

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 9/12/13 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. August meeting was cancelled.

Jennings Celebrates the Bloom!

On Saturday, July 20 Jennings Environmental Education Center was the place to be to experience one of the region's unique natural resources – the Blazing Star Prairie! Presented by **3MJC** and **Jennings Environmental Education Center** and sponsored by **Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau** and the **Botanical Society of Western PA**, “Celebrate the Bloom” is an effort to showcase the Commonwealth's only preserved prairie. The event corresponds with the peak prairie bloom, which features a diversity of colorful flowers including the blazing star, sunflowers and Culver's root.

The day included workshops, guided walks, demonstrations, music, food and vendors selling sustainable or environmentally-related products and wrapped up with a “Burning of the Brush” campfire complete with smores and music. The events and displays included:

Workshops – *Plant Identification* with Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Backyard Bees with HoneySweet Apiaries

Guided Walks – *Prairie Birds* with Bartramian Audubon Society
Prairie Butterflies with Western Pennsylvania Conservancy
Massasauga Rattlesnake with 3MJC
Guided Prairie Tours with Jennings Environmental Education Center

Demonstrations – *Natural Dyes* with Westminster College
Honey Extraction with HoneySweet Apiaries.

Music – *Jeff Wiley; Rick Bruening; The NewLanders*

Food – *Randita's Vegan Grill; The Alternative Food Truck*

Artisans – *Clean Creek Products, Fiber Art by Erin, Jewelry Designs by Linda, Perry Douglass Photography*

Natural Products - *American Native Nursery, HoneySweet Apiaries*

Electricity for the vendors and musicians was generated sustainably and was supplied fume- and noise-free by **Zero Fossil Sustainable Energy Systems**. Even though the morning started out a bit wet, the clouds eventually broke and the afternoon and evening were absolutely beautiful as everyone enjoyed exploring one of Butler County's true natural treasures. Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, July 19, 2014** to Celebrate the Bloom next year!



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Bruce Leavitt receiving the **Mayfly Award** from PA AMR conference committee members and co-workers. See the complete article about the conference next month.

Riverboat Cruise Reminders!



We hope many of our readers are all registered and ready to go for the 12th Annual **Ohio River Watershed Celebration** to be held **Thursday, 9/19/2013!** While registration for the children/student Imagination Cruise is closed due to maximum capacity reached, space is still available on the adult/professionals Networking Cruise, taking place this year aboard *The Empress*. The Networking Cruise is for adults and professionals age 18 and over. To register for this free event, go to www.orwc.org. Please be sure to enter the name of each person *individually*, not as a group.



Plan to arrive early at the Station Square docks for pre-cruise activities, speakers, and the chance to explore the boats before cruise time. There will be over 60 displays from various energy, environmental, and watershed groups, with plenty of time to meet and speak with representatives from many different organizations. Boarding for the cruises begins promptly at 12:00 PM, with cruise time set for 12:30 PM until approximately 4 PM. You won't want to miss this unique event! Come enjoy the beautiful autumn cityscape of scenic downtown Pittsburgh, complete with a venture through a lock and dam, and guided narration of points of interest along the riverbanks, both historic and current. Sign up now and we'll see you soon on the rivers!



