

## THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 3/9/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.  
**2/9/17 meeting attendance:** H. Bloom, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, A. Franze, A. Franze, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

### The Catalyst's Farewell: Our Final Mailed Print Edition

### New Digital Online Catalyst Begins in April



This March edition of The Catalyst marks the end of one era and the beginning of another. To our loyal readers (over 1200 of you!) who span a dozen countries over five continents, we thank you for reading our newsletter and keeping up with our activities. Starting next month, in April, The Catalyst newsletter will no longer be mailed in print form. To reduce paper waste, help conserve our natural resources, and cut costs, the newsletter of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition will be available in an online-only format. If you would like to receive digital Catalyst issues, beginning in April, please go to our web site [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org) then click "Newsletter Sign-up" from the home page. Simply fill out your name and email address, and you won't miss an issue! You may also call us at **724-776-0161**, or email us your name and email address at [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org). For our readers who have provided us an email address in the past, we will begin

sending you the digital Catalyst in April. If you do not have an email account but still wish to receive The Catalyst, please call us and we will do our best to mail a limited number of print copies. As a reminder, all Catalyst issues dating back to 1998 are archived and available to read on our website.

The new digital Catalyst will keep the same general content and layout, but will not be mailed to those accustomed to receiving it in paper form. Children who have enjoyed our Kids Catalyst page and its rewards can still collect their special prizes — if you print The Catalyst from your printer at home, kids can still complete their special Kids Catalyst activity and send it to us for a prize. We hope to keep all of our current subscribers and expand to new readers as well, so please help us spread the word about our newsletter change, and remember to check your email inbox for the April Catalyst newsletter edition!

We also want to remind all readers that anyone and everyone is welcome to attend our monthly meetings to learn more about what we are doing to improve the habitat and water of the Slippery Rock Creek watershed. Meetings are held monthly, every second Thursday at 7 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center at 2951 Prospect Road in Slippery Rock. We encourage you to come check us out, all are welcome and attendance is always rewarded with free pizza and pop!

Please give us a call at 724-776-0161 with any questions about our monthly meetings or about the new digital Catalyst.





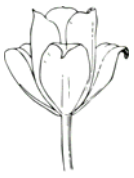
Prairie Improvement Day volunteers pose at the main entrance of Jennings Environmental Education Center. An enthusiastic group helped with annual care of the relic prairie on January 21st (*please see article below*).

## **A Picture-Perfect Prairie Improvement Day!**

(Written by Brittany Nulph, Jennings Intern)

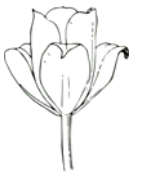
On an unusually warm January 21<sup>st</sup> day, the community in and around Slippy Rock donated part of their Saturday, and all of their stomachs, to participate in Prairie Improvement Day at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Jennings is unique to the Pennsylvania state park system, as it is home to the easternmost managed and protected prairie in the United States, and the only managed and protected prairie in the state of Pennsylvania. The Jennings prairie is habitat to rare and endangered animals and some unusual plant species. That being said, Jennings draws many visitors of all walks of life who come to see this amazing and unique ecosystem. In preparation for the upcoming season, Jennings, for the past fifteen consecutive years, has implemented Prairie Improvement Day. This year, more than 80 volunteers dedicated their time to help improve the conditions of the prairie. Volunteers including boy scouts cut and removed four large, fully grown trees from the prairie. Volunteers also removed small woody growth, such as Shingle Oak, and Dogwood saplings from specific areas in the prairie. For lunch, 9 local restaurants and Jennings staff donated sixteen different kinds of soup, including vegetarian options. Each volunteer received a commemorative soup mug as a thank you for their time and service. Prairie Improvement Day 2017 was a complete success, and Jennings Environmental Education Center hopes to keep the tradition going to involve the community in the care and maintenance of the prairie and get folks outdoors during the chilly winter months. Jennings encourages everyone to visit the park in the upcoming season and enjoy the many features it has to offer: a unique combination of prairie and forest, a wide array of resource and education opportunities, miles of scenic hiking trails, and the 20-acre prairie ecosystem - home to distinctive prairie plants and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. We hope to see new and return visitors at Jennings soon - come and appreciate the fruits of the labor on this successful day!





# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

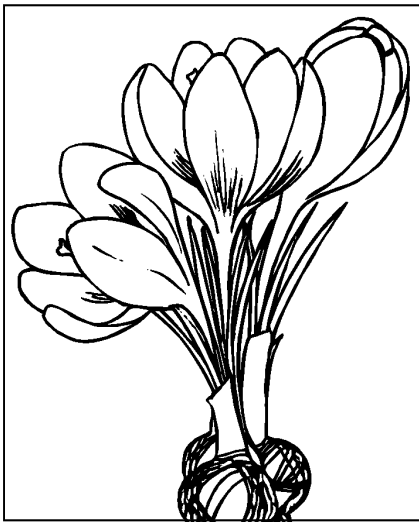


## The Colors of Spring

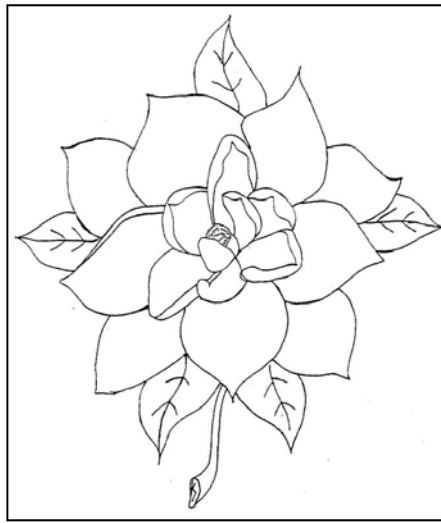
Spring is almost here! March 20 is the first day of spring, and soon the flowers will be blooming with beautiful colors and sweet scents! We have 6 flowers below for you to color— you may notice some of these growing in your yard, neighborhood, park, etc.! Use the numbered key of colors to color the flowers accurately. Some of these 6 flowers can typically be found in different colors, but we chose the more common colors to help you spot them in nature. Have fun coloring, and enjoy spring! If you mail us your completed picture, we will send you a free gift certificate!

1 = yellow    2 = purple    3 = white    4 = orange    5 = red

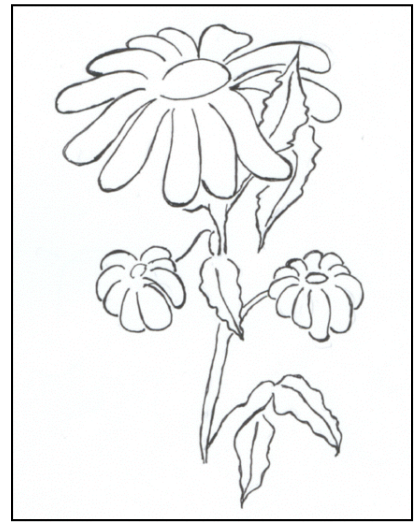
Crocus (2)



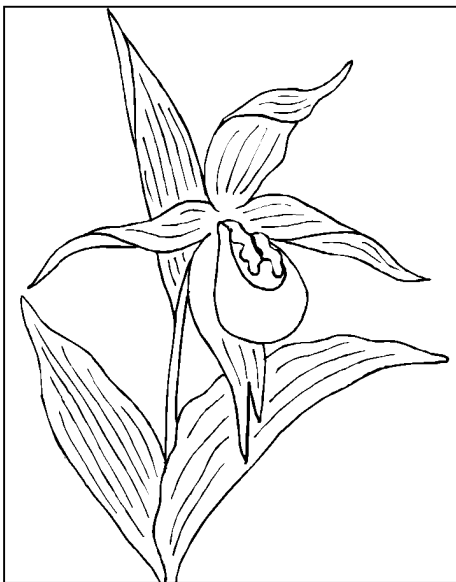
Magnolia (3)



