

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: The June Meeting has been cancelled. Please join us at 7 pm on 7/10/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 5/8/14 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

Save the Date!

“Celebrate the Bloom” at Jennings Environmental Education Center!

Jennings Environmental Education Center is excited to announce an upcoming celebration to take place on **Saturday, July 19th**. We hope lots of you will join us for “Celebrate the Bloom”, an all-day event celebrating one of our region’s unique natural places - the beautiful blazing star prairie at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Nature explorations, engaging demonstrations, local artisans and food, plus musical entertainment featuring Nameless in August (among many others!) are some of the activities awaiting guests who visit Jennings that day! To be held from **9 AM to 7 PM**, this special event will also include children’s workshops, demonstrations, interpretive walks, nature photography, hiking, campfire programs, living green, history programs, wildlife watching/birding, a bonfire, and more.

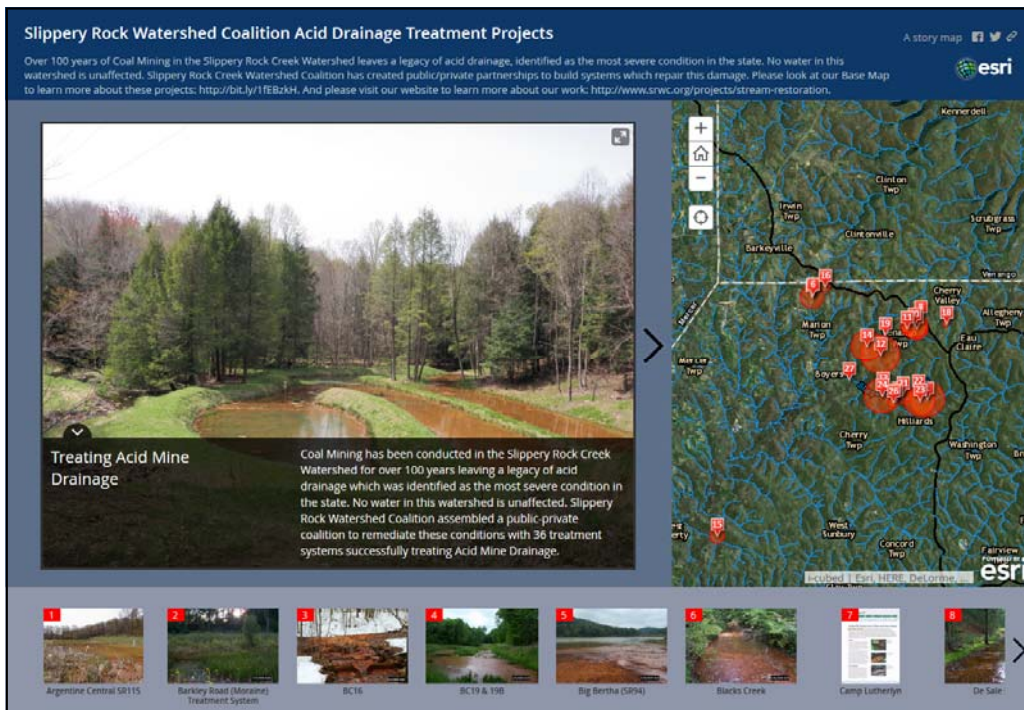
The mission of this event is to increase support for preserving and managing the JECC prairie by introducing new audiences to its ecological importance, while simultaneously supporting local and sustainable community partners. For questions or more information, including how to be a Sponsor or a vendor, please contact 724-794-6011 or email info@celebratethebloom.com. Vendor fees are \$35 for each 10' x 10' space. Vendors must supply their own canopy, tables, and chairs. Vendors selling original and/or nature/outdoor related items will be given preference. Manufactured and mass-produced items will be accepted only when the product compliments the overall theme of the event. Vendors must also provide a PA Sales Tax number.



Sponsorship opportunities are available for those individuals, groups, or businesses who wish to support the educational programming and outreach that is offered year-round at Jennings. Sponsorship levels vary in range from \$50 (“Friend”) to \$1000 (“Blazing Star”) along with a variety of acknowledgments and recognition. Sponsorship forms and donations in the form of a check are due by June 20th. When the sponsorship check is received, your organization will receive a confirmation email to serve as a receipt and which also describes the sponsorship benefits.

Opportunities also abound for advertising, as Program Guides will be distributed to all participants who attend Celebrate the Bloom! This is a great opportunity to advertise your business or organization to visitors from throughout the region. A full page 5 x 8 advertising space costs \$150. Half-page ad space (5” x 4”) runs \$100, with 1/4 page (2.5” x 4”) costing \$75, and 1/8 page (2.5” x 2”) costing \$50.

