

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 9/11/14 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/14/14 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, R. Welesko, F. VanAtta

Come Support Our Students Presenting at the October SRWC Meeting!

Westminster College students, working in conjunction with the SRWC and **Cliff Denholm**, will be conducting water sampling and presenting their findings at the October SRWC meeting. It's always exciting to have students involved in practical, hands-on learning activities that help us evaluate the health of the watershed. We encourage you to join us for the meeting (which includes free pizza and pop for all!) on Thursday, October 9th at 7 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center. If you've never come to a meeting, this would be a great one to try out!

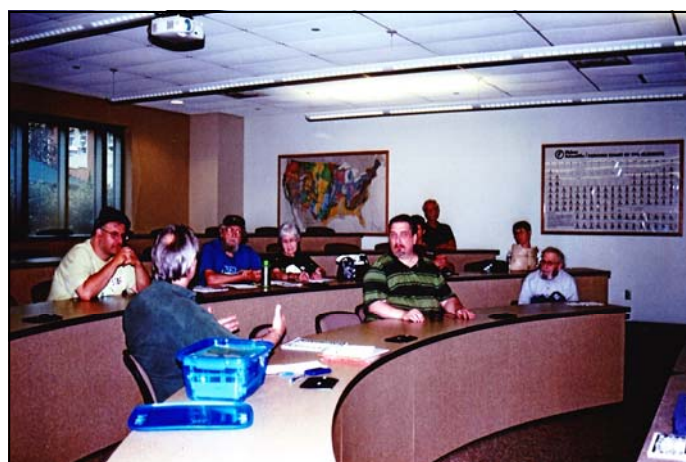
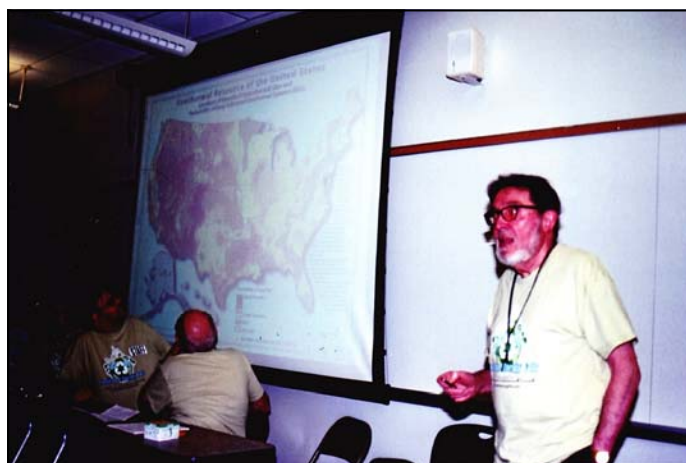
Fossil-Free Energy Fair "Energizes" Crowd

SRU Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator (SEA) and Marcellus Outreach Butler presented the 2nd Annual Fossil-Free Energy Fair on July 26th. Held at the Advanced Technology and Science Hall on the campus of Slippery Rock University, participants learned more about renewable energy sources, like wind and solar power, through speakers, workshops, exhibitors, discussions, vendors, music, children's programs, and entertainment.

SRWC's soil scientist, **Dr. Valentin Kefeli** led a roundtable presentation on "Photosynthesis and Bio-fuel." Dr. Kefeli, who has taught Biology courses at SRU and courses in Weather and Climate, Biology, and Environmental Health at Robert Morris University, presented his ideas and research involving solar energy transformation via photosynthesis of trees, butanol production, and solar house plant growth.

Participants enjoyed free hot dogs cooked by solar-generated power, as they learned more about ways to implement renewable and sustainable energy solutions in homes, businesses, and lifestyles. Several workshop topics included: What is the SEA and How to Use It (**John Golden, J.D.**, Professor of the Business Department at SRU and the Managing Director of the SEA), SEA Clients and SEA Projects, Power Up With the Sun (**Greg Winks**, Treasurer for SUN-WPA), Think Efficiency First (**Rhett Major** "The Energy Doctor"), Powering Connections to Nature (**Adam Hass**, Phipps Conservatory), Introduction to Solar Gardens (**Joy Hughes**, founder of the Solar Gardens Institute), and more.

