

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/10/13 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. December meeting was cancelled.

2012 Year in Review: **Accomplishing Our Goals with Partnerships!**

Education/Outreach Activities

- Cherry Pie Hike, Slippery Rock, PA—2/25
- Washington County Home Show, Arden, PA—3/24-25
- Dr. Valentin Kefeli leads lecture series to students at Carnegie Mellon University—Feb. thru April
- Symposium for Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Achievement at Slippery Rock University—4/10
- Shaun Busler visits Penn Christian Academy for “Community Helpers” week—5/3
- Westminster College Students give presentations at May SRWC meeting—5/10
- ARIPPA/EPCAMR/WPCAMR Fundraiser, Tof-trees Golf Resort & Conference Center, State College, PA—6/12
- Babb Creek Watershed Association’s Antrim Micro-Hydropower Plant Dedication Ceremony—7/18
- WPCAMR Forum on AMD and Shale Gas, Ebensburg, PA—7/24
- 11th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration, Pittsburgh—9/27
- Westminster College Advanced Chemistry students present water sampling findings at October SRWC meeting—10/11
- Student Symposium on the Environment, Westminster College—12/6
- WVIA Public Media interview, Slippery Rock Watershed and JEEC—12/7
- Adopt-A-Highway Program, clean-up effort for Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101
- Slippery Rock Watershed Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System

Restoration Projects

- McIntire passive treatment system completed
- Jennings Environmental Education Center rehabilitation of vertical flow pond (VFP)
- Carney streambank restoration project completed

Conferences

- PA DEP AMD & Fracking Public Meeting, Harrisburg—1/24
- PITTCON Conference & Expo, Orlando—3/11-15
- West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium, Morgantown, WV—3/27-28
- ADTI Meeting, West Virginia University—3/28
- West Branch Susquehanna Restoration Symposium, State College, PA—4/27-28
- WPCAMR Strategic Planning Meeting, Ebensburg, PA—5/2
- International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage, Ottawa, Ontario—5/20-25
- 20th Annual PA GIS Conference, Grantville—5/22-23
- 29th Annual ASMR Conference, Tupelo, Mississippi—6/8-15
- 14th Annual PA AMR Conference, State College—8/2-4
- 34th Annual Conference of the National Association of Abandoned Mine Lands Programs, Des Moines, Iowa—9/23-26
- Ohio River Basin Alliance Conference, Pittsburgh, 9/25-26
- 7th Annual NW Pennsylvania GIS Conference, Clarion University—10/18-19

Recognition

- March edition of “Business Matters” Magazine features article on SRWC, SRI, and BioMost
- Dr. Valentin Kefeli publishes book Regenerative Cycles in Biomass Formation and Bio-Fuel Production
- New book Art and Science: Plants-Fabricated Soil and Glazing Ceramic published by Robert Morris University, co-authored by Dr. Valentin Kefeli, Cliff Denholm, and Margaret Dunn



Pictured from Left to Right are **Lance Jubic** and **Tyler Umstead**, Best Oral Presentation winners; **Christine Helwig**, Best Environmental Research Poster winner, and **Sabrina Rearick**, Honorable Mention Oral Presentation. Lance also received Honorable Mention for Environmental Project Poster.

'Tis the Season to Recycle, Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la

O Christmas tree, where to recycle thee? From merry to mulch, Christmas trees in Butler County can be recycled! Please check out the recycling drop-off locations and times and consider recycling your tree:

Back to Nature - 840 Mercer Road, Butler, PA 16001

Phone: Stirlings at 724-297-7921

Price per tree: FREE drop-off. Pickup service available—\$10 and up—depending on the drive distance.

Date: Dec. 31, 2012-Jan. 31, 2013. Place trees in labeled bin at the garden center (7 days a week).

Trees must be free of flocking and all decorations.

Seneca Landfill (compost site) - 421 Hartmann Road, Evans City, PA 16033

Phone: 724-625-9000

Price per tree: \$5.00 Fee (Cash, Check, and Credit Cards accepted)

Date: Dec. 31, 2012-Jan. 31, 2013

Time: Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 3:00 PM, Saturday 8 AM to 11 AM

Trees must be free of flocking and all decorations.

Slippery Rock Community Park—320 N. Main St., Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Phone: Slippery Rock Area Parks and Recreation at 724-794-8180, call for info and drop-off location

Price per tree: FREE

Date: Dec. 26, 2012-**Jan. 13, 2013 (note: 2 1/2 weeks only)**

Trees must be free of flocking and all decorations.