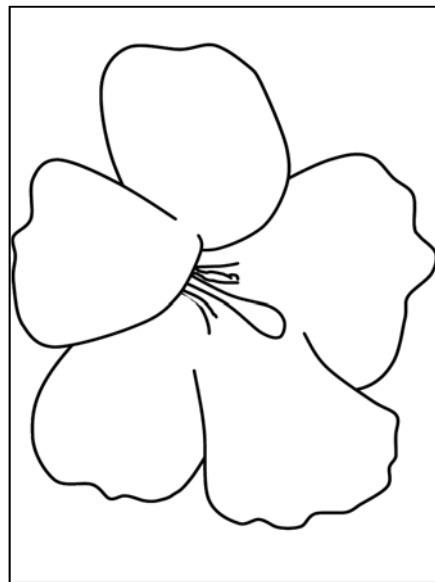
Daisy (1)



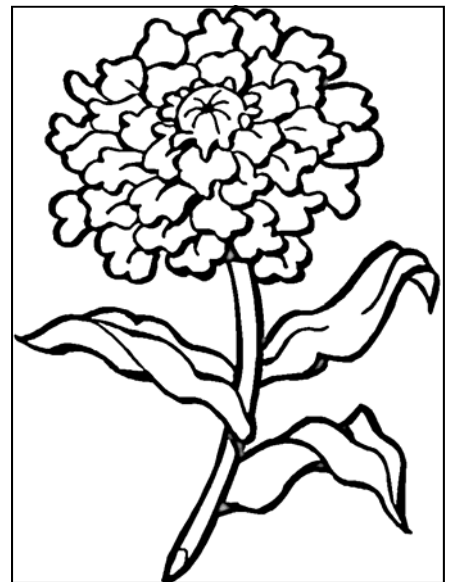
Orchid (2)



Hibiscus (5)



Marigold (4)



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

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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Mars, PA 16046

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## Updated 2017 Recycling Guide Now Available!

Butler County's updated 2017 Reuse, Recycling and Waste Resource Guide is now posted on the county's Recycling & Waste Management website. This very helpful guide can be accessed at [www.recyclebutler.us](http://www.recyclebutler.us) or at [www.co.butler.pa.us](http://www.co.butler.pa.us) under "Departments" then "Recycling & Waste Management" then "Resource Guide". The guide will be updated throughout the year as new information becomes available. Anyone with questions or suggestions can contact **Sheryl Kelly** at the Butler County Department of Recycling and Waste Management. Sheryl is an Environmental Specialist, Recycling and Waste Management Coordinator, and PROP-Certified Recycling Professional, who can be reached by phone at 724-284-5303 or via email at [skelly@co.butler.pa.us](mailto:skelly@co.butler.pa.us).

The Reuse, Recycling, and Waste Resource Guide contains much useful information on what and how to recycle, including information about those bulky or possibly hazardous materials you may not be sure what to do with! There are tips on recycling everything, from aluminum, ammunition, and antifreeze, to trophies, wood waste, and writing instruments. If you don't regularly recycle, we hope you will start! All residential trash haulers are required to offer curbside recycling services to their residential customers in Butler County. For those in need of a recycling drop-off location, for common items such as glass, plastics, and cans, you can use: The Northwest Sanitary Landfill Courtesy Recycling Dropoff Site at 1436 West Sunbury Road, West Sunbury; and The Seneca Landfill Courtesy Recycling Dropoff Site at 421 Hartmann Road, in Evans City.



Keep in mind that one of the most common household materials that can be recycled, but often isn't is paperboard. That's the stuff packing up boxes of pasta, boxes of crackers, boxes of cereal, boxes of dozens of items in your home! These thin boxes can be flattened down and placed curbside for recycling.

We hope many of you have made the 3 R's a goal for 2017: Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! As you contemplate simple changes and action you can take to conserve our natural resources, we encourage you to remember 3 common materials that will not decompose: Styrofoam, aluminum, and glass. Avoid using these, and reuse or recycle what you can!