

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/9/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. No December meeting was held due to the student symposium. Meetings are regularly held on the second Thursday of every month.

2013 Year in Review:

Partnering With You for a Better Watershed!

Education/Outreach Activities

- Washington County Watershed Alliance Banquet and Meeting, Washington, PA—1/30
- Presentation on AMD to Boy Scouts of America Pack 0017, Penn Christian Academy, Butler, PA—3/15
- Tour of De Sale Phase I passive treatment system for Allegheny College geochemistry students with Dr. Rachel O'Brien—4/17
- Free Datashed training workshops, St. Francis University (3/9), EPCAMR Office (4/12), and Westminster College (4/19)
- Paddle Without Pollution clean-up day on Slippery Rock Creek—4/27
- De Sale Phase I passive treatment system tour with western PA teachers group—6/25
- Celebrate the Bloom, Jennings Environmental Education Center—7/20
- 12th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration, Pittsburgh—9/19
- Jennings Passive System Rehabilitation Celebration—10/7
- Visit to the Geography, Geology, and the Environment Club, Slippery Rock University—10/10
- Student Symposium on the Environment, Westminster College—12/5
- Adopt-A-Highway Program, clean-up effort for Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101
- Slippery Rock Watershed Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System

Restoration Projects

- Carney Stream Bank stabilization planting project completed
- Operation and Maintenance: De Sale I, De Sale II, De Sale III, and Erico Bridge

Conferences

- West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force Symposium, Morgantown, WV—3/26-27
- Symposium on Environmental Considerations in Energy Productions, Charleston, WV—4/14-4/17
- Appalachia's Bright Future Conference, Harlan, KY—4/19-4/21
- PA GIS Conference, State College, PA—6/4-5
- 30th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Laramie, WY—6/1-7
- PA AMR Conference, State College, PA—8/8-10
- Northeast Regional Energy GIS Conference, Canonsburg, PA—9/16-17
- 35th Annual NAAMLPA Conference, Daniels, WV—9/22-25
- 8th Annual NW PA GIS Conference, Clarion University—10/17-18

Recognition

- SRWC hosts a "Thank You" dinner for Adopt-A-Passive System volunteers, North Country Brewing, Slippery Rock, PA—1/29
- Miranda Crotsley of the Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) wins "Educator of the Year" Award by the Butler County Conservation District—3/4
- Dale Margus of JEEC wins "Special Award" from PA Bureau of State Parks Managers, State College, PA—4/3
- Slippery Rock Creek Watershed included in the PA Rivers Conservation Registry—9/14
- Dr. Valentin Kefeli publishes *Biology of Nutrition, Art, and Science*; and *The World of 1990's*



Students from several local colleges and high schools gathered at Westminster College's McKelvey Campus Center on December 5th to present their research findings and showcase other environment-related academic work at the Annual Student Symposium on the Environment (*please see article below*).

Students Shine at Annual Symposium on the Environment

The Annual Student Symposium on the Environment, held December 5th at Westminster College, brought together dozens of area high school and college students in a memorable showcase of their research, skills, and talents relating to the environment. Posters and displays as well as oral presentations provided attendees the chance to see the work of students in a variety of topics, including: "Harmful Chemicals in Electronic Waste", "Biogas Plant Distribution in Nepal", "Artistic Renditions of the Badlands", "Analysis of Select Metals in Beaver River Sediment", "Relocation of Protected Freshwater Mussels", and more.

Winners for Best Presentations included the following:

Oral Presentation: *Anthony Humes, Adam Stahon, and Cody Culp* (Westminster College) "Are Solar Panels Worthwhile in Western Pennsylvania"

Environmental Science Research Poster: *Sreevani Kalapala* (Youngstown State University) "Removal of Hydrogen Sulfide from Land fill Gas Using Solar Regenerable Adsorbents"

Environmental Project Poster : *Jessica Stickel and Pasquale DiFrancesco* (Allegheny College) "How Do Members of the Allegheny College Community Develop Their Perceptions of Fracking and What Role Does Media Play in Influencing Such Perceptions?"