A few additional Christmastime recycling notes:

Christmas lights are accepted at Lowe's Home Improvement Stores in special boxes at the front of the store for recycling; **packing peanuts** are accepted at UPS Stores in both Butler and Cranberry; **rechargeable batteries** are accepted at the service desk for free at both Home Depot and Lowe's for recycling; **bubble wrap** is accepted at UPS Stores in both Butler and Cranberry, and may also be taken by E-Bay shipping service centers. If you have any other questions about post-holiday tree collection and other recycling, please call your municipality or the Butler County Dept. of Recycling & Waste Management at 724-284-5305 (or email skelly@co.butler.pa.us).



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

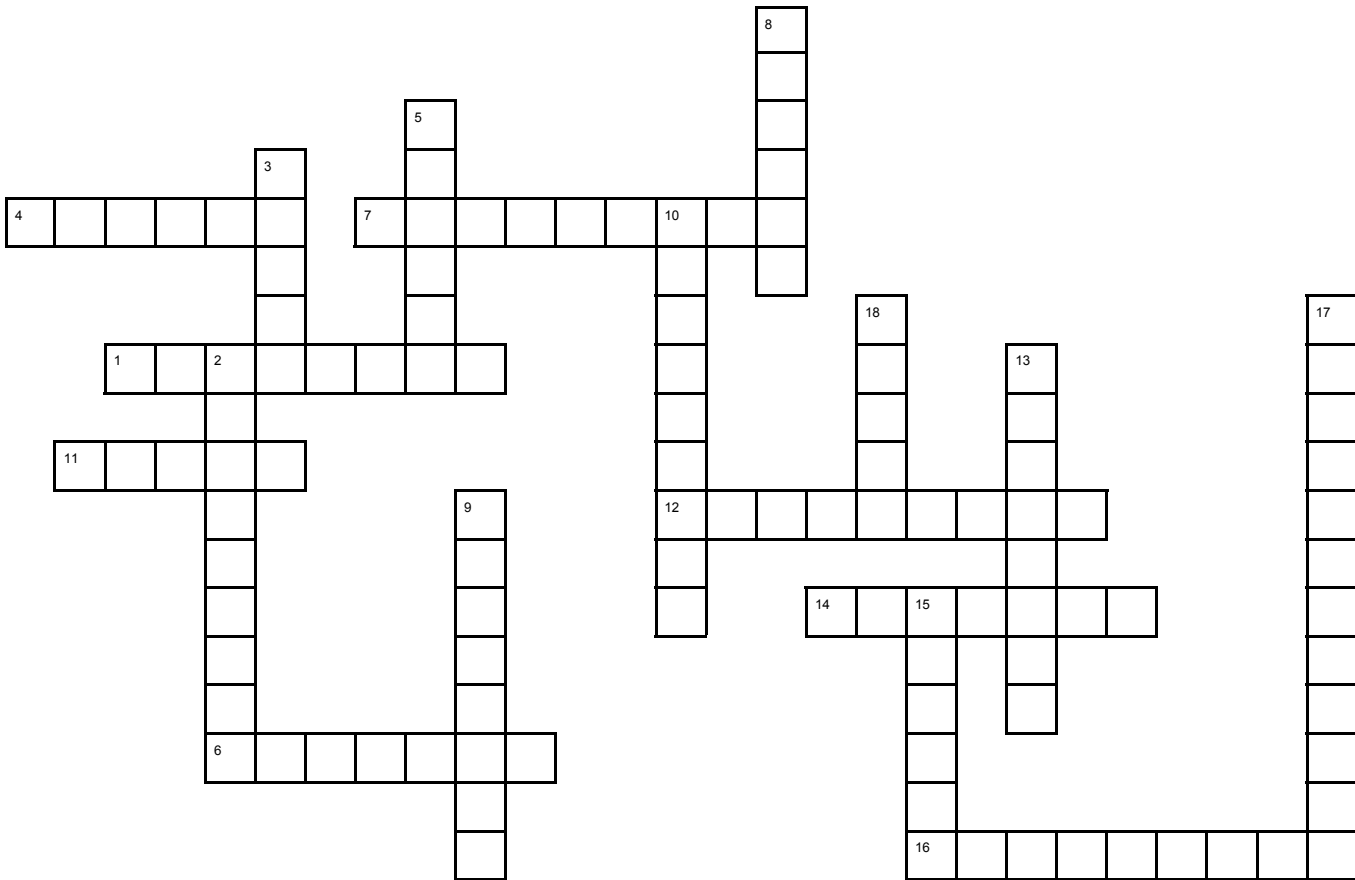


Winter Crossword Puzzle

Kids: Read the clues about winter, and fill in the spaces of the puzzle vertically or horizontally! If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate! Have fun this winter!

