

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/14/16 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. No regular December meeting was held.

Spectacular Student Symposium!

It was our largest symposium yet!! On December 3rd, the annual Student Symposium on the Environment was held at **Westminster College**. A record number of students from local colleges and universities were able to showcase their work in a variety of environmental fields. Their projects and research endeavors were quite impressive, as the panel of judges calculated many extremely close scores. We were very encouraged by the **great number of excellent projects**, and hope the student participants and other students continue to ask questions, design experiments, and seek solutions to environmental issues. Your work can, and does, make a difference!!

We sincerely thank all students who participated and congratulate the following winners:

In the category of Environmental Project Presentations, the top award went to **Kelsey Kilbane, Christina Mauri, & Jamie Linderman** from **Westminster College** for their presentation entitled "Lawrence and Mercer ALLARM Program: A 6-Week Water Quality Study." Honorable mention went to **Rachael Letscher** from **Westminster College** for her presentation "Helping Local People Save Local Land: My internship at Allegheny Land Trust."

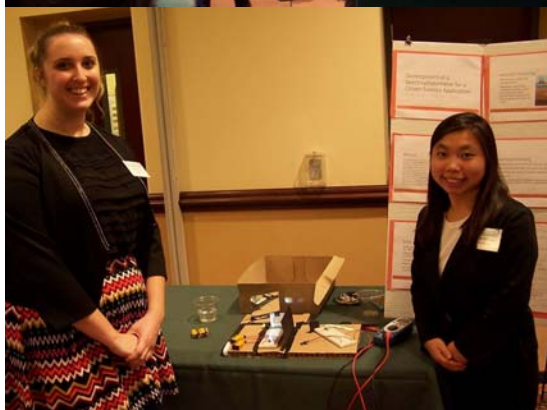
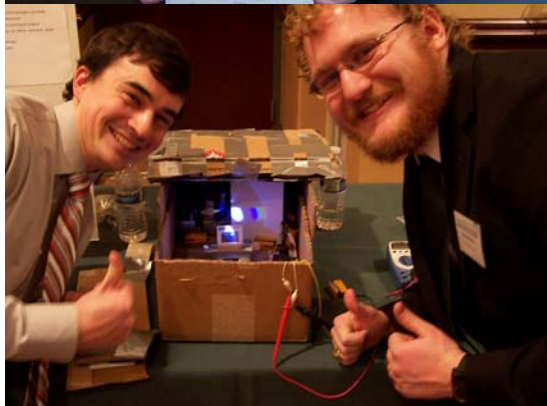
In the Research Poster Presentations category, the top award winner was **Tyler Umstead** (photo - top left) from **Duquesne University** for his presentation entitled "Geospatial Analysis of Unconventional Gas Extraction in Cross Creek County Park and its Watershed." Honorable mention was awarded to **Victoria Yeager** from **Slippery Rock University** for "Relationship Between Mercury Concentration and Wind Movement in the Great Lakes Region."

Class Projects awards went out to **Amelia Hartzell, Megan Prybyl, and Sarah Laughlin** (Best) from **Westminster College** for their work on "50 Shades of Logwood Produced from Natural Dyeing" and to **Carli Sebest** (Honorable Mention) of **Westminster College** for her project "How Do Environmental Problems Exacerbate Poverty?"

The Oral Presentations category winner was **Tyler Umstead** from **Duquesne University** for "Investigation of Water Quality in Proximity to Unconventional Gas Extraction Within and Around Cross Creek County Park, PA", with the honorable mention going to **Rachael Letscher, Christina Mauri, and Jamie Linderman** from **Westminster College** for "Protecting the Eastern Hemlocks: Monitoring for Hemlock Woolly Adelgid in McConnells Mill State Park."

Special thanks to **Dr. Helen Boylan**, Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Programs Coordinator at Westminster College!

Be sure to mark your calendars and save the date for the 2016 Student Symposium, to take place on December 1st!!!





Slippery Rock University student **Arthur F. Link III** and his adviser **Dr. Valentin I. Kefeli** pose at their soil science poster display at the Annual Student Symposium on the Environment. (See front page article.) Many great photos and videos are available for the public to view from this great event on the Environmental Programs at Westminster College Facebook page!

The Catalyst Read ‘Round the World!

