

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

(NOTICE: December meeting has been cancelled. Join us at the Annual Student Symposium!!!

11/14/13 meeting attendance: J. Bowen, H. Boylan, D. Brue, I. Davis, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, T. Elias, C. Foyan, R. Greenwald, G. Kefeli, V. Kefeli, B. Majors, H. Orien, J. Puskas, S. Puskas, E. Scott, M. Sokol, L. Sumic, W./ Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanderWal, B. Waddell, M. Williams

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm, Thursday, 1/9/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center

Meetings take place the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 PM, at Jennings Environmental Education Center in Slippery Rock, with free pizza and pop for all who come!

Westminster College & SRWC Annual Student Symposium (12/5/13)

We encourage you to come out and support our area students for the **Annual Student Symposium on the Environment**, which will take place **Thursday, December 5** beginning at **5:30 PM** in the Witherspoon Rooms of the McKelvey Campus Center at **Westminster College**.

Dozens of local students at the high school, college, and grad school level will be presenting their research on a variety of topics. The Student Symposium on the Environment is held each December to highlight environmental study, research, artistic expression, and service work being done by students in the region. Join us to learn from their research posters, art work, oral presentations, and performances.

All are welcome to attend!

Another Great Gathering at 8th Annual NW PA GIS Conference

The 8th Annual NW PA GIS Conference was held October 17 and 18 at **Clarion University**. This year's theme, "Beyond the Cloud — GIS Tools of the Trade", was fitting for an event which brought together people who use GIS in local government, utilities, education, and the environment. GIS colleagues shared their experience in project management, data modeling, and strategies for disseminating data and knowledge. The conference, attended by **Shaun Busler** of **Stream Restoration Incorporated**, presented some of the best GIS practices in our community today.

Shaun spoke on Datashed, a free online tool to assist volunteers, students, industry, and government agencies in the operation and maintenance of passive treatment systems. Featuring a weekly project spotlight and frequent updates tracking the nearly **300 systems** operating in Pennsylvania, Datashed is a valuable instrument to those who monitor and maintain passive treatment systems. No passwords are required to view or download any data on Datashed; however, passwords are required to upload or edit data. You can learn more about Datashed at www.datashed.org, which offers video tutorials for those new to the site. Datashed is a collaborative effort of **Stream Restoration Inc., PA DEP, 241 Computer Services, Foundation for PA Watershed, BioMost, Inc., EPA Watershed Initiative, EPCAMR, and WPCAMR.**

Other presentations at the conference included topics such as: Archaeology and GIS, Census Data Tools, Marcellus Shale, Historical Oil and Gas Mapping Project, Surveying, Using ArcGIS in support of the Little League World Series, an Esri Hands-On Learning Lab, and more. A fun highlight of the conference was the Global Map Challenge, in which attendees were to study several challenging aerial photos and guess as to what places around the world were being shown. First place prize was a Kindle Fire!

Exhibitors brought many excellent poster/map displays for others to learn from. Shaun enjoyed his time meeting up with old GIS friends and making news ones. Thanks to the Conference Sponsors: **Clarion University, Esri, Geotech Engineering, Inc., and Civil & Environmental Consultants, Inc.** Special thanks also goes out to the Conference Committee Members: **Cherin AbdelSamie, Yasser Ayad, Ph.D., Mike Baker, Phil Baranyai, Shaun Busler, Matt Gilara, Mark Maguire, Eric Oliver, Eric Randall, Kathryn Reed, and Arlene Rodriguez.**



Wil Taylor, Manager, Jennings Env. Ed. Center, addresses the public during the October 7 celebration and rededication ceremony for the Jennings Passive Treatment System.

(please see article below).

Jennings Environmental Education Center Recognized for Passive Treatment System Rehabilitation

A celebration and rededication ceremony (see above *Photo of the Month*) for the Jennings Passive Treatment System was held at the site on October 7, 2013. Speakers and honored guests included:

- **Wil Taylor** (*Center Manager*), **Dave Johnson** (former Center Manager), Jennings staff
- **Lori Nygard** (*Assistant Director, PA Bureau of State Parks*),
- **Dale Pinkerton & William McCarrier** (*Butler County Commissioners*),
- **Andy McCallister** (*Regional Coordinator for Western PA Coalition of Abandoned Mine Reclamation*),
- **Bob Onyshko** (*Harsco Minerals International*)
- **Tim Danehy, Ryan Mahony, Cody Neely** (*BioMost, Inc.*), and
- **Margaret Dunn** (*Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition*).

