

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: Thursday 11/11/10 at 7 pm at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 10/14/10 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, V. Kefeli

NW PA GIS Conference Held at Clarion University

A record-breaking 200 participants attended the 5th Annual Northwestern Pennsylvania GIS Conference, "Developing Stronger Communities," on October 14 and 15 at Clarion University! The conference included various speakers, exhibits, presentations, and workshops on subjects that impact the region economically, environmentally, and socially. Challenges and potential solutions were presented.

"This year, special emphasis is given to GIS for our communities," said **Dr. Yasser Ayad**, a professor in the Anthropology, Geography and Earth Sciences Department at Clarion University, a member of the conference committee, and lead organizer of the event. Tioga County Commissioner **Erick Coolidge**, the keynote speaker, presented "No Apology Required: Addressing Rural Needs with GIS Technology." He told attendees Tioga County used grant dollars to build the GIS department and will sustain it using GIS staff. Other noted speakers during the event included **Laura Simonetti**, GIS director at Mifflin County, who gave an overview of the issues surrounding the Right to Know Law and how it relates to GIS and assessment data; and **Chris Markel**, PAMAP program manager, who talked about the recent activities of the PAMAP program, a new electronic map of Pennsylvania, in his presentation "What's Happening With PAMAP."

A hot topic was oil and gas/Marcellus Shale, and **Shaun Busler**, a GIS Professional from Stream Restoration Incorporated and long-time SRWC participant, was eager to learn more about the issue and hear people's opinions on the subject. New this year was a panel discussion on Marcellus Shale, as well as a panel discussion on House Bill 2300: State Geospatial Coordinating Council.

Biomass, Native Grasses Field Meeting in Clearfield

Shaun Busler also had the opportunity to attend a biomass and native grasses field meeting on October 15 in Clearfield County. About two dozen participants gathered for an overview and discussion of the project at the Harbor Inn in Philipsburg and for a tour of the Lower Emigh & Maxton Demonstration Area located at a reclaimed mine site just a few miles away. The tour was hosted by the **Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Red Barn Trading, and Penn State Cooperative Extension**. Planted in the spring of 2009, the area features 13 plots plus a small plot experiment, wherein each plot contains a specific combination of warm season grasses, poultry manure, compost, and/or paper mill waste. The experimental plots were designed to determine which combination of grasses and soil amendments would create the most biomass. Some of the native grasses used include Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, and Atlantic Coastal Panic Grass. The progress of each plot will be monitored by periodic collection and analysis of soil samples, measurement of harvest yield, and tissue analysis. The plots show exciting potential for providing a healthy and native habitat for reclaiming mine sites and for use as a biofuel!

Shaun wishes to thank **Dr. Richard Stehouwer** (Associate Professor of Environmental Soil Science at Penn State University) and **Scott Van de Mark** (PA Environmental Council) for inviting him to this worthwhile event!

Clean Creek Products for the Holidays!!

Thinking about gifts for the holidays? Each Clean Creek Product is unique and makes a wonderful present. Check out www.cleancreek.org for **holiday sale prices** and enjoy **free shipping** with a purchase of \$50.00 or more. Remember all items are locally handmade and a portion of all proceeds is donated to watershed restoration activities!!! Shop today for that special gift!! Check out www.youtube.com/user/cleancreekproducts to see a video of some of the items for sale!



Dr. Phillip Sibrell, engineer, US Geological Survey, and Wil Taylor and Dale Margus from the Jennings Environmental Education Center, discuss installation and research efforts relating to a pulsed diversion well for AMD treatment. (Stay tuned!)

Upcoming Cold Weather Fun at Jennings!

Don't let the chill in the air keep you cooped up indoors! Come on over to Jennings Environmental Education Center, where the fun and learning go on year-round! Make note of these 2 special programs coming up in December, and think about joining in!

Event: Tree Traditions

Date: December 5, 2010

Time: 2 PM to 4 PM

Description: Venture into the past, as the legends and traditions behind today's Christmas tree unfold during this festive family program. Discover the fascinating history, colorful folklore and amazing natural history behind Pennsylvania's evergreens. Ideas for "trimming naturally" will be shared and everyone will get to make a tasty wildlife treat to hang Jennings' tree and to take home.

Phone/Info: 724-794-6011



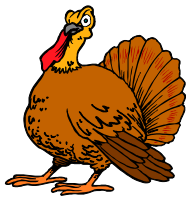
Event: Full Moon Owl Prowl

Date: December 19, 2010

Time: 7 PM to 9 PM

Description: Princes of darkness and lords of the nighttime sky, owls are superb, highly specialized predators. Discover why owls' nocturnal habits, silent flight and ghostly appearances have fascinated people for centuries. Come owling for the evening December 19 at 7:00 pm at the Jennings Environmental Education Center and explore the folklore, natural history, and adaptations of the mysterious creatures of the night. Following a brief indoor presentation, prowl among owls and other winter nightlife on a guided walk along Jennings' darkened forest trails.





