

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 11/12/15 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
10/8/15 meeting attendance: J. Armen, C. Caroff, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, J. Haubrich, S. Homitz, V. Kefeli, A. Lawski, M. McClain, B. Messner, B. Slupe, W. Taylor, S. Tower, F. VanAtta, Z. Woessner, C. Worthing, M. Willoughby

SRWC's 20th Anniversary Celebration!!!!

One day just wasn't adequate to mark the 20-year anniversary of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition! A celebration was held October 9-10 to highlight the remarkable work by the many dedicated individuals who have worked to address water quality issues impacting Slippery Rock Creek and its tributaries. Because of these efforts, over 15 (!!!) miles of streams have been greatly improved due to the environmentally-friendly treatment of billions (!!!) of gallons of degraded water from abandoned coal mines

On Friday, 10/9/2015, the individuals and organizations most involved in restoring the watershed were thanked. SRWC participant **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated gave a "State of the Watershed" address, sharing water quality data from the 1990s to today, which showed a remarkable improvement in the quality of streams, thanks to the continuous operation of the passive treatment systems. Co-founder **Margaret Dunn** was reduced to tears as she recounted and publicly thanked many of the people who have supported the SRWC, most notably through significant public-private partnerships. Others who spoke at Friday's celebration included **Wil Taylor**, Manager, and **Dave Johnson**, former Manager, Jennings Environmental Education Center; **Robert C. Dolence**, former Dep. Sec., PA DEP; **Tim Gillen**, PA DEP; **Tim Danehy**, BioMost, Inc.; **Dr. Dean DiNicola**, Biologist, Slippery Rock University; **Dr. Helen Boylan**, Chemistry, Westminster College; **Dr. Fred Brenner**, Biologist, Grove City College; **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**, Biologist, Robert Morris University. A delicious lunch was provided and several poster displays were set up for folks to learn more about the latest efforts of the SRWC and Clean Creek Products (CCP). After lunch, the group boarded a bus to tour the passive treatment systems at SR114, which has been continuously operational for over 20 years, and at Erico Bridge, which was recently rehabilitated after more than a decade of operation.

Saturday, 10/20/2015 marked Day 2 of the celebration, as Jennings Environmental Education Center opened its doors to the general public for anyone and everyone interested in joining in the festivities. Dozens of people came to Jennings on a gorgeous autumn day to enjoy hands-on family activities, stream "stomps", wetland hikes, and more. Beautiful blue skies and all the colors of fall were a breathtaking site for those who took part in the passive treatment system bus tours and walks around the center. A tour to the Erico Bridge and McIntire systems were provided, as visitors were given explanations of the history of these sites and all the basics of passive treatment for AMD. **Cliff Denholm** served as the designated tour guide, providing educational explanations on the design, construction, monitoring, and maintenance of the passive treatment systems. **Stephanie Taylor** and **Shaun Busler**, SRWC, led individuals on a fun kayak sojourn, paddling portions of Slippery Rock Creek. Shaun shared information on stream bank restoration, data loggers, and other projects as they floated by each respective location.

The Watershed Science Lab in the Jennings classroom was opened throughout the day and hosted kids and adults who enjoyed the chance to perform some fun experiments and participate in hands-on learning activities. Cookies, cake, cheese trays, and other goodies were provided to all visitors. Thanks to all who came out to share in the festivities of our 20th Anniversary!!! Thank you to our sponsors the **Foundation for PA Watersheds**, **Dave & Mary Hess**, an anonymous donor, and **Campbell Bus Company**. **A special thanks to the Jennings staff, without whom, the event would not have been possible!!! THERE WAS TOO MUCH FOR JUST ONE ARTICLE... STAY TUNED!**





Cliff Denholm (left) presents the “State of the Watershed” at the 20th SRWC Anniversary Celebration. Stephanie Taylor (right) instructs paddlers on the basics of kayaking before the sojourn.

Celebrating 10 Years at the NW PA GIS Conference

Ten years of GIS accomplishments were celebrated at the NW PA GIS Conference, held October 15-16 at Clarion University. The GIS community in Pennsylvania gathered to share the success stories, GIS innovations and applications, and new endeavors in fields as diverse as natural resource management, local government, private business, research, industry, education, oil and gas applications, emergency technologies, the environment, and others. **Shaun Busler** of Stream Restoration Incorporated and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition served as a moderator at the 10th annual conference. Keynote speaker **Thomas Sweet** of ESRI spoke on “GIS/Geospatial Technology in PA: How Far Have We Come — How Far Can We Go?” and **Brandon Rosage** of Ushahidi talked about “Design that Works in Syria and Silicon Valley.” Preconference workshops included “Land Surveying: a 3000-Year Old Profession — Rope Stretching to Satellite Positioning” and “Introduction to ArcGIS Pro.”

Over 200 participants were on hand October 15th, with many poster sessions and presenters sharing on a variety of GIS topics. The best GIS practices were featured, as speakers discussed GIS applications in weather, urban runoff on streams, railroad transportation, GIS techniques in environmental inspections, historic rock-art carvings, 200 years of PA history, mobile data collecting, and much more. Two panel discussion topics included drones, and next-generation 9-1-1. A great conference map/poster contest featured many excellent entries on display in the main assembly room.

Many thanks to sponsors Clarion University (and professor **Dr. Yasser Ayad**), Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), and The Gateway Engineers, Inc. for their generosity in making the conference a wonderful learning opportunity for all involved.

For those of you involved in or interested in learning more about GIS, you should mark your calendars for the 24th annual PA GIS Conference, slated to take place May 16-18, 2016 at the Penn Stater Conference Center Hotel in State College, PA.





