

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 10/11/18 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
9/13/18 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, M. Dunn, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanderWal

ARRI Mined Land Reforestation Conference Recap

The 2018 Mined Land Reforestation Conference took place August 8-9 at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. **Shaun Busler**, of Stream Restoration Incorporated and an SRWC participant, enjoyed attending the conference and learning more about the latest news and ideas regarding restoring forests on coal mined lands. This year's theme was 'Developing Partnerships for Mine Land Reforestation.' **Eric Cavazza**, Director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Abandoned Mine Reclamation, provided the keynote address. The conference featured excellent presentations, interesting posters, and an awards luncheon on August 8th, with site visits to mined lands at various stages of reforestation on August 9th.

Tour sites included Amerikohl Barrett #2, an active mining operation whose innovative reclamation practices include end-dumped piles on flat and traditional grading on slopes, with an Indiana bat and Allegheny Woodrat protection and enhancement plan. Another fieldtrip stop was the Coaldale AML site, owned by Carmen III, Inc. and the PA DCNR. **Dean Baker** led a tour of Coaldale, which has two priority 2 sites and dangerous highwalls totaling 7000 linear feet. The Moshannon State Forest Legacy Site, another tour stop, is undergoing reforestation to reduce forest fragmentation, diversify age class, and improve wildlife habitat. This forest, a prime elk and deer browsing area, lies within the transition zone between the northern hardwood and Allegheny hardwood forests to the north and mixed oaks and oak-hickory forests to the south.

The Force Legacy Site, owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, is undergoing reforestation to decrease forest fragmentation, restore forest habitat for wildlife, and to improve water quality. The site has 1281 chestnut trees. The American Chestnut Foundation (TACF) and The Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative (ARRI) have partnered to include American chestnuts and TACF's potentially blight resistant chestnuts on reclaimed mines. Beginning in 2008, ARRI and TACF initiated a program named "Operation Springboard" to use reclaimed surface mines as a springboard for chestnut dispersal into surrounding forests throughout American chestnut's native range, based on the assumption that chestnuts could be successfully established on reclaimed areas. The chestnuts on many of these plantings showed phenomenal growth and survival. Encouraged by these successful plantings, ARRI and TACF are continuing to plant pure American chestnuts on mined lands to help preserve American chestnuts' genetics and to test the suitability of different mined sites for chestnut restoration in anticipation of widespread release of TACF's blight resistant chestnuts.





The Slippery Rock Watershed has its own site utilizing the Forest Reclamation Approach (FRA). In 2008, Jennings Environmental Education Center was chosen to demonstrate the end-dump method of reclaiming mining sites. This was one of the first FRA sites in Pennsylvania. The photo to the left was taken 9 years after the piles of soil were dumped. Trees that were planted, along with some volunteer species, are growing well.

Another Fun-Filled Celebrate the Bloom!

July 28, 2018 was a gorgeous summer day for "Celebrate the Bloom" at Jennings Prairie. Clean Creek Products was among more than a dozen vendors who set up displays of high-quality, handcrafted local goods and farm-fresh produce at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Many people stopped by the Clean Creek tent to talk with **Vicky Michaels** about Clean Creek's mission to support volunteers who strive for clean water in their local creeks and rivers. Visitors to the park were treated to live music, tasty treats, and fun educational guided walks. From the beautiful flowers like the famous bright purple blazing star to fantastic birds such as the scarlet tanager and indigo bunting, participants had much impressive nature to enjoy!

If you missed "Celebrate the Bloom," visit Clean Creek's new web-store, www.cleancreek.org, where every dollar you spend helps restore Pennsylvania's 5,500+ miles of streams polluted by abandoned mine drainage. Clean Creek Products offers beautiful jewelry, lovely pottery, holiday ornaments, wildlife-themed decorative pieces, mugs, vases, even the pure recovered iron oxide and manganese oxide (at \$5 per ounce) which have a number of creative uses! Our hand-crafted artworks use repurposed minerals recovered from abandoned mine drainage to achieve their deep, rich coloration. Check out the Clean Creek Products PBS video on the web site, part of the "Greenlife Pennsylvania" series.

