

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on Thursday 2/9/12 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 1/12/12 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, T. Houston, V. Kefeli, J. Puskas, W. Taylor, K. Vensil, R. Yarrington

2011 Year in Review: Thanks to Everyone Involved in SRWC Efforts!!!

Education/Outreach Activities

- Public meetings to review draft of Slippery Rock Ck. Watershed Cons. Plan held at Plain Grove Twp., Slippery Rock, Grove City, Boyers—Feb.
- Radio interview on WISR/WBUT in Butler with Dave Malarkey—Feb.
- Combined SRWC & JEEC Public Meeting—3/10
- WV Greenworks tour of Macosky Center at Slippery Rock Univ. & JEEC passive system—3/26
- DCNR Inspection Tour of JEEC—6/29
- Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council Tour of passive systems—7/18
- WPCAMR passive treatment system video—7/22
- ARIPPA/OSM Fact Finding Tour—9/4
- 10th Anniversary Ohio River Watershed Celebration, Pittsburgh—9/22
- Volunteer training for "Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System", JEEC—9/25
- Student Symposium on the Environment, Westminster College—12/8
- Adopt-A-Highway Program, clean-up effort for I-79 between mile markers 100-101
- Accepting the Challenge digital version unveiled

Conferences

- Eastern Coal Regional Roundtable Meeting, Pipestem State Park, WV—3/21-23
- West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium, Morgantown, WV—3/29-30
- NCECA Conference, Tampa, FL—3/30-4/2
- 28th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Bismarck, ND—6/11-16
- 13th Annual PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, Hazleton, PA—8/4-6
- Conservation District Watershed Specialist Training/Meeting, State College, PA—10/11-12
- 6th Annual NW PA GIS Conference, Clarion University—10/13-14
- PA GIS Day, Harrisburg—11/16

Restoration Projects

- Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan completed
- McIntire Passive Treatment System constructed

Recognition

- *PA Environment Digest* features McIntire project—8/8
- *Grove City Allied News* article on Westminster College Students' Service Learning Project for Dr. Helen Boylan's Advanced Lab. course—11/12
- The book Pandemic Influenza Viruses: Surveillance and Public Health co-edited by SRWC's Dr. Fred Brenner published
- Online publishing of Mechanisms of Landscape Rehabilitation and Sustainability co-authored by SRWC's Dr. Valentin Kefeli

Senior Accomplishment

For our long-time readers, you may remember a poem in *The Catalyst* written by **Mrs. Wanda Runyon** of Bluefield, WV, an unwavering supporter of the efforts of the SRWC. Well, at the **age of 97 (!!!)** Mrs. Runyon has just sent us another poem that we thought you might enjoy!!

Christmas Aftermath, 2011

It was the week after Christmas and all through the house,
Not a creature was stirring, except the house mouse

Who invited a lady mouse to "come over, please"
And promised to feed her three kinds of cheese.

All family members had gone into town,
Eager to look for a special markdown.

There were returns or changes in colors and sizes,
While others sought bargains for next Christmas surprises.

A popular season for exchanges and shopping,
It begins with a bang and shows no sign of stopping.

A wonderful time to buy various gifts,
Providing small budgets much-needed lifts.

So shoppers be smart when items you choose,
Don't waste any money on things you can't use!

After holiday sales can be a real bash,
They're lots of fun and a way to save cash.

Happy 2012! Happy Shopping!

-Wanda D. Runyon



Our Best Student Symposium Yet!!!

(Check out the article below about the 2011 Student Symposium on the Environment!!!)

The annual Student Symposium on the Environment was held by **Westminster College** and the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** on December 8, 2011 and was one of the most popular and successful events since its inception!!! The event began at 5:30 PM in the McKelvey Campus Center with a poster and networking session where people could meet, eat, and talk to poster presenters. Lots of yummy food was graciously provided by Westminster College.

