

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 8/14/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 7/10/14 meeting attendance: S. Busler, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

Save-The-Date

13th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration! (Thursday, September 18, 2014)

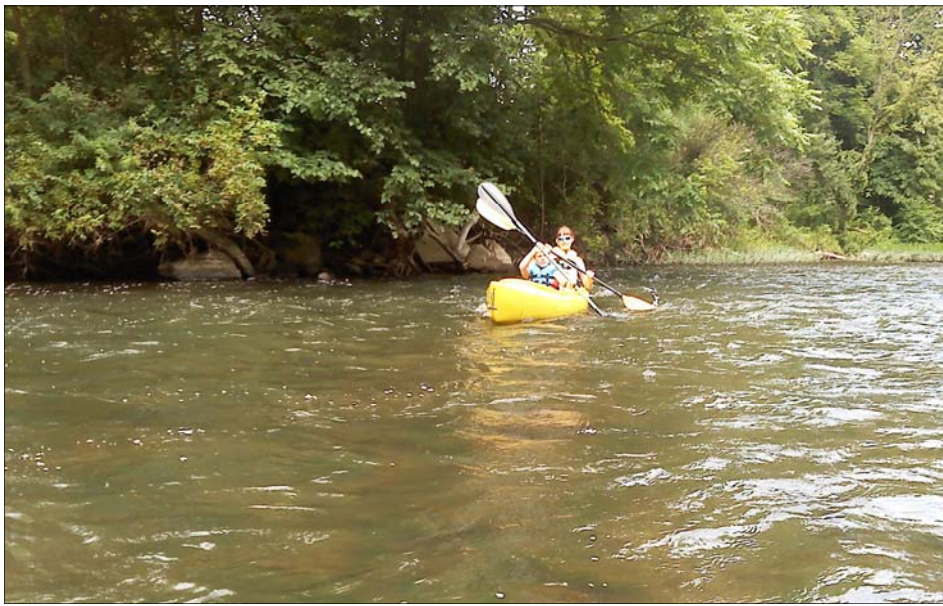
Attention all land-lubbers! Mark your calendars for the first LAND-BASED Ohio River Watershed Celebration! With a new location at beautiful North Park just north of Pittsburgh, participants will have plenty of outdoors to enjoy and ample opportunities to network with others involved in watershed restoration.

With a theme of “**Connected Through Our Streams: The Pine Creek Experience**”, this year’s event is free to the public and open to educators and students, grassroots organizations, government representatives, and the general public with an interest in watersheds.

The 13th Annual ORWC will be held on **Thursday, September 18th** from 10 AM to 3 PM at North Park. Allegheny County’s North Park encompasses 3,075 acres located in Hampton, McCandless, and Pine Townships. For direction purposes, the address is Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101. Dozens of water and energy-related educational displays and posters will be set up on park grounds, with hands-on activities for students, speakers who will talk on a variety of topics, and lots of lovely nature and wildlife to enjoy. Come out and see a drone take water samples remotely from the lake, take a canoe ride, watch trained raptors in flight, participate in a guided tour of the watershed, or join in other interesting activities. Watershed restoration efforts throughout Pennsylvania will also be highlighted.

Thanks to generous donations from our many sponsors, there is no cost to attend this event (and parking is also free). Registration, however, is required as some venues have limited space. Registration will be online at the website www.orwc.org and will open in August. Please remember to register each individual separately, not as groups or families. We hope to see you there!





A paddle down Slippery Rock Creek was a fun way to spend a July Saturday for *Catalyst* author **Melissa Busler** and her family, including son **Isaac**, age 10, shown above.

The American Chestnut Tree: Hope for the Future

The American chestnut tree was once the dominant tree in our forests before being essentially eradicated from our landscape by a fungus, in what has been called “one of the worst ecological disasters of our time.” In PA, many forests once consisted of 25% American chestnut trees, which were known as being fast-growing and rot-resistant. The mission of the American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) is to restore the American chestnut to the forests and woodlands of PA and the mid-Atlantic states. The TACF also focuses on two major objectives: (1) introducing the genetic material responsible for the blight resistance of the Chinese tree into the American chestnut and (2) preserving the genetic heritage of the American chestnut species by planting and grafting native germplasm before it disappears.

Saving the American chestnut is a worthwhile cause in that this tree is especially valuable. It provides superior wildlife food; is desirable for use in reclamation due to its fast growth and tolerance of poor or acidic soils; has historical value through its presence in many American stories, songs, and folklore; would improve the health of our forests and increase biodiversity; grows 100 feet tall and is often branchless for the first 50 feet, providing straight, strong, rot-resistant lumber; produces nuts that are smaller and sweeter than other chestnuts that are preferred for cooking; is attractive for use in landscaping; and can serve as a model for the future restoration of other species across the world.