SRU's Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator aims to promote regional economic development through applied student learning opportunities in new venture creation and business consulting. SEA provides guidance and help for those with an idea for a new business as well as those who are operating established businesses. To learn more, visit their web site at <http://www.seasru.com>.





Valentin Kefeli sits in front of his poster display titled *Plant Biomass Formation and Bio-Fuel Production*.

Autumn Adventures Coming to Jennings Environmental Education Center

The fall is a lovely season to get outside and enjoy some fresh, crisp, cooler air—and to learn more about the interesting and exciting outdoor world around you at Jennings! Here are a couple of upcoming programs being offered at Jennings, open and free to the public:

Title: Bears!

Date: September 21, 2014

Time: 2 PM to 4 PM

Description: Though black bears are becoming more common in Pennsylvania, they are still a heart-pounding sight to see. Even tracks and scat along a trail can get the adrenaline pumping. Join Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer Chip Brunst to learn more about these sometimes feared, often revered, and occasionally jeered bruins.

Title: Glacier Ridge Trail Hike

Date: October 11, 2014

Time: 9 AM to 3 PM

Description: Admire beautiful fall foliage, breathtaking vistas of Lake Arthur and the diversity of Pennsylvania's woodlands during a 10-mile hike with Jennings staff along the Glacier Ridge Trail on Saturday, October 11th from 9 AM to 3:00 PM. Meet at the Jennings Center and be sure to bring plenty of water, snacks and a lunch. In some locations the trail can be challenging, and participants must be able to walk at least 2 mph for the entire distance. *Registration is required by October 3.* Part of the North Country National Scenic Trail system, Glacier Ridge Trail passes through the area's unique glacial landscape and is a natural corridor between Jennings Environmental Education Center and Moraine State Park. During the hike, discover the multitude of changes occurring within the fall forest and learn the history of the land upon which you tread.

Title: Nature Detective: The Case of the Traveling Seeds

Date: October 12, 2014

Time: 2 PM to 4 PM

Description: Where are the seeds going, and how do they get there? Become a "nature detective" searching for clues to one of nature's seasonal mysteries. Following a few indoor activities and hints about where to look and what to look for, participants will move outdoors to search for answers. The Nature Detectives series is designed for families with children age six and older, as well as anyone who is a kid at heart. Please prepare and dress appropriately to participate in outdoor fun. Pre-registration is required by October 1, and space is limited. Call 724-794-6011 or register online.