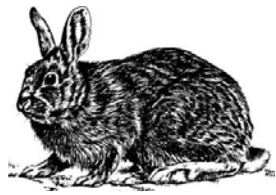
It is both humbling and exciting to realize that the monthly newsletter of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition has a **distribution to over 1100 individuals** in **over a dozen countries** around the world! Folks from **Brazil, Peru, South Korea, Mexico, England, Venezuela, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, and Germany**, all enjoy keeping up on the happenings of the SRWC, and we couldn't be happier! We love to share news about our latest projects and partnerships to anyone who has an interest in watershed improvement.

One such loyal reader recently surprised us with a message sent from his home in **Wales!** Located in southwest Great Britain, Wales is home to the second largest offshore wind farm in the world - capable of generating enough energy from renewable sources to power the equivalent of approximately 400,000 homes! Sustainability is a major focus of this country, which is known for its breathtaking coastline and beaches, mountains, gardens, castles (more per square mile than anywhere else in the world), and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.



Steve Smith, Senior Technical Project Manager in the Economy, Science, and Transport division of the Welsh Government, sent us a note of Christmas greetings and remarked on how it was August 2008 when he started to receive the *Catalyst* newsletter. We met Steve at the WPCAMR/EPCAMR Abandoned Mine Conference held at State College that year. It's hard to believe over 7 years have gone by since then! We thank Steve for his kind words about our work, and return his best wishes! Thank you for reading the *Catalyst* and keeping up with what we do!

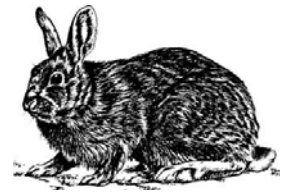
We remind our readers we love hearing from you individually, so please drop us a note any time. It is always exciting to be reminded how we remain connected to many wonderful and dedicated people from all over the world, some of whom we have met just once or twice. You never know what future projects may join *Catalyst* readers together!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Winter Wildlife Friends



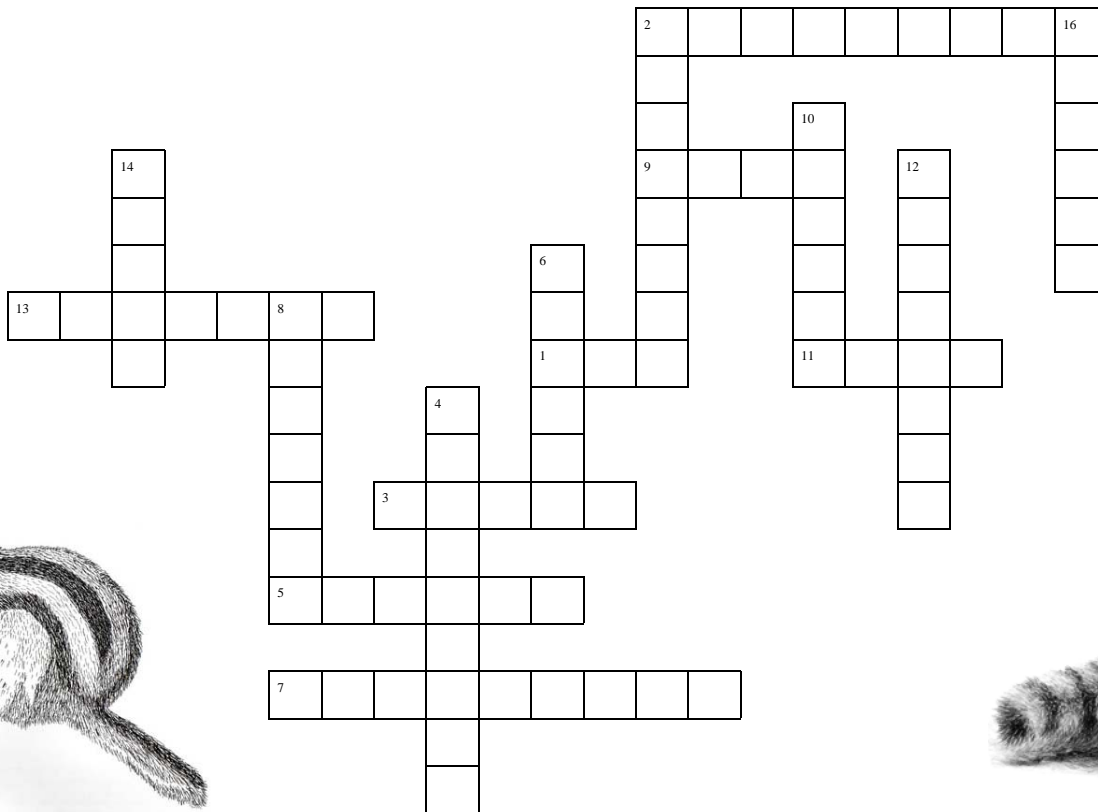
Winter is a harsh time of year for many animals in Pennsylvania. Some creatures migrate, while others hibernate. Those who remain active can have trouble finding food and staying warm. A safe place to hide from hungry enemies is also a must! Try your hand at the winter wildlife crossword puzzle below. All of the clues go with animals commonly found in Pennsylvania in the winter months. If you complete the crossword puzzle and mail it to us, we will give you a \$1 credit to use on Amazon.com! You can save your credits like a squirrel saves nuts!