Honorable Mention awards went to:

Oral Presentation: *Brittany Majors, Ian Davis, and Cody Fagan* (Westminster College) "Water Analysis at Erico Bridge"

Environmental Science Research Poster: *Lauren Stoczynski* (Westminster College) "Effects of carbaryl and ammonium nitrate on zebrafish embryo development: an ecological experiment"

Environmental Project Poster Presentation: *Erin Sullivan* (Westminster College) "Using GIS and GPS coordinates to map ground truths for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Fisherman's Cove Preservation Foundation"

Thanks to student symposium organizers: **Jacob Booth** (Westminster College '17), **Dr. Helen Boylan** of Westminster College, **Abby Burns** (Westminster College '14), **Cliff Denholm** (BioMost, Inc.), **Wil Taylor** (Jennings Environmental Education Center), and **Leslie Watson** (Westminster College). A special thanks also goes out to the symposium judges, to moderator **Lydia Hartzell**, and to **Stream Restoration Inc.** for sponsoring the awards. Everyone was very impressed by the students' tremendous work and efforts!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Science Careers Word Search



Those of us involved in the SRWC (Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition) come from many different backgrounds and various areas of study. Participants in the SRWC include teachers, biologists, geologists, chemists, environmental scientists, soil scientists, and more. What we all share in common is a passion to help clean up the waters in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed and improve the habitat for wildlife and the land for recreation. Below is a list of 20 possible careers you can have that have to do with science. Science is an exciting subject where people make new, important discoveries all the time! Maybe you should think about a career in science some day!

Try to find all of the careers hidden in the word search below. If you circle them all and mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate for a tasty treat!

Astronomer	Meteorologist	Park ranger
Biologist	Physicist	Environmental scientist
Chemist	Geologist	Science teacher
Diver	Soil scientist	Engineer
Electrician	Surveyor	Botanist
Entomologist	Herpetologist	Zoologist

D	I	V	W	A	T	B	E	Y	C	L	L	B	T	O	S	U	V	M	O	K	G
E	Q	A	Z	O	H	E	R	C	H	U	R	E	G	N	A	R	K	R	A	P	E
R	E	P	S	O	I	L	S	C	I	E	N	T	I	S	T	U	E	B	L	H	I
C	X	E	C	J	U	D	E	I	S	N	F	B	N	K	J	V	Z	O	G	Y	N
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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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Ready for the New Year: New and Improved SRWC Web Site is Launched!

We're ringing in 2014 with a new, improved web site for the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition! Improvements have been in the works for the past several months, and include such things as more and updated content, new photos, access to immediate news updates and info such as notices on meeting changes, and more. Visitors to the web site will find: a brief history and the goals of the SRWC, recent news, educational articles and videos, info on projects such as passive treatment systems and mine land reclamation, an archive of the Catalyst newsletters, details on upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer, info on the new data loggers, an interactive project map, and more.

The man behind the web site, SRWC participant **Shaun Busler**, is excited to share the changes with all of our readers. Thanks goes out to the **Colcom Foundation** for grant funding to help pay for the web site maintenance and upgrades. Be sure to visit www.srwc.org to learn something new and see all we have done!

Permanent Medication Drop Off Sites Now in Butler County

The Butler County District Attorney's office has created a county medication drop box program. This is an easy way to help decrease pollution in water resulting from medicines. Unused or unwanted medications can be dropped off for free, no questions asked, at the following sites:

Butler City Police Department, 200 West New Castle Street in Butler

Cranberry Township Police Department, 2525 Rochester Road in Cranberry Township

Slippery Rock Borough Police Department, 306 East Water Street in Slippery Rock

Butler Township Police Department, 290 South Duffy Road in Butler

Penn Township Police Department, 157 East Airport Road in Butler

Butler County Prison, 202 South Washington Street in Butler

Saxonburg Borough Police Department, 420 West Main Street in Saxonburg

For more information, please see the following web site:

<http://www.ddap.pa.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1666644&mode=2>