Several representatives from the **PA DEP, Slippery Rock University, Westminster College, volunteers, and members of the public** gathered to acknowledge the partnership efforts that have contributed to the successful rehabilitation of the Jennings Vertical Flow Pond. The **U.S. Office of Surface Mining** played an important role in funding this project, helping to sustain the effective AMD treatment and educational benefits that this passive treatment system provides to students and recreational visitors. Once the site history and rehabilitation summary was shared, site tours were provided for interested parties to see the final product. The initial construction of the Jennings passive treatment system was performed in 1997 and the Vertical Flow Pond far outlived the projected design life of 7 to 10 years by providing nearly **15 (!!!) years of successful treatment** that bettered the environment and improved the waters of Slippery Rock Watershed. Now with a rejuvenated treatment system the benefits of this system are expected to be realized for the next 20 to 25 years! The spent treatment media was encapsulated onsite with Mineral CSA through the generosity of Harso Minerals, and, to the untrained eye, the encapsulated material simply looks like a gentle grassy slope tied into the pond embankment.

We gratefully acknowledge our partners through the years: BioMost, Inc., CDS Associates, Inc., Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Foundation for PA Watersheds, Beran Environmental, Girl Scout Troops, Grove City College, HARSCO, Hedin Environmental, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Jesteadt Excavating, PA DCNR, PA DEP 319 Program, PA DEP Growing Greener Program, PA DEP Knox District Mining Office, Quality Aggregates Inc., Saddle Creek Farms, Shalston Enterprises, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, Stream Restoration Incorporated, U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Office of Surface Mining, U.S. Geological Survey, Volunteers, W. PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation, and Westminster College.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