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____



Across

1. The first day of winter is in this month.
4. A Snow Day means _____ has been cancelled!
6. Frosty the _____ was a jolly happy soul, with a corncob pipe and a button nose and 2 eyes made out of coal.
7. Some animals _____ (go into a deep sleep) during the winter to cope with cold temperatures and lack of food.
11. You wear a _____ around your neck to protect it from the cold winter air.
12. Lots of people like to drink hot _____ as a treat to warm up on a cold winter day.
14. Some animals, like many birds, "fly south" or _____ for the winter, where the weather is nicer and more food is available.
16. These animals are known for collecting nuts and storing them for the winter.

Down

2. We celebrate _____ on December 25.
3. No two snowflakes are _____.
5. An _____ forms from the freezing of dripping water and looks like a sharp spear pointed downward.
8. A sport played in the winter where players wear ice skates and shoot a puck with a stick.
9. A severe winter storm with high winds and lots of blowing snow is called a _____.
10. An _____ happens when a large amount of snow, ice, and mud slide down a mountain.
13. The Super Bowl is the championship game of this sport, and is played in the winter season.
15. Wear these on your hands to keep them warm!
17. It's fun to roast these gooey sugary treats on a stick over a fire.
18. In an emergency, Eskimos build this kind of a house made of snow and ice.



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

On December 6th, dozens of local college students participated in the Student Symposium on the Environment at Westminster College, where they were able to share their research findings on a variety of important environmental topics. The event was hosted by **Westminster Environmental Programs** and co-sponsored by the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** with support from the **Drinko Center for Experiential Education**. Awards were sponsored by **Stream Restoration Inc.**

Oral and poster presentations were given by students from **Westminster College, Slippery Rock University, Allegheny College, Butler Community College, Geneva College, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and Youngstown State University**. Posters and displays were contributed by the following students: **Chelsea Loub, Andrew Franze, Jillian D'Amico, Gino Colella, Kyle Filicky, Melanie Perello, Hilary Stenger, Lauren Stockzynski, Ryan Yarrington, Christin Helwig, Colin Feeney, Kelsey Loccisano, Colin Agner, Kyle Filicky, Genna Buckholtz, Amber Riesmeyer, Peggy Cox, Sreevani Kalapala, Emily Martin, Emily Moorehead, Erin Sullivan, John Hixenbaugh, Lance Jubic, Eileen Wyza, Marshall Finelli, Cassy Holets, and Marisa Marsico.**

The following oral presentations were made:

Eileen Wyza (Westminster College), "The Effectiveness of Organic Pesticides on the Cucumber Beetle"

Feroze Khan (Youngstown State University), "Effect of Hydrogen Sulfide in Landfill Gas on Anode Poisoning of Solid Oxide Fuel Cells"

Danielle Murtagh (Westminster College), "Optimization of the Recovery of Barium and Strontium from Produced Water: Some Preliminary Results"

Erin Sullivan (Westminster College), "There should always be two sides to every paper (Part II)"

Hilary Stenger, Eileen Wyza, Colin Agner, Marshall Finelli, and Kelsey Loccisano (Westminster College), "Phytoremediation of aqueous aluminum and zinc using Lemna minor and Azolla caroliniana"

Lance Jubic and Tyler Umstead (Westminster College), "Creation of a Website as a Means of Enhancing Collaboration of Volunteers for Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)"

Sabrina Rearick (Westminster College), "Policy Tools and Political Power: How the Natural Gas Industry is Maintaining Power over Hydraulic Fracturing Operations"

In addition to the presentations there was a time for networking and a special guest presentation by **Dr. Sarah Kennedy**, Westminster assistant professor of chemistry. She discussed what chemists can do to help improve environmental sustainability. A big *Thank You* goes out to the symposium organizers: **Dr. Helen Boylan**, Westminster associate professor of chemistry; **Leslie Watson**, secretary for the Environmental Programs office; **Cliff Denholm** from BioMost, Inc., and **Wil Taylor** of Jennings Environmental Education Center. Thanks also to the moderators for the symposium, Westminster sophomore environmental science majors **Mara Sawdy** and **Ashley Wyland!** Great job to all students! We were very impressed with your research techniques, content knowledge, and presentation styles!