

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 9/12/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided. 8/8/19 meeting attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, S. Smith, W. Taylor, F. Van Atta, and S. Van Der Wal

Help “Spot the Problem”

Be on the Lookout for the Spotted Lanternfly

When visiting the Jennings Environmental Education Center or other state parks in Pennsylvania, you may hear or read the catchphrase “SPOT THE PROBLEM.” This refers to the Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive insect that poses a serious threat to Pennsylvania’s resources, businesses, and economy. To date, Jennings does not have these pests, but to help the park stay lanternfly free and stop the spread they are raising awareness of this pest. You can visit the Penn State Extension’s Spotted Lanternfly website to learn how to identify it, report it, and inspect your vehicle or gear when travelling to and from a spotted lanternfly quarantine zone.

Lycorma delicatula, commonly known as the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF), is a new invasive insect that has spread throughout southeastern Pennsylvania since its discovery in Berks County in 2014. SLF presents a significant threat to Pennsylvania agriculture, including the grape, tree-fruit like apples, hardwood and nursery industries, which collectively are worth nearly \$18 billion to the state’s economy. The SLF attacks fruit trees, but not the fruit itself. It uses its piercing-sucking mouthparts to feed on the sap in trunks, branches, twigs and leaves. These oozing wounds will leave a greyish or black trail along the bark of the plants. As it digests the sap, the insect excretes a substance known as honeydew that, along with sap from these weeping wounds, can attract bees and other insects. There may be a buildup of this sticky fluid on infested plants and on the ground below. The honeydew and sap also provide a medium for growth of fungi, such as sooty mold, which can cover leaf surfaces and stunt growth. Plants with heavy infestations may not survive.

Native to China, India, Vietnam, and other parts of Asia, the spotted lanternfly was identified for the first time in the United States in Berks County in 2014. Since then, the pest has spread to a multicounty area in southeastern Pennsylvania, and sightings have been reported in some neighboring states. In its native habitat it is kept in check by natural predators or pathogens. It was accidentally introduced in Korea in 2006 and has since been considered a pest. In September 2014, it was first recorded in the United States and it is now an invasive species in eastern PA, southwestern New Jersey, northern Delaware, and northern Virginia. To slow or stop the spread, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture imposed a quarantine regulating the movement of plants, plant-based materials and outdoor household items out of the quarantine area. There are currently 14 quarantined counties in PA. If you see a spotted lanternfly, it’s imperative to immediately report it online or via phone by calling 1-888-4BADFLY.

As Pennsylvania continues to battle in the war against the SLF, a new hope is on the horizon. Scientists from Penn State and Cornell University have teamed up in developing a potential biopesticide derived from a naturally occurring fungi in North America. *Beauveria bassina*, a native fungi, has shown the ability to kill spotted lanternflies according to the latest research. The fungi causes disease in insects but is harmless to humans. *Beauveria* fungi is already used in a number of EPA-approved biopesticides and many hope could be a cure in stopping this dangerous invasive insect.





Cleaning the limestone at the De Sale Phase 1 Horizontal Flow Limestone Bed (HFLB). The De Sale Phase 1 passive system turns 20 years old this year, but keeps on treating water.

Upcoming Fall Fun at Jennings!

Get ready for some fantastic fun fall activities at Jennings Environmental Education Center! Autumn is a lovely time of year for enjoying the outdoors. You are invited to visit Jennings and learn about a variety of cool environment-related topics, 3 of which we'll describe for you below:

“Nature Detectives: Project Tree Trouble” will be held **Sunday, September 15 from 2 PM to 4 PM** and is designed for families with children age six and older, as well as anyone who is a kid at heart. Families are invited to join Jennings staff to become “nature detectives.” Are the trees at Jennings in trouble? Collect clues in hopes of figuring out what is affecting the trees at the park and how they are being impacted. After some brief hints from Jennings’ staff about what to look for, family teams will investigate “troubled areas” to determine the suspects at each location. Children should be accompanied by a parent or other adult. Participants should dress appropriately and prepare for an active, outdoor learning adventure. Pre-registration is required by September 12th, and space is limited.

“3MJC Meeting: Dr. Frank Preston and Preston Park.” **Wednesday, September 18 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM.** How did an expert on glass technology from England come to have a conservation area named after him in Moraine State Park and his own park in Butler Township? How did this visionary ecologist become a prime force in the creation of Moraine State Park? Local historian and author, Polly Shaw, will focus on the fascinating life of Dr. Frank Preston and his lifelong contributions. The public is welcome to this meeting of Moraine, McConnells Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC), a non-profit friends group that supports these three parks. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM at Jennings.