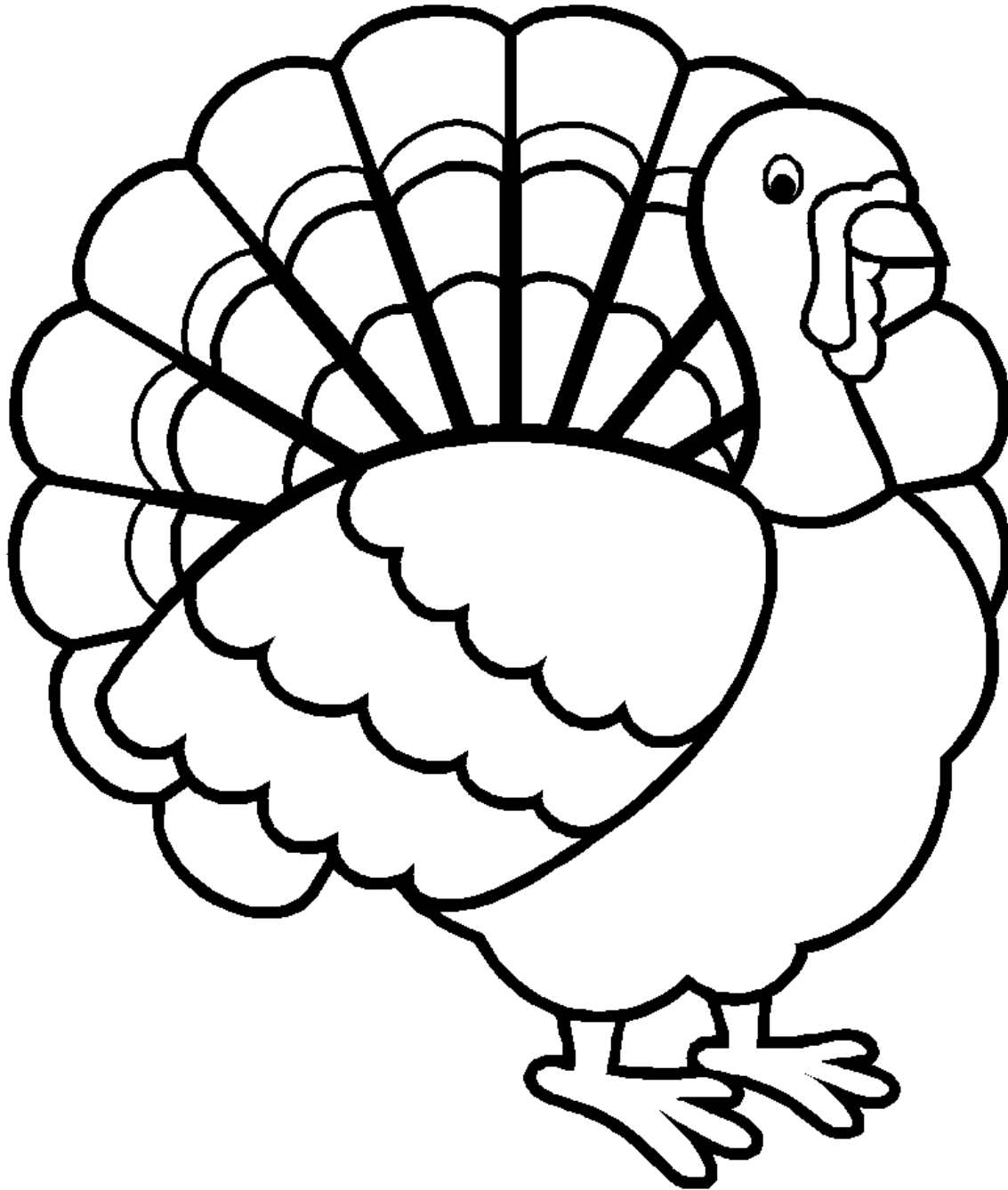
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Turkey Time!

Gobble, gobble, gobble! Here is your turkey trivia, in time for Thanksgiving! Did you know... only male turkeys (called toms) make the "gobble" sound? Females (hens) make a clicking sound. Mature turkeys have about 3,500 feathers. The heaviest turkey ever raised weighed 86 pounds! Benjamin Franklin thought the turkey was so American it should have been chosen as our national symbol rather than the eagle. We hope you have fun coloring the turkey below, and if you mail us your colored picture we'll give you a \$1 credit for Amazon.com! You can save your credits to buy something extra special! Happy Thanksgiving!



Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
434 Spring Street Ext.
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Westminster College Students Present Passive Treatment System Data at SRWC Meeting

At what is **our very favorite meeting of the year**, students from **Dr. Helen Boylan's** Advanced Chemistry class presented the results from their data collection and analysis of the Erico Bridge Passive Treatment System. They did an excellent job presenting their findings during our October 8th meeting, and we enjoyed spending time with them discussing AMD, passive treatment, data analysis methods, and more. We look forward to working with the students on additional AMD water testing in the future and are thankful for their helpful input. Thanks to the following students for all of their hard work: **Jacob Haubrich, Amy Cawoski, Brendan Messner, Chris Caroff, Samantha Tower, Zachary Woessner, Cameron Worthing, Jennifer Armen, Stephanie Homitz, Michael McClain, Brittany Slupe, and Mathi Willoughby.**



Save The Date!!!

Please join us next month on December 3rd for the annual Student Symposium On the Environment which will be held at Westminster College in the McKelvey Campus Center from 5:30-9:00 PM. For more information visit www.westminster.edu/environment