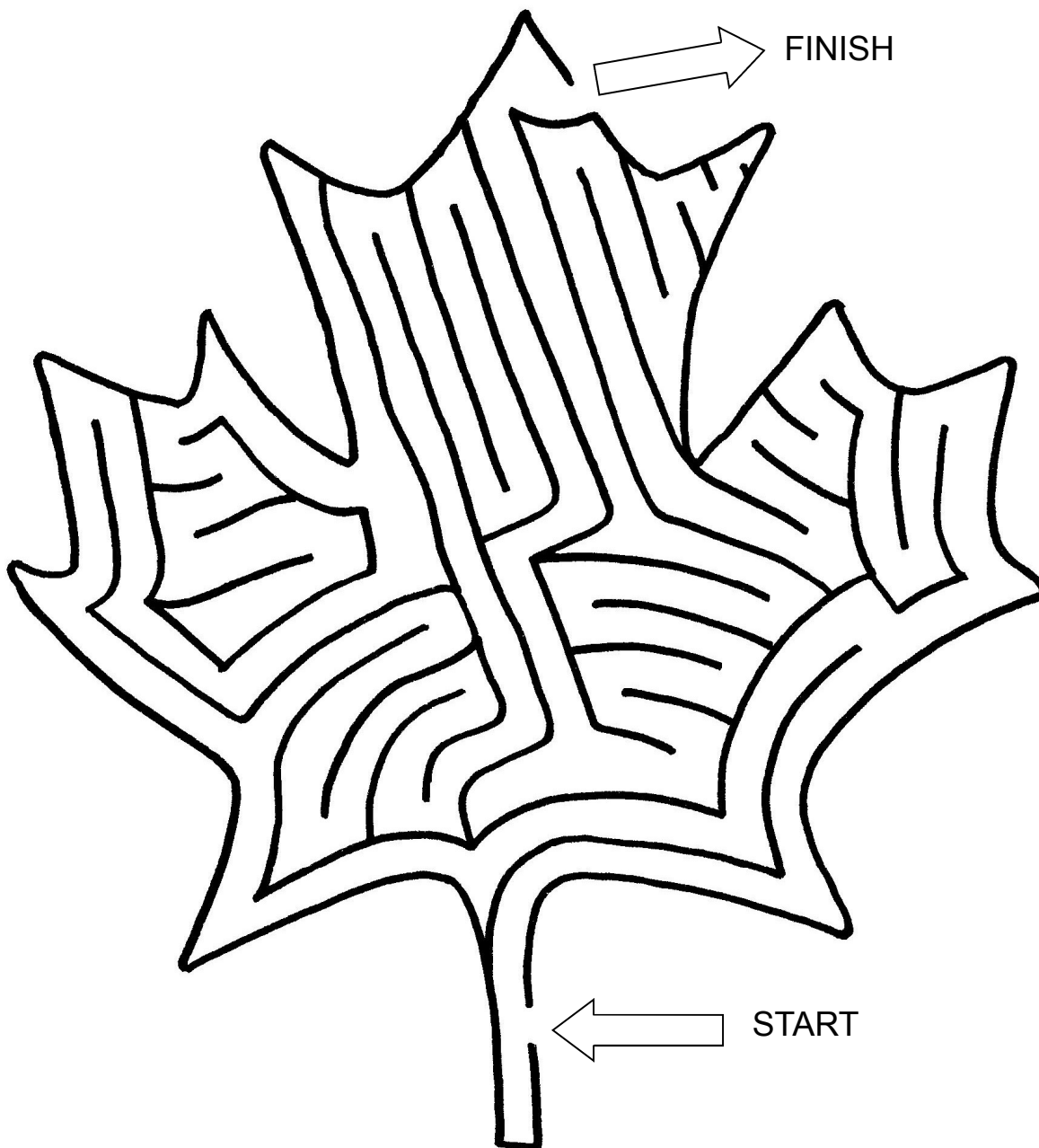
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Autumn Leaves Will Soon Be Falling...

Soon it will be time to enjoy raking up (and jumping into!) big piles of leaves! Deciduous trees lose their leaves every winter. There are a number of reasons for leaf loss, but basically trees lose their leaves to conserve energy over the winter and prevent damage to the tree. Many deciduous trees are found in regions which have cold, dark, harsh winters. Trees lose their leaves to protect themselves during the winter months, as the cold dry winds in these regions would strip moisture from the trees through the leaves, which have a large surface area. By losing their leaves, trees can conserve their moisture in the trunk and branches, rather than drying out and dying. In addition, the leaf loss puts the tree into a state of dormancy, and greatly reduces the amount of energy that the tree needs to stay alive. The tree's leaves fall down to the ground, providing a layer of protective mulch to insulate their roots, and the tree conserves its energy for the next year and a new growing season. Maple trees are one type of deciduous tree that lose their leaves. A maple leaf maze is provided below for you to try to navigate through! If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!



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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Jennings Passive System Rehabilitation Celebration - October 7, 2013

The Jennings Environmental Education Center, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, and Stream Restoration Incorporated would like to invite you to attend a celebration of the rehabilitation of the Jennings Passive Treatment System. The event will be held at the Jennings Environmental Education Center on **Monday, October 7th at 11:30 AM.**

Being located in a Pennsylvania State Park and within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, the Jennings site has long been an important demonstration, education, and research facility regarding mine reclamation practices and passive, as well as small active, treatment development. Field applications of various technologies have been installed by numerous federal and state agencies, colleges and universities, and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition including the early use of treatment wetlands in the 1980s, the demonstration of plugging issues in Anoxic Limestone Drains for discharges with high aluminum concentrations, the use of mixed media in Vertical Flow Ponds, the utilization of test tanks for a variety of treatment media, the implementation of OSM Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative practices, the development of plots for various types of vegetation, the development of fabricated soil, and many others.

Last year, after 15 years of successful operation, the treatment media of the Vertical Flow Pond was removed, encapsulated on site with Mineral CSA (provided by project partner, **Harsco Minerals**) and new piping and treatment media placed. The system well outlasted the original estimated 10-year design-life!

The rehabilitation was made possible due to the following organizations and funding programs: **Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, US Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement's Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program, WPCAMR's Quick Response Program (PA DEP Growing Greener funded), Harsco Minerals, Jennings Environmental Education Center, BioMost, Inc., Stream Restoration Incorporated's O&M Technical Assistance Program (PA DEP Growing Greener funded), and local citizen volunteers.**

Please join us as we celebrate the successes of the Jennings system! We will be meeting at the Center (main building) located at 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 near the intersection of State Route 8 and State Route 528. Light refreshments will be provided. Attendees will have the option of walking or riding a shuttle to the nearby project location. In order to help us plan for the event, please **RSVP** if you plan on attending by emailing sri@streamrestorationinc.org or by registering at http://www.apps.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/view_event.asp?CalendarID=32911&Location=List