“National Public Lands Day” is happening on **Saturday, September 28 from 9 AM to 1 PM.** This event is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the public lands American's enjoy. Last year over 113,000 volunteers built trails and bridges, planted trees and plants, and removed trash and invasive plants. Jennings is looking for interested individuals willing to spend a fall day pitching in at the park, with trail construction and rehabilitation as the focus of the workday at Jennings. As a special thank you, lunch will be provided and each participant will receive a T-shirt commemorating the event. Participants must be age 12 or older and must register for the program online by visiting the Jennings calendar of events page on the DCNR web site <https://events.dcnr.pa.gov>

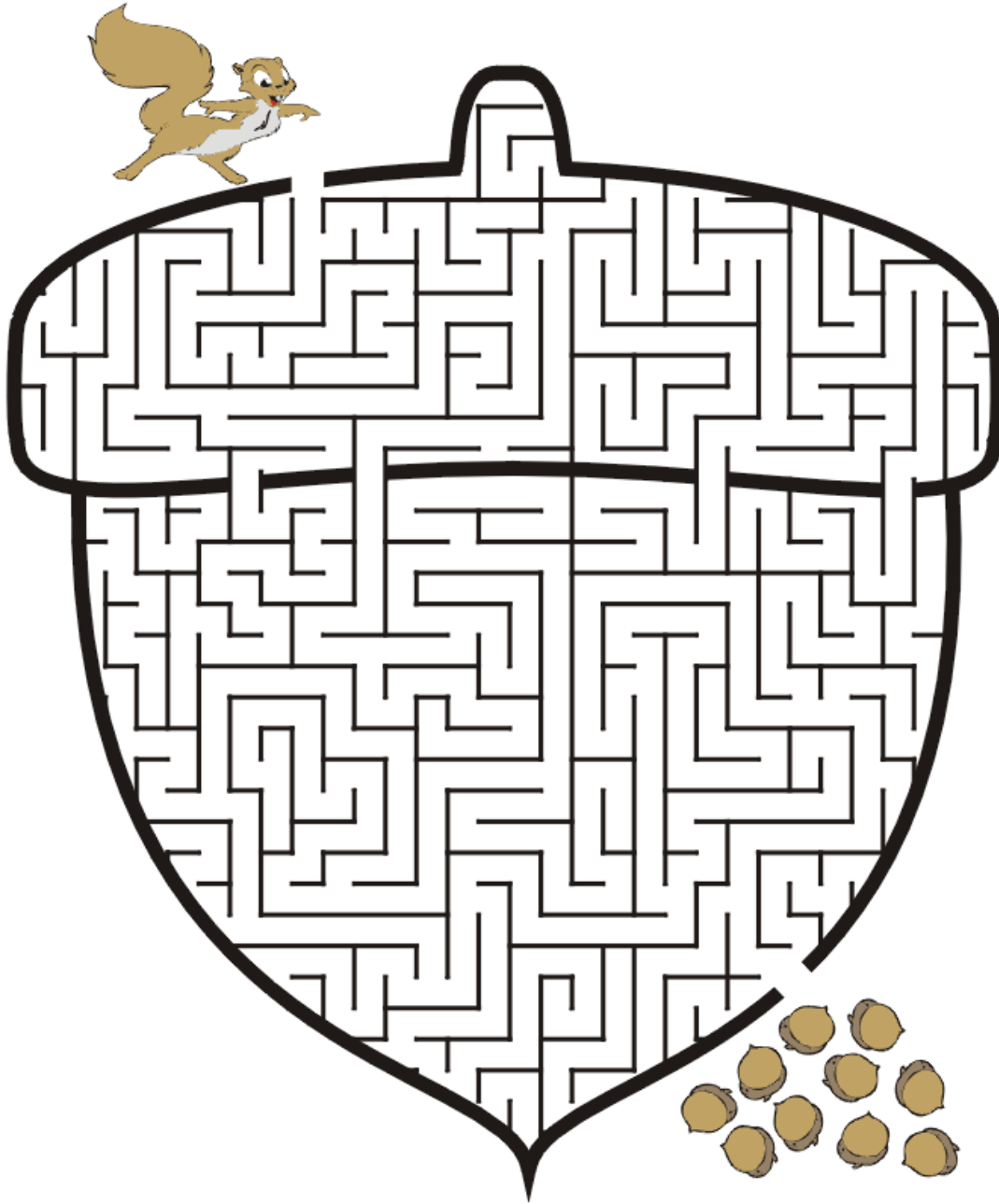


The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

We're Nuts for Squirrels!

Autumn is nearly here, and you've probably noticed lots of acorns falling off trees, with squirrels gathering them up to store away for those cold winter months! When a squirrel finds an acorn, he will always put it in his mouth to get some saliva on it. This makes it easier to locate it by its smell. It is said that a squirrel can locate an acorn that is buried through its sense of smell, even under a thick layer of snow. Squirrels also use their sense of smell to detect which acorns have been infested with insects. Other animals also eat acorns, including birds such as blue jays, woodpeckers, pigeons and some ducks; deer, bears, pigs; and other rodents such as mice. Help the squirrel find the correct path through the maze below to reach the acorns. And if you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit through a parent's email address! Credits can be saved to buy something really 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. September distribution: 250 copies