

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 4/11/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
3/14/19 meeting attendance: C. Denholm, D. Denicola, M. Dunn, B. Kuban, D. Johnson, M. Stapleton, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

Teaming Up for the Birds

Siblings **Teri Grendzinski** and **Tim Danehy** (pictured below) teamed up for the birds! Teri, Supervisor of Animal Collections at the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, helped facilitate a unique arrangement between the Aviary and BioMost, Inc. when BioMost had some trees taken down on their property. In this case, the Aviary had a special need for long, straight branches for the birds in their habitats, and the tree trimmings provided just the right solution! Her brother, Tim, of BioMost, Inc., was glad one of his company's cut-down trees could be used for a great purpose. Aviary staff were thankful this worked out so well, and that the birds could benefit. The branches and stumps from the tree are being used for birds that live behind the scenes including some owls, eagles, vultures and parrots.

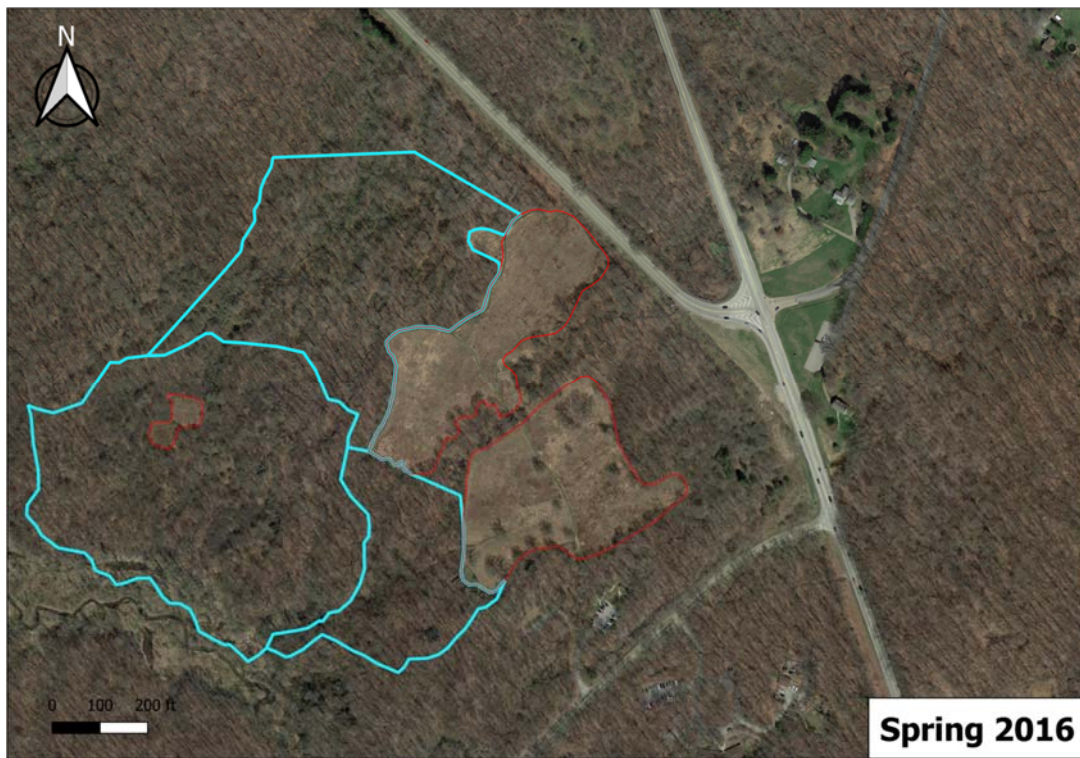


The National Aviary is dedicated to bird research, protection, and conservation, including of bird habitat. Their facility is home to over 500 birds representing over 150 different species. Visitors can enjoy a wide variety of exhibits, many of which are free-flight zones with up-close bird experiences where birds can be appreciated and observed expressing their natural behaviors. Rooms in the Aviary include wetlands, grasslands, tropical rain forest, penguin point, condor court, and much more. The Aviary is also recognized for encouraging citizen science. At the National Aviary, people are invited to help with studies of nesting backyard birds, migrating owls, wintering humming-

birds, and projects like Neighborhood Nestwatch, Live Raptor Nest Cams, Project OwlNet, etc. The only qualification to be a citizen scientist is your own curiosity! Check out how you can participate or learn more about all the Aviary has to offer at their web site: www.aviary.org.

