

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/11/18 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. No December SRWC meeting was held due to the Annual Student Symposium.

2017 Year in Review

Joining Efforts with Others to Make a Cleaner, Greener Tomorrow!

Education/Outreach Activities

- Prairie Improvement Day, Jennings Environmental Education Center—1/21
- Adopt-A-Passive Treatment System volunteer training, Jennings Environmental Education Center—3/26
- Wolf Creek water sampling with Slippery Rock University students—4/4
- Shaun Busler guest speaker on AMD at St. Luke Lutheran School—4/4
- 13th Annual Dominion & Western PA Conservancy Watershed Mini Grant Awards Ceremony Workshop and Luncheon, Blairsville, PA—4/18
- Celebrate the Bloom, Jennings Environmental Education Center—7/29
- Westminster College water sampling analysis presentation at SRWC monthly meeting—10/12
- Student Symposium on the Environment, Westminster College—12/7
- Adopt-A-Highway Program, clean-up effort for Interstate 79 mile markers 100-101
- “Data loggers” volunteer training, volunteer monitoring of water quality data with sondes

Conferences

- PA Watershed Conference, State College—3/5-6
- American Society of Mining and Reclamation and West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force, Morgantown, WV—4/9-4/13
- PA AMR Conference, Wilkes-Barre, PA—6/21-22
- 45th Annual Conference of the National Association of State Land Reclamationists, Williamsport, PA—10/1-4
- 12th Annual PA NW GIS Conference, Clarion University—10/19-20

Recognition

- ASMR’s Reclamationist of the Year Award to Tim Danehy

Restoration Projects

- Erico Bridge rehabilitation
- McIntire rehabilitation
- Ferris Treatment Complex maintenance
- Funding received for additional stream bank stabilization and planting project at Slippery Rock Campground
- Blacks Creek Restoration Plan revision

Check Us Out Any Time!!



Come 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 the 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!

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Shaun Busler from the SRWC stands next to a severely undercut bank at the Slippery Rock Campground. Thanks to a new Growing Greener Grant (see article below), this section of bank will be restored.

Slippery Rock Campground Stream Bank Project Funded

The SRWC is pleased to announce a Growing Greener grant has been funded by the Pennsylvania DEP! The SRWC will be using these grant funds to restore a section of eroding streambank on the mainstem of Slippery Rock Creek. Over 20 feet of streambank have been lost along a 500-foot section of Slippery Rock Creek due to erosion on Slippery Rock Campground Association property. This erosion continues to increase sedimentation within Slippery Rock Creek. The increased sedimentation can affect the biota living within the stream by reducing water clarity and destroying stream bottom habitat. This project will implement a variety of traditional and bioengineering techniques to reinforce the eroding bank including grading, stone toe protection, root wads, livestakes, brush layering, soil lifts, and rolled erosion control blankets.

Upon completion of these streambank and habitat improvements, 600 linear feet of stream bank stabilization will be realized, there will be stream habitat improvements from reduced sediment load, a significant decrease in turbidity, rootwad deflectors will be added for habitat creation and streambank stabilization, and a 50-foot wide riparian buffer will be created along 600 feet of stream. In addition, approximately 1500 livestakes and 400 native trees and shrubs will be planted. This project has been and will continue to be an excellent opportunity for education and outreach, as over 500 campground residents can learn about the project through publications and site tours. Since 1985, this campground has been the summer home for over 1,000 families, offering a relaxed atmosphere of family camping, a recreational center, outdoor heated pool, tennis courts, miniature golf, fishing ponds, horseshoes, camp store, outdoor playing fields, and new activities for all ages.

We graciously thank the PA DEP, and many project partners who have generously pledged a total of over \$45,000 in-kind contributions and cash match. This is the second project the SRWC will be working on at the Slippery Rock Campground. We are thankful for the opportunity to work with the many great folks there, including Bill Kuban, Frank Van Atta, and other members of the board of directors. We are excited to continue work on this very worthwhile project! Look for updates in future editions of *The Catalyst!*



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Winter Word Search

20 fun winter words are hidden in the word search below! Try to find them all and circle them. If you mail us your completed paper, we will send you a \$1 credit (through a parent's email) to spend at Amazon! You can save your credits to buy something extra special! Happy winter!

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| snow | snowball | winter | frost | ski |
| sled | scarf | cold | shovel | fireplace |
| ice | mittens | blizzard | blanket | hibernate |
| icicle | snowman | ice skate | hot chocolate | coat |

Name _____ Age _____ Parent email _____

Address _____



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Save the Date!

2018 PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference

Mark your calendars for this year's Pennsylvania AMR Conference, to be held **June 20 & 21st at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in State College, PA**. The Conference Planning Committee has decided on the theme of "Reflections on 20 Years of Reclamation". The Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference is the longest-running annual environmental conference in Pennsylvania focused on abandoned mine reclamation and the associated issues our communities face. The PA AMR Conference provides a forum for the dissemination of information and encourages discussion between industry, watershed groups, and decision makers that can help to further innovations in public policy, abandoned mine reclamation and restoration of PA's watersheds and communities. There will be plenty of science and environmental topics for those who crave it, but also a focus on the economic importance and revitalization of our communities that our state's citizens, volunteers, and partners within government are trying to achieve.

The PA AMR Conference planning committee will host this 2-day conference featuring not only technical presentations on Abandoned Mine Reclamation and Mine Drainage Remediation, but some non-technical community focused talks as well. Numerous networking opportunities will be scheduled which include an exhibit hall and a tour of local sites. Presentations offered at the conference are sure to include the latest AMD treatment system technologies, current legislative concerns, and case studies of what has been learned over the last 20 years. There will be a full-day conference tour that is still in the planning stages. Tour stops being considered include the Graymont limestone quarry which supplies highly alkaline material and rock for the treatment of AMD impacted streams and Fisherman's Paradise fish hatchery where trout are raised for release in healthy streams.

The conference committee is currently seeking proposals for presentations. Abstract submissions and questions can be directed to Anne Daymut at anne@wpcamr.org by March 1, 2018.

Whether this would be your first time attending the conference, or you never miss one, we hope to see you there! New faces are always welcome! The conference is a wonderful place to learn more about the progress being made in our state towards remediating AMD and restoring habitat in our commonwealth's watersheds. For more information about the conference check out the website at 2018.treatminewater.com.