

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 4/13/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
 3/9/17 meeting attendance: H. Bloom, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, L. Furst, B. Hedin, M. Hollinger, B. Lupold, J. Matheny, B. Miller-Parrish, J. Puskas, S. Puskas, S. Smith, S. Taylor, W. Taylor, D. Tiche

Welcome to the Digital Catalyst!

This April edition of the digital Catalyst newsletter marks the end of one era and the beginning of another. The Catalyst is now paperless! We are excited about the potential this change has to reduce paper waste, save energy, help conserve natural resources, and cut costs. A few reminders...

- All Catalyst issues dating back to 1998 are archived and available to read on our website.
- 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.
- A limited number of print copies of the Catalyst may be available to those needing one. Please give us a call at 724-776-0161 to request print editions of the Catalyst.
- Our next meeting is May 11th. We invite all Catalyst readers, anyone and everyone, 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. All are welcome! 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 — attendance is always rewarded with free pizza and pop!

Guest Speaking Double-Header: AMD and GIS Info Shared in Local School

Shaun Busler, SRWC participant and GIS Professional, recently made a trip to St. Luke Lutheran School in Cabot, Butler County. Shaun spoke to 19 seventh graders on two topics near and dear to his heart: abandoned mine drainage and GIS. Shaun presented information on AMD during the 7th graders' science class, then trailed them down the hallway and again guest lectured, this time all about GIS during their geography class! Students were interested to learn how AMD is a major water polluter in Pennsylvania, degrading over 5,000 miles of streams, and a pollution-causer in countries all over the world. Students learned about different types of mining, how current mining practices have changed from mining in previous decades, how AMD forms, what it looks like, and what some of the options are for treating it. On the geography side of things, Shaun shared about the mapping technology known as Geographic Information Systems, which students had read about in their textbook. Of particular interest were map comparisons of several well-known areas in the Butler region, with current and much older maps overlaid to see what particular landmarks or areas used to look like long ago, compared with what is on the land now. Many real-world applications for GIS were discussed, including how Shaun uses the technology in the wetland biology aspects of his job. For anyone interested in learning about or sharing their own GIS uses, the upcoming 25th Annual PA GIS Conference is a great place to do so! Held at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center in State College, the conference is set to take place May 15-17 and offers participants a wonderful forum to exchange GIS ideas and explore the future of this exciting technology.



Twenty-one volunteers spent several hours on March 26 receiving training on how to be watershed monitors! Instruction on how to do site inspections and use water quality test kits has our new round of helpers ready for action, as they will perform regular check-ups on several local passive treatment systems (*see article below*).

Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System Volunteer Training

On Sunday, March 26, 2017, a brand new group of volunteers were provided training for the Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System Program. Twenty-one volunteers participated in the training event. About fifteen of the volunteers were students from Slippery Rock University. Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) participants **Wil Taylor** of the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** and **Cliff Denholm** of **Stream Restoration Incorporated** conducted the training. During the training session, volunteers learned about how to conduct site inspections and how to use water quality test kits to determine how the passive treatment systems are performing. The volunteers also learned how to enter their data onto Datashed (www.datashed.org). Datashed is a free online tool to assist watershed groups, government agencies, volunteers, students, and industry in storing and analyzing water quality information from passive treatment systems. Datashed users can share tips, strategies, and news about the operation and maintenance of their systems. In addition, the volunteers learned about the SRWC, the coal mining history of Pennsylvania, how acid mine drainage forms, and various treatment options. The volunteers will receive additional site-specific training when they visit the treatment systems they will be monitoring.

