire truck, native butterfly release, sidewalk chalk murals, barrel train rides, playground, K-LOVE radio and Froggy 104.3 activities, nautical nature cruises, Pittsburgh International Children's Theater crafts and storytelling, Native Wildlife Experiences, School of Rock drum circle, Sammy the Otter, swimming, and more!

You won't want to miss Regatta weekend! Visit www.lakearthurregatta.org for schedules, details, etc.