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.

2016 Year in Review

Partnering With You to Improve Our Watershed

Education/Outreach Activities

- Clarion Forest Landowner Conference, Clarion University—2/20
- Cliff Denholm guest speaker at University of Pittsburgh, Don Hopey's "Issues" class—2/22
- SRWC Volunteer Thank You Dinner, Slippery Rock—2/29
- EarthFest, Slippery Rock—4/23
- Celebrate the Bloom, Jennings Environmental Education Center—7/16
- Lake Arthur Regatta, Moraine State Park—8/5-6
- McIntire passive system water sampling with Westminster College students, Blacks Creek, PA-9/9
- Morgan Run 8 Wetland Planting with Saint Francis University students, Clearfield, PA—9/10
- Westminster College student presentations at SRWC meeting, Slippery Rock—10/13
- Student Symposium on the Environment, Westminster College—12/1
- Adopt-A-Highway Program, clean-up effort for Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101
- Datashed training workshops, Greensburg, Ashley, State College, Loretto, PA
- "Data loggers" volunteer training, volunteer monitoring of water quality data with CTD sondes

Conferences

- WV Mine Drainage Taskforce Symposium – Morgantown, WV—3/29 - 3/30
- American Chemical Society Energy Technology Group Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA—5/10
- National Association of Geoscience Teachers, Eastern Section Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA—5/12
- Lawrence County Water Trail / Greenway Meeting 5/24
- 33rd National Meeting American Society of Mining and Reclamation, Spokane, WA—6/4-6/9
- Pennsylvania's 18th Annual Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, Indiana University of PA—6/22-23
- 11th Annual Northwest PA GIS Conference, Clarion University—10/13-10/14
- Maintenance, Engineering and Reliability / Mine Operators Conference, Sudbury, Ontario—10/16-18

Restoration Projects

- Erico Bridge rehabilitation
- DeSale Phase II rehabilitation
- McIntire rehabilitation
- Stream bank planting project at Slippery Rock Campground

Please Check Us Out Any Time!

If you'd like to learn more about what the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is all about, please join us at any one of our monthly meetings! The SRWC meets every second Thursday of the month at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Everyone is welcome to attend and join us for free pizza and pop! Meetings begin at 7 PM and generally include a review of recent watershed restoration efforts, ideas for new ventures and outreach, and previews of upcoming activities. We love meeting new people, so if you have an interest in the Slippery Rock Watershed, be sure to join us some Thursday evening soon!

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Photo taken in December 2016 of the stream bank restoration project completed in the fall of 2014 at the Slippery Rock Campground. The bank has become well vegetated with willows approximately 3' tall.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH

Thank You Lunch From Slippery Rock Campground Association

On December 16, several members of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition were treated to a delicious lunch at Martela Specialty Shop and Café in Mars, PA, courtesy of the Slippery Rock Campground Association. Tasty sandwiches, soups, and apple pie ala mode were greatly appreciated by SRWC participants **Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Shaun Busler, Dan Guy, Margaret Dunn, Ryan Mahony, Buck Neely, Julie Labar, and Jane Dunn. Frank VanAtta**, one of twelve on its Board of Directors, represented the Slippery Rock Campground Association in thanking the SRWC for their work done through the years restoring the campground's stream bank.

The Slippery Rock Campground encompasses 146 acres with 1200 lots and over 1075 members. Campground members enjoy swimming, fishing, tennis courts, miniature golf, bocci, horseshoes, arcade, camp store, and much more. Unfortunately, stream bank degradation started to threaten the landscape several years ago. When large sections of stream bank along the Slippery Rock Creek began to severely erode, the SRWC stepped in to stabilize the area. Restoration began a couple of years ago, and is nearing completion. To date, 800 feet of stream bank has been stabilized and restored (See Photo of the Month). One section remains (photo to the right), which will prove to be the most difficult as the area is very steep with little room to maneuver equipment. This final unstable area to be restored has an undercut bank with trailers located right up against it. The SRWC looks forward to completing the last section of stream bank stabilization; work will start pending a proposal submitted in January.

The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Animals Years in the New Year

A new year is now upon us! With talk of a new "year" we are giving you a puzzle about how many "years" some animals live. The average life expectancy of some animals is amazing! You may know of the oldest known tortoise that lived to be 255 (scientists guessed), or the flamingo in Australia that lived to be 83! Below are descriptions of some animals with their incredible life spans. Use the clues to unscramble the letters. If you send us your completed paper, we'll give you a $1 credit (sent to a parent's email) to use on Amazon! Credits can be saved up to buy something extra special! Happy New Year!

1. These colorful tropical birds can live 60 years in the wild. A P T R O R _____

2. These beautiful orange and white domesticated fish (a type of carp) have an average life of 50 years. O K I _____

3. These lovely pink birds with long necks and long legs often live 40 years in captivity. M O L A I F G N _____

4. The bowhead species is second in size only to the blue; this ocean mammal breathes air with lungs and uses a blowhole to blow it out. Bowheads can be 200 years old! E W A L H _____

5. This small spiny invertebrate that lives in shallow coastal waters can live to be 100 years old! E S A U C I R H N _____

6. We had to throw in a short-lived one! This long insect flies with two pairs of wings at up to 10 MPH. Fossils show wing spans of ancient specimens two feet long! Average life span is just 4 months. G O A Y L R D N F _____

7. Similar to a crocodile, this reptile can live for 68 years. I O L G A L R T A _____

8. Known for its wrinkly gray skin and trunk, these huge mammals live for about 70 years. E T P A L E H N _____

Name _____ Age ____ Address _____

_____ Parent 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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Micro-Hydro Power Guest Presenter to be Featured at March SRWC Meeting

On **Thursday, March 9th**, 2017 at 7:00 PM, **Josh Matheny** from the West Virginia University Center for Alternative Fuels, Engines, and Emissions will give an introductory presentation on small scale hydropower technology at Jennings Environmental Education Center. The presentation will include a short history of hydropower, an outline of the basic scientific principles that govern a hydro turbine's operation, a brief overview on hydropower research done by Josh at WVU, and general discussion at the end of the presentation for anyone interested in asking questions. Josh will be speaking during the regular monthly meeting time of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, and we hope to see many new faces turn out to learn more about this interesting alternative power source.

"Micro-Hydro Power" is an exciting new experimental type of hydroelectric power that typically produces from 5 kW to 100 kW of electricity using the natural flow of water. Installations below 5 kW are called pico hydro. Micro-hydro systems are very flexible and can be deployed in a number of different environments. With only a small stream needed, remote areas can access lighting and communications for homes, medical clinics, schools, and other facilities. Micro-hydro can even run a certain level of machinery supporting small businesses. Regions along the Andes mountains and in Sri Lanka, China, and rural Asia currently have active micro hydro programs. A micro-hydro system at the historic Foltz schoolhouse site utilizing water from treated mine drainage is currently its only source of electricity! It is sure to be a feature of the environmental education programs for guests to Jennings. We are excited about the prospect of expanding its development and utilizing the technology in the future! We hope to see you at our March meeting for Josh's presentation!