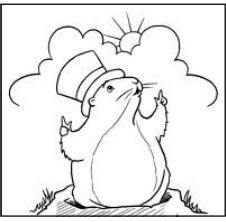
The interesting posters and displays presented by students from Westminster College (**WC**), Allegheny College (**AC**), Youngstown State University (**YSU**), Slippery Rock University (**SRU**), and Slippery Rock High School (**SRHS**) reflected a lot of hard work and provided attendees with a wide variety of topics to explore and learn about including—

- Art and Nature: Pattern, Process, Color by the ART105 course participants, WC
- Assessment of Water Quality in a Small Stream Before and After Extensive Hydrological Modification, **Noel Galuschik**, WC
- Badlands Working Group'11: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Contemporary Research, **Eli Blasko**, **Ben Bires**, **Eric D. Charlton**, SRU
- Bioregenerative Construction for Coal Frames and the Use of Fabricated Soil For Planting, **Taylor Huston**, **Ryan Yarrington**, SRHS
- Chemical Analysis and Sub-lethal Effects of Produced Water from Natural Gas Drilling on Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) Embryos and Larvae, **Haley Gabor**, **Caleb Smathers**, WC
- Comparison of Soxhlet and QuEChERS Extraction Methods for the Examination of Pesticides, **Ashley Blystone**, WC
- Fabricated Soil in Cold Frames as a Platform for the Investigation of Plant Biodiversity, **Jordan Beaver**, SRU
- Heavy Metal Analysis of Shenango River Sediment Near the Sharon Steel Corporation Superfund Site, **Tom Dean**, **Hilary Stenger**, **Eileen Wyza**, WC
- How Cochineal Dye Changes Color in the Presence of Different Chemicals, **Jennifer Louth**, **Rebecca Ray**, WC
- Importance of Rabies Education in Public America, **Caitlin Roberts**, WC
- It IS Easy Being Green, **Katie Farley**, **Nicole Jodikinos**, **Kelly Matune**, **Erin Sullivan**, WC
- Mordant and Temperature Effects on Logwood-Dyed Wool Yarn, **Rebecca Beers**, **Matthew Pereslusha**, **Tyler Umstead**, WC
- Removal of Sulfide Ions (HS^- , H_2S , S^{2-}) from Water by Using Solar Regenerable Adsorbent, **Travis Q. Battiest**, **Sreevan I. Kalapala**, YSU
- The Effects of Male-Produced Olfactory Cues on the Sex Ratio of Jewel Wasps, *Nasonia vitripennis*, under local Mate Competition, **Jordan Zabo**, WC
- Urban Aquaponics, **Elyse Schmitt**, AC
- Villa Maria Internship Project, **Marshall Wm. Finelli**, WC

Oral presentations by WC students began shortly after 6:30 PM to a “packed house” in the Mueller Theater and included—

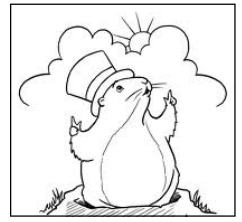
- Inspirational Garbage, **Kelly Gould**
- Natural and Chelate-assisted Phytoremediation of Cadmium (Cd) by *Myriophyllum spicatum* (Eurasian water milfoil), **Samantha Weston**
- Sustainability in Motion: Outreach and Education, **Colin Agner**, **Lauren Eierce**, **Nicole George**, **Wesley Laquaglia**, **Zach Smith**
- There should always be two sides to every paper, **Erin Sullivan**
- Environmental Health: Mosquito Control, **Hilary Stenger**
- Removal of Metal Pollutants from Western PA Wastewater with Recovered Manganese, **Cory Seese**, **Andrew Clark**, **Caitlin Roberts**, **Kelly Gould**, **Nathaniel Delk**
- Effects of Environmental Concentrations of Bisphenol-A on Mentum Deformities of Midge Fly Larva (*Chironomus tentans*), **Noel Galuschik**

Following the oral presentations was a special music by **Erin Sullivan** and the evening wrapped up with an award ceremony for the best presentations (special thanks to the Drinko Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning for sponsoring the awards!!) Thanks also to the project advisors and judges (**Dr. Joseph Balczon**, **Dr. Carolyn Cuff**, **Dr. Patrick Krantz**, and **Dr. Rotua Lumbantobing**), the Moderator (**Mara Sawdy**), and Student Symposium Organizers: **Cliff Denholm**, **Wil Taylor**, **Dr. Helen Boylan**, and **Dr. Leslie Watson** (Westminster College). Great job, students!!! Thanks for all of your hard work!!!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Groundhog's Day Word Search Fun

Groundhog's Day is February 2! On this day, lots of people will be tuning in to hear the news of the famous groundhog, Phil, who lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. According to tradition, if it is sunny on Groundhog's Day then Punxsutawney Phil will come out of his burrow and cast a shadow, meaning there will be 6 more weeks of winter. If Phil comes out of his hole and doesn't see his shadow, tradition says there will be an early spring! Phil has been used to predict the weather since 1887! Most of the time, Phil has seen his shadow.

