

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 10/8/15 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 9/10/15 meeting attendance: S. Busler, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

Celebrate 20 years of Watershed Restoration!!!!

For two decades (!!!), the **Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition** has worked to address water quality issues impacting the Slippery Rock Creek and its tributaries. As a result, over 15 miles (!!!) of streams have been greatly improved and billions of gallons of water cleaned!!! On **Saturday, October 10th**, celebrate 20 years of restoration and recovery with the Coalition. Kayak trips, bus tours, hands-on family activities, stream “stomps” and wetland hikes, will take place **between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM**. All activities will begin at **Jennings Environmental Education Center**. **Everyone is welcome, and all activities are free; however, some require advance registration.**

Kayak Sojourn

During the kayak sojourn, float the Slippery Rock to experience the beauty of this creek and paddle past recently completed stream-bank stabilization projects. Two sojourns will be conducted for ages 14 and up, one from 9:00 AM to noon, and another from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. A limited number of kayaks will be available. Personal kayaks and canoes are welcome. **Registration is required, beginning September 10, and can be easily completed by calling Jennings at 724-794-6011.** An adult must accompany youth ages 14 – 17.

Bus Tour

The bus tour will feature abandoned mine drainage passive treatment systems located throughout the watershed and will be led by those involved in the design, construction, monitoring, and maintenance. Two tours will be conducted. One will begin at 9:00 AM and be repeated at 1:00 PM. Children’s activities will be available on the tours. **Registration is required, beginning September 10, and can be easily completed by calling Jennings at 724-794-6011.**

Other Activities

The Watershed Science Lab, located in the Jennings classroom, will be open throughout the day and will be sure to get kids excited about science. Explore Jennings’ stream, wetland, and passive treatment system on your own or with Jennings staff. No registration is required for these activities.

If you can’t join us for the 20th Anniversary Celebration, be sure to visit Jennings sometime this autumn to enjoy the beautiful fall scenery. JECC is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. weekdays and on weekends as scheduled. The trails are open daily from sunrise to sunset for hiking and other environmentally-related activities.



20th
ANNIVERSARY



Summer intern, **Brady Mahony**, removing a beaver dam as part of the maintenance effort at the Erico Passive Treatment System (constructed 2003) that treats drainage from an old underground mine prior to entering Seaton Creek.

My Summer Internship Experience

By Brady Mahony, Villanova University

When I started looking into possible internship opportunities, I tried to find something that aligned with my career goal of someday attending law school to study environmental law. I learned that BioMost/Stream Restoration Inc. in Mars, Pennsylvania treats waterways throughout the region where I have lived my whole life. After studying for a minor in Environmental Studies at Villanova University, I was excited to find an internship where I was able to apply that knowledge in a practical way. Working at BioMost afforded me the opportunity to gain hands-on experience, and, I soon found out that performing fieldwork gave me the chance to incorporate my love for the outdoors with knowledge about one of the ways that we restore it.



At the beginning of my internship, I learned that passive water treatment systems still require some maintenance and the first stage of my internship with BioMost took place at the Erico Bridge site near Boyers, Pennsylvania. Since the treatment system was completed in 2003, it has removed copious amounts of iron from the acid mine drainage discharge locations and helped to reduce sedimentation in Seaton Creek. Over time, however, a thick layer of iron sludge had coated the Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed, which is used to generate additional alkalinity and to remove metals from the AMD prior to entering the stream.

Our goal was to wash the sludge from the limestone aggregate in order to restore the treatment performance of the Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed. We accomplished this goal by digging a new pond into which we pumped the sludge. Overall, we spent several weeks on the project, which included: constructing the new sludge pond, excavating and spraying the limestone aggregate to remove the accumulated sludge, and pumping the sludge into the new pond. Gaining firsthand familiarity with how to design and construct water treatment systems has made my knowledge of the environment better-rounded. My experience working at BioMost has better prepared me for a career where I can help to protect, conserve, and restore the environment.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Pennsylvania Trees Word Search!



Pennsylvania means “Penn’s woods” in Latin, and this is the time of year when people admire the beautiful colors of the leaves on the trees as autumn begins. Pennsylvania’s forests are important sources of lumber, paper, nuts and chemicals. Trees are also important because they help in removing pollution from the air we breathe and the water we drink. Trees provide homes and food for wildlife, and beautify our homes with comforting shade in summer and shelter from winter winds. In PA there are 108 species of native trees and many others that were introduced from Europe and Asia. Below is a list of 16 of the more common trees in PA. Try to find them all in the word search! Circle each tree name you can find, and mail us your completed paper—we’ll give you a \$1 Amazon.com credit in return! Credits can be saved up for whatever special thing you might be wishing to buy!

Red Bud	Hickory	Hemlock	Chestnut
Elm	Birch	Dogwood	Spruce
Aspen	Beech	Maple	Cedar
Cherry	Oak	Ash	Pine

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

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Parent’s email address for Amazon.com gift credit: _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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Westminster College Students to Present Service Learning Project Results At 10/8/15 SRWC meeting



The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition and **Westminster College** have partnered once again to conduct a service learning project with the Advanced Chemistry class. Students performed field tests and collected water samples analyzing several important facets of Slippery Rock Creek. They will present the results of their laboratory analysis at the **October 8th SRWC meeting**. We would like to encourage folks to attend this meeting to show their support to the students! We are always excited to give students the opportunity to study the streams and passive systems in the watershed and look forward to learning the results of their efforts. If it's been a while since you have joined us for a meeting, or if you never have, we would love to see you there on the 8th! Thanks to



Dr. Helen Boylan of Westminster College, **Wil Taylor** from the Jennings Environmental Education Center, and **Cliff Denholm** from Stream Restoration Incorporated for assisting with this project.

Meetings of the SRWC are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center: 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Free pizza and soda provided to all who come! Anyone and everyone is welcome!