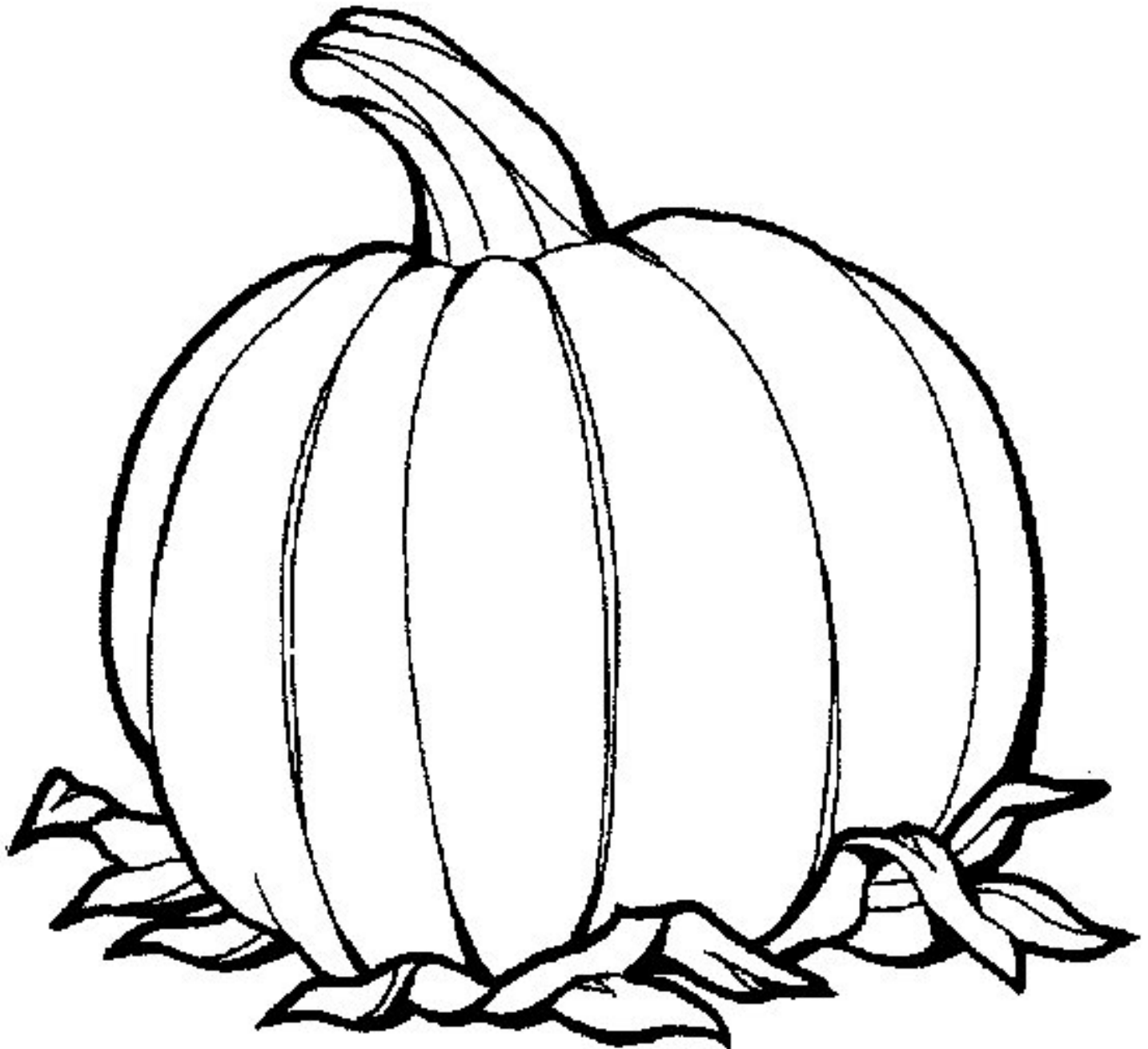
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Pumpkin Coloring Fun!

There's a lot you probably don't know about pumpkins! Did you know pumpkins are a fruit, not a vegetable? It takes 90 to 120 days for a pumpkin to fully grow, after it has been planted. The flowers of pumpkins can be eaten! Pumpkins are 90% water. The biggest pumpkin ever grown weighed more than 2,032 pounds! And the biggest pumpkin pie ever made was 20 feet across and split into about 5000 slices to feed a huge crowd of spectators! Pumpkins used to be recommended for curing snake bites and removing freckles. We've given you a blank pumpkin picture below to color and decorate any way you want to! Have fun, and if you mail us your picture we will send you a free gift certificate!



Name _____ Age _____ Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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Registration is Now Open! Sign Up Soon for the 13th Annual Ohio River Watershed Celebration!

It's not too late to sign up for the 13th Annual ORWC! Beautiful North Park will serve as the location for the first-ever land-based celebration, to take place on **Thursday, September 18th from 10 AM to 3 PM**. There is no cost to attend this event, which will also have free parking. Registration has opened, and hundreds of folks have already signed up to attend. There is plenty of space for more, though, so consider joining us! Registration is now available online at the website www.orwc.org. Please remember to register each individual separately, not as groups or families. Everyone must pre-register to attend. Pre-registration will run through September 15th.



With a theme of "Connected Through Our Streams: The Pine Creek Experience", this year's event is open to educators and students, families, watershed groups, local business and industry, grassroots organizations, government officials, and any individuals from the general public with an interest in watersheds and energy. Participants will enjoy a watershed tour, canoeing, many interesting water and energy-related educational displays and posters, adult networking, drone demonstration, exciting hands-on activities for students and adults alike, knowledgeable speakers, plus an abundance of beautiful nature and wildlife.

For driving directions, use Pearce Mill Road, Allison Park, PA 15101 as the park's address. More specific information on directions and parking, as well as a park map, is available at the North Park website www.alleghenycounty.us/parks/npfac.aspx. Additional directions on where to park and to check-in on the morning of the event will also be available on the ORWC website. Everyone who pre-registers will be emailed a confirmation notice.

We look forward to sharing our first land-based celebration with you!!!!