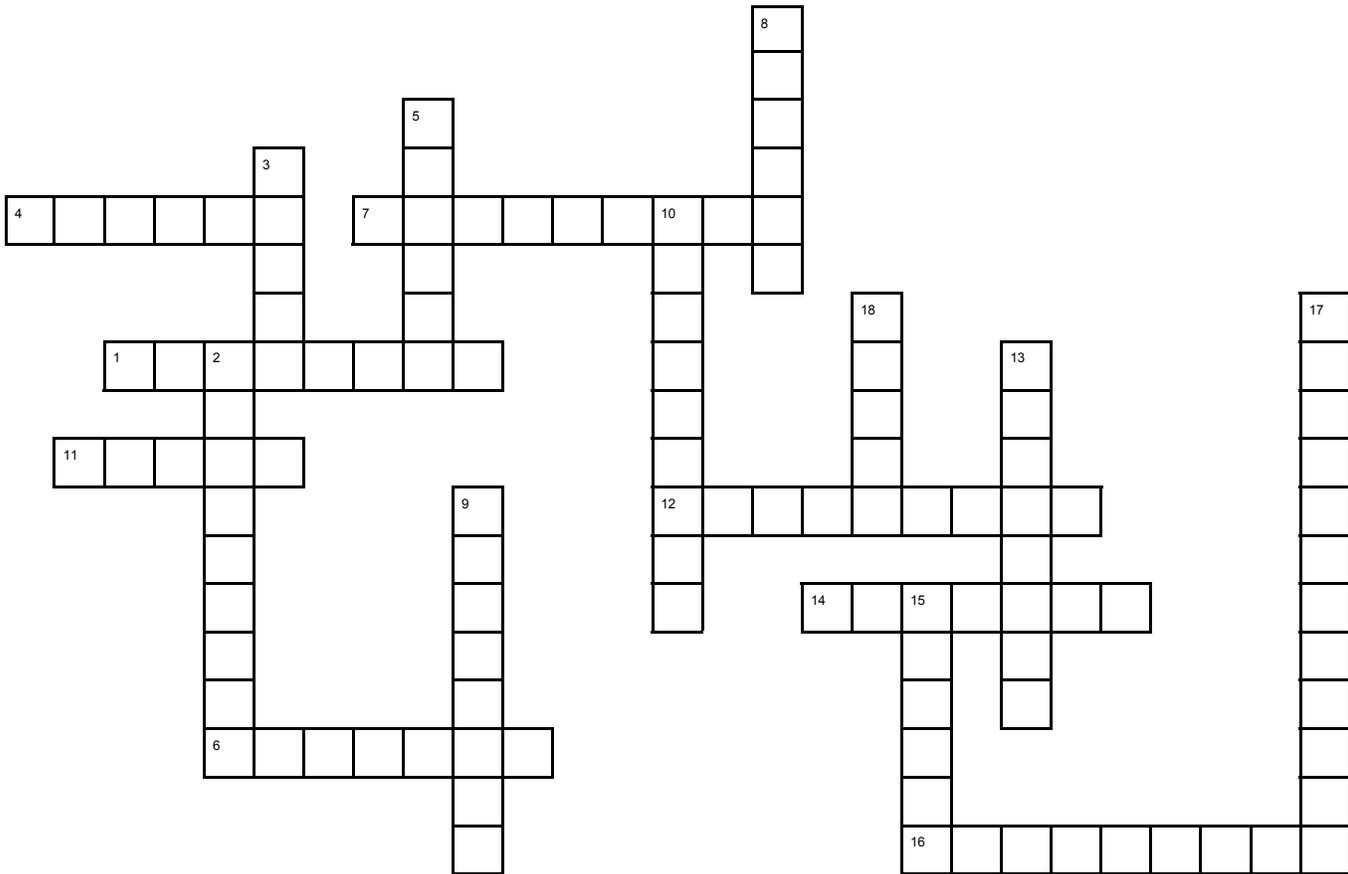


Winter Crossword Puzzle

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

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

Down

- We celebrate _____ on December 25.
- No two snowflakes are _____.
- An _____ forms from the freezing of dripping water and looks like a sharp spear pointed downward.
- A sport played in the winter where players wear ice skates and shoot a puck with a stick.
- A severe winter storm with high winds and lots of blowing snow is called a _____.
- An _____ happens when a large amount of snow, ice, and mud slide down a mountain.
- The Super Bowl is the championship game of this sport, and is played in the winter season.
- Wear these on your hands to keep them warm!
- It's fun to roast these gooey sugary treats on a stick over a fire
- 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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A Visit to the Geography, Geology, and the Environment Club

Shaun Busler of the SRWC had the unique opportunity to visit the Geography, Geology, and the Environment Club (GGE) on October 10 at **Slippery Rock University**. GGE Club is a non-exclusive student club/organization for and by students studying environmental geoscience, geography, geology, and environmental studies, but all majors are welcome. The club meets biweekly and provides a meal to all dues-paying members. At each meeting, attendees discuss and plan upcoming university and club outings, either for recreation or professional development (i.e., hiking/camping trips, community service projects such as Adopt-A-Highway, Pirates games, Pittsburgh Geological Society meetings, professional conferences, wetland delineation workshops, etc.). Then a guest or student speaker presents their experiences in internships or careers related to the students' fields of study. These have included NASA, Kleinfelder, PA Fish & Boat Comm., PA Game Comm., EPA, PA DEP, municipalities, water treatment, consulting firms, etc. As a result, the department is fused into a tightly-knit group of students who enjoy what they do and enjoy working hard and playing hard together.

With one of their goals being to meet professionals in similar fields, Shaun was invited to share information about his work with the SRWC and BioMost, Inc. He used a PowerPoint presentation to provide club members with a basic overview of the problems and history of abandoned mine drainage, and explained passive treatment as an effective remediation solution. Shaun also discussed **Clean Creek Products (CCP)**, a division of Stream Restoration Inc. CCP uses recovered iron and recovered manganese (that precipitates from AMD) as pigments in many one-of-a-kind pottery items. The locally-made, hand-thrown pottery uses these recovered minerals as beautiful pigments in jewelry, seasonal accents, glass trivets, mugs, vases, tableware, flower pots, and more (visit www.cleancreek.org for some great Christmas gift ideas!)



In addition, Shaun talked about the Carney stream bank project site, where two GGE members had previously volunteered time to help plant a stream bank. Shaun encouraged the students to get involved in the watershed. The students were a fun audience who asked great questions. One of the most interesting topics to them was the SRWC's use of willow live stakes — essentially just put a branch into ground and it starts growing!