Prairie Presentation at Butler Outdoor Club

SRWC participant **Shaun Busler** gave a presentation on the prairie of Jennings Environmental Education Center on March 6 during the Butler Outdoor Club's monthly meeting. Shaun's presentation included a review of many unique historical aerial photos of the prairie ecosystem found at Jennings. This prairie has undergone many changes as the years have gone by, and is currently undergoing an expansion project. Folks at the meeting were treated to interesting information about the unique features of the prairie, including its resident endangered species (the massasauga rattlesnake), beautiful prairie flower (blazing star) which was initially responsible for prairie protection in the first place many years ago, and the Old Stone House. Shaun used several historic aerial photos to show how the prairie area has changed over the years. Be sure to visit Jennings sometime soon and check out the beautiful prairie, as well as their variety of other ecosystems like wetlands, woodlands, and streams!



Map of the proposed expansion of the prairie at Jennings Environmental Education Center. See Prairie Presentation article on first page for more information.

Grove City College Alumni Career Panel Night

On Thursday, March 21, SRWC participant **Shaun Busler** had the pleasure of serving on the Sciences panel at Grove City College's Alumni Career Panel Night. Shaun met several current Grove City College students with an interest in environmental science careers, and enjoyed explaining his jobs with Stream Restoration Incorporated and BioMost, Inc. Shaun shared information about helping design and maintain passive treatment systems to remediate streams impacted by abandoned mine drainage, wetland mitigation, GIS work, and more. The students had great questions, ranging from which particular skill sets are needed to obtain a job in the environmental science field, to asking if Shaun still plays volleyball like he did back in college! Shaun's advice for students in the career search process: "Develop marketable skills, get an internship, and explore as many extracurricular opportunities as you can."

Over 80 alumni attended the event, which had 2 panel sessions and 16 industries/career fields represented: accounting, arts, communications and writing, computer science/IT, engineering, entrepreneurship, finance, health, law, management, marketing and sales, ministry, nonprofit, psychology and social work, public policy and government, and the sciences. Dozens of students from freshman to senior took part in the two 45-minute panels and hour of networking and pie-eating! It was an excellent opportunity for students to experience professional networking (many for the first time), explore career options, and ask questions about what path to take to get into certain careers. Shaun was thankful for the invitation to participate, especially thankful to share a tasty dinner with others on the alumni panels, and for the chance to reconnect with a former intern and also catch up with a couple of former classmates and professors.





