

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. No May and June meetings due to conflicting events.

“EarthFest”

Macoskey Center Celebration

SRWC’s soil scientist advisor, **Dr. Valentin Kefeli**, was pleased to participate with Macoskey Center staff and supporters in the 16th Annual EarthFest on April 23. The Macoskey Center hosted a day of environmentally-themed fun at **Slippery Rock University (SRU)** for all ages and everyone in the community. Workshops and demonstrations included a hybrid car, soap-making, biofuel workshop, apple tree grafting, kite making and flying, a portable planetarium, interactive farm animal exhibit, storytelling, children’s games and crafts, an ecological art exhibition, and live music by local bands. The “Sustainable Marketplace” featured food, grown in environmentally-conscious ways, from local vendors and farmers. Many booths, tents, and tables were set up all around the Macoskey grounds on a beautiful spring day, including a table hosted by Dr. Kefeli, who enjoyed helping out in this special day of celebration of Slippery Rock University’s home for hands-on sustainability education and action since 1990.

Located on an 83-acre SRU demonstration farm, the Robert A. Macoskey Center (RAMC) was created in 1990 to promote sustainability both at SRU and in the local community. It provides education and outreach opportunities through events, workshops and programs; gives physical demonstration of technologies and systems; and supports academic initiatives and research. A wood stove, sunspace with passive solar windows, and geothermal heating and cooling are some of the Center’s unique features. A geothermal heat pump uses the stable ground temperatures near the Earth’s surface to help control building temperatures. Ground-source heat pumps can be the most energy-efficient, environmentally-clean, and cost-effective systems for temperature control. In winter, the heat pump extracts heat from the ground (via a closed loop pipe that extends 500 feet into the ground) and transfers the heat inside the building. In summer, the heat pump extracts heat from inside the building and transfers it into the ground.



Dr. Kefeli enjoyed sharing his knowledge with all of the participants eager to learn more about environmental sustainability, the Macoskey Center, and the work of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. Other friends on hand included **Fran Bires**, Director, McKeever Environmental Learning Center; **Chris Leininger**, SRU Park and Resource Management faculty; and **Arthur Link III**, a sustainable management major who co-wrote and co-produced a documentary honoring the late Dr. Robert Macoskey. Indeed, Dr. Macoskey was ahead of his time in the area of sustainability. “He brought people together that had interests in ‘hard’ science to work on problems that the solution could only be found by integration of all the people’s thoughts and experiences,” Arthur said. Arthur and Valentin were honored to spend time at EarthFest with **Mrs. Vy Macoskey**, the wife of Dr. Robert Macoskey, who no doubt would have been very pleased to see so many folks participating in a day to energize and inspire environmental responsibility and sustainability.



EarthFest
4/23/16
Macoskey Center
Slippery Rock University

Arthur Link
Fran Bires
Vy Macoskey
Valentin Kefeli
Chris Leininger

(pictured left to right)

All About Our New Intern...

Interns have provided us many valuable services over the years, and, in turn, they have gained practical work experience while learning a great deal about environmental restoration. Read on to learn more about our newest intern, **Joshua Vinglish**.

Hello, My name is Joshua Vinglish and I am the newest student intern. I grew up in the small town of Patton, Pennsylvania and attended school at Penn Cambria school district. As I was growing up, I loved being outside enjoying nature. In my free time, I frequently go hunting and fishing. Because of my passion of enjoying nature, I knew I wanted to do something that involved being outside and/or protecting/cleaning-up the environment. Towards the end of my high school years, I knew I wanted to be an environmental engineer.



In order to pursue my goal of becoming an environmental engineer, I chose to attend **Saint Francis University (SFU)** in the Fall of 2013. SFU was appealing to me for a number of reasons. First, their environmental engineering program was just recently accredited. Second, their class sizes are small and very interactive. Finally, I could attend Saint Francis relatively inexpensively because **my father, Steve Vinglish**, works for the grounds crew there. It is now the summer of 2016 and I am entering my senior year at SFU. With the help of my excellent **Environmental Engineering Professors Rachel Wagner, Joel Bandstra and William Strosnider** (my advisor), I have been able to learn a great deal both in class and hands-on in the field of environmental engineering.

