

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 8/8/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. July meeting has been cancelled. 6/13/19 meeting attendance: S. Busler, C. Denholm, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta, and S. VanDerWal

Special Note: July Meeting Cancelled

Please note our monthly SRWC meeting, originally scheduled for July 11, has been cancelled. The next SRWC meeting will take place August 8 at 7 PM. We hope everyone is enjoying their summer!

**MEETING
CANCELLED**

Meet the Newest Intern!

Article provided by Michael Gallagher

I am Michael Gallagher, and I am the new intern at BioMost, Inc. After finishing my first year studying environmental engineering and mathematics at Saint Francis University, Dr. Joel Bandstra recommended I spend my summer as an intern at BioMost. This experience offers me the chance to gain knowledge of the practical side of implementing acid mine drainage treatment, which can be hard to simulate in the classroom. The practical side enables me to learn solutions to different scenarios that may arise when implementing a treatment system. Additionally, seeing the sites in person allows me to gain a greater understanding of how to make treatment systems work at the finest quality.

The reason I'm spending my summer learning about acid mine drainage is to become a better environmental engineer when I graduate. I gained a passion to become an environmental engineer from my time spent in the outdoors fishing, running, and camping. Also, I pursued environmental based merit badges during my time in Boy Scouts; then, I naturally started taking more science in math courses in high school. I figured I would combine my enjoyment of spending time outside with the information I was learning, so I could make an effort to better the environment for people.

The internship at BioMost offers the unique opportunity of bettering the environment and learning engineering simultaneously. The work BioMost does is very important for keeping our water clean in the area, and I was surprised to learn how close some of the sites were to where I lived. This aspect introduces the element of continuing treatment in order to better the area I live in. The internship provides me with great experience, good work, and further knowledge of acid mine drainage. I am very thankful for this opportunity, and this is a great way to spend my summer.





Buck Neely is presented the Early Career in Reclamation Award, at the 2019 ASMR Conference in Big Sky, Montana (*see article below*).

Congratulations to Buck Neely:

Latest Recipient of the ASMR Early Career Award!

Congratulations to **Buck Neely** of Stream Restoration Incorporated and an SRWC participant, for recently winning the Early Career Award at the 2019 American Society of Mining and Reclamation Conference! Buck was presented with this honor at the ASMR Conference in Big Sky, Montana, in June. The Early Career in Reclamation Award is given to recognize an early career member of ASMR who is involved in reclamation research, teaching, and/or on-the-ground reclamation with a reclamation contractor/consultant, regulatory agency, or mining company. The nominee must have been employed in their field for a minimum of three years but not more than ten years. Buck Neely completed a BS in Environmental Engineering at Gannon University in 2008 and then got his MS from the University of Oklahoma in Environmental Engineering by May of 2010. He then started his career in mine land and water reclamation projects. Buck has also received his Professional Engineer license in three states in 2017 making him a PE in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Oklahoma. According to his nominator, **Dr. Robert Nairn** of the University of Oklahoma, Buck's work ethic, innovative skill set, and positive attitude are second to no one. Buck's work does not stop with design, as you are also likely to see him working diligently in project management, construction oversight, equipment operating, and data collection with report writing. Through all the projects that Buck has been involved with during his academic studies and reclamation career, he demonstrates the diversity of skills and competence needed for future achievement. One of the most impressive achievements for Buck is that his work has led to fish being observed in a stream that was previously deemed by the US EPA as irreparable. This is an outstanding achievement for anyone with many years of experience, no less an early career individual. He has even gone beyond his work in the US. While collaborating with the nonprofit organization Engineers in Action, he designed a mine water treatment system in the high Andes mountains of southern Bolivia. Congratulations Buck, for this recognition of your early career achievements. We are proud of you!





