

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/10/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.

No December meeting. Instead join us at the December 6th Student Symposium on the Environment at the Andrew McKelvey Center, Westminster College, 5:30-9:00 PM.

11/8/18 meeting attendance: H. Boylan, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, A. Kearny, B. Kuban, E. Pollock, S. Small, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, S. VanDerWal, and E. Ward

Westminster College Students Present Erico Bridge Data

On November 8th, **Westminster College** students attended the SRWC meeting to present their water monitoring data that they had collected at the Erico Bridge Passive Treatment System. The students are members of the campus-based club called the **Lawrence & Mercer Alliance for Aquatic Resource Monitoring (ALLARM)** program under the direction of **Dr. Helen Boylan**. As this was not a class project, the students conducted the work as a completely volunteer effort on their own time. Based on the data collected, the system which was constructed in 2003 & 2004 and almost 15 years old appears to still be working well! Students who presented at the meeting included Andrew Kearny, Emma Pollock, Sara Small, and Erin Ward.



Student Symposium On The Environment

The Student Symposium on the Environment is almost here! The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is once again partnering with Westminster College, who will host the event whose purpose is to highlight environmental study, research, artistic expression, and service work being conducted by students in the region. Students from all disciplines and ranging from high school through graduate school are encouraged to participate. Research posters, art work, oral presentations, and even performances are welcome. This is a really nice, positive, friendly event with interesting research and presentations. The students always do a good job! New for this year will include the opportunity for students to submit resumes to be screened for internships and job opportunities in the environmental field. The Symposium will take place on **December 6, 2018** in the McKelvey Campus Center at Westminster College from **5:30 PM to 9:00 PM**. A networking and poster session will begin at 5:30 in the Witherspoon Rooms with oral presentations to begin at 7:00 in the Mueller Theater. If you are free that night, please come out and support the students! All are welcome!



The newest video in a series called “Plants Are Cool, Too” was presented at the PA Botany Symposium. This video and others in the series can be watched on Youtube at https://youtu.be/uak3m_q-HDo.

2018 PA Botany Symposium

November 2nd and 3rd marked a “thyme” of botanical “encourage-mint” and networking for plant enthusiasts from across Pennsylvania and the region. The 4th biennial Pennsylvania Botany Symposium took place at The Penn Stater Hotel and Conference Center, and was attended for the first “thyme” by **Shaun Busler** of the SRWC. Shaun was excited to hone his plant identification skills and was “frond” of the excellent (might one say unbeleafable?) workshops, exhibitor sessions, and engaging and entertaining presenters. Several presentation topics included Pennsylvania ferns, Winter Woody Plant Identification, Demystifying the Challenging World of Grasses, Identifying Exotic Species with Similar Congeners, Plant Conservation Trends in North America North of Mexico, Environmental Review for Plant Species of Special Concern in PA, Digital Tools for Botanical Teaching and Research, Breaking Up the Carex Monster (the most species-rich genus in Pennsylvania flora and at times quite unwieldy), and Cool Finds (unusual, alarming, amazing, exciting, new-to-PA, or otherwise noteworthy species... a few of which are pictured below from the presentation!)

The Symposium brought together a diverse audience from amateur to student to academic botanists, and those interested in the natural world in general. It was a unique occasion and time to share work and celebrate a common botanical heritage. The convening of amateur and professional botanists throughout the region allowed a greater focus of attention on the need to better appreciate, understand, and conserve our region’s plant heritage. If anyone would like to learn more, check out www.pabotany.org or **Twitter** ([#pabotany](https://twitter.com/pabotany)).



Running buffalo clover
New to PA, globally rare



Prostrate blue violet
New to PA, extreme disjunct



Greater spearwort
No previous records in North America



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Snowbirds!

Sparrows, blue jays, chickadees, titmice, nuthatches, and cardinals (pictured below) are some of the most common birds you're likely to spy at your backyard birdfeeder this winter. Feeding birds is a great way to brighten up a dreary winter day, and is also a great source of entertainment and enjoyment! Pictured below are Mr. (right) and Mrs. (left) cardinal. While both have a bright orange beak, Mr. Cardinal is known for being red all over, while Mrs. Cardinal is mostly light brown and gray, with red on her wings, tail feathers and the very top of her head). We hope you enjoy coloring these lovely birds! If you send us your colored picture, we'll send a \$1 credit for Amazon to a parent's email just for you! Save up your credits!



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. Dec. distribution: 247 copies

New Displays and Fun Winter Programs at Jennings!

The next time you're in the mood for some cool-weather fun and exercise, be sure to visit Jennings Environmental Education Center in Slippery Rock! Jennings is a super-cool state park specifically dedicated to environmental education and interpretation to the community. Jennings offers a variety of programs that increase knowledge and awareness of the beauty and importance of our natural resources for children, teachers, and the general public. By taking time to explore Jennings through its trail network or community programs, visitors can enjoy the outdoors while learning the skills needed to be good stewards of Pennsylvania's outstanding natural resources. Jennings provides a unique combination of prairie, wetland, and forest habitats, which offer a wide array of resource and educational opportunities. One of the park's main features, the 20-acre prairie ecosystem, is home to distinctive prairie plants and the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. Miles of walking trails are awaiting your boots! And inside the center are **all-new displays** to check out! Also take note of two upcoming programs: Christmas is for the Birds (December 15) and Winter Wonder Walk (December 27).

"Christmas is for the Birds" will take place from 9 AM to 11 AM on December 15. Those who join in will celebrate the 119th annual Christmas Bird Count at Jennings by sipping "bird friendly" coffee and counting the birds at the feeders. A toasty fire in the fireplace creates the perfect relaxing morning during a busy time of the year. Information collected will help scientists to better understand bird migration and population trends. Participants will discover foods that local birds prefer and which feeders are best for your needs. Guests finish the morning by making a variety of bird related crafts to take home. This family friendly program is free but registration is required no later than Wednesday, December 12th.

"Winter Wonder Walk" happens December 27th from 10 AM until 11:30 AM. Come for some family-friendly, free-wheeling discovery along the trails at Jennings. Explore and experience wintertime wonders on an informal walk led by our staff. Perhaps you've been wanting to come walk the Jennings trails but are unsure where to begin or where to go! This would be a great introduction to the trails! The walk is free, pre-registration not required, and walkers are asked to meet at the classroom building in time to begin promptly at 10 AM. Be sure to dress for the weather, with sturdy, water-resistant footwear and layered clothing for comfort, warmth and to stay dry! Bring a water bottle and/or snacks if you'd like. Hope to see lots of you there for some crisp, clean, cool wintertime air!