In my past years at SFU, I have been blessed with the opportunity to preform research with **Dr. Rachel Wagner and Dr. Peter Smyntek**. Under Dr. Wagner's guidance, we were able to test and study different characteristics of Microbial Fuels in the hopes of improving their overall efficiencies. In addition, I was able to assist post-doctoral fellow Dr. Peter Smyntek in preforming lab-scale studies of the Co-Treatment of Acid Mine Drainage and Municipal Waste Water when co-mixed. I would like to extend a special thanks to my **mentor/lab instructor Kelsea Palmer** for informing me of this internship opportunity. Even though I've only been here for roughly a month I have learned a great deal about designing, building, and maintaining systems that treat mine drainage. In my time thus far, I have taken water samples, operated machinery, helped map wetlands, and processed iron-bearing materials recovered from passive treatment systems.

I am very excited to see what the future has in store for me. In my time thus far, I know that my instructors and experiences at SFU have given me the skills and work ethic necessary to be a successful environmental engineer. Finally, I would like to thank everyone at BioMost, Inc. and Stream Restoration Inc. for allowing me to intern with them and for



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Watershed Word Search

You probably noticed we call our organization the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC). Have you ever wondered what exactly is a **watershed**? A watershed is the word used to describe an area of land that drains water (like rain and melting snow) to a shared destination such as a river, lake, or other body of water. The watershed drains down slope to its lowest point, moving through a network of drainage pathways. Generally, these pathways converge into streams and rivers, which become larger as the water moves on downstream, eventually reaching an estuary and the ocean. Watersheds can be large or small. Every stream, tributary, or river has an associated watershed, and small watersheds join to become larger watersheds. The area where we focus much of our restoration work drains into the Slippery Rock Creek. Watersheds are divided by high areas of land called "divides." There are 5 major watersheds in Pennsylvania: the Delaware, the Great Lakes, the Ohio, the Potomac and the Susquehanna. Try to find the "watershed" words hidden in the Word Search below. Circle the words, and if you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 credit (which you can save!) for Amazon.com through a parent's email address.

WATERSHED	WATER	DRAINAGE	STREAM
CREEK	OCEAN	PRECIPITATION	DIVIDE
DOWNHILL	FRESHWATER	CYCLE	MOUNTAINS
TRIBUTARY	DELAWARE	GREAT LAKES	OHIO
POTOMAC	SUSQUEHANNA	BASIN	RESTORE

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

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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Hazardous Waste Collection Dates for Summer

Unsure what to do with your leftover paint, pesticides, televisions, computers, batteries, chemicals, etc.? The **Board of Butler County Commissioners**, with grant funding from the **PA DEP** and a generous donation from new sponsor **PPG Paints**, continues to provide a program for you to get rid of these unwanted items. There is a collection site at the corner of Ash Stop Road and State Route 68 in Evans City (across from the Forward Township Building), where unwanted, hazardous waste can be dropped off for a nominal fee. **You must pre-register by calling 1-866-815-0016 to schedule a drop-off appointment.**

Summer collection dates are as follows:

June 25, July 16, August 20, and September 17.

Items accepted include:

Cleaning Products, Pesticides, Batteries, Automotive Products, Flammable Products, Fluorescent Bulbs & CFL's, Lawn & Garden products, Pool Chemicals, Aerosols, Chemicals, Mercury Thermostats, Propane Cylinders, Paint & Paint Products, Televisions, Stereos, Tape Players, Laptop Computers, Computers, Printers & Phone Systems, VHS & Cassette Tapes, Mobile Phones, CD's, DVD's, CD Players, Fax Machines, VCR's, Copiers, and now small freon appliances like window air conditioners.

New sponsor **PPG Paints** will be giving away coupons for the purchase of paint at all upcoming collections.

Thank you **Sheryl Kelly** (Environmental Specialist and Recycling & Waste Management Coordinator for the Butler County Department of Recycling and Waste Management) for reminding us of this excellent chance to rid our homes of unwanted and potentially dangerous materials.

