

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: *Meeting for 4/11/13 has been cancelled.* Next meeting at 7 pm on 4/11/13 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 3/14/13 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

New Book and New Class for SRWC's Dr. Valentin Kefeli

Part-time faculty member at Robert Morris University, **Dr. Valentin Kefeli** has edited a new treatise to be used in conjunction with his class this spring. Dr. Kefeli is teaching on topics that include an overview of the benefits of certain foods to human health; recommendations on standards and guidelines; cells, hormones, digestive, and excretory systems of the human body; a study of the effect of carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, vitamins, and mineral chemistry on the human body; proper nutrition with benefits to disease prevention; life cycle nutrition from pregnancy to later-life years; and an overview of food safety methods and food technology; etc. Dr. Kefeli integrates principles of scientific inquiry throughout the course.

Dr. Kefeli has contributed to the efforts of the SRWC for many years as a soil scientist and has taught several courses at RMU. Printed in 2012 in Pittsburgh, his text Biology of Nutrition: Green Produce examines the principle of the biology of nutrition and its relationship with environmental health. The "green revolution", gene modification, soil quality, and pesticide use in super-productive crops, global malnutrition, and the balance of food components are the dominant topics investigated.

Save the Date!!!!!!

Announcing the 2013 Ohio River Watershed Celebration

Mark your calendars now for the 12th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!! The riverboat cruise will take place on **Thursday, September 19, 2013** in Pittsburgh. Participants will sail aboard boats of the Gateway Clipper Fleet. In addition to the adult-oriented program, there will also be a separate cruise dedicated to student interests. Cruise Pittsburgh's Three Rivers and enjoy networking, educational presentations on important watershed issues, posters and displays, and of course the lovely view of the downtown cityscape in autumn! As usual, the cruise is between 1 PM to 4 PM, with boarding at 12:30 PM. And, don't forget that registration takes place in the morning, along with other fun pre-cruise activities, festivities, and speakers on the Station Square dock area.

Be sure to check out future issues of "The Catalyst" for more information on when and how to register. You won't want to miss out! Registration will be online. For information on the ORWC, view the official website at **www.orwc.org**. Hope to see you on the rivers this September!



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Rehabilitation at the
**Cowanshannock Creek
Watershed Association**
NuMine-White Lake Passive
Treatment System.

The main task performed
included the removal of
aluminum-bearing material
from the limestone aggre-
gate treatment medium.

Pam Meade, John Bohonak,
and other CCWA volunteers
along with Ryan Mahony,
“Buck” Neely, and Bryan
Page worked together to
make this a successful ef-
fort. (See H.O.P.E. Article)

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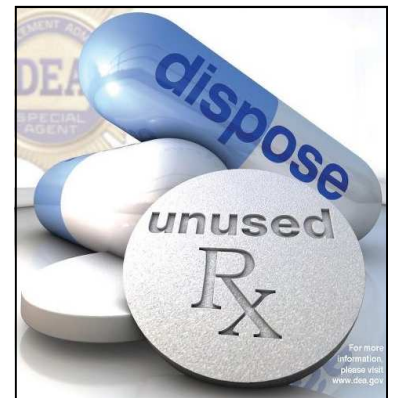
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Announcing the DEA’s Spring Take-Back Day for Safe Drug Disposal

On **April 27** from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** law enforcement agencies and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its sixth opportunity in three years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Find a site near you at www.dea.gov and check back often – new collection sites are added weekly. The service is free and anonymous, no questions asked.

Collection locations in and near Butler County include:

- The State Police Barracks in Butler**
- The Cranberry Township Police**
- RX Xpress in Grove City**
- The State Police Barracks in Kittanning**
- The Venango Sherriff’s Department in Emlenton**
- The State Police Barracks in New Castle**
- The Allegheny County Police in Allison Park**



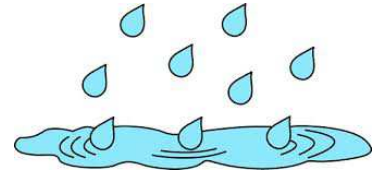
Last September, Americans turned in 244 tons of prescription drugs at over 5,200 sites operated by the DEA and its thousands of state and local law enforcement partners. In its five previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners took in over 2 million pounds—over a thousand tons—of pills. This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue, as Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them away in the trash—both pose potential safety and health hazards.

