

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 8/11/16 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 7/14/16 meeting attendance: M. Dunn, V. Kefeli, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal, J. Wilkinson

### **Celebrating the Bloom at Jennings**

By Morgan Siebka, JEEC

On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Jennings Environmental Education Center held their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrate The Bloom festival. The festival is held specifically in honor of the bloom of the park's prairie iconic flower, the Blazing Star. In order to better attract the public to the Prairie to witness the Blazing Star's natural beauty, the festival is held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. once a year during peak bloom season for visitors to come out and take in the sight for themselves.

This year's event attracted 750 people. Though the Blazing Star itself is the main spectacle, there was much more to be seen! The activity list included nature explorations such as Birding on the Prairie, Wildflowers of the Prairie, and a Massasauga walk, all led by naturalists and biologists. In addition to these guided programs, the indoor classroom hosted an array of educational activity booths for children to better understand the natural history of the park as well as general information about the prairie habitat and the organisms living in it. A variety of demonstrations were available to the visitors as well, some of which were Butterfly Gardening, Weaving, Blacksmithing, and live Reptiles and Amphibians. Entertainment throughout the day's events included well-known musicians like The Carpenter Ants, Allegheny Drifters, Laura Nadeau, and Todd Burge.



On top of all the choices of activities and entertainment, the visitors were able to shop for items available from local artisans as well as grab a bite to eat. Some of the artisans displayed items such as jewelry, nature photography, wool items, and Clean Creek Pottery (see box below).

The festival proved to be an educational, interactive and fun-filled family event. Thanks to several sponsors, including Zero Fossil, Botanical Society of Western Pennsylvania, and 3MJC, to name a few, Celebrate The Bloom was a successful event attracting many people to enjoy the beautiful Prairie as well as its resources!

### **Remember to Support Clean Creek Products!**

Clean Creek Products (CCP), a division of the non-profit Stream Restoration Incorporated that recovers iron and manganese during passive treatment of mine drainage, is working to develop markets for these "by-products". For instance, these metals are being used as colorants in pigments by local ceramic artists that make hand-thrown pottery. Your purchase of this "green technology"-glazed pottery will contribute to CCP's continued efforts to treat AMD and keep our streams and rivers clean. If you have never visited the CCP website, we encourage you to spend a few minutes browsing the amazing selection of unique items for sale. And please tell your friends and co-workers about CCP as well! There are lovely pottery pieces, beautiful jewelry, wildlife replicas, tiles and trivets, seasonal accents, even gift certificates. Also, if you have a use for the recovered iron and manganese oxides (which can be used in candle-making, tie-dying, brick/concrete colorant, pottery glaze, etc.), CCP also sells the dried and sized materials at a very affordable price. Visit [www.cleancreek.org](http://www.cleancreek.org), and remember proceeds are used for on-going stream clean-up efforts! Thank you for your support!



The 2016 PA AMR Conference provided a tour of some of the nearby abandoned mine restoration sites that was both informative and enjoyable. (See article below.)

## **SRWC attends Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference**

Once again, participants of the SRWC attended the annual AMR conference on June 22-23. This year's conference sought to shake the event up a bit, as well as return to some of the conference hits of the past. The conference committee decided to try moving the conference location, which has been held in State College, PA for the last five years. By moving the event around the state, it will be possible to highlight various watershed group efforts as well as provide for more tour options. This year's event was held at **Indiana University of Pennsylvania** with the timely theme of "Economics and the Environment".

The first day of the conference consisted of a return to the all-day tour. Indiana County Historian **John Busoviki** provided a very interesting, informative, and sometimes personal, narrated bus tour of the county with an emphasis on coal mining. The first stop of the bus tour was the **Bear Run Watershed** where numerous treatment systems have been installed with great success by the **Susquehanna River Basin Commission** and **Indiana County Conservation District**. From there we traveled to the **Tanoma Treatment System** which the **Evergreen Conservancy** also uses as an educational park, focusing not just on AMD & passive treatment, but alternative energy technologies as well. SRWC participant **Tim Danehy** of BioMost, Inc. discussed the design and installation of a trompe at the system that passively compresses air for aeration & mixing without using any fossil fuels or moving parts, just falling water. From there the tour went to the **Ernest Waste Coal Removal Site** to see the wonderful reclamation job that **Cambria CoGen** has been doing to remove and burn a large coal refuse pile - a win-win-win of restoring the environment, creating jobs, and producing electricity! We also visited the **Waterworks Conservation Area** created by the Indiana County Conservation District that serves the triple purpose of conservation, recreation, and water treatment. The excursion ended with a tour of the **Levity Brewing Company** before participants headed back for dinner. A highlight of the evening was when the **US Office of Surface Mine Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)** ECHO award was given to **Louise Dunlap**, who was instrumental in the reauthorization of SMCRA.

The second day of the conference was full of interesting presentations on a variety of subjects, from coal heritage, to passive treatment, to government initiative, to the use of drones. **Tim Danehy** provided a presentation on "AMD in the Bolivian Highlands" during lunch which discussed the partnership effort between **Saint Francis University, Oklahoma University, Engineers In Action, and BioMost, Inc.** to address mine drainage problems in Bolivia. During lunch the Mayfly award was presented to **Joe Pizarchik, US OSMRE**.

Thanks to **WPCAMR** and **EPCAMR** and all the committee members for putting on such a great conference, and thanks to all the presenters who shared their experience and knowledge! We look forward to next year's conference, which will likely be in a different part of the state.