This event, which will be held outdoors and *held rain or shine*, is coordinated by the park friends group, the Moraine, McConnells Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC), in conjunction with Jennings Environmental Education Center. We



A screenshot of the Project Story Map created by **Alice McLaughlin**. You can access the map at www.srwc.org. Click the Publications link and then Maps. See the article below!

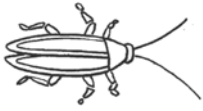
Clean Creek Products Now Available at Jennings!

Did you know you can support local watershed groups in the Butler County region with a purchase from Clean Creek Products (CCP)? Clean Creek Products is a division of the non-profit, Stream Restoration Incorporated, and was formed to find a creative way to market the byproducts of passive treatment systems. The leftover metals can be used in ceramic pottery glazes, and many beautiful pieces have been fashioned by local artists and are now for sale. Clean Creek Products has an extensive website detailing the products available at www.cleancreek.org but now you can see many samples of the products in person with a visit to **Jennings Environmental Education Center!** CCP is happy to partner with JEEC, where many pieces will now be available for purchase. Beautiful handmade pottery, exquisite jewelry, unique tiles and trivets, pretty tableware, seasonal accents, awesome wildlife replicas, and more are some of what is being offered.

A portion of each purchase goes to support the regional cleanup and restoration of regional polluted waterways, as well as to support the local artist who created the piece. One such artist is **Robert “Bob” Isenberg, who has been a regionally renowned artist in western PA for the past 20 years.** Bob had worked exclusively at the Pottery Dome in Mercer, PA, but now works at the **Woodland Studio at Lutherlyn.** His work has been collected and appreciated throughout the US and at least as far away as Korea, Canada, and England. The next time you visit Jennings for a hike or a special program, be sure to check out the items being featured by CCP! Please consider making a purchase and help us make a difference in the watershed!

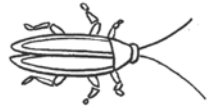
Local Volunteer Making a Difference:
Spotlight on Alice McLaughlin

We often put out calls for volunteers, and are always thrilled when folks from the area lend a helping hand in our work with stream restoration. This month we'd like to pay tribute to one such volunteer, **Alice McLaughlin.** The SRWC has used and created many maps over the years for our various projects and events. Alice was generous enough to do some map improvements on the SRWC web site. If you visit www.srwc.org you can view these maps along with some new interactive maps using ArcGIS Online. A special thanks goes to Alice for taking the time to make the **Project Story Map**, which provides a cool visual of the locations of passive treatment systems in the watershed, projects photos, and descriptions; and **Passive Treatment Map**, featuring specific project locations, general descriptions, and a legend which depicts the amount of AMD water being treated in millions of gallons per year. We will be adding more maps in the future, so be sure to check back for updates on the web site! And thanks again, Alice, for your time volunteering!