For law enforcement agencies in Western PA that wish to host a collection site please call **Kurt Dittmer** at the US DEA at 412-777-1871. Anyone in the Butler area with a question about this event or other recycling needs should contact **Sheryl Kelly** of the Butler County Department of Recycling & Waste Management. She is their Environmental Specialist and Recycling & Waste Management Coordinator, and can be reached at 724-284-5305 or skelly@co.butler.pa.us. Check out their web site at www.recyclebutler.us for some great recycling tips and info!



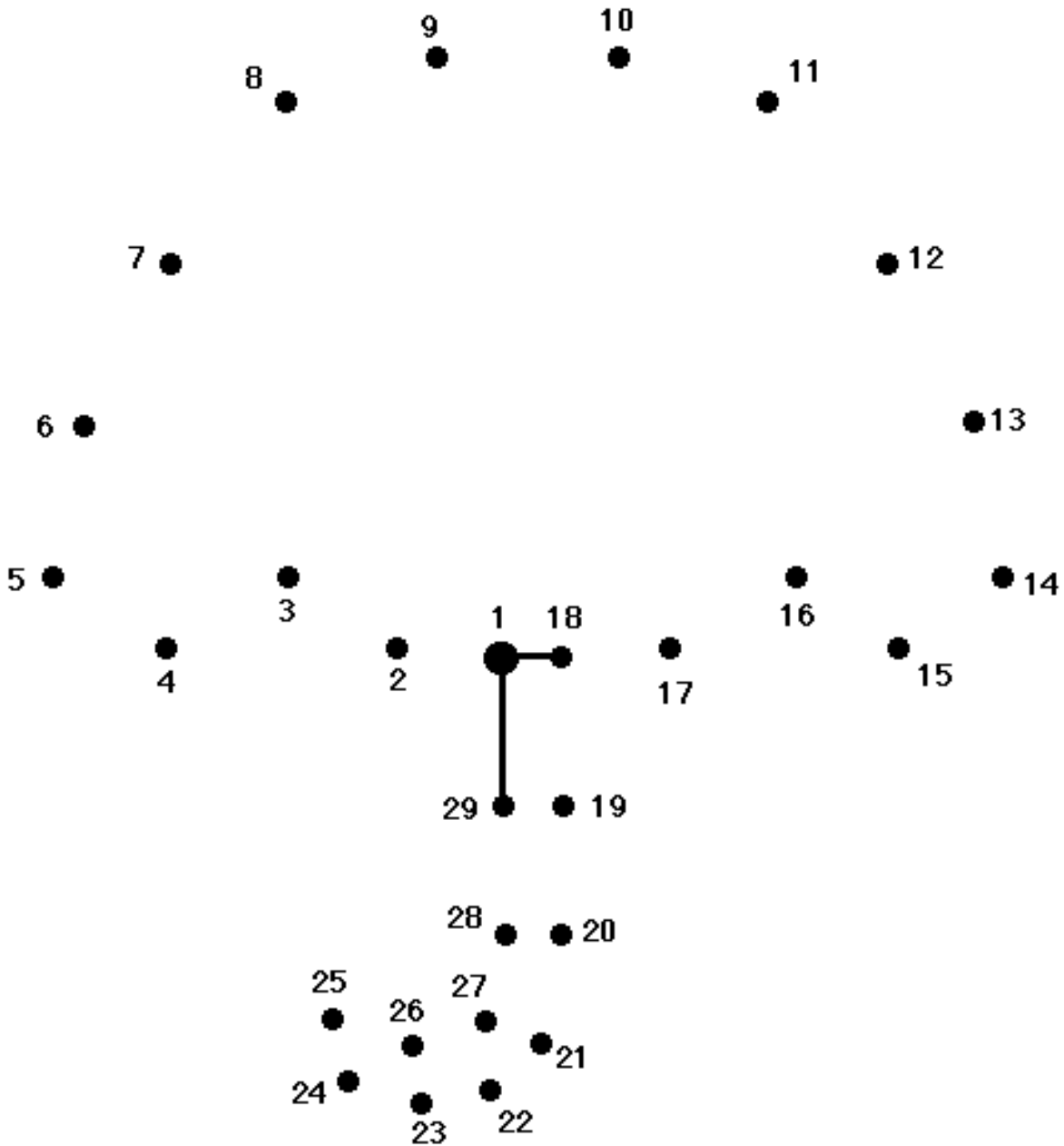
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