The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



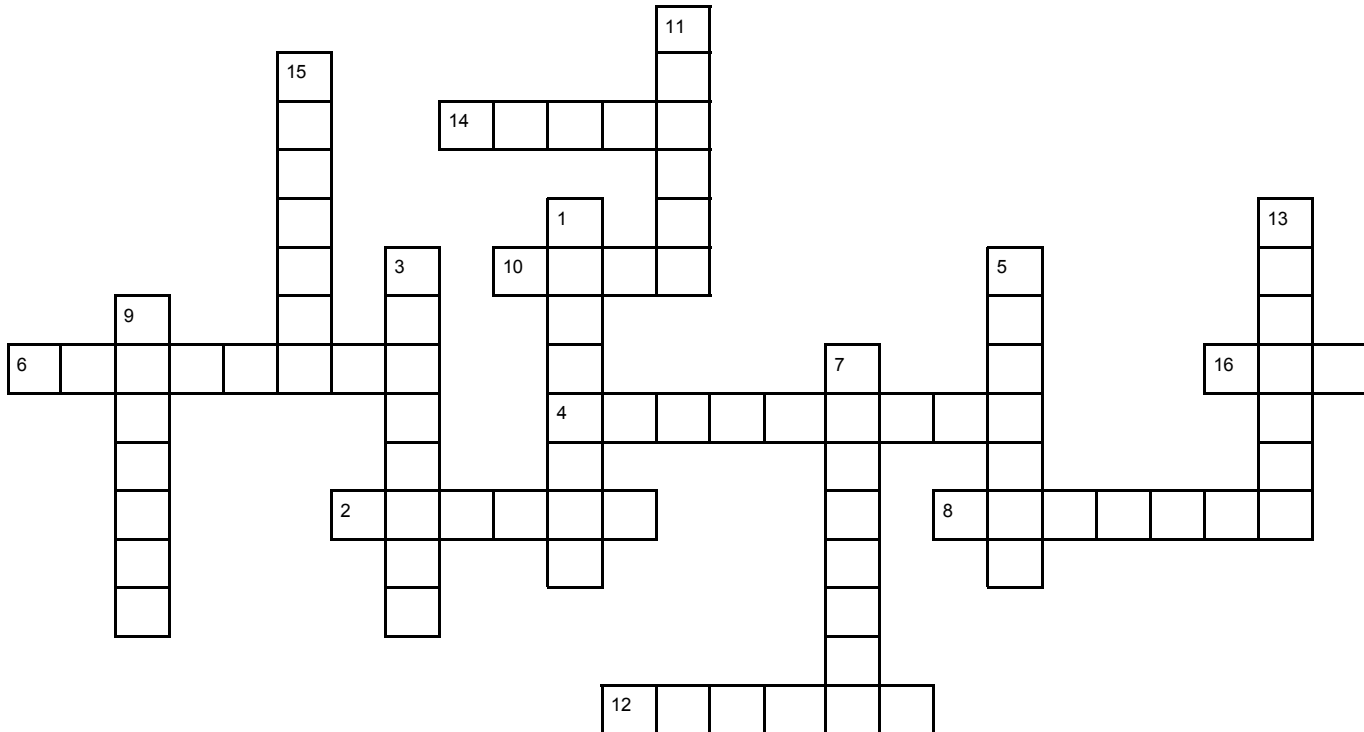
Thanksgiving Crossword Puzzle

Down

1. Thanksgiving is celebrated in this month
3. What Rock did the Pilgrims land on?
5. What is it called when you give some of what you have to someone else?
7. This sport is watched by millions of Americans on Thanksgiving
9. _____ pie is enjoyed as a dessert by many people on Thanksgiving
11. Thanksgiving occurs during this season of the year
13. Floats and bands march in big _____ on Thanksgiving Day
15. The Pilgrims sailed to America from this country

Across

2. What bird is associated with this holiday (and is often eaten)?
4. What was the name of the ship the settlers came over on?
6. What day of the week does Thanksgiving occur?
8. Who shared the feast with the pilgrims?
10. _____ was an important vegetable at the first Thanksgiving
12. The sound turkeys make
14. When you "_____ your blessings" you are saying what you are thankful for
16. Many stuffed, sleepy people like to take a _____ after the big Thanksgiving meal



Name: _____ Age: _____

Address: _____



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

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STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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WESTMINSTER COLLEGE &
SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION



Students from educational institutions are invited to submit abstracts for oral presentations, posters, or creative works that highlight their projects related to the environment or the natural world.

Accepted submissions will be presented/displayed on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at Westminster College, New Wilmington, PA, during an evening symposium. Posters, table displays, and creative works will be displayed during the Networking and Poster Session from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Oral Presentations will begin at 6:30 p.m. Presenters will be afforded 10 minutes (followed by a 5 minute question & answer period) to highlight their work with audio-visuals, to a group of students and professionals interested in environmental issues. The symposium is **free and open to the public**. Refreshments will be served.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION DEADLINE: November 19, 2010

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or

Cliff Denholm

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Oral Presentation slots are limited and will be chosen on competitive basis.