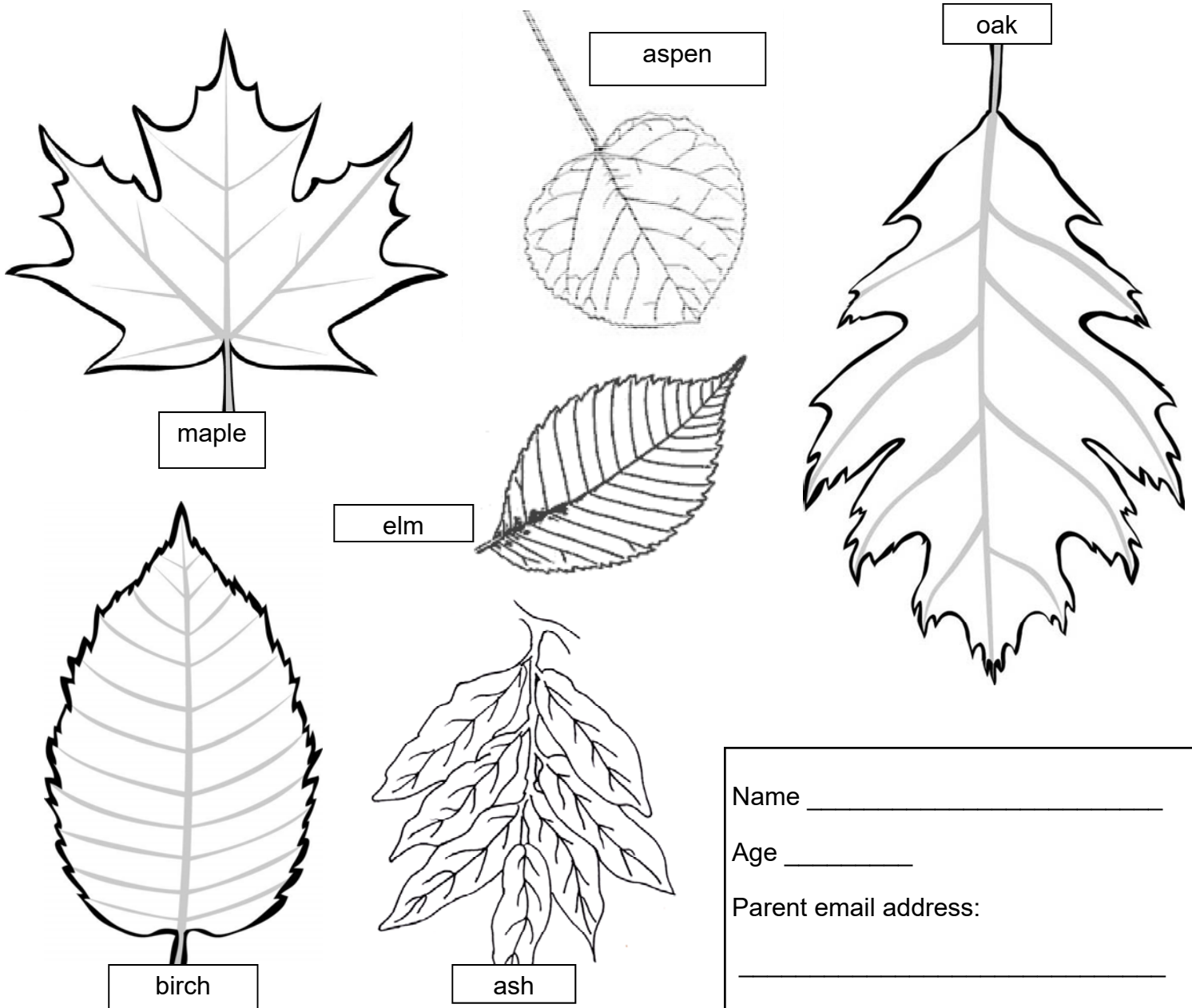


The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Autumn Leaves Are Falling!

The leaves on Pennsylvania's trees are starting to change color and fall to the ground. Do you know why this happens? Plants know to get ready for winter when they notice the days are getting shorter. Plants make a food called glucose (a kind of sugar) for energy and growth, and a chemical called chlorophyll helps them do this. Chlorophyll gives plants their green color. During winter there is not enough light or water for the trees to make food. They will rest and use the food they stored during the summer. As they shut down their food-making factories, the green color fades from the leaves. As the green fades away, we begin to see yellow and orange colors. Small amounts of these colors have been in the leaves all along. We just can't see them in the summer, because they are covered up by the green chlorophyll. The bright reds and purples we see in leaves are made mostly in the fall. In some trees, like maples, glucose is trapped in the leaves after photosynthesis stops. Sunlight and the cool nights of autumn turn this glucose into a red color. The brown color of trees like oaks is made from wastes left in the leaves. Enjoy coloring the leaves below in pretty shades of red, orange, yellow, purple, and brown! Maybe you can even find some leaves in your yard and use these pictures to identify the tree they fell from! If you mail us your paper we will send a \$1 credit for Amazon to a parent's email, that can be saved up over time to buy something extra awesome!



Name _____
Age _____
Parent email address:



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. Oct. distribution: 250 copies