

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 4/10/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 3/13/14 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

### **“Paddle Without Pollution” Seeks Volunteers!**

Pennsylvania has more than 83,000 miles of streams and rivers. There are also some 4,000 lakes and impoundments providing 160,000 acres of recreation. These waters are home to more than 120 different species of fish, nearly 1,000 different species of aquatic insects and 38 species of clams and mussels. It's no surprise, then, that anglers and boaters spend more than 25 million days on the water in Pennsylvania. The total economic benefit to the Commonwealth of this water-based recreation exceeds \$1.34 billion each year. Unfortunately, not all of the water enjoyed by boaters, swimmers, fishermen, etc. is always debris-free.

Paddle Without Pollution is a non-profit organization whose mission is to restore and protect the health of rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands through hands-on stewardship and education. The organization uses volunteers in kayaks and canoes to get into ecologically-sensitive, shallow, and inaccessible areas that land-based cleanup crews cannot reach. Since 2011, these hardworking Water Warriors have removed more than 33 tons of litter and illegally dumped debris from rivers, creeks, and lakes in Pennsylvania. In 2013 alone, PWP removed more than 16 tons of litter and illegally dumped debris from PA waterways!

PWP is now looking for volunteers to help with the clean up of Slippery Rock Creek on **Saturday, April 26th**. Staff from Jennings **Environmental Education Center and the DCNR** will be joining the clean-up effort, which begins at 9 AM and will last approximately 4 hours. Last year, a group of fifteen volunteer paddlers worked hard in Slippery Rock Creek, picking up tractor, truck, and car tires, several lawn chairs, a living room chair, a picnic bench-style glider, an air conditioner, at least nine bags of assorted trash and recycling, and more, all totaling approximately 900 pounds!

Volunteers can view details and sign up on the PWP website ([www.paddlewithoutpollution.com](http://www.paddlewithoutpollution.com)), and will be asked if they have their own boat (a limited number are available to borrow). Questions can be directed to **David Rohm, the Director of Special Operations**, at 412-260-9001, or send an email to: [paddlewithoutpollution@comcast.net](mailto:paddlewithoutpollution@comcast.net).

We would love to have you join us for this worthwhile cleanup event!





Pictured here are our sondes, also known as data loggers, that will be deployed within the watershed. The top two items are housing enclosures for the data loggers. The third and fourth items from the top are the actual data loggers. The bottom item is the data shuttle that will be used to download the data loggers in the field. Please help us monitor Slippery Rock Creek. See article below for more information!

### **PA Environment Digest Now Includes *The Catalyst***

The SRWC wishes to thank **Dave Hess** for making issues of *The Catalyst* available in the **PA Environment Digest ([www.paenvironmentdigest.com](http://www.paenvironmentdigest.com))!!!** Dave Hess, who writes a companion blog to the weekly online newsletter published by **Crisci Associates**, served as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection from 2001 to 2003, and as staff in the Pennsylvania Senate and in the former Department of Environmental Resources for over 30 years. Dave Hess now brings attention to newsworthy environmental stories, related legislation, and events through the PA Environment Digest, a thorough and valuable resource for those interested in environmental issues in PA. If you visit the website, click on "Search PA Environment Digest" and type in "Catalyst" under "Find Words" or select "Butler" under "Find Articles By County." Back issues of *The Catalyst* are also available at [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org), and we're excited to see many people are downloading issues!

### **Looking For Data Logger Volunteers!**

The SRWC is looking for volunteers to help with our new data logger program! The SRWC received funding for the purchase of water quality sondes, or data loggers, for the **Slippery Rock Creek Watershed** through a **Colcom Foundation grant!** The data resulting from the use of the sondes will provide valuable and much needed water quality information for not only monitoring degradation in the watershed by abandoned mine drainage but also for collecting baseline data.

The use of conductivity-temperature-depth (CTD) sondes is the most efficient and cost-effective method to collect water quality data on a continual basis. With Colcom grant funding, the SRWC will be permanently placing CTD sondes throughout the watershed over the next couple of months to cover the main stem and all major tributaries. The conductivity measurement can be useful in depicting the general quality of the stream. As a baseline is developed, significant changes in conductivity may indicate a discharge of pollution.

We are currently looking for volunteers to help download the data loggers on a monthly basis beginning this summer. If you would like to be involved in this monitoring program, please contact **Shaun Busler** at (724) 776-0161 or email at [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org). Data Loggers would receive brief training. Volunteers will use data shuttles to download sonde data in the field, download to a home computer, then send to the Project Coordinator at the SRWC.



# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

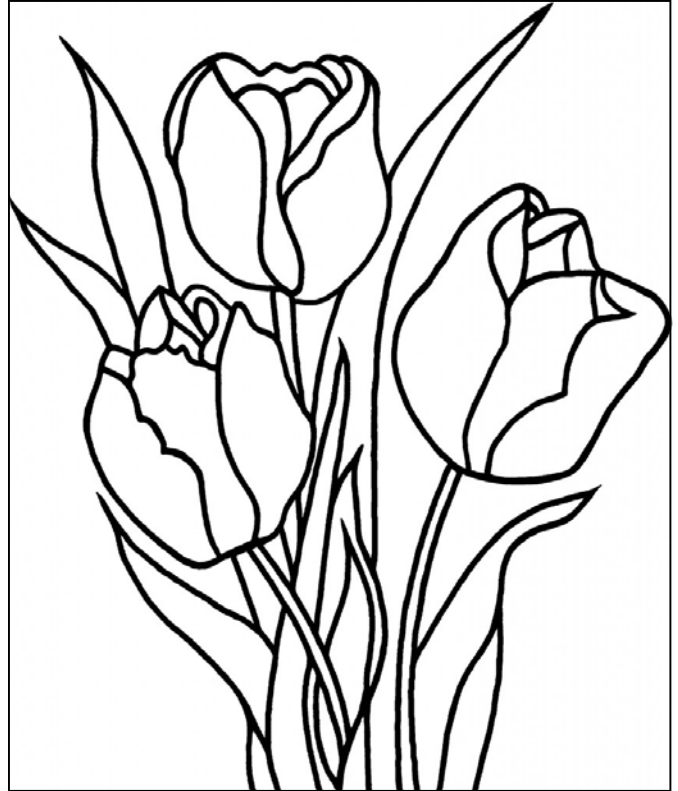


## The Flowers of Spring

Early spring flowers are a sure sign warmer weather is coming! Four early-blooming springtime flowers are pictured below for you to have fun coloring. Enjoy the beauty of these flowers as you notice them outdoors, and have a fun spring! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a free gift certificate!



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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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Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, BioMost, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 434 Spring Street Ext., Mars, PA 16046 (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). April distribution: 1135 copies

## **Monthly Hikes Revived for Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail Association**

Spring is here and the Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail Association is happy to announce its monthly hikes have restarted! Anyone interested in joining a hike is welcome to come. The April hike is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, **April 6th**, at **1:00 PM**. Everyone is to meet at McDaniel's Launch at **Moraine State Park**. The theme will be the Waterfowl Migration. The 4.5-mile hike will go west from McDaniel's Launch, along the dam and lake front where there will be opportunities to view various migrating water fowl, on their passage north to Canada. Spotting scopes, bins, field guides and experts will be on hand to identify the variety of species observed. The hike will continue to the end of that segment at Burnside and West Park Road. At this point the hikers will turn around and retrace their path. A shorter version of the hike (3.5 miles) can be had by taking a shortcut back along West Park Road to McDaniel's Launch. Any questions about the hike can be emailed to **John Stehle** at [stehles@gmail.com](mailto:stehles@gmail.com).

**The North Country Trail (NCT) is the longest (!!!) National Scenic Trail in America**, consisting of 4,600 miles of trail from New York to North Dakota. Stretching across seven states, ten National Forests, and over 150 public lands, the trail is brought to local communities through the dedication and hard work of volunteers. In 2010, volunteers contributed almost 70,000 hours toward building and maintaining the trail and telling its story. North Country Trail hikers of all ages enjoy fun recreation and beautiful scenery. While only a few have attempted to thru-hike the whole trail in one shot, thousands find their way onto a section of the NCT each year.

In western PA, the Butler Chapter is dedicated to providing a premium hiking trail to all local hikers and to the upkeep of the trail for all thru-hikers using the NCT. The sections maintained by the Butler Chapter pass through Moraine State Park, providing access to 15 miles of trail along Lake Arthur and past the Davis Hollow Cabin (a project of the NCT) and connecting to Jennings Nature Reserve and the Old Stone House. To the north and east, the trail passes through State Game Lands 95, providing access to 13 miles of trail rich in wildlife from State Route 308 to Leonard Road. The last section of trail approaches the town of Parker and the Allegheny River, where there is a 5-mile section along the North Fork of Bear Creek, through hemlock forest and across two unique arched bridges. The Butler Chapter holds monthly meetings in the Trustees Room of the Butler YMCA every second Thursday of the month at 6:30 PM. The public is welcome to attend any time. To learn more, visit their web site at [www.northcountrytrail.org/but](http://www.northcountrytrail.org/but). Try out the trail soon, either on your own mini adventure or with a group like the Butler Chapter of the NCTA!