Across

- The barred ____ calls "Who cooks for you?" and is often heard in January.
- Squirrels and ____ are known for burying nuts and seeds underground.
- Beavers store twigs and branches under pond ____ before it freezes over.
- ____ like the garter hibernate in huge tangled balls under rock piles.
- Turtles and frogs ____ in stream banks or on pond bottoms.
- White-tailed ____ are common sights in winter, eating leaves and twigs.
- A thick blanket of white ____ acts as insulation, increasing the temperature.
- The first and coldest month of the year.

Down

- The northern ____ is a common winter bird, whose bright red color & orange beak are easily seen at bird feeders & in snow.
- One of the first mammals to have young is the ____, who gives birth to cubs in January while still hibernating.
- The ruffed ____, PA's state bird, often buries itself in snow to keep warm.
- Cottontail ____ are not picky eaters and will consume twigs, bark, stems, seeds, fruits, grasses, flowers, and branches.
- It can be fun to follow animal ____, the prints they leave behind in the snow or mud.
- These creatures with black face masks and ringed tails will scavenge in your trash cans for food during the winter months!
- Both the red fox and this "stinky" animal breed in February.
- When this warmer season arrives, the migrating birds return and flowers begin to bloom.



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.
Mars, PA 16046

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See How You Can Use a Holiday Recycling Guide!

'Tis the season to recycle! Let your beautiful **Christmas tree** continue its life as mulch or another useful composted product! Trees with all flocking, ornaments, tinsel, and garland removed can be recycled at several locations in western PA (call for details):

Back to Nature – 840 Mercer Rd, Butler 16001. (724) 287-7921 (free drop-off but pickup service is available for a fee depending on mileage, through Jan. 31, 2016)

Seneca Landfill – 421 Hartmann Rd, Evans City, PA 16033. (724) 625-9000 (drop-off only through Jan. 31, 2016. \$5.00 fee per tree – ask for directions at the scale house when you enter site)

Slippery Rock Community Park – 320 N. Main St., Slippery Rock 16057. (724) 794-8180 (free drop-off only through January 8, 2016). Drop-off site will be clearly marked.

Some communities may have a curbside pickup program – call your municipal building for details.

Perhaps you have some holiday items you're not sure what to do with? Check out the info below to see what you may be able to *recycle!*

Packing peanuts are accepted at UPS Stores in both Butler and Cranberry. Did you know Styrofoam and foil are not recyclable? Avoid these products when you can to cut back on waste. **Wrapping paper** (without foil), **Christmas cards** (without foil), **envelopes**, and **tissue paper** can also go curbside with single-stream recycling, or to Paper Retriever bins around the county!

Bubble wrap is accepted at UPS Stores in both Butler and Cranberry, and may also be taken by E-Bay shipping service centers. Another option is to save and reuse it in the future for mailing or wrapping gifts.

Up to a 5-gallon bucket of **standard household batteries** are accepted for free at Battery Giant of Pittsburgh, 10 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Township 16066. Call (724)741-6200. **Rechargeable batteries** are accepted at the service desk for free at both Home Depot and Lowe's for recycling.

Did you know almost everyone can place **cardboard** in your curbside recycling bin?! If single-stream recycling is available, we encourage you to recycle pressed cardboard cartons, such as moving and shipping boxes, merchandise boxes, and large appliance boxes. Don't forget **newspapers** and **magazines!** Empty **aerosol cans**, **glass** from beverage bottles and food jars, plastic bottles such as **milk jugs**, bleach and **laundry detergent bottles**, aluminum/steel or bi-metal food and **beverage cans**, all of these "can" (bad pun intended!) be recycled!