

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 7/14/16 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. May and June meetings are cancelled! 4/14/16 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, W. Taylor, J. Wilkinson



May and June SRWC Meetings Cancelled!

Due to several conflicting activities, the regular meetings of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition for the months of May and June have unfortunately been cancelled. Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 14 at 7 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center and will resume on a monthly-basis as normally scheduled. As usual, free pizza and soda will be served and everyone is welcome! Come learn more about what the SRWC is doing to improve the health of the watershed! We love to see new faces.

SRU Students Sample at Wolf Creek Narrows

On April 5, 2016, **Dr. Becky Thomas** of **Slippery Rock University** brought her Natural History of Ecosystems class to the Wolf Creek Narrows for an Aquatic Ecology lab. **Cliff Denholm** of the SRWC was invited to join the class for the day. The group of **30(!!!)** Park and Resource Management students were divided into groups that rotated among three different activities, including a self-guided trail walk, aquatic macroinvertebrate investigation, and stream water quality testing. Dr. Thomas taught the macroinvertebrate portion of the lab while Cliff enjoyed working with the students on the water quality aspect. Cliff and the students sampled Wolf Creek and



conducted field tests using various meters and chemical test kits to analyze for pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature, oxidation-reduction potential, conductivity, alkalinity, and total iron. Cliff also had an opportunity to talk about the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, the SRWC, the causes and effects of abandoned mine drainage, and the improvements in water quality related to the implementation of passive treatment systems.

As part of the class, the students are working on a blog. The stories along with short informational videos should be available soon at <https://rebeccaewthomas.wordpress.com>.

Cliff really enjoyed working with Dr. Thomas and her students, who were interested, enthusiastic, and asked a lot of good questions. It is always fun and rewarding to be able to spend time out in the field with students! We hope this will develop into another great long-term partnership effort!



Some of the enthusiastic SRU students from Dr. Becky Thomas's Natural History of Ecosystems class at Wolf Creek Narrows in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. (4/5/16)

Upcoming Events

Jennings Environmental Education Center

Mother's Day Wildflower Walk

Celebrate the arrival of spring with a 90-minute wildflower walk at the Jennings Environmental Education Center on **Sunday, May 8th at 2:00 p.m.** Jennings staff will introduce the unique history, uses, and folklore of the season's first blooms. Why buy mom just a few simple roses on Mother's Day, when she can be given the opportunity to view many wild flora species and learn about their interesting traits?

More than just a pretty face, each spring wildflower has its own history and personality. For countless generations, wildflowers have been admired and revered for their beauty and usefulness as foods and medicines. Native Americans, as well as early European settlers, largely depended on the extraordinary healing powers of wildflowers for common ailments. Catch the splendor and brilliance of these spring beauties before they have come and gone.

3MJC Meeting: River Otters

SPLASH!!! What is that creature?? The river otter is an elusive aquatic mammal. Originally found throughout all of Pennsylvania's river systems, water pollution that killed fish and unregulated fur harvest nearly exterminated them. By the mid-20th century, otters survived in only a few watersheds in the state's northeastern corner. In 1982, the **PA Game Commission** and **Frostburg University** began an effort to reintroduce river otters to Pennsylvania by releasing 153 wild otters captured in Louisiana, Maryland, and New York into several healthy watersheds in central and western PA. Their population has made a remarkable comeback! Learn about the biology, habitat, diet, population, and life cycle of this amazing creature. This program will be held on **Wednesday, May 18th from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** and presented by an educator from **Moraine State Park**.

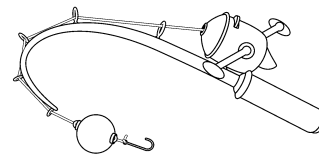


The public is welcome to attend this meeting of **Moraine, McConnell's Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC)**, a non-profit friends group that supports these three parks. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center, located at 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Go Fish!

Fishing season has returned! See what the family below caught on their last fishing trip! Trace the fishing line from each family member until you reach the end - and the fish! Write the name of the person next to the name of the fish. You can make some guesses before you try the maze and see if you were right or not! Fishing is a wonderful, fun family activity, and we hope you get to try it out this spring or summer. If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 credit to use at Amazon.com via a parent's email address. The \$1 credits can be saved up so you can buy something really great!



Grandpa



Sally



Billy



Dad



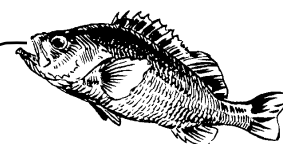
Rover



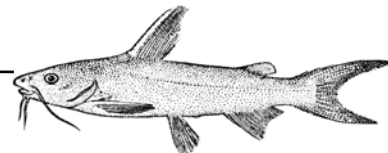
_____ bass



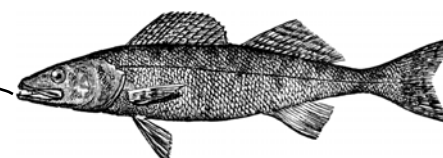
_____ boot



_____ perch



_____ catfish



_____ pike

Name _____ Age _____ Address _____

Parent's email _____



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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“SAVE THE DATE”
Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference
June 22-23, 2016

Don't forget to mark your calendars to attend the 2016 Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference (PA AMR). This year's theme is "Economics and the Environment." This is a great opportunity to network with some of the nicest people in Pennsylvania who are working to reclaim our abandoned mine lands and restore our streams! If this topic interests you, you probably won't be able to find a more affordable, interesting, and fun, conference. This year's event will take place on **June 22nd and 23rd** at the **Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) Kovalchick Conference Center in Indiana, PA.**

The conference will begin on Wednesday June 22nd with an all-day field tour that will include stops at the Bear Run restoration area, Tanoma passive treatment system, coal refuse pile reclamation in Ernest, and, if time permits, a stop at a lime silo treatment system at the Waterworks Conservation Area. We will finish the tour with a stop at a local brewery before heading back to the conference for networking and a buffet dinner. Thursday June 23rd will consist of many wonderful professional presentations covering a wide variety of topics related to watershed restoration.

As always, members of watershed groups and nonprofits will enjoy heavily-discounted registration rates as well as the opportunity to apply for scholarship funds to pay for the cost of lodging. There are "no worries", however, if you don't get a scholarship because the lodging rates at IUP are nice and affordable. We hope to see you there!



For more information and to register for the conference visit: <http://2016.treatminewater.com>