

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 8/10/17 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
7/13/17 meeting attendance: J. Berner, H. Bloom, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, J. Puskas, N. Puskas, A. Schoss, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal

Celebrate the Bloom... A Blazing Good Time!

On July 29th, SRWC participants **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated and **Jane Dunn** of Clean Creek Products had a "Blazing Good Time" at the Celebrate the Bloom Festival that was held at the Jennings Environmental Education Center. The festival, which is held on the last Saturday of July when the blazing star is in bloom, celebrates the 20 -acre prairie located at Jennings, which is not only Pennsylvania's only prairie, but also the eastern-most prairie in the United States. In addition to the blazing star, there are a variety of flowers in bloom at this time. The prairie is also home to the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. Since it was the discovery of the prairie by namesake Dr. Otto Emory Jennings in 1905 that led to the conservation of the prairie and eventual creation of the Jennings Environmental Education Center, there is much to be thankful for and celebrate.



The festival was filled with various nature explorations/nature walks (birding, prairie tour, insects, massasaugas, etc), demonstrations (blacksmithing, bee keeping, etc), local artisans (pottery, jewelry, handmade leather goods, metal work, etc), and of course food. In addition, entertainment was provided by several local artists including The Carpenter Ants, Devilish Merry, and Dana Cooper. The weather was about as perfect as you can get in late July in Pennsylvania. Jane and Cliff had a really good time and enjoyed the opportunity to talk to people about the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, abandoned mine drainage, watershed restoration, passive treatment, and Clean Creek Products.



It was a wonderful event and we congratulate and thank the staff and volunteers of the Jennings Environmental Education Center and the Moraine, McConnell's Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC) who organized and ran the festival. We look forward to participating next year!



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The BC14 discharge is just one of the mine discharges that have been documented in the Blacks Creek Restoration Plan. The SRWC hopes to obtain funding in the near future to build a passive system.

SRWC Revising the Blacks Creek Restoration Plan

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition has been working with **Buck Neely** and **Cliff Denholm** of BioMost, Inc. and Stream Restoration Incorporated to revise the Blacks Creek Restoration Plan, which was completed in 2006. The original plan was funded by the US EPA 319 program and provided the framework for restoring Blacks Creek, a sub-watershed of Slippery Rock Creek. During the development of that plan, unknown sources of AMD were discovered and the need for additional water monitoring of discharges and streams was identified. In addition, by developing the plan, the SRWC then had access to another funding source to address abandoned mine issues in Blacks Creek, which has resulted in the construction of both the BC16 and McIntire passive systems. These two systems alone remove more than 50% of the total metal loading to Blacks Creek and significant improvements to the stream have already been realized. With the completion of these systems, the SRWC decided it would be good time to collect more data for the remaining discharges, evaluate the restoration efforts to date, and re-evaluate and possibly re-prioritize previously identified projects. Funding was once again obtained from the EPA 319 program to complete the work. The draft of the revised plan is nearly complete and will likely be presented at the September SRWC meeting. Keep your eyes open for additional details.

Come to a Monthly Meeting - All Are Welcome!

Just a friendly reminder, we love to see new faces at our monthly SRWC meetings! No matter your science background, or your age, or anything! If you have an interest in what's happening with our restoration efforts to combat acid mine drainage in the Slippery Rock region, we welcome you to come to one of our meetings. There is always free pizza and pop for everyone! You can listen, learn about what's new, share your input and ideas, etc. And if you'd like to volunteer to help in some way, we're sure we could find a job that's just the perfect fit for you! Meetings are held at 7 PM the second Tuesday of each month, at Jennings Environmental Education Center: 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. If you have any questions, please call Cliff at 724-776-0161. We hope to see you at a meeting soon!





