

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 7/13/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
6/8/17 meeting attendance: H. Bloom, B. Busler, C. Busler, I. Busler, M. Busler, S. Busler, J. Berner, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

PA AMR Conference at Wilkes-Barre

The 2017 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation (AMR) Conference was held June 21st and 22nd at the Best Western Genetti Hotel in downtown Wilkes-Barre, in the heart of the Wyoming Valley and the Northern Anthracite Coalfields. With the theme of “The Future of Reclamation in PA,” this year’s conference focused on the future of coal mining directly affecting the AML Trust Fund (a fund created in 1977 by a small fee levied per ton of coal mined via the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act to address economic and environmental devastation due to historic mining issues) both in PA and nation-wide; economics, job creation potential, community revitalization, economic redevelopment opportunities, recreational opportunities, the decline of coal mining, the design and construction of mixed use industrial parks and educational opportunities for future workers as we look to transition the Commonwealth’s degraded abandoned mine landscapes into new regional economies.

A full day tour of the Wyoming and Lackawanna Valleys’ abandoned mine drainage (AMD) and abandoned mine reclamation (AMR) projects, led by **Mike Hewitt** and **Robert Hughes** of EPCAMR, was a highlight of the conference for the SRWC’s **Shaun Busler**. Shaun and other participants enjoyed a firsthand look at the progress and projects that have been made over the last few decades as well as some serious challenges in the Anthracite Region, with some very large multi-colliery AMD discharges (upwards of 100 CFS, 45K GPM or 65 MGD depending on your preferred units of measure). The tour included stops at Old Forge Bore Hole, the largest mine drainage flow in the Anthracite Region, at 100 cubic feet per second (see photo bottom right); a visit to massive waste coal piles; Solomon’s Boreholes, containing an “AMD fountain” and a recent project to protect homes from a mine water backup in their basements; Askam Borehole Treatment System, an innovative oxidation technology in place to drop iron and boost pH (see photo bottom left); and Red Lake, a 20-acre lake of AMD, which has recently invoked some cautious optimism with the possible return of wildlife to the site.

The PA AMR Conference’s coveted annual “Mayfly Award” was also awarded. This award recognizes individuals who have dedicated a lifetime of knowledge and expertise to the reclamation of abandoned mines in Pennsylvania. The mayfly was selected as the symbol for this award because its presence in a stream signifies clean water. Each Mayfly Award is a unique piece of art. This year’s winner was our good friend **Tom Grote!** Tom, a school teacher for many years, helped found the Loyahanna Watershed Association, contributed to the Slippery Rock Watershed Conservation Plan for the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition and Stream Restoration Inc., serves as a volunteer on the steering committee for the PA AMR Conference, and much more. We congratulate Tom for his outstanding efforts over the years! We also encourage you to join us for next year’s AMR Conference! The surrounding watersheds of Luzerne and Lackawanna County have their challenges, but they also have had opportunities that were taken to improve the local environment, land, and streams impacted by AMD. We are excited to share in the successes of watersheds around the state as we all work to improve water quality and land habitat!





Massive piles of coal waste looming like mountains (left) and Red Lake (right), 20 acres of AMD, were two tour highlights during the 2017 PA AMR Conference showcasing the challenges of treating mine drainage in the Wilkes-Barre region (*see article front page*).

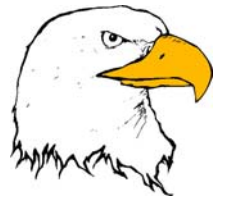
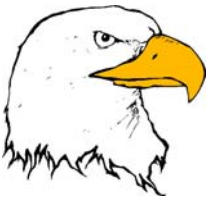
Who is our newest intern...?

Internships provide students with valuable work experience in their chosen field of study. In this particular field of environmental restoration, our interns have the opportunity to learn about how passive treatment systems work as well as the maintenance for these systems ensuring proper operation. Meet our newest intern...

Hi, my name is **Cam Thon** and I am the newest summer intern here at BioMost, Inc. and Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI). I grew up in a town called Allison Park, Pennsylvania, and went to Deer Lakes School District. What led me to this internship? To start, I enjoy spending my free time outdoors; in particular, I enjoy riding local trails on my mountain bike. In short, I knew I wanted to pursue a career that dealt with restoring and maintaining the environment. When it was time for me to start looking at colleges, I kept my potential career choice in mind. My first college visit was at **Saint Francis University (SFU)** in **Loretto, PA**. During my visit I had the opportunity to attend a summer environmental engineering design academy during the summer of 2014. At this summer design academy, I was able to construct a rudimentary microbial fuel cell to power a small LED light bulb. I enjoyed this summer design academy so much that I decided to enroll at SFU and major in **environmental engineering** in the fall of 2015 and I chose to work on campus as a grounds crewman. Currently, I am going to be a Junior this fall at SFU. Also, at SFU, I have volunteered with Cambria County Conservation District to do several environmental cleanups to restore local trails. At this moment, I have learned a lot about engineering applications in environmental systems in my challenging courses taught by **Dr. Joel Bandstra**, **Dr. William Strosnider**, and **Dr. Rachel Wagner**.

How did I hear about this internship? During the first semester of my first year of college, **Buck Neely, PE** came to SFU to talk about his career as an environmental engineer and his work with BioMost, Inc. and SRI. I really enjoyed his presentation and hoped that I could have an opportunity to work on similar treatment systems like those he described. This past winter break, I decided to contact BioMost, Inc., about any internship opportunities since I really wanted to gain real work experience in maintaining these treatment systems that I had learned about in school.

