

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 6/13/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.  
**5/9/19 meeting attendance:** C. Denholm, M. Dunn, B. Kuban, F. VanAtta, and S. VanDerwal.

The Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition was well represented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation in Big Sky, Montana! **Shaun Busler, Tim Danehy, Cliff Denholm, Dan Guy, Ryan Mahony, and Buck Neely** all made the trip to visit one of the most unique areas of the country and to present on research and projects in Pennsylvania. Shaun presented on the Baird Mitigation Wetlands, which are found in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. These wetlands total 14 acres in size and were built to compensate for impacts to wetlands at a Vanport limestone quarry near State Game Lands #95. After three years of monitoring, these wetlands are successfully supporting a variety of wetland flora and fauna, including a state endangered plant. Tim spoke about a large passive treatment system near the Pittsburgh Airport and Buck spoke about a mine fire project near Uniontown. Buck also was the recipient of the Early Career Award in Reclamation!

As part of the conference, as well as during a few extra days before the conference started, the SRWC crew visited Yellowstone National Park, our nation's first national park. The dormant super volcano is home to more thermal features than all other parts of the world combined! From hot springs to fumaroles belching hydrogen sulfide gases, the park has many attractions to fascinate visitors. Old Faithful did not disappoint and a bison grazing next to the geyser did not seem to flinch when it erupted (*see photo at right*). Steamboat, the largest geyser in the world, can reach heights of 300 to 400 feet. This geyser has become more active in the last few years, now erupting every few days instead of every few years. In addition to the amazing geyser basins, Yellowstone is also home to a variety of wildlife including bison, grizzly bears, black bears, mountain lions, elk, mule deer, moose, coyotes, and wolves.



Amazingly, many of these features reminded us of the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed! The hot springs made a rainbow of colors similar to the rainbow of colors seen in abandoned mine drainage. The destructive force of some of the geysers and heat from underground magma chambers have killed trees and vegetation similar to the kill zones seen in our own watershed due to the effects of acidic, metal-laden waters.







Many of the hot springs at Yellowstone National Park reminded us of sights from the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed. The photo to the left, taken at Yellowstone, shows bacteria that are precipitating iron oxides, a common metal found in abandoned mine drainage.

### Enjoying Art and Nature at Jennings

Jennings Environmental Education Center offered two great May program opportunities for visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds of spring. On Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup> nine participants enjoyed a new installment of the Art and Nature series, Vernal Pools and Watercolors. After practicing some watercolor basics, everyone enjoyed a walk to the vernal pool to learn of their importance to the forest ecosystem. Then the beautiful scenery provided the perfect inspiration for the watercolor masterpieces that were created (see photos below).

Sunday, May 12<sup>th</sup> brought the annual Spring Wildflower Walk where staff welcomed 25 participants to enjoy the various colors of spring on the forest floor. The value of each plant is dependent on our perspective. Is it a weed or a flower? It's a matter of perspective. There are many avenues to explore and learn about plants. For example, you can focus on folklore, medicinal properties, adaptations, structure and more. Approximately 20 plants were in the spotlight during this springtime stroll and participants were able to see the value of each from many perspectives.



# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

### Insects Word Search

There are 1.4 billion insects for every 1 of us humans! Now that summer has arrived, no doubt you've been seeing a lot more insects. Some are pests, but not all of them! Insects are actually very valuable and beneficial to people. Insects pollinate crops we rely on for food, clean up waste, and are the sole food source for many reptiles, amphibians, birds, and mammals. Insects make up 80% of all species on Earth and are super crucial to the web of life. 15 insects are listed in the word search below. If you can find them all, mail us your completed paper and we'll send you a prize of a \$1 Amazon credit to a parent's email address. You can save your credits to buy something really cool!

cricket      grasshopper      cicada      butterfly      moth      honeybee      praying mantis  
mosquito      fly      ant      leafhopper      earwig      firefly      lady beetle      dragonfly

A	G	Y	C	I	V	S	T	A	B	E	C	E	P	R	A	B	M	J	I	W	O
M	L	R	Z	E	Y	L	F	N	O	G	A	R	D	P	Q	U	F	R	S	T	M
F	M	O	S	F	V	X	J	B	D	H	J	K	I	R	S	E	E	B	O	K	P
H	E	B	C	Z	Q	H	L	O	A	V	F	D	J	C	L	A	D	N	D	A	R
C	R	B	G	M	Q	E	A	F	G	F	E	A	R	I	K	W	I	G	L	P	A
P	R	A	R	F	L	K	B	N	E	I	R	O	E	C	T	E	H	Z	Q	U	Y
M	O	S	A	U	Q	T	B	I	R	R	L	E	F	A	H	O	T	P	P	E	I
C	I	C	S	A	D	X	V	Z	Y	E	G	O	J	D	J	H	W	Q	U	Y	N
T	E	M	S	R	H	H	O	J	L	F	P	M	N	A	O	P	Q	S	C	Z	G
O	L	O	H	F	G	T	B	T	M	L	E	P	L	I	N	S	S	A	B	W	M
U	T	C	O	N	Y	J	O	K	L	Y	D	W	O	Q	U	T	R	B	V	I	A
J	E	H	P	C	X	Z	B	M	R	W	Q	U	J	H	K	L	M	E	Y	T	N
S	E	T	P	S	S	V	O	K	E	G	B	H	J	U	F	J	A	Z	X	U	T
J	B	I	E	R	W	O	R	B	Q	U	J	K	O	O	N	A	X	E	L	L	I
F	Y	L	R	T	E	R	T	U	S	R	T	L	M	A	E	W	E	R	W	I	S
G	D	H	Y	U	L	P	Y	I	W	O	R	N	X	O	O	B	W	L	G	F	L
Y	A	B	U	T	T	F	V	M	U	S	A	R	H	N	Y	I	C	H	O	L	A
S	L	U	N	C	Q	R	E	U	I	Q	V	E	N	E	A	R	W	I	G	S	S
M	E	A	X	B	E	U	O	T	E	R	S	T	N	M	Q	U	I	V	E	T	I
B	U	T	T	E	R	F	L	Y	E	J	S	O	E	S	T	H	J	O	N	E	H
L	O	S	H	J	E	S	C	G	E	N	H	E	M	A	V	S	W	H	S	R	I
A	B	J	E	G	D	O	M	Y	H	E	A	V	L	F	A	T	R	H	B	U	L

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Parent email \_\_\_\_\_



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](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). June distribution: 250 copies