

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/12/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. December meeting cancelled. 11/10/16 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

Student Symposium a Smashing Success!

The annual Student Symposium on the Environment has gotten to be so good, it is now impossible to say that one year is better or bigger than the last! On December 1st, the popular event was once again held at **Westminster College** to provide students an opportunity to showcase their work in a variety of environmental fields. Participating students represented Allegheny College, Geneva College, Slippery Rock University, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Westminster College, and Youngstown State University, as well as two high schools: Wilmington Area High School and Sharpsville Area High School. Student projects and research endeavors were quite impressive. 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 **Erin Hassett** from **Westminster College** for her presentation entitled “Fish Response to Flow Alteration: Internship with the Missouri Department of Conservation.” Honorable mention went to **Andrew Miles** from **Wilmington Area High School** for his presentation “Comparison of Biological Synthesis of Silver Nanoparticles.”

In the Research Poster Presentations category, the top award winner was **Brooke Mancuso**, from Westminster College for her presentation entitled “Associations among microhabitat characteristics and patterns of nest site occupancy in American Kestrels.” Honorable mention was awarded to **Cameron Yard** from **Westminster College** for “Contact irritancy of the Asian tiger mosquito in response to Linalool and DEET using a high-throughput screening system.”

The Oral Presentations category winner was **Jennifer Bauer** from **Slippery Rock University** for “An updated checklist for the lichens of Lawrence County.” Honorable mention was awarded to Jacob Booth, Adam Cheatham, Erin Hassett, and Natasha Pacifico from **Westminster College** for “Determinants of water quality of natural springs in western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio.”

Special thanks to **Dr. Helen Boylan**, Professor of Chemistry and Environmental Programs Coordinator and **Amy Deems** at Westminster College for all their help in organizing the event!

Be sure to save the date for the 2017 Student Symposium which will be held on December 7th!!!





**Student Symposium Award Winners
(see first page for more information)**

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.



Some communities may have a curbside pickup program – call your municipal building for details. In Butler Township, Christmas trees placed at the curb from December 26th through January 31st will be collected at no extra cost. Trees that exceed 7 feet in length must be cut so that no portion exceeds 7 feet in length.

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? These materials will not biodegrade, so 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.

Did you know almost everyone can place **cardboard** and **paperboard** in your curbside recycling bin?! If you are not recycling your paperboard, you are generating a lot more trash for our landfills. Everyday examples of paperboard are cereal boxes, tissue boxes, and pasta and cracker boxes. Much of the food we purchase in a grocery store comes in paperboard boxes. If single-stream recycling is available to you, we encourage you to recycle pressed paperboard boxes and 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** and containers, **milk jugs**, bleach and **laundry detergent bottles**, aluminum/steel or bi-metal food and **beverage cans**, are recyclable.

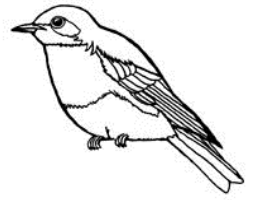
Butler offers many easy opportunities for recycling, but even if you live elsewhere you can contact your county's recycling coordinator for help. For Butler residents, contact Sheryl Kelly at 724-284-5305 or email skelly@co.butler.pa.us



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Crack the Code: Official State Wildlife



Did you know the official state bird of Florida is the mockingbird? And the official state animal of Maine is the moose! Every state has an "official" bird, insect, flower, mammal, etc.! We listed 4 of Pennsylvania's official state wildlife below, along with 8 others of nearby states. But the trick is that they are encoded! To find out the answers of the names of the official state wildlife types, you need to crack the code using the special alphabet key in the box below. Each letter of the alphabet is represented with a symbol. Simply check the box to see which symbol stands for which letter and convert the symbols you see into letters and words to get your answers! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 credit for Amazon (through a parent's email address). You can save up your credits to buy something extra special!

1 = A	8 = H	% = O	! = V
2 = B	9 = I	^ = P	? = W
3 = C	0 = J	& = Q	÷ = X
4 = D	~ = K	* = R	√ = Y
5 = E	@ = L	+ = S	\$ = Z
6 = F	# = M	{ = T	
7 = G	\$ = N	[= U	

Name _____ Age _____

Parent's email: _____

Address: _____

The official animal of Pennsylvania: ?89{5 {19@54 455* _____

The official flower/plant of Pennsylvania: #%[\$ {19\$ @1[*5@ _____

The official fish of Pennsylvania: 2*%%~ {*%[{ _____

The official insect of Pennsylvania: 69*56@√ _____

The official animal of West Virginia: 2@13~ 251* _____

The official flower/plant of West Virginia: *8%4%45\$4*%\$ _____

The official bird of West Virginia: 31*49\$1@ _____

The official insect of West Virginia: 8%\$5√255 _____

The official flower/plant of New Jersey: !9%@5{ _____

The official insect of Ohio: @14√2[7 _____

The official animal of New York: 251!5* _____

The official bird of New York: 2@[529*4 _____



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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Ring in the New Year with a First Day Hike

To promote a healthy start to the new year, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will sponsor free, guided hikes in several state parks on New Year's Day as part of America's State Parks First Day Hikes initiative in all 50 states. If you need a cure for cabin fever and a chance to burn off extra holiday calories, an invigorating walk in the beauty of Pennsylvania's state parks might be just the thing. Over 20 state parks or Pennsylvania Parks and Forest Foundation Chapters have a First Day Hike planned. You can visit the DCNR Calendar of Events online for updates and details on each hike.

Western Pennsylvanians can start the year out right with a hike on the North Country Trail in Moraine State Park! Join the folks from the Butler Outdoor Club, starting at the bike rental lot (near 157 North Shore Drive, Portersville, 16051) and hiking southwest on the North Country Trail. Some points of interest will be the new bridge over Muddy Creek, the Lake Arthur dam, and the trail under Route 422. The hike begins at 1 PM. There will be several opportunities to turn back and make a shorter hike, as hikers can opt to walk from one mile up to six miles on moderate terrain. Be sure to dress for the weather, with sturdy shoes or boots, and bring your own water and snacks.

Another great option is a brisk First Day walk at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Hikers will enjoy a walk on JECC's longest trail, Oakwoods. Led by Jennings staff and assistants, and covering just under two miles, participants will traverse varied terrain and pass through several different habitats, including the prairie, the forest, and an area influenced by beaver activity. The hike is rated "easy," for those who are able to cover the distance and some sloping areas under winter conditions. This is a free program, and pre-registration is not required. Meet the group at the parking lot at the Prairie Trails Area of the park in time to begin promptly at 1:00. Be sure to dress for the weather, with sturdy, water-resistant footwear and layered clothing for comfort, warmth and to stay dry! Bring your own water bottle and/or snacks as desired.



Organized by the National Association of State Park Directors, the nationwide, New Year's Day hikes originated more than 20 years ago in Milton, Massachusetts. The program was launched to promote both healthy lifestyles throughout the year and year-round recreation at state parks. State involvement has grown to the point where, for the first time in 2012, all 50 state park systems joined together to sponsor First Day Hikes.