We greatly appreciate the Jennings Environmental Education Center for once again hosting our event and thank the following volunteers who attended the training session:



Jordan Ayoub
Zane Barger
Janine Berner
Heather Bloom
Andy Franze
Gavin Garrigan
Katherine Harry

Jeff Henderson
Abigail Hopkins
Matt Kaercher
Emily Kirkwood
Henry Kramer
Wyatt Moyer
Ty Rex

Any Schrier
Luke Sherer
Courtney Slavic
Taylor Smith
Maddie Stanisch
Megan Stephenson
Henry Thornton



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

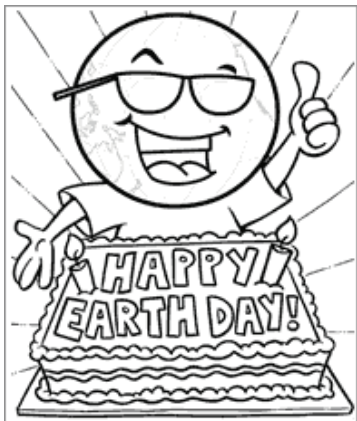


Earth Day Bookmarks to Color!

Earth Day 2017 will be celebrated on April 22 by millions of people all across the globe! It's a great time to learn more about our planet and how to take care of it. Everyone can do their part to make Earth cleaner and greener. Here are 7 simple ideas for you kids to try—and remind your parents to do these, too!

1. Turn off the light when you leave a room (save electricity)
2. Choose products that are not over-packaged (reduce waste)
3. Walk or ride a bike instead of traveling by car (save gas, reduce air pollution)
4. Shut off the water while brushing your teeth and take shorter showers (save water)
5. Collect kitchen scraps and make your own compost (reduce waste)
6. Recycle plastic, glass, paper, etc. (reduce waste)
7. Use canvas or other re-usable bags for shopping instead of plastic (reduce waste)

We'd love to hear how you or your family makes an effort to help our planet! Write to us and share your ideas! And have fun cutting out and coloring the Earth Day bookmarks below. May they be a reminder all year long how important it is to help our planet be healthy! If you'd like to send us one, we'd gladly reward you with a \$1 Amazon credit, that can be saved for a special purchase later on!



Name _____ Age _____ Parent email _____

Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
434 Spring Street Ext.
Mars, PA 16046

Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, BioMost, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 434 Spring Street Ext., Mars, PA 16046 (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, sri@streamrestorationinc.org, www.srwc.org. April distribution: 412 copies

Celebrate Earth Day! Local Activities Abound!

April 22nd is a day to celebrate our beautiful planet Earth! Earth Day festivities have come a long way since the very first Earth Day, way back in the year 1970. Now over 200 million people in 196 countries participate in Earth Day, making it the world's largest civic observance. April 22nd is sure to be a day of energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to protecting our environment and making our planet a greener and healthier place to live. For those in the western Pennsylvania area, there are plenty of Earth Day activities to get involved with!

At Slippery Rock University... The Children's Earth Day Celebration, from 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM at the Macoskey Center (Rain Location: University Union). Visitors can celebrate Earth Day with the Kaleidoscope Arts Festival and the Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research at Slippery Rock University. This year's family-oriented celebration includes arts & crafts, games, and activities for people of all ages. Enjoy live performances while taking part in ongoing earth-friendly and interactive demonstrations with local sustainable vendors. Food and beverages will be available for sale, with free arts & crafts, games, and activities happening all day.

Children's Day Performer Schedule:

12:15 PM: Bright Star Children's Theatre Co. presents Gus Goes Green: A STEM Adventure
2 PM: SRU Music Therapy Club
3 PM: New Castle Playhouse Mini Stars

At Jennings Environmental Education Center... The community is invited to volunteer to participate in "**Take Back the Woods: Battling Invasive Species**," to help remove invasive plants from the park on the same day 9 AM - 1 PM. (Registration is required through DCNR's Calendar of Events online page, and participants must be at least 12 years old). A hearty and delicious lunch, featuring some of the plants volunteers will be "weeding out", will be provided to all who help out. Each volunteer will also receive a PA native plant to take home for their garden or yard.

At Clearview Mall in Butler... A "Go Green" festival will take place 11 AM to 5 PM. This free, public event will feature displays and information about "green" products and services, home improvement businesses, conservation organizations, and electric vehicles.