

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 6/14/18 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
5/10/18 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, F. VanAtta

American Society of Mining & Reclamation Conference in St. Louis



A number of Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition participants attended the 35th Annual American Society of Mining & Reclamation (ASMR) conference that took place this year in St. Louis, Missouri, from June 3rd to 7th. Attendees included **Dr. Fred Brenner, Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Margaret Dunn, Dan Guy, Ryan Mahony, and Buck Neely**. Three SRWC participants gave presentations at the conference, sharing some project results with the potential to help others facing similar reclamation tasks. **Dan Guy** spoke on the "Lion Mining Borehole Project: Drilling a Flowing Artesian Water Well into a Mine Pool." **Ryan Mahony** talked about

"Passive System Rehabilitation of a High Flow Acidic Coal Mine Discharge." And **Tim Danehy's** presentation was entitled "Retrofitting a Lime Doser with Automatic Siphon and MixWell System."

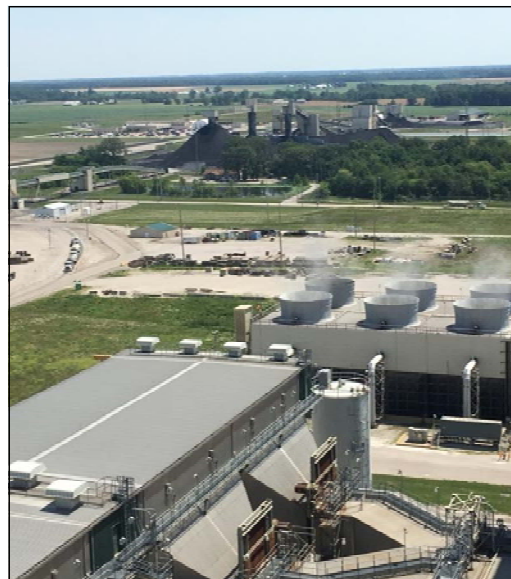
The conference not only provides a great opportunity to learn about the latest mining and reclamation research and application, but it is also a chance to meet up with friends and colleagues who we don't get to see very often. Congratulations to our friends **Paul Eger**, who won the Researcher of the Year Award, and **Julie LaBar**, who won the Early Career Award.

When not busy learning, we got an opportunity to do a little exploring, including walking around the city. We saw the Arch and visited the historic courthouse where the Dred Scott case started. On the final day of the conference, we had the opportunity to tour the state-of-the-art Prairie State Power Plant (see photos below), which utilizes the latest technologies to improve efficiency and greatly reduce pollution emissions. In addition, it is located next to the underground coal mine that fuels the plant, further reducing fossil fuel usage that would otherwise be needed to transport the coal to the plant. As always, we enjoyed the conference and look forward to next year's ASMR meeting, which will take place in Big Sky, Montana.



#

#





Two of the Jennings Environmental Education Center's most treasured residents: the endangered massasauga rattlesnake, and the blazing star! *For more information, please see article below.*

Get to Know the Jennings Prairie

Did you know there is a spot in western Pennsylvania that is home to a rare prairie ecosystem? Jennings Environmental Education Center in Butler County encompasses 300 acres of Pennsylvania state park, 20 of which consist of an amazing relict prairie. The Jennings relict prairie is the only publicly protected prairie ecosystem in PA. To even have a prairie in PA is extremely rare, as most are found further to the west in Ohio, Indiana, and across the Midwest to the Rocky Mountains. The prairie at Jennings provides habitat for plants that are unique to prairie and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. Only 4 of 19 historic populations still exist today. The massasauga rattlesnake is one of three venomous snakes native to PA. However, it has a very timid, mild temperament and is not likely to be aggressive. Most massasaugas will rely on their camouflage and remain quiet and still when approached. This shy, small-to-medium (adult length averages 20 to 30 inches) snake makes it summertime home at the prairie. The adult snake's rattle is often mistaken for the buzz of an insect, as the eastern massasauga's rattle is barely audible beyond a distance of five feet. The massasauga is light gray with a color pattern of large dark brown and black blotches. Young rattlesnakes measure approximately nine inches long and have a yellow-tipped tail with a "button" rather than a fully-developed functioning rattle.

To help protect the endangered massasauga rattlesnake, its prairie home must also be protected. Jennings is hosting a series of "Master Gardeners Prairie Gateway Garden Work Nights" this summer. The next few prairie work nights will take place **June 26, July 10, July 24, and August 7**, all from **6 PM to 7:30 PM**. Meet at the prairie-side parking lot at Jennings, and join Master Gardeners who will be on site working to maintain the Prairie Gateway Gardens. Visitors are invited to pitch in, or spend time talking with Master Gardeners about gardening with native plants. These work nights are subject to cancellation if the weather does not cooperate. Several prairie work nights will be held right around the peak blooming time of the prairie's most noteworthy and spectacular flower, the blazing star, which shows off a glorious bright purple color in the midst of summer. Jennings was the first state park established to protect an individual plant species, which is the blazing star, and holds an annual festival each July called "Celebrate the Bloom" to showcase its unique prairie and beautiful flower. This year's **FREE Celebrate the Bloom festival** will take place on **July 28th from 9 AM to 6 PM** with live music, outdoor activities, nature walks, demonstrations, artisan vendors, food, and more — something for the whole family! Unique handwoven items, watercolor, photography, leatherwork, metalwork and much more will be out for display and sale by dozens of talented artists. Come say hello to your friendly SRWC participants, and stop by our table of Clean Creek Products to check out some amazing, beautiful pottery, jewelry, and more created by local artists using passive treatment system byproducts — the pigments made from repurposed metals create one-of-a-kind colors, and every purchase goes toward cleaning the waters of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed! We hope to see you there, and remember Jennings is located just an hour from both Pittsburgh and Erie!



