

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 10/10/13 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
 9/12/13 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, S. Puskas, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

Slippery Rock Creek Watershed *recently included in the* **PA Rivers Conservation Registry!!!**

The **PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation** has approved the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed Conservation Plan and is placing Slippery Rock Creek and its tributaries in Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties on the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Registry. Registry status provides additional access to DCNR funding, which has proven a vital source of support for projects at the Jennings Environmental Education Center. After review of the Plan and other information, the Department determined that the Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation Program requirements were satisfied and placed the following on the Registry:



- The watershed area of Slippery Rock Creek (Beaver, Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties) from the headwaters to its confluence with the Connoquenessing Creek—408.4 square miles.
- All tributary streams within the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed.

This action became effective September 14, 2013, with projects identified in the Plan now eligible for implementation, development or acquisition of grant funding through the Program. A copy of the Final Plan is available for review at the Stream Restoration Incorporated website at **www.streamrestorationinc.org/** and the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Rachel Carson State Office Building, 400 Market Street, 5th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101, (717) 783-2712.



Slippery Rock Creek at the Covered Bridge at McConnells Mill State Park (*left*) and at Slippery Rock Campground (*right*). Hikers, bicyclists, campers, kayakers, fishermen, and others enjoy the scenic beauty of the water.



The *Three Rivers Queen* sails in front of the fountain at Point State Park during the 12th annual **Ohio River Watershed Celebration!!!!** Look for details in next month's *Catalyst*!

FREE COLLECTION FOR UNWANTED MEDICATION OCTOBER 26th

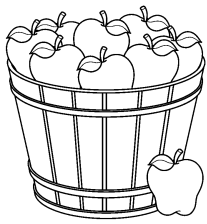
On October 26th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will once again collect unwanted or expired medications from the public at hundreds of sites nationwide. Collection sites can be found at the following web site, http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/index.html which is searchable by county or zip code. If you don't find a collection site listed near you, please check back frequently because new sites are added every day. Butler County residents can also call the **Butler County Dept. of Recycling & Waste Management** at [\(724\) 284-5305](tel:7242845305). The service is free.



This initiative addresses a vital public safety and public health issue. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are susceptible to diversion, misuse, and even abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are alarmingly high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines — flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash — both pose potential safety and health hazards. Resi-

dues of medicines are making their way into the nation's waterways. Researchers have found these substances, called "emerging contaminants," almost everywhere they have looked for them. The extent and consequences of these compounds to the environment are largely unknown.

Please take a look around your home this month, gather up any medications that are unwanted or expired, and properly dispose of them for free on October 26th. There are dozens of local drop-off locations in western PA, so no matter where you live there is most likely a location close to you.



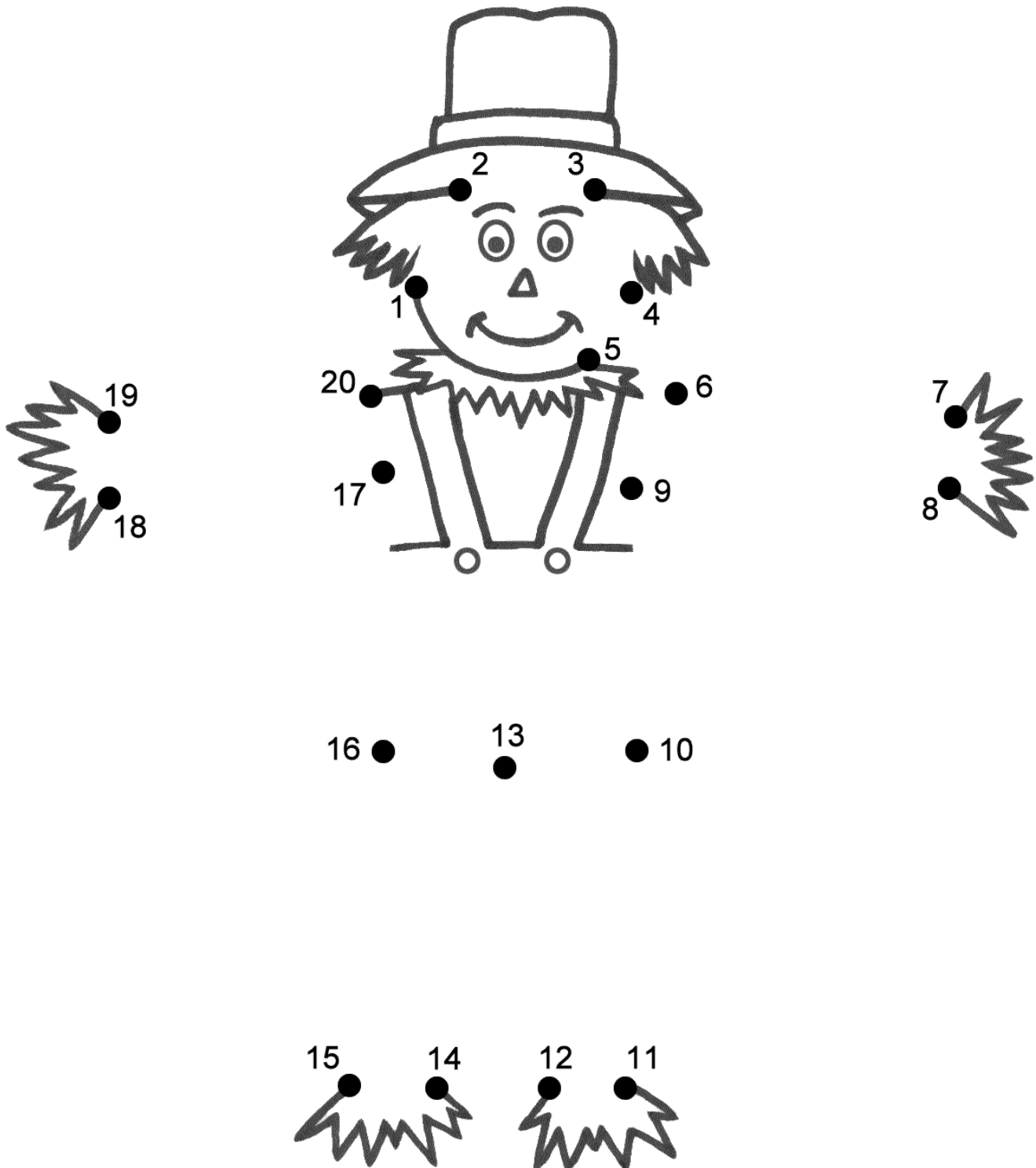
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Harvest Time! Connect the Dots!