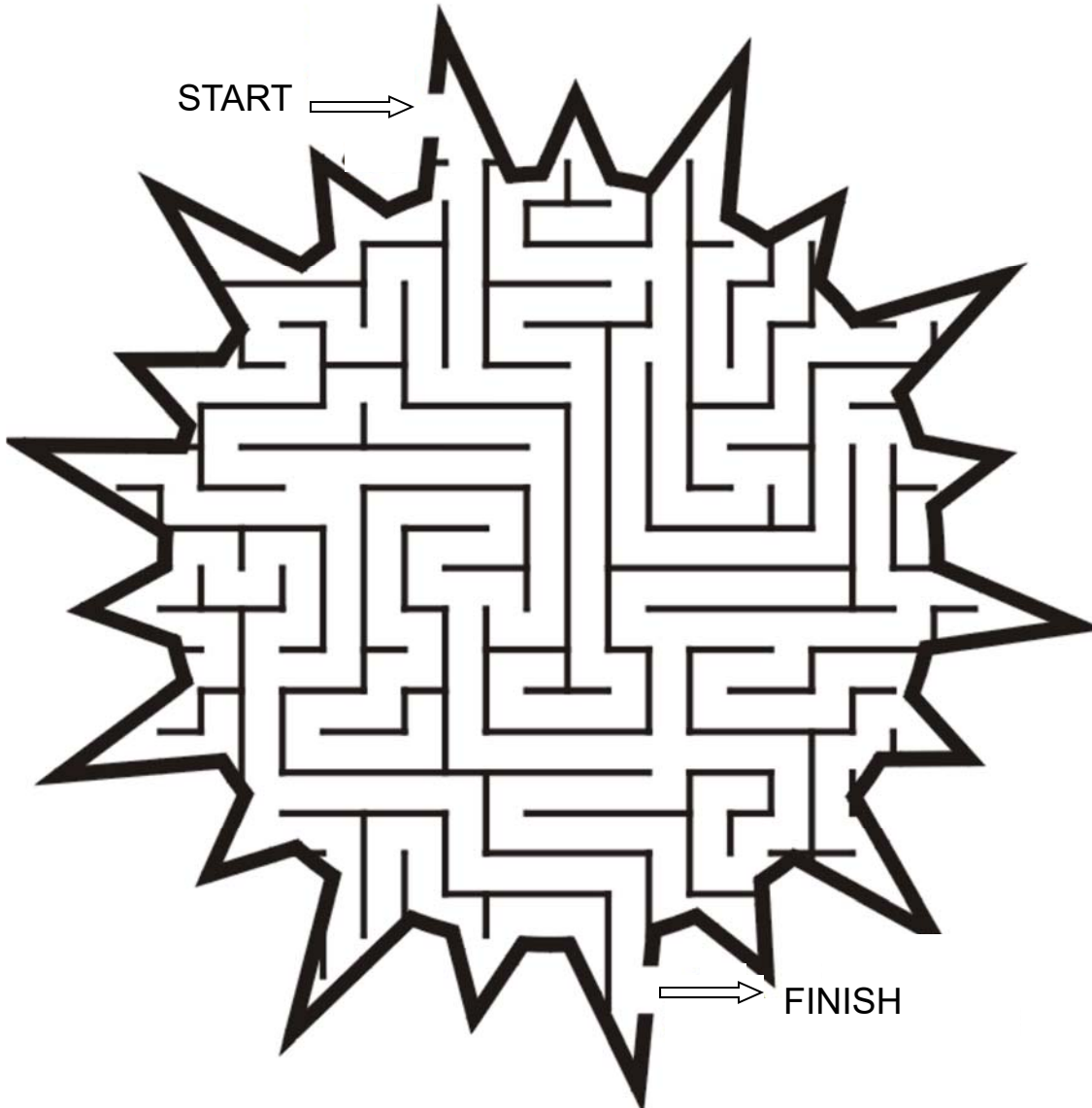
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



A-maze-ing Sun

Attention sky-watchers! You don't want to miss the amazing sky show taking place August 21st: **a total solar eclipse** will be visible in the United States! Solar eclipses occur at New Moon, when the Moon is between Earth and the Sun. Eclipses do not take place every month because the orbits of the Moon and Earth are tilted at an angle. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon gets between Earth and the sun, and the moon casts a shadow over Earth. The moon gets in the way of the sun's light, so during the day as the moon moves across the sun, it will get dark. The place where the sun should be will look like a black circle in the sky! But it isn't safe to look at the sun. You can cause permanent damage to your eyes. Your eyes need the protection of a strong UV-blocking filter if you want to look at an eclipse. That protection isn't given by your sunglasses or colored glass. You need the industrial-strength protection of No. 14 welder's goggles or, even better, eclipse glasses that are specially made for viewing eclipses. A simple projector consisting of two pieces of cardboard -- one with a pinhole -- also allows you to view the eclipse safely. The pinhole projects the sun's image onto the other piece of cardboard, a simple project you can find instructions for online. The eclipse is not total in Pennsylvania, but will still be something amazing to check out at 75% to 80% of the sun covered for almost 3 hours in the afternoon! Below is a fun maze of the sun to try! If you can make it to the end, be sure to mail us your paper and we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit (to a parent's email) to use on whatever you'd like!



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. Aug. distribution: 310 copies

H.O.P.E. Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts

At Thorn Creek, a tributary to Connoquenessing Creek near Renfrew, PA, some summertime finishing touches at the Thorn Creek Habitat Improvement Project took place in July. This project involved the construction of in-stream structures, such as mud sills, root wads, and log cross vanes, to create pools and provide cover for fish. A crew of four **Buslers** (**Shaun, Isaac** age 13, **Ben** age 11, and **Cassie** age 8) plus **Dave Andrews**, President of the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance (CWA), worked to revegetate the site disturbed during the project by spreading seed and mulch.

In addition, a past project needed a little help with revegetation. Mud sills had been installed below a very steep bank, to provide fish habitat, and stabilize the toe (the bottom part of the slope which meets with flatter ground). Unfortunately, little vegetation was growing on the steep slope and soil had been washing into the stream. Dave and the Busler crew installed an erosion control blanket to help stabilize the bank and promote seed germination. Adding to the slippery slope challenge at Thorn Creek was its location between the stream and an active railroad track — providing a healthy increase in heart rate when a train roared by and the ground could be felt shaking! The erosion control blanket, made of coconut coir, was stapled into the ground using hammers. Coconut coir, which comes from the fibrous fuzzy inner shell of the coconut, used to be thought of as a waste material. It is now recognized as an eco-friendly substance often packaged and sold as a soil amendment to replace peat moss in gardens. Coir has a neutral pH, very few nutrients, improves soil drainage, and is very sustainable. Thanks to **BioMost, Inc.** for purchasing the blanket and staples!

We hope the CWA's latest project will give Thorn Creek some added soil and stream bank stability and lasting habitat improvement to a lovely area!