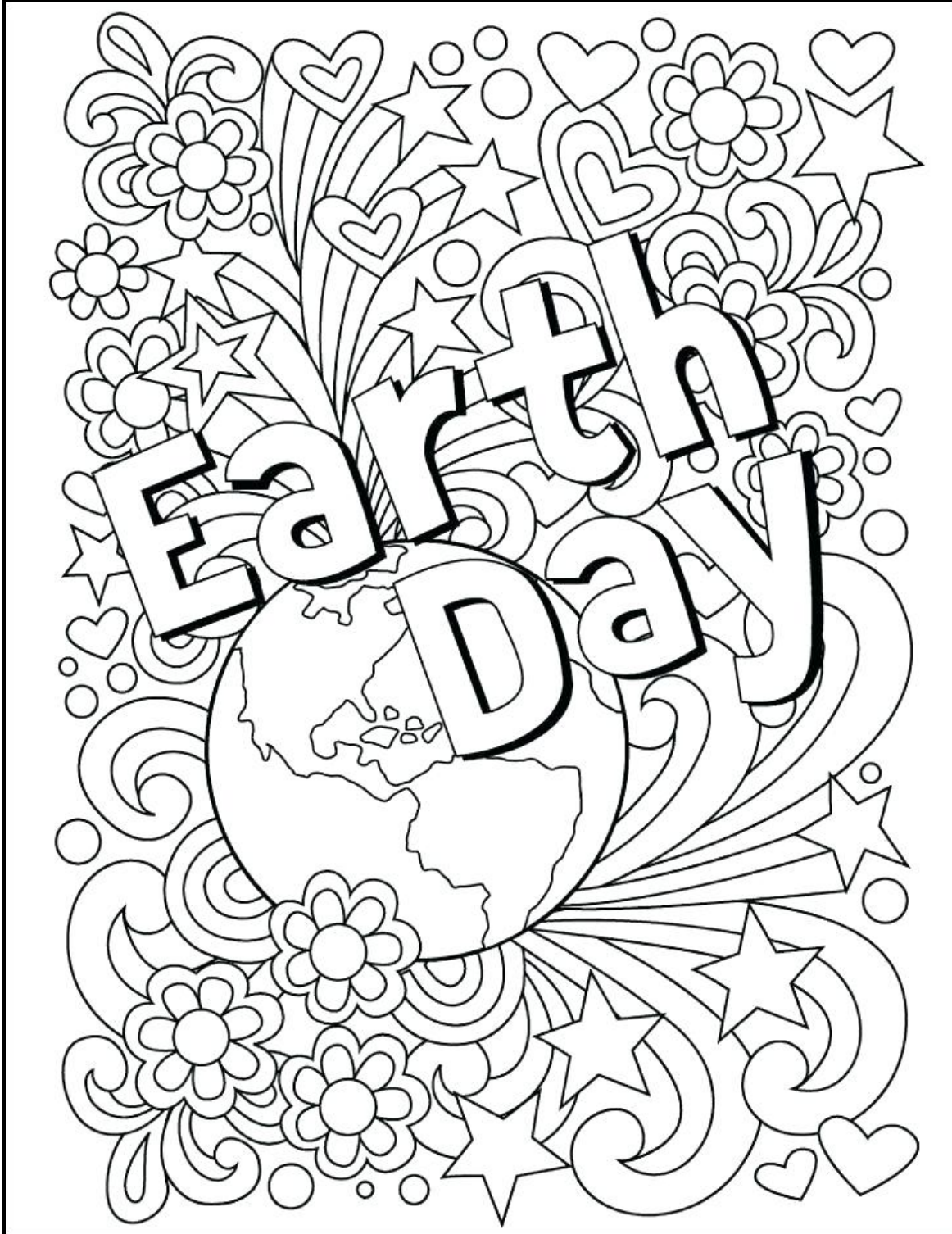
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Earth Day Coloring Page

April 22 is just around the corner... and that means celebrating Earth Day! Some areas of focus for Earth Day 2019 include raising awareness and protecting endangered species, cleaning up trash on a local level to help create clean communities, reducing plastic use and plastic pollution, planting trees, encouraging citizen scientists, and using art to benefit our planet. Keep your eyes open for fun opportunities to make a difference for our amazing planet as Earth Day draws near! In the meantime, we hope you enjoy coloring the Earth Day picture below. If you mail us your coloring, we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit via a parent's email address. Credits can be saved up over time to buy something extra special!



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. April distribution: 250 copies

H.O.P.E.

(Highlighting Others Partnership Efforts)



Saturday, March 30 was a cloudy breezy morning following a couple days of rain. But the soggy conditions didn't deter over a dozen volunteers from meeting at Hohn Road bridge over the upper part of Lake Oneida in Butler County to take part in a Great PA Cleanup event! Armed with gloves, safety vests, trash bags, and a willingness to pitch in and help, volunteers age 12 to adult picked up trash around the Lake Oneida reservoir from 9 AM to 12 noon. Lake Road, closed off all winter, just opened up a few days prior in anticipation of the cleanup day. Despite some wetness, it was still close to 60 degrees and made for pleasant conditions. **Shaun Busler** of the SRWC and his sons Isaac and Ben were part of the volunteer effort. **Dave Andrews** of the Connoquenessing Watershed Alliance coordinated the pickup, which was held in conjunction with the Great PA Cleanup. Tires, TVs, toilet parts, fishing gear, and many cans were just a part of what volunteers collected. Dozens of bags of trash were loaded into a big trailer to be hauled away at the conclusion of the event. Lake Oneida was facing the threat of being closed to fishing due to significant amounts of trash. With the March 30 cleanup effort, we hope many area residents will enjoy plenty of good fishing days this spring and summer! And we kindly remind everyone who enjoys time out in nature to always pick up after yourself and deposit all trash in a proper receptacle.