

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 4/12/18 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
3/8/18 meeting attendance: J. Berner, S. Busler, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

Hillview Intermediate Eco Club

On March 28th, **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated was invited by the **Hillview Intermediate School's** Eco Club in the Grove City School District to give a presentation about AMD, watershed restoration and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The Eco Club meets after school and is made up of approximately 20 awesome students in the 3rd through 5th grades and their equally awesome teachers/club leaders **Tyler Cathcart, Amanda Wilhelm, Brian Regis** and student teacher **Sydney Ewing**. During the presentation Cliff talked about watersheds, importance of good water quality, mining, formation of AMD, treating AMD and the SRWC. He also conducted a little "Mr. Wizard" science demonstration with AMD.

Cliff was quite impressed with the young students who were smart, attentive, inquisitive, and just really cool. Throughout the presentation the students asked good questions and shared their own interesting experiences and knowledge. One student even had their very own water quality test kit that they received as a Christmas present from their grandfather. How cool is that! After the presentation, Cliff hung out with the group while they tie-dyed t-shirts using recovered iron oxide provided by our friends at the Jennings Environmental Education Center and planted a variety of plants for their upcoming plant sale fundraiser.

They also showed Cliff their Brook Trout that they have

been raising from eggs as part of the Trout in the Classroom program. The students take care of the fish and check the water quality.

As a result, they are not only learning the responsibility of taking care of living things, but they are learning about the importance of water quality and the need to take care of our streams. The students will be releasing the fingerlings into Wolf Creek next month.

Needless to say, Cliff had a great day! He left feeling inspired and hopeful about the future by these tremendous young people who are interested and care about the environment. He also looks forward to working with the students in the future.





Students at Hillview Intermediate School's Eco Club in the Grove City School District planted a variety of plants for their upcoming plant sale fundraiser.

Blacks Creek Plan Approved

We have received word from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved our revised Blacks Creek Restoration Plan! This is great news! We can use this updated plan to apply for funding through the 319 Nonpoint Source program, which has funded a number of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition's projects including BC16, McIntire, and the original Jennings passive system. We already have a couple of landowners who have graciously provided us their permission to seek funding. For anyone interested in reading the plan, it is available on-line on the Datashed website at the following address:

https://www.datashed.org/sites/default/files/blacks_creek_restoration_plan_12-21-17_0.pdf

20th PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference

It is hard to believe, but this year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference, which will take place Wednesday, June 20th and Thursday, June 21st at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in State College, PA. The theme of the conference is "Reflections on 20 Years of Reclamation". As in past years, the first day of the conference will feature a full-day bus tour with tentative stops to include a limestone quarry, Fisherman's Paradise, and a local distillery. The second day will offer a variety of speakers providing presentations on a wide range of topics related to the reclamation of abandoned mine lands and the restoration of watersheds impacted by acid mine drainage. In addition, the committee is working on some fun ideas to help us reflect on and celebrate the progress made in the last 20 years. If you are interested in mine land reclamation and watershed restoration, this is a really good conference at a very reasonable cost. If you are a nonprofit organization, watershed group member, or government employee, you can attend the entire conference including the tour and dinner for \$60. The registration deadline is June 11th . For more information or to register visit the conference website at <http://2018.treatminewater.com>



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Watershed Word Search

Ever wonder, What *is* a watershed exactly? Our organization is called the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition, and our main goal is to restore the land, water, and wildlife resources of the Slippery Rock Watershed, which has been impacted by acid mine drainage. But what *is* a watershed? A watershed is an area of land that drains precipitation into different rivers, basins, streams, or seas. Pennsylvania has 6 major watersheds: the Ohio, the Genesee, the Susquehanna, the Delaware, the Erie, and the Potomac. It also has hundreds of smaller watersheds! We focus most of our work on the land and water around Slippery Rock Creek, keeping it as healthy and clean as possible. Why? Watersheds are super-valuable for many reasons! They are a source of drinking water, habitat for wildlife, help for flood control and erosion control, and source of many forms of recreation: fishing, swimming, boating, kayaking, hiking, biking, bird-watching, camping, hunting, skiing, and much more! 20 watershed words are hidden in the word search below. Circle all the words you can find, and if you send us your completed paper we'll mail a \$1 Amazon credit to a parent's email address! You can save up the Amazon credits to buy something really great!

R	A	V	A	P	O	B	I	K	I	N	G	F	A	U	F	L
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D	I	E	L	G	C	R	V	B	Z	W	V	B	W	N	O	C
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- Watershed
- Stream
- River
- Rain
- Snow
- Fishing
- Swimming
- Camping
- Hiking
- Biking
- Birds
- Ohio
- Erie
- Susquehanna
- Delaware
- Potomac
- Genesee
- Erosion
- Flood
- Storage

Name _____ Age _____ Parent email _____

Address _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
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