Local chapters of TACF can be found in many communities. If you would like to learn about American chestnut research, history, events, and more, or to get involved, check out the national web site www.acf.org or Pennsylvania's web site www.patacf.org.





The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Go Fish!

Fishing is fun! If you are under the age of 16, you can fish for free in Pennsylvania (a current Pennsylvania fishing license is required for anyone age 16 and over). The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission has a great web site you can check out to learn more about fishing, including the basics if you are new to this fun activity! Visit their web site at www.fish.state.pa.us. You can click on the "fish" button at the left of the web page to find a lot of good information. There is also news on family fishing programs, special events, fishing features, etc. We hope you enjoy the fishing word search below! If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a free gift certificate!

BAIT	CREEK	LURE	STREAM
BASS	DOCK	MINNOWS	TACKLE BOX
BLUEGILL	FLY	MOSQUITOS	TROUT
BOAT	HAT	NET	WADERS
BOBBER	HOOK	POLE	WATER
CATFISH	LAKE	REEL	WORMS

B	A	S	S	R	U	F	D	N	L	M	A	T	U	O	R	T	I	T	U	Q	A	H
L	A	M	W	E	E	O	A	R	M	V	I	P	H	R	V	F	E	M	U	N	W	W
B	P	J	E	C	A	H	M	U	B	D	C	J	P	L	M	O	N	R	B	U	C	B
T	P	L	N	I	V	A	E	E	N	O	C	L	A	K	E	W	Z	C	K	I	R	L
A	O	N	B	Y	F	T	M	O	S	B	M	Q	U	O	T	O	S	W	H	O	E	U
H	O	M	N	T	A	C	K	L	E	B	O	X	N	N	B	O	A	S	T	R	E	E
Y	M	N	A	O	B	B	O	Y	E	V	W	S	X	N	I	D	P	L	O	M	K	G
M	R	C	B	N	O	B	T	G	I	V	R	D	V	I	E	X	K	P	C	O	H	I
A	B	O	T	A	K	L	E	B	O	S	B	A	H	R	G	Q	U	B	O	J	Y	L
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S	K	C	O	D	S	T	O	M	O	S	B	M	I	N	N	C	R	V	O	I	W	S
B	O	A	P	C	R	B	E	K	W	A	D	Z	S	R	E	C	Q	W	U	A	T	I
M	U	Y	X	A	E	I	S	O	U	R	S	T	L	W	P	Z	F	A	Z	Z	O	F
P	A	L	S	H	A	N	B	U	L	R	V	V	E	U	Y	F	O	T	B	B	H	T
A	M	B	E	R	I	C	N	F	O	U	H	J	U	L	R	M	A	E	Y	O	A	A
I	B	L	L	G	B	O	B	B	E	R	E	V	W	S	S	E	T	R	K	C	E	C

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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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, www.srwc.org. August distribution: 1135 copies

Upcoming Events at Jennings

We know many of you will be interested to learn about two exciting events coming up at the Jennings Environmental Education Center!

Beginner Backpacking on the North Country Trail is being offered August 23-24:

Pennsylvania State Park staff will lead an all-inclusive guided backpacking trip for beginners along the North Country Trail from August 23 at 9:00 a.m. to August 24 at 3:00 p.m. The adventure will begin at JEEC with the basics of planning and packing for a trip. Hikers will then get on the trail at Moraine and instruction will include tips on navigation and selecting gear, backcountry cooking, water filtration and purification, and more. The pace and terrain will be easy to moderate, but participants should be able to hike up to 8 miles or for at least 4 hours. Instruction, overnight accommodation in trailside shelters, all meals and snacks, and all backpacking gear (sleeping bags, backpacks, etc.) are included. This experience is open to participants 16 and up. All minors must be accompanied the entire time by an adult. Registration is \$50 and is very limited. Registration closes August 4. To register, contact Jennings Environmental Education Center at 724-794-6011 or email jenningsp@pa.gov.

Sam Mohawk and the Wigton Massacre Program will be held September 17:

Brad Pflugh, a board member of the Butler Historical Society and head of the history department at Knoch High School, will present a free program from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on September 17 about the Wigton Massacre. The events that led up to the 1843 massacre (which took place near Slippery Rock's historic Old Stone House), the manhunt and capture of murderer Sam Mohawk, and the trial and execution will be discussed.

The public is welcome to attend this meeting of 3MJC. Moraine, McConnell's Mill and Jennings Commission is a community non-profit organization providing support for Moraine and McConnells Mill State Parks and for Jennings Environmental Education Center. Their mission is to enhance the appearance and function of these parks and to help educate the public and park visitors on park operations.