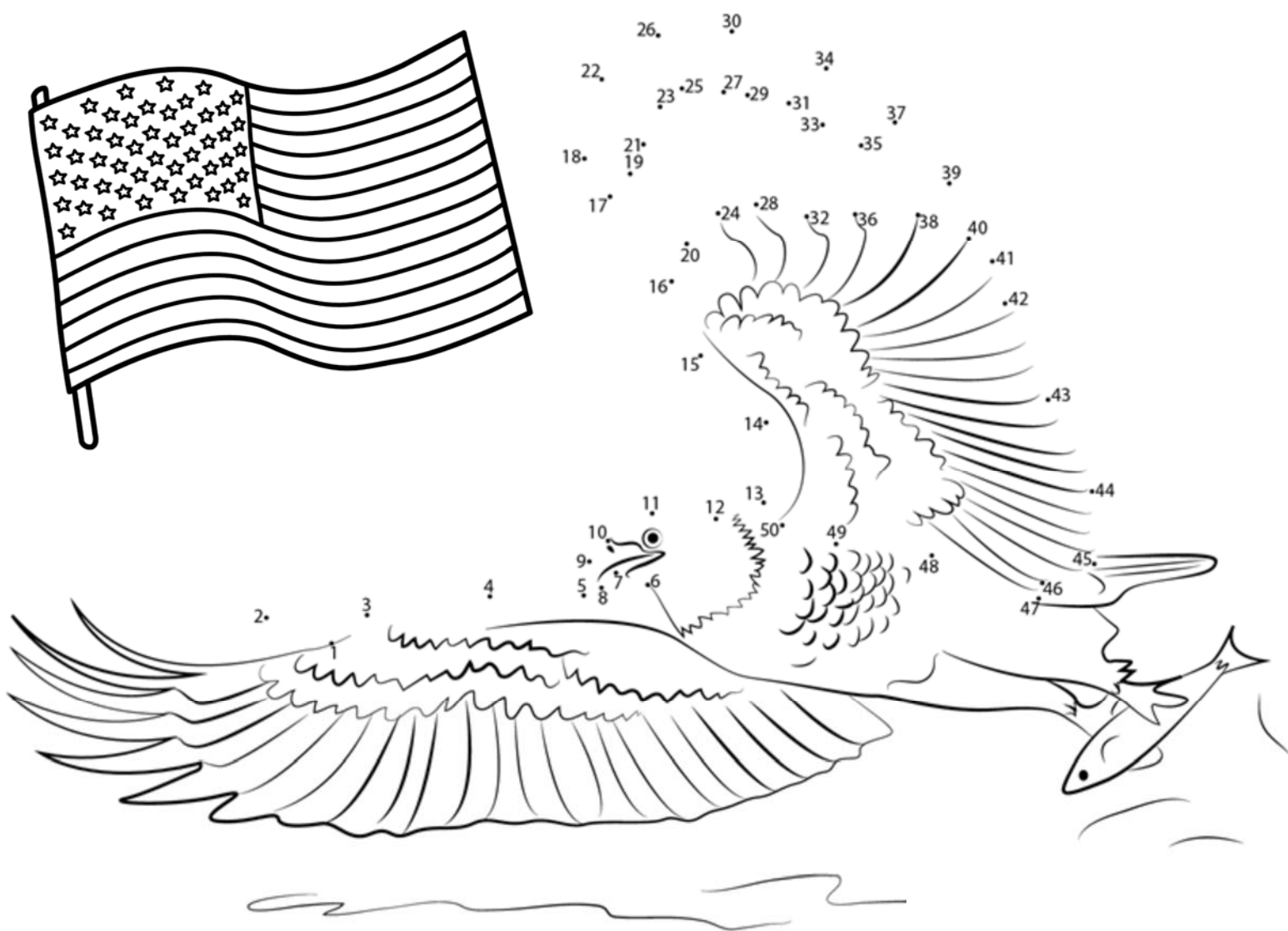
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Connect the Dots: American Bald Eagle



We hope you enjoyed a wonderful Independence Day! In honor of July 4th, we present to you kids a connect-the-dots picture that will create an American bald eagle, the national emblem for the USA chosen in the year 1782. American bald eagles nearly went extinct, when only 487 nesting pairs existed in the year 1963. Habitat destruction and degradation, illegal shooting, and the contamination of its food source (due largely to a pesticide called DDT) killed many of these amazing birds. The federal government declared bald eagles endangered in 1978 under the Endangered Species Act. Today, there are more than 9,800 nesting male-female pairs across the USA, and they are no longer endangered! Yay! Bald eagles can be seen regularly in Butler County, home of the SRWC! Your activity this month is to connect the dots below, numbers 1 to 50. You can color the eagle, too! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 credit for Amazon via a parent's email address. The Amazon credits can be saved up so you can buy something extra awesome!



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, www.srwc.org. July distribution: 234 copies

Mark Your Calendars and Celebrate the Bloom!

Save the date! Join us on **Saturday, July 27th** at the Jennings Environmental Education Center in Slippery Rock for their annual Celebrate the Bloom Festival! From **9 AM to 6 PM**, a full day of activities for all ages is planned. Some of these activities include workshops, demonstrations, guided nature walks (including bird, butterfly, and wildflower walks) and a culminating bonfire! There will also be many artisan vendors, food, live music, and more — something for the whole family! Unique hand-woven items, watercolor, photography, leatherwork, metalwork and much more will be out for display and sale by dozens of talented artists. Celebrate the Bloom is a **FREE** event, and located just one hour from Pittsburgh and Erie. Remember also that Jennings Environmental Education Center recently updated their indoor learning exhibits and there are many super-cool, hands-on learning stations inside that showcase the area's history, science, and nature/wildlife. If you haven't been to Jennings lately, July 27th would be an excellent choice. Celebrate the Bloom takes place when the beautiful Jennings prairie is in its full summer bloom — guests at this time are treated to a breathtaking view of the rare and spectacular purple blazing star flower (pictured at right), which can grow as tall as 4 feet high, as well as many other colorful, lovely wildflowers. Jennings' prairie is the only prairie ecosystem found in Pennsylvania, and is also the easternmost prairie habitat in the entire country. It is home to the endangered massasauga rattlesnake and is truly a special, unique area worthy of our appreciation. Jennings offers visitors over 5 miles of well-maintained, marked trails to explore, which traverse through wetlands, forests, streams, and prairie habitats.

