

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

THIS MONTH'S MEETING: 7 pm on 9/13/12 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/9/12 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, S. Smith, W. Taylor, F. VanOtten

'A Good Paddling' Featured in Butler Eagle

The July 18 edition of the **Butler Eagle** newspaper featured an excellent article by **Pamela McCarrier** about the popularity and benefits of kayaking, especially among children and teenagers. The article "Kayaking Gets Young People Out on Water" made mention of the fun many families enjoyed while participating in **Jennings Environmental Education Center's Kayaking Adventure on French Creek** in northwestern PA. JEEC Manager and SRWC participant **Wil Taylor** and his son, **Ethan** (age 13), love to kayak every chance they get, along with mom **Renee**. Ethan's favorite trip so far? The Youghiogheny River in Ohiopyle State Park. "Because it was mostly rapids," Ethan said.

Western Pennsylvania offers many opportunities for people to try kayaking without having to buy their own kayak. Venture Outdoors, Kayak Pittsburgh, and the state parks all offer free or very reasonably-priced kayak rentals. Some offer special events such as guided group outings for beginners with lessons in basic kayak safety and skills. Wil suggests learning basic kayak skills on still water such as Lake Arthur rather than in a strong current. **Miranda Crotsley**, Program Coordinator at JEEC, stresses the importance of safety with beginning kayakers. Having a proper-fitting and comfortable life jacket is essential. Miranda also discussed the importance of teaching children how to correctly enter and exit a kayak, and to get children comfortable in the boat by teaching basic paddling strokes such as moving forwards and backwards. There are different types and sizes of kayaks, so when trying one out it is important to find the one that is right for you. There are kayaks designed especially for children that are smaller in size. All 5 members of the **Busler family, SRWC participants**, manage to fit into one tandem kayak for some of their kayaking trips (which have included Lake Arthur, Slippery Rock Creek, the Allegheny River, and the Atlantic sound off the coast of North Carolina). **Melissa Busler** is shown in the photo at right, navigating under the branches of a fallen tree in Slippery Rock Creek.



Current speed definitely varies on the different types of water found in the region. SRWC participant **Shaun Busler** ventured into **Class 3 rapids in Slippery Rock Creek** for the first time at the annual Slip Clinic on June 2nd and 3rd (see photo at bottom left). Sponsored by **The Three Rivers Paddling Club**, this fun and popular clinic groups all participants according to kayak experience and ability, and is a great chance to try the sport under the guidance of local experts. The clinic's philosophy is to teach paddlers on water where they feel totally comfortable, with progression to more difficult skills and water after mastery of basic skills has been demonstrated.



Enjoying the beauty of nature and spotting different kinds of wildlife (such as bald eagles) from a unique perspective is one of the greatest benefits of kayaking. The fun of exploring waterways accessible only by small boat is often cited as another benefit, as is the exercise! Depending on the duration of the trip and type of water the kayak is on, kayaking can offer quite a workout. Kayaking is a fun way for families to spend time together, with people of all ages enjoying the sport's growing popularity. If you're setting out on an extended family kayak trip, here are two last bits of advice from the experts at Jennings: consider seat cushions for your kayak to aid in comfort level, and brainstorm additional activities for younger children to do in the water so they don't get bored (such as a scavenger hunt, squirt guns, games with sponges, etc.) Don't be afraid to give kayaking a try!

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Westminster College Advanced Chemistry Students touring the De Sale Phase 2 System prior to conducting water quality monitoring of the treatment systems. The tour was conducted by Wil Taylor and Cliff Denholm.

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Westminster College Students To Present At October SRWC Meeting



On Friday, September the 7th, 20 of **Dr. Helen Boylan's** Advanced Chemistry students from **Westminster College** participated in yet another water sampling event at the De Sale Phase I and Phase II passive treatment systems. This is the 6th (!!!) year that students have come out to Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition passive treatment systems. Prior to conducting the sampling event, SRWC participants, **Cliff Denholm of Stream Restoration Inc. and Wil Taylor of Jennings Environmental Education Center** provided the students a tour of the passive treatment systems where they learned about the SRWC, the history of the area, AMD chemistry, and the purpose of each component of the passive system. This provided the students an opportunity to see chemistry and biogeochemistry being applied to solve real world environmental problems. Following the tour, the students broke into four groups to conduct the water sampling and field tests. Thanks to **Wil Taylor of the Jennings Environmental Education Center** for providing the field kits for the students to use. The students took the samples back to their lab where they will perform the laboratory analyses. The students will present their findings at the next SRWC meeting which will be held on **October 11, 2012**. So please come out and support the students and hear about how the treatment systems are doing!!! As always, pizza and pop will be provided!

If you do plan on attending the event, please drop us email at sri@streamrestorationinc.org so that we know how much pizza and pop to have one hand. Hope to see you there!!!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



K-A-Y-A-K Coloring Fun

Is this a new meaning to the words “doggie paddle”?! In tribute to the fun sport of kayaking, our coloring page this month features a kayaking dog! Check out the article about kayaking on page 1 of this month’s Catalyst, and have fun coloring the cartoon below. The 5 letters which spell “KAYAK” are also hidden somewhere in the picture. Do your best to find all 5 and circle them! If you mail us your completed picture, we’ll send you a free certificate for a yummy treat! (Don’t worry... it won’t be a dog treat!)



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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Make a Note: Only One More Butler County Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Collection Day Remains!

Saturday, October 20th will be the last collection day for this year for PA residents to turn in their unwanted household waste products and electronics. The collection location is:

129 Ash Stop Road, Evans City, PA 16033

(corner of Ash Stop Rd. and Route 68 - across from the Forward Township Building)

Drop-off time for unwanted waste and electronics is **by appointment only**. Please call ECS&R (the licensed contractor) toll-free at 1-866-815-0016. Note that nominal fees apply.

Household Chemicals (HHW) Accepted:

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|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Cleaning Products | Pesticides | Batteries |
| Automotive Products | Flammable Products | Fluorescent Bulbs & CFL's |
| Lawn & Garden | Pool Chemicals | Aerosols |
| Chemicals | Mercury Thermostats | Propane Cylinders |
| Paint & Paint Products | | |

Consumer Electronics (E-Waste) Accepted:

- | | | |
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| Televisions | Stereos / Tape Players | Laptop Computers |
| Computers, Printers & Peripherals | Phone Systems | VHS & Cassette Tapes |
| CD Players | Mobile Phones | CD's, DVD's, etc. |
| Copiers | Fax Machines | VCR's |

This program was made possible by the **Board of Butler County Commissioners** and a grant from the **Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection**. If you have any questions about this program or for information on how to get rid of / recycle other items, please call the Butler County Dept. of Recycling & Waste Management at [\(724\) 284-5305](tel:724-284-5305) or email **Sheryl Kelly** at skelly@co.butler.pa.us.