

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 2/9/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
1/12/17 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, B. Kuban, K. Schmidt, W. Taylor, J. Wilkinson, F. VanAtta

Big Changes Coming for The Catalyst! Please Read!



In order to cut costs and reduce our environmental footprint, beginning in April 2017, *The Catalyst* newsletter will no longer be mailed in print form. The newsletter of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition will be available in an electronic format. This new digital Catalyst will keep the same general content and layout, but will not be mailed to those accustomed to receiving it in paper form. For those who have provided us your email address at any point in the past, we will email you a digital Catalyst each month. For those not already on our email list, you can sign up at no cost to receive our free monthly newsletter electronically, or you can visit our official web site www.srwc.org and simply click the Catalyst link to view current and past issues. Children who have enjoyed our Kids Catalyst activities (and rewards!) need not worry — if you print *The Catalyst* from your printer, kids can still complete their special Kids Catalyst page and send it to us for a prize. To sign up to receive digital Catalyst issues, beginning in April,

please go to our web site www.srwc.org then click on the Publications tab, followed by Catalyst Sign-up on the drop-down menu. Or from the home page simply click on the “Newsletter Sign-up” link and fill out the required information. You can also call or email us your email address at (724) 776-0161 and sri@streamrestorationinc.org. We hope to keep all of our current subscribers and expand to new readers as well. Please help us spread the word about our newsletter change, and remember to check your email inbox rather than your mailbox beginning in April! For those of you who do not have access to an email account, but still wish to receive *The Catalyst*, please call us and we will try to continue providing a limited number of paper copies for as long as we can.

March SRWC Meeting Reminder:

Special Micro-Hydro Power Presentation

We hope you'll join us for an interesting guest presentation to take place **Thursday, March 9th, at 7 PM** during the regular meeting time of the SRWC! **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.

"Micro-Hydro Power" is an exciting new type of hydroelectric power that typically produces from 5 kW to 100 kW of electricity using the natural flow of water. Micro-hydro systems are very flexible and can be deployed in a number of different environments. At Jennings Environmental Education Center, a micro-hydro system at the historic Foltz schoolhouse site utilizing water from treated mine drainage is currently its only source of electricity! Josh, BioMost, Inc., and staff from Jennings installed the system in 2016 and are excited about the prospect of expanding its development and utilizing this technology in the future for education outreach and more. We hope to see you at our March meeting for Josh's presentation!



Kirk Brethauer and his daughter, Marina, have been volunteering with the SRWC for over two years. The photo above shows them downloading data from the data logger located in Slippery Rock Creek.

Volunteers Needed!

Learn How to Be a Watershed Monitor!

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is currently looking for several new volunteers to help with our Adopt-a-Passive-Treatment-System program and basic watershed monitoring using data loggers. The volunteers would receive all of the training needed to complete regular monitoring at sites in the Slippery Rock Watershed, including how to upload information to Datashed (www.datashed.org) and sometimes perform routine maintenance. A technical background is not needed for this excellent learning opportunity (that would also look good on a resume!) All that is needed is the ability to walk/hike outdoors and a desire to help.



Training will most likely take place in March, so volunteers can begin to gather information (mostly in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek) this spring. Once trained, volunteers will be able to collect water quality data at their convenience, at times when it best suits their schedules. If interested, please contact **Cliff Denholm** at **724-776-0161** or email **sri@streamrestorationinc.org**.

Volunteers make a big difference to our organization, and we hope you will consider joining our effort to improve the health and habitat of the Slippery Rock Watershed!



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



An Animal Word Search to LOVE!

Valentine's Day is almost here, so this month we are celebrating animals that love each other! There are some animals that form special pair bonds where they will stay together in a unique relationship, just the two of them, for a very long time - sometimes even for life! The loyalty to their mates is so well known, that an image of two swans with their necks interwoven in the shape of a heart has been a symbol of love for a very long time. In the box below are the names of 15 animals that pair off for life in a faithful relationship. If you find them all and circle them, send us your paper for a \$1 credit to Amazon! You can save your credits to buy something extra special! Credits are mailed to a parent's email address. Happy Valentine's Day!

swan	coyote	anglerfish	golden eagle	black vulture
pigeon	beaver	ospreys	barn owl	Gibbon apes
termites	wolves	bald eagle	red tailed hawk	prairie voles

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

Name _____ Age _____ Parent email _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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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, www.srwc.org. Feb. distribution: 1123 copies

Cherry Pie Hike Coming Soon!

To commemorate George Washington's birthday, history, free pie, and a hike through the same terrain our nation's first president traversed join together for one fun event on **Saturday, February 28th**. Jennings Environmental Education Center will serve as the meeting location and hub of activity for the annual Cherry Pie Hike, sponsored by the Butler Chapter of the North Country Trail Association, Washington's Trail 1753, Harmony Museum, Butler County Tourism and Convention Bureau, and Jennings Environmental Education Center. This event combines the annual "Cherry Pie Hike" and "Washington's Trail Hike." It commemorates George Washington's birthday and the Virginia Colony mission demanding French withdrawal from British territory that precipitated the French and Indian/Seven Years War.

The day-long event will begin at 8:30 AM and end at 2:00 PM. It will feature 30-minute history hikes, where visitors can witness the 1753 musket shot that could have changed history. There also will be informational presentations and displays, a re-enactors' camp portraying wilderness life of the time period, 45-minute winter nature walks (led by Jennings' staff), and a 7-mile "long" hike along a section of the North Country Trail where Washington may have traveled. Participants can choose one or more favorite hike option and enjoy a taste of cherry pie, courtesy of North Country Brewing Company.

The event is free and open to the public, although a \$2 per person donation will be encouraged for participation in the guided hikes/walks. Reservations are required for hikes and nature walks by February 23rd. Carpooling is encouraged, because parking may be limited. The first 30-minute hike will begin at 9 AM, with other 30-minute hikes starting every 30 minutes. The "long hike" also begins at 9 AM (and lasts until approximately 1 PM) and will cover 7 miles from the boat launch located under the Route 528 bridge in Moraine State Park to Jennings. It is recommended for ages 12 and up. The long hike is rated "moderate," and will traverse varied terrain, with some slopes and winter trail conditions; it is not suited for tennis shoes. Participants should park and meet under the 528 bridge to begin the hike. They may hike back or return via shuttle. To register for a 30-minute nature walk or history hike, or the long hike, you will need to visit **www.dcnr.state.pa.us**, click on State Parks, select Jennings Environmental Education Center's calendar of events, then choose your hike event and start time. If unable to register online or to ask a question, please call 724-290-2129.