# The KIDS Catalyst

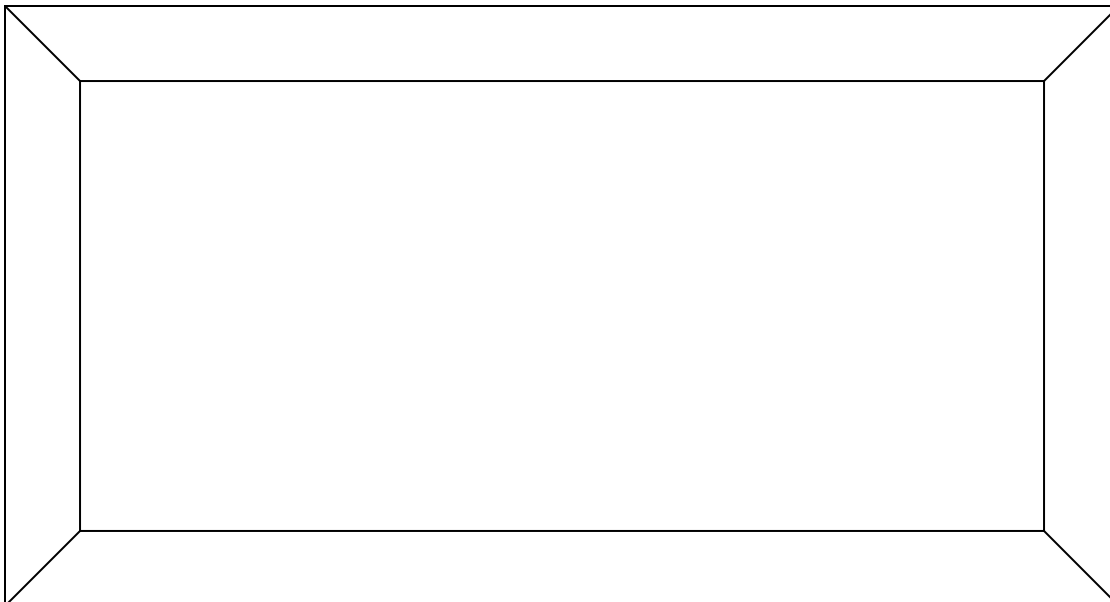
## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Sounds of Summer Word Unscramble

Part of being a good scientist is being a good observer of your surroundings. When scientists make observations during experiments, they use their 5 senses (sight, smell, hearing, taste, and touch). Summer is a great time to use your ears to make observations about the world around you. It can be fun to go outside and sit and close your eyes and try to guess what is making the different sounds you will hear with your ears. Below are some common summer sounds—with the letters all scrambled up! Use the clues given to unscramble the words and write them on the lines. Then choose your favorite sound from the list and draw a picture of where it comes from! If you send us your paper, we will email a \$1 credit to a parent’s email address for you to spend (or save!) on Amazon.com!

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 1. “CAW” _____ ORCW        | Large black bird, likes to eat corn                      |
| 2. “RIBBIT” _____ GOFR     | Amphibian; likes the water; can jump                     |
| 3. “KA-BOOM” _____ UEHDTRN | Loud noise heard during storms with lightning            |
| 4. “WHOO-WHOO” _____ WLO   | Bird of prey; is active at night; some say they are wise |
| 5. “TRICKLE” _____ RMTASE  | Small body of water running over rocks                   |
| 6. “COO” _____ GIPNOE      | Bird known for having large flocks in city parks         |
| 7. “QUACK” _____ DKCU      | Waddles when it walks; has webbed feet; swims            |
| 8. “BZZZZ” _____ EBE       | Insect that makes honey; some can sting                  |
| 9. “CHEEP” _____ BDIR      | Feathers let it fly; makes nests; lays eggs              |
| 10. “HONK” _____ EOGOS     | Large bird; some fly in a “V” formation                  |



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s email \_\_\_\_\_



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
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Thanks to The William & Frances Aloe Charitable Foundation, Environmentally Innovative Solutions, LLC, Dominion Peoples, Amerikohl Mining, Inc., Quality Aggregates Inc., Drs. Ron & Kathy Falk Family, BioMost, Inc., Allegheny Mineral Corporation and PA DEP for their support. For more information contact: Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated (PA non-profit), 434 Spring Street Ext., Mars, PA 16046 (724)776-0161, fax (724)776-0166, [sri@streamrestorationinc.org](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). Aug. distribution: 1120 copies

## **SRWC Welcomes New Volunteer**

The SRWC is pleased to welcome our newest volunteer, **Joseph Wright**, who is helping with the Adopt-A-Passive System Program. Joseph, who is from Clintonville, will be a senior this year at Franklin Area High School. Joseph will be monitoring the BC16 system in the Blacks Creek sub-watershed and will be entering his data onto Datashed. Joseph became interested in volunteering after attending a program at the Jennings **Environmental Education Center**. SRWC participants **Wil Taylor** and **Cliff Denholm** provided Joseph training about AMD, passive treatment systems, water monitoring, and site investigations and gave him a tour of the site that he will be monitoring. We look forward to working with Joseph. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, you can contact Cliff Denholm at 724-776-0161.



## **Upcoming September Fun at Jennings!**

Jennings Environmental Education Center is again offering an Introduction to Archery course by certified archery instructors. This is an opportunity for any adult or child aged 12+ who has always wanted to learn how to shoot a bow. The course will include range safety rules and orientation, equipment orientation, the steps involved in shooting, and lots of practice. This course will be held on the prairie side of the park near the pavilion on Sunday, September 18 from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM. Participants must register online.

Another fun event will be a Sept. 21 presentation at 7 PM on the marvelous and majestic Monarch Butterfly, led by **Stephanie Taylor**, an environmental educator at Jennings. The public is welcome to attend this (and any!) meeting of Moraine, McConnell's Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC), a non-profit group that supports these three parks. We will take a close look at Monarch identification, life cycle and more, and you can see how you can help scientists learn more about this amazing creature by tagging Monarchs in your own backyard. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Jennings EEC.