April Showers Connect the Dots

When the conditions are right and the weather is warm enough, it rains. While it can rain during any season of the year, there is one time of year that seems to offer more rain than any other in the United States. Spring is the time of year when temperatures from Canada in the north are still cold and dry, while temperatures from the southern states are warm and humid. When the hot and cold air masses meet, the combination of temperatures causes the air to rise and it creates a strong cold front, which can often include thunderstorms. These storms provide rain and make enough of it to produce the May flowers from the saying "April showers bring May flowers!" The spring weather fronts change as the air becomes warmer. As summer approaches, the necessary weather conditions do not exist as frequently and the rainy season turns into an occasional rain storm. Grab a pen or pencil and complete the dot-to-dot picture below to reveal something often used to keep you dry in the rain! Add some color and decorations to your picture, and send it in to us! We'll mail you a free gift certificate for a yummy 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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H.O.P.E. (Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts)

This month, the SRWC would like to bring attention to the great restoration work being done by the **Cowanshannock Creek Watershed Association (CCWA)**. The CCWA recently received financial support to rehabilitate the NuMine-White Lake Passive Treatment System in Cowanshannock Township, Armstrong County. Continuing the treatment effort at this site is important, as the passive system has enabled White Lake to sustain good quality water with a 6 to 7 pH that contains typically less than ½ mg/L each of iron, manganese, and aluminum.

This site has also historically been instrumental in providing knowledge about passive treatment technology, as federal and state agencies have not only conducted research but also contributed to the treatment effort at the site. The first passive component, an aerobic wetland, was installed in 1988 by what is now the **Natural Resources Conservation Service** with some of the early “groundbreaking” research efforts conducted by the former **US Bureau of Mines**. In 2002, the **PA DEP Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation (BAMR)** placed additional components online. Since that time, the CCWA has been overseeing system performance and hosting educational field trips at the site for students from the local high school.

Based on available monitoring data, the AMD entering the expanded system typically has a pH of 4 with 15 mg/L of aluminum and relatively low iron and manganese content. After about a decade of changing this acidic drainage to net alkaline water containing only about 1 mg/L of aluminum, the limestone-only vertical flow pond became plugged by aluminum solids and other sediment. **Anne Daymut** of the **Western Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation**, and member of the CCWA, requested support to rehabilitate the system through the O & M Technical Assistance Program made possible by grants from the **PA DEP Growing Greener** program and the **Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds** and by volunteer efforts. Through these partnership efforts, in September 2012, the limestone aggregate was washed to remove aluminum solids and other sediment, which was then captured in pumped-water filter bags or the existing sediment pond. In addition, a new upper level layer of underdrain pipes was re-installed to allow for faster drainage during the monthly system inspection conducted by the CCWA. **Pam Meade**, **John Bohonak**, and others from the CCWA were onsite regularly to assist with the renovation. The CCWA has enjoyed a successful partnership with the **Armstrong Conservation District**, **USDA NRCS**, and **Stream Restoration Inc.** over the past several years. Information about the system, including water monitoring, will be uploaded when available to **Datashed** (www.datashed.org).

For watershed groups interested in participating in the O&M Technical Assistance Program, please contact Stream Restoration Inc. at sri@streamrestorationinc.org.