Autumn is harvest time for farmers and backyard gardeners! Pennsylvania is the top producer of soybeans, and is #1 in production of mushrooms. Other important crops include wheat, barley, potatoes, hay, apples, grapes, and peaches. Connect the dots below to create a picture of a farmer's friend, known for keeping crops safe and scaring critters away! You can also color him in! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!



Name _____ Age ____ Address _____



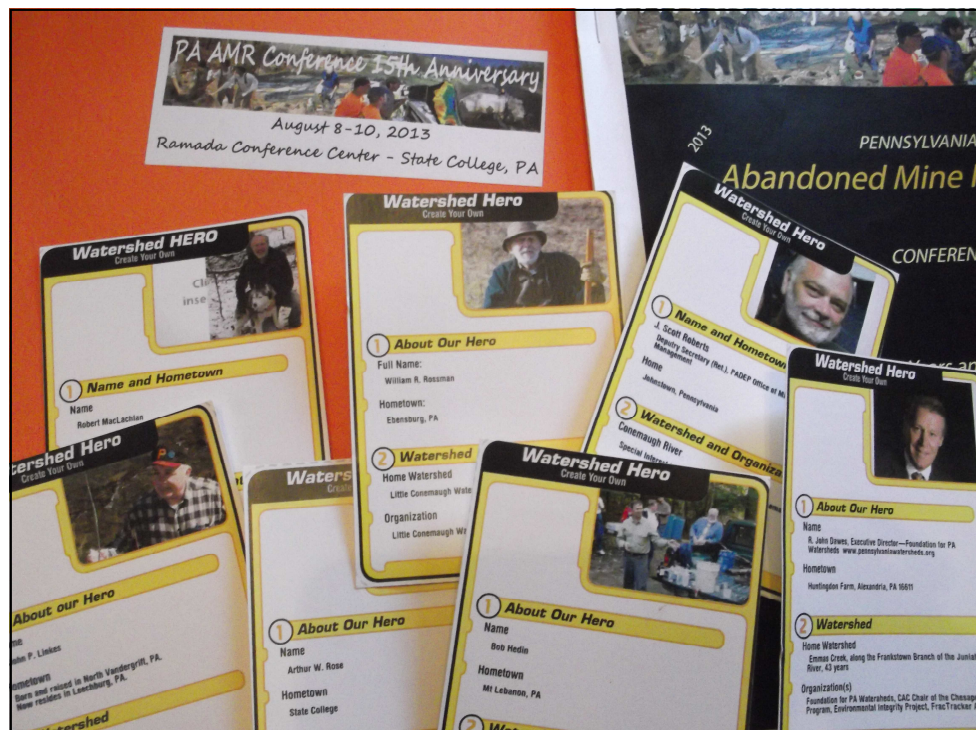
Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
434 Spring Street Ext.
Mars, PA 16046

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PA AMD/AMR Conference

August 8-10 marked the 15th Annual Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, held at the Ramada Conference Center at State College, PA. Several folks from SRI and the SRWC were on hand for the conference: **Tim Danehy**, **Cliff Denholm**, **Shaun Busler**, **Ryan Mahony**, **Buck Neely**, and **Bryan Page**. Tim joined **Bruce Leavitt** in a Friday presentation entitled "Passive Aeration Using a Trompe." The two discussed how a trompe can be used to achieve the benefits of mechanical aeration without the need for electricity, motors, or any moving parts. Water aeration is necessary at many mine drainage treatment facilities to oxidize ferrous iron or to remove dissolved carbon dioxide. Typical aeration is accomplished through surface diffusion, cascade aeration, mechanical aeration, or with chemical reagents. The trompe offers an exciting alternative!



Bruce Leavitt was presented with the Mayfly Award (!!!) at Friday's dinner at the outside pavilion. Bruce received a beautiful sculpture welded by artist **Michael Bestwick** of Fenelton. Bruce was recognized for dedicating a lifetime of knowledge and expertise to the reclamation of abandoned mines in Pennsylvania. The mayfly was selected as the symbol for this award because its presence in a stream signifies clean water. Each Mayfly Award is a unique piece of art. New this year, the PA AMR Conference Planning Committee created a stand-alone set of **Watershed Hero Trading Cards** (including **SRWC's Margaret Dunn**) (see photo above) of the newest and past Mayfly Awardees. **Congratulations, Bruce!**