Groundhogs and woodchucks are common names for the same animal, a rodent that can actually climb trees and swim! During the winter, groundhogs go into a deep hibernation that lasts until early February. It is believed that growing amounts of sunlight trigger the groundhogs to wake up from their hibernation time. Groundhogs in the wild eat succulent green plants, such as dandelion greens, clover, plantain, grasses, and are tempted by nearby garden vegetables. Adult groundhogs weigh about 10 pounds and are about 2 feet long.

Below are several words related to Groundhog's Day that are hidden in the word search. Try to locate and circle all of the words. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

Groundhog	Punxsutawney	Tradition	Winter	Predict
February	Pennsylvania	Forecast	Phil	Hibernate
Spring	Shadow	Burrow	Woodchuck	Sunny

B	U	S	O	Q	A	N	T	R	A	W	O	O	D	C	H	U	C	K	W	O	K	S
F	E	H	M	P	H	C	V	N	O	J	Z	Q	F	B	Y	J	U	N	A	S	I	P
S	R	I	M	S	H	J	O	A	E	C	H	V	E	E	I	L	P	I	O	U	H	R
Z	G	B	R	B	Q	I	J	C	H	E	R	T	S	K	M	L	E	N	P	N	U	E
Y	R	E	R	N	T	P	L	E	N	N	S	Y	P	L	V	A	I	W	Q	N	Z	D
E	X	R	L	I	M	W	N	Y	F	K	F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	E	Y	P	I
N	P	N	D	D	I	C	M	O	O	Q	D	N	I	N	N	O	W	S	H	Z	A	C
W	O	A	C	R	B	S	C	U	O	P	L	J	N	C	K	W	N	T	E	S	R	T
A	R	T	Z	C	G	O	H	D	N	U	O	R	G	Q	F	U	H	M	R	Y	W	O
T	O	E	N	N	A	V	T	A	D	R	E	G	H	U	P	I	O	D	R	S	A	B
U	Q	T	Y	B	H	D	C	W	D	P	K	Y	B	F	R	T	H	A	M	V	U	E
S	I	W	I	N	T	E	R	W	A	O	I	C	B	W	W	O	U	C	H	R	C	K
X	P	U	N	X	T	Q	U	N	X	E	W	U	K	L	O	R	B	E	R	A	E	P
N	E	N	N	S	Y	B	Q	W	P	Y	I	V	C	X	B	Z	U	O	S	T	R	E
U	T	H	Y	A	I	N	A	V	L	Y	S	N	N	E	P	Q	W	E	N	T	I	L
P	E	C	B	Q	S	A	T	F	J	C	N	O	F	O	S	A	F	E	B	M	S	W

Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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Dr. DeNicola from Slippery Rock University to Present at February SRWC Meeting

Slippery Rock University Biology professor **Dr. Dean DeNicola** will be presenting his decade-long research at the February 9, 2012 Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Meeting. The title of his presentation is "**Long-term changes in stream water chemistry and benthic algae in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek since the initiation of passive treatment for AMD**". As the title suggests, he will be discussing his findings relating to changes in water chemistry and algae at several locations within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed including 2 non-impacted reference sites, 1 AMD impacted site with no treatment, and 4 sites below passive treatment systems. Slippery Rock University began conducting stream monitoring within the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek in 1995 and continued through 2007. During this time numerous students participated in conducting this research.

If you would like to learn more, please come on out to the meeting which will take place as usual at the Jennings Environmental Education Center at 7PM on Thursday the 9th. Pop and pizza will be provided.

Be a Part of the Great Backyard Bird Count!

Looking for some outdoor fun this February? Here's a unique opportunity to learn the basics of bird identification and feeding, while contributing to research about bird populations. Join the **Bartramian Audubon Society** and JEEC staff at the **Jennings Environmental Education Center** on **Saturday, February 18 from 9 AM until 12 PM** for an informative birding session! Observe and count birds at the feeders at JEEC and find out how to contribute data to the Great Backyard Bird Count. Use your new skills to observe birds and submit your own data at home! This program is designed for ages 12 and up. Please register by calling Jennings at 724-794-6011 (or register online) *before February 14th*.

The official Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event where participants count birds at a location of their choosing for as little or as long as they wish during the four-day period. They tally the highest number of birds of each species seen together at any one time. To report their counts, they fill out an online checklist at the Great Backyard Bird Count website. As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported from their own towns or anywhere in the United States and Canada. This year's numbers can also be compared with those from previous years. The information gathered helps scientists answer important questions. It's a fun and interesting event!!!