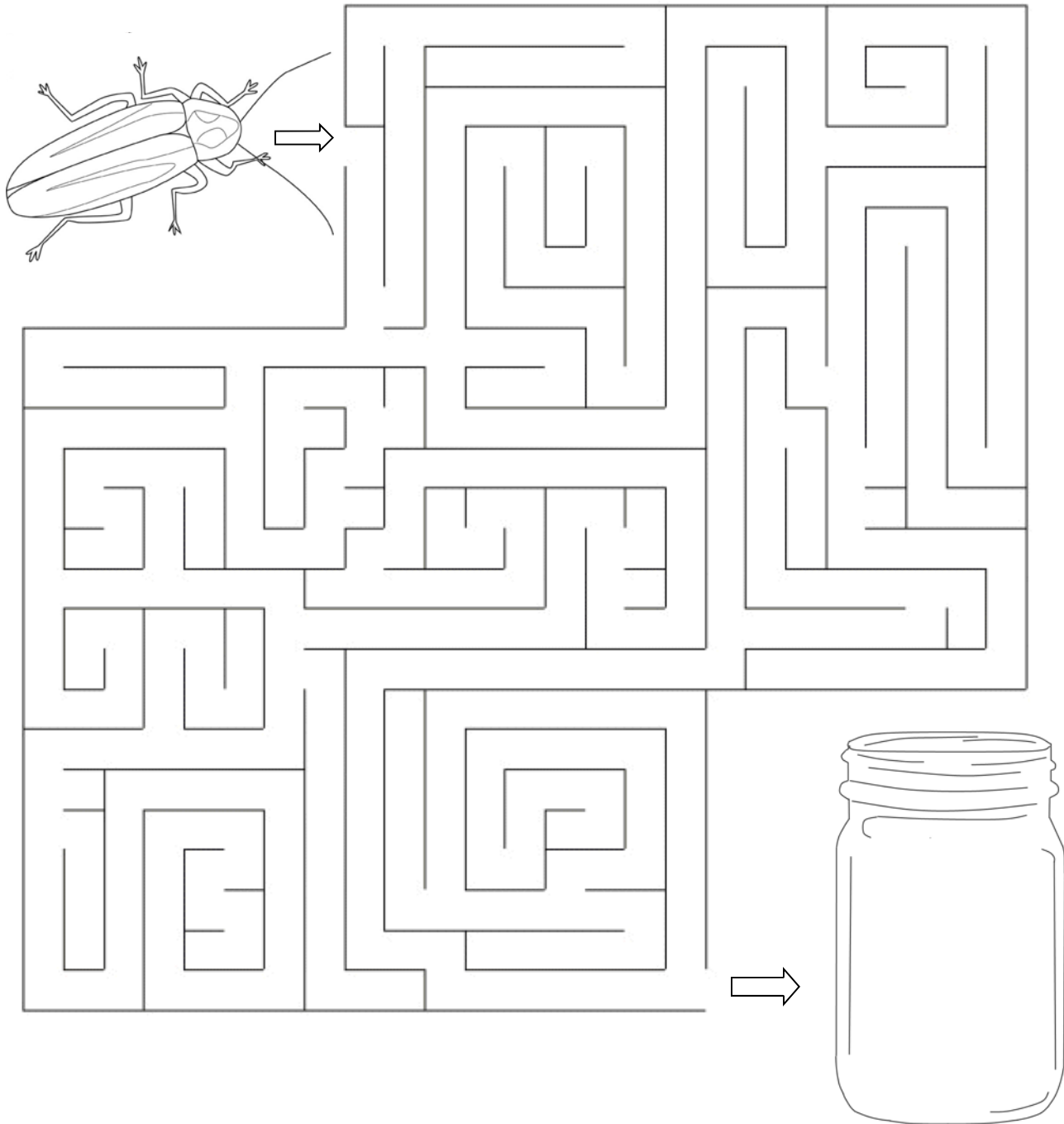
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Firefly Fun!

With the arrival of June comes the arrival of fireflies, Pennsylvania's official state insect! Commonly called "lightning bug" in Pennsylvania, the firefly is a type of beetle. They can be found during the daytime, but are more noticeable at night when many produce light through an efficient chemical reaction using special photic organs. One or both sexes use species-specific flash patterns to attract members of the opposite sex (though not all firefly species are bioluminescent as adults). It's fun to catch fireflies and keep them in a jar for a little while - you'll have a beautiful glowing container to light up the darkness! Below is a firefly maze for you to try. Start at the left where the firefly is and try to find the jar at the finish. 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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New Publication by SRWC's Soil Scientist

Valentin Kefeli, soil scientist with the SRWC and professor at Robert Morris University, has published "Soil and Plant Student Tests", one of the learning resources used in his teaching at the university. Issues and topics explored in the journal include student summaries and comments on Dr. Kefeli's texts about practical botany, fabricated soil, phyto-design, winter ecology, the workings of the biosphere, photosynthesis, and more.

Indeed, fabricated soil is an important tool for landscape restoration, and has great potential for use in the restoration work of land and habitat adversely affected by AMD. We greatly value Dr. Kefeli's research and time spent working with and teaching many students about solid scientific experiments and the significance of their results.

Save the Date!

Lake Arthur Regatta August 2nd and 3rd!

The spectacular Lake Arthur Regatta will be held Saturday and Sunday, *August 2nd and 3rd* and you won't want to miss it! With numerous activities for all ages, delicious treats, interesting vendors, beautiful beach, biking/hiking trails, and lots of great musical entertainment, the Regatta is one of the summer highlights in the Butler County area. Come to the lake to experience sailing races, a geocache competition, car cruise, nautical nature cruises, native butterfly release, hot air balloons, rock climbing wall, and a breathtaking fireworks show! Activities for younger children will include the Home Depot kids craft area, barrel train rides, touch-a-truck, K-LOVE Kid Zone with cornhole, coloring books, and more, Kindermusik with Circle Dance, playgrounds, and of course swimming and the beach!

New this year for older kids, "tweens" and teens, is the SummersCool activities program. Kids will have the chance to try something new with free instructional opportunities to canoe, kayak, windsurf, stand-up paddleboard, archery, fly-fishing, dragon boating, and more.

To learn more, visit the official Lake Arthur Regatta website at **www.lakearthurregatta.org** or email **info@lakearthurregatta.org**.