Even though I've only been working with these two organizations since May, I have learned a lot. My experiences thus far have included taking water quality samples, operating heavy machinery to maintain passive treatment systems, and learning how to install piping infrastructure to control the direction of flow of water in the treatment systems. Every day working at BioMost, Inc. is a new adventure and I am excited to gain more experience in the upcoming months. Finally, I want to thank BioMost, Inc. for allowing me to work with them to gain this vital work experience that will enhance my knowledge in the environmental engineering industry.

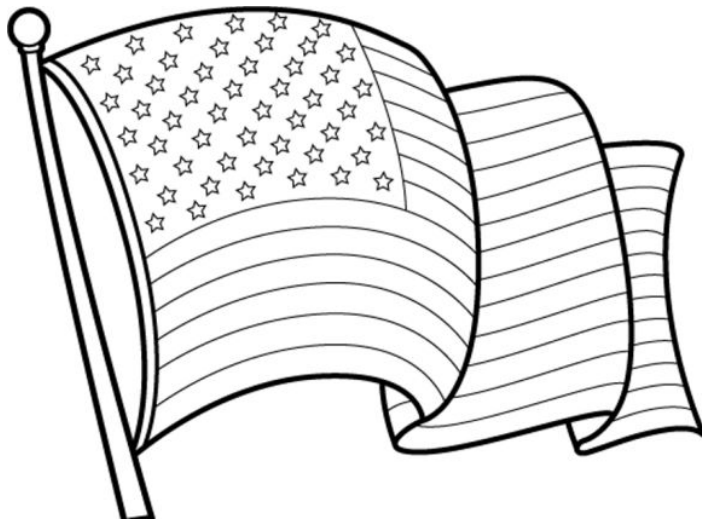


The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

American Bald Eagle Coloring Page

Happy Independence Day to all of our young readers! We hope you enjoy a fun day of celebration this 4th of July. This month, we have a coloring page for you to try, featuring the symbol of our country: the American bald eagle. The bald eagle has been the symbol of our nation since 1782. Sadly, these amazing birds almost went extinct due to hunting and pollution, especially a harmful pesticide called DDT. Thankfully laws were created to protect them, and they have made a remarkable comeback. In fact, some of us at the SRWC have seen bald eagles along Slippery Rock Creek! These awesome birds can live to be 35 years old or more, can have a wingspan of 8 feet across, can see a fish up to 1 mile away, and attack at speeds of up to 100 MPH! If you color this page and mail it in to us, we'll send a \$1 credit to you (to a parent's email address) for Amazon. You can save credits to buy something extra special!



Name _____ Age _____ Parent email _____

Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
434 Spring Street Ext.
Mars, PA 16046

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. July distribution: 310 copies

Summer Fun Just Around the Corner: **Celebrate the Bloom and Lake Arthur Regatta**

Save the dates for two very fun events for the whole family! Celebrate the Bloom is a FREE festival event on **July 29th** from **9 AM to 6 PM** at **Jennings Environmental Education Center** – just one hour from Pittsburgh and Erie. With live music, outdoor activities, nature walks, demonstrations, artisan vendors, food, and more, there is something for the whole family! Unique handwoven items, watercolor, photography, leatherwork, metalwork and much more will be out for display and sale by dozens of talented artists. Come say hello to your friendly SRWC participants, and stop by our table of Clean Creek Products to check out some amazing, beautiful pottery, jewelry, and more created by local artists using passive treatment system byproducts — the pigments made from repurposed metals create one-of-a-kind colors, and every purchase goes toward cleaning the waters of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed!

The 19th annual Lake Arthur Regatta is happening at Moraine State Park's South Shore the first weekend in August. This 2-day event weekend is scheduled for **Saturday, August 5 from 10 AM until 10 PM and Sunday, August 6 from 10 AM until 6 PM**. There is no admission or parking charge and many Regatta events are FREE. Regatta weekend brings thousands of visitors each year to experience and enjoy the 3,225 acres of Lake Arthur with over 40 miles of scenic shoreline. The Regatta offers land and lake activities along with lots of delicious food, vendors showcasing a variety of artistic skills, demonstrations, and exciting new opportunities to enjoy the natural resources of the park. Children's activities will include Bob's CHS Express barrel train rides (\$3 per ride), K-LOVE Radio Family Games & Corn-hole, Native Butterfly Release & Memorial Finale, Nautical Nature Cruises (\$6 per ride; tours leave on the hour from 11am-5pm on both days), PA Fish & Boat Commission Touch Tank/Native Wildlife Experience, Play area/playground, Public beach area for swimming and sand play, The Home Depot - free boat building, supplies & instruction to younger guests, YOLA (Yoga on Lake Arthur), North Country Trail (Wampum Chapter), US Coast Guard – boating safety, Sammy the Otter visit, Enchanted Fairytale Princess Events, LLC - Visit from Ariel, Smokey the Bear, sand volleyball, and more.

Tweens and adults can sign up for SummersCool! SummersCool gives free instructional opportunities during Regatta weekend to allow you to try something new, such as fishing, Standup Paddle Boarding, kayaking, windsurfing, etc.) You can sign up for mini-sessions to learn some new skills, at no cost. Registration can be done online starting July 10, and be sure to fill out a "release from liability" form to save some time. Live music, including a "Battle of the Bands", will be ongoing for most of the two days, and a spectacular fireworks display on Saturday at 9 PM is also always a crowd-pleaser! DockDogs, the World's Premier Canine Aquatics Competition, will allow spectators of this event to see high-flying and long-jumping dogs of a wide variety of breeds. Trail Pittsburgh will lead a group trail run and group mountain bike ride. An incredible car cruise and exciting sailing races are other highlights among many taking place this super-fun weekend! You won't want to miss it!