The KIDS Catalyst

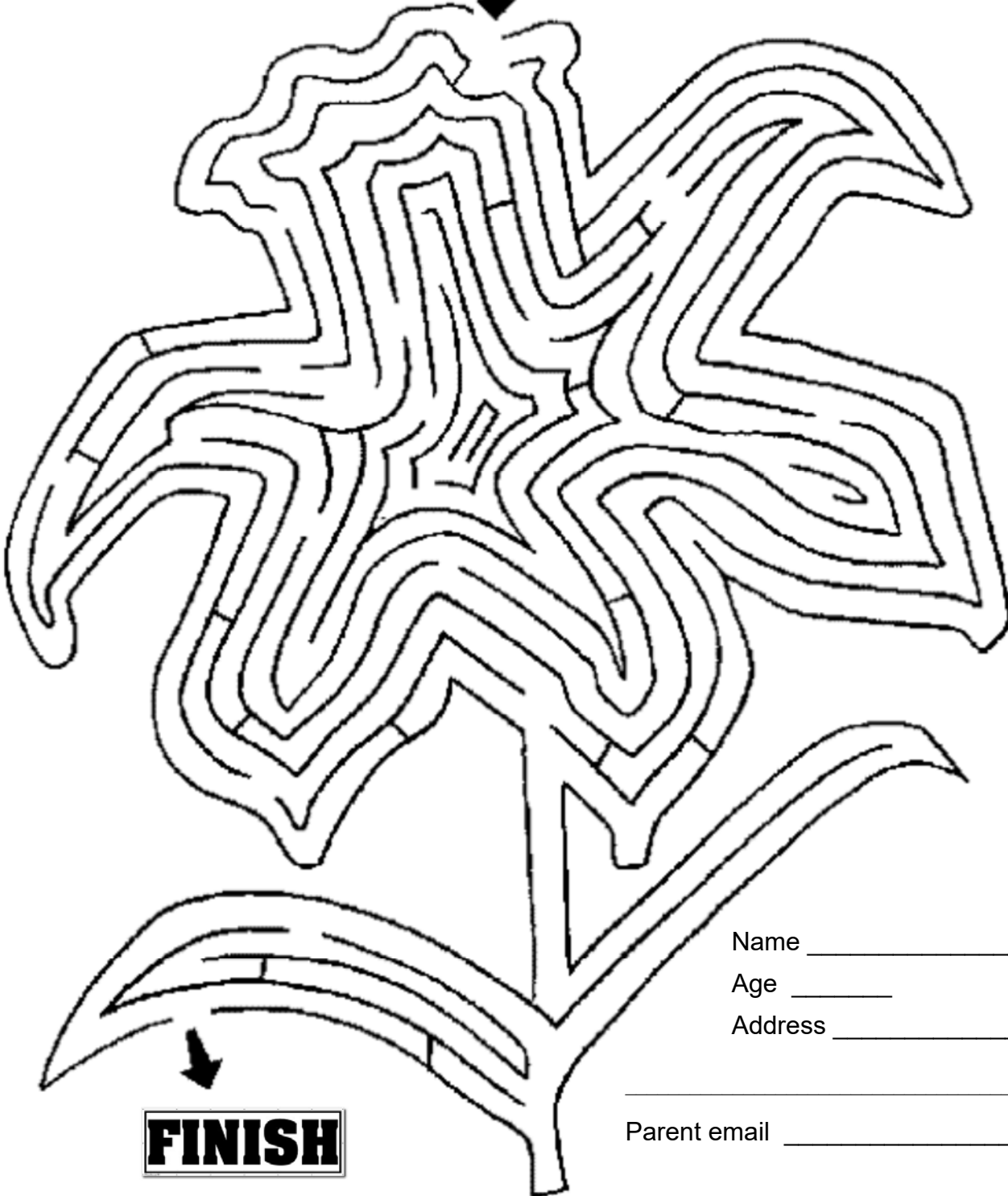
SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Fun Flowers: Lily Maze

Whether it's the tiny yellow trout lily often seen in April, or the larger orange daylily we find in May and June, several species of lovely lilies add color and beauty to Pennsylvania in the spring and summertime. A lily maze is your challenge for this month's kids' activity! See if you can find the correct path through the lily and make your way out to the finish. If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit (to a parent's email address) that can be saved and used later to buy something super special! Good luck!

START



FINISH

Name _____

Age _____

Address _____

Parent email _____



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. June distribution: 269 copies

SRU Service Learning Workshop

SRWC participant **Cliff Denholm** was invited to attend a Service Learning Workshop at Slippery Rock University on May 7th and 8th called “Leveraging Community-Campus Assets for Healthy People and a Sustainable Planet.” The workshop took place at the Robert A. Macoskey Center (a.k.a. The Harmony House), which has been an innovator in promoting sustainability since the late 1980s. Service Learning is an educational concept where partnerships are developed between educational institutions and community/nonprofit organizations. Students who participate in Service Learning are able to both learn new skills and apply the skills and knowledge that they have obtained while simultaneously providing a benefit to a community organization. For example, the SRWC and Westminster College have been working on a yearly project where **Dr. Helen Boylan’s** students learn about water sampling, water chemistry, AMD, and passive treatment while being able to apply their laboratory skills to analyze the water samples and provide the data to the Coalition.

In addition to learning about developing Service Learning projects, Cliff also had to opportunity to meet new SRU professors as well as community members involved in different organizations from around the Slippery Rock area. Some of these organizations included the Slippery Rock Rotary, Slippery Rock in Bloom, and Feed My Shape. A number of interesting project ideas were discussed to improve the environment and community of the Slipper Rock area. Hopefully, this networking opportunity will lead to the development of new partnerships.

