

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 10/10/19 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
9/12/19 meeting attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, B. Kuban, S. Smith, W. Taylor, F. Van Atta, and J. Winter

Student Symposium on the Environment Abstracts Due November 13, 2019

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. Submit your abstracts for this years symposium by **November 13, 2019**. Accepted submissions will be presented at The Symposium on **December 5, 2019** at Westminster College from **5:30 PM to 9:00 PM**. A networking and poster session will begin at 5:30 with oral presentations to begin at 7:30. If you are free that night, please come out and support the students! All are welcome!

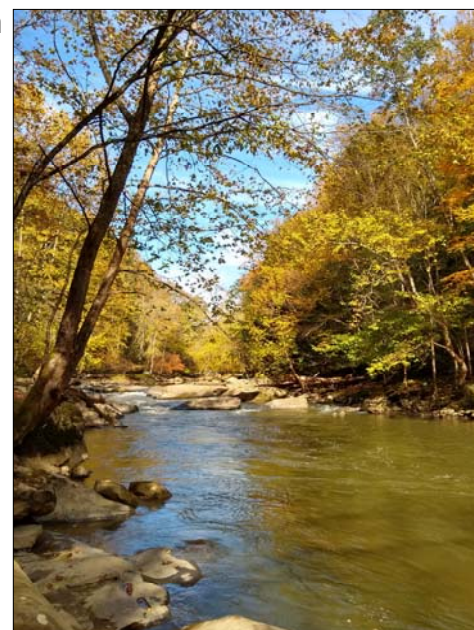
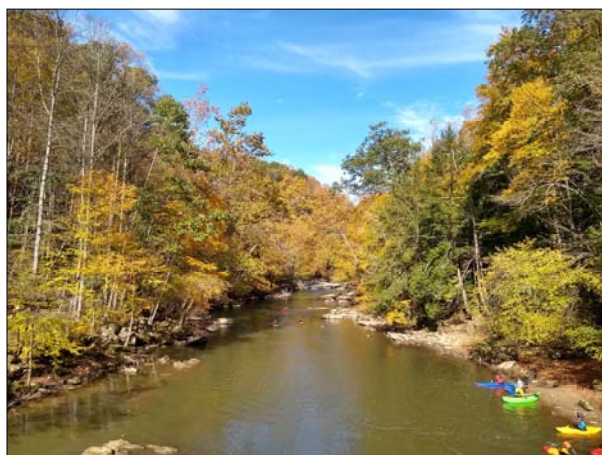
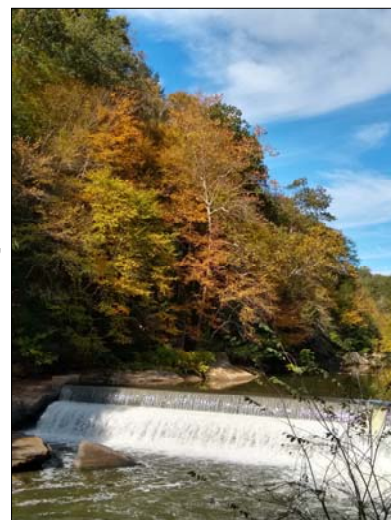
For more information and to register go to:

<https://www.westminster.edu/academics/majors-programs/environmental-science/symposium.cfm>

Autumn Adventure Awaits: Visit McConnells Mill State Park

If the Photo of the Month or the pictures to the right grab your attention and have you longing for a taste of the outdoors, wait no longer! Crisp autumn air and bright, vivid colors of yellow, orange, red, and purple await you, your family, and friends, at McConnells Mill State Park! McConnells Mill State Park, in Lawrence County, encompasses 2,546 acres of the spectacular Slippery Rock Creek Gorge, which is a National Natural Landmark. Created by the draining of glacial lakes thousands of years ago, the gorge has steep sides while the valley floor is littered with huge boulders. Scenic overlooks and waterfalls are popular natural attractions. Visitors can go bouldering, tour a gristmill, walk through a lovely covered bridge built in the 1800s that utilizes a rare Howe truss system, climb on sandstone outcroppings for amazing views, hike over eleven miles of well-marked trails (easy to moderate), go fishing, whitewater kayaking, and much more.

Located about 35 miles north of Pittsburgh, McConnells Mill State Park is an outdoor adventure and beautiful fall landscape you won't want to miss out on. McConnells Mill is, naturally, named for the mill that is located at the heart of the park. The first mill was built in 1852 and after being destroyed in a fire was rebuilt by McConnell in 1875 as one of the first rolling mills in the USA. Since then the mill has been maintained remarkably well and has many working features inside for visitors to explore either on their own or with a park ranger during free guided tours at select times.



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October edition Catalyst authors Melissa Busler and Shaun Busler take a hiking break at McConnells Mill State Park along Slippery Rock Creek. The work of the SRWC includes a focus on treating the waters of this stream and its tributaries. Autumn is one of the most popular times of the year for park visitors at this location. (See article on first page)

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(Highlighting Other Partnership Efforts)

A Walk in Penns Woods at Rocky Bend Nature Preserve

The Independence Conservancy hosted a Walk in Penn's Woods at Beaver County's newest park, **Rocky Bend Nature Preserve** in Potter Township, on Sunday October 6th. Members of the Conservancy led eighteen people on a one-mile hike to explore the scenic Raccoon Creek Greenway, which features picturesque rocky cliffs, wooded hillsides and quiet shorelines. Tour highlights included a natural stream bank repair, a grove of giant sassafras trees, and a constructed wetland-meadow. Scientists and naturalists walked with the group to answer questions about geology, streams, wetlands, fisheries biology and local history. Rocky Bend Nature Preserve is a public-private partnership between Potter Township municipal government and Independence Conservancy.

Independence Conservancy is a nonprofit charitable organization, and the only private land trust based in Beaver County. In addition to preserving land, the conservancy has been involved in the treatment of abandoned mined drainage in the region. For more information on programs, initiatives, other upcoming events and how to get involved, visit the Independence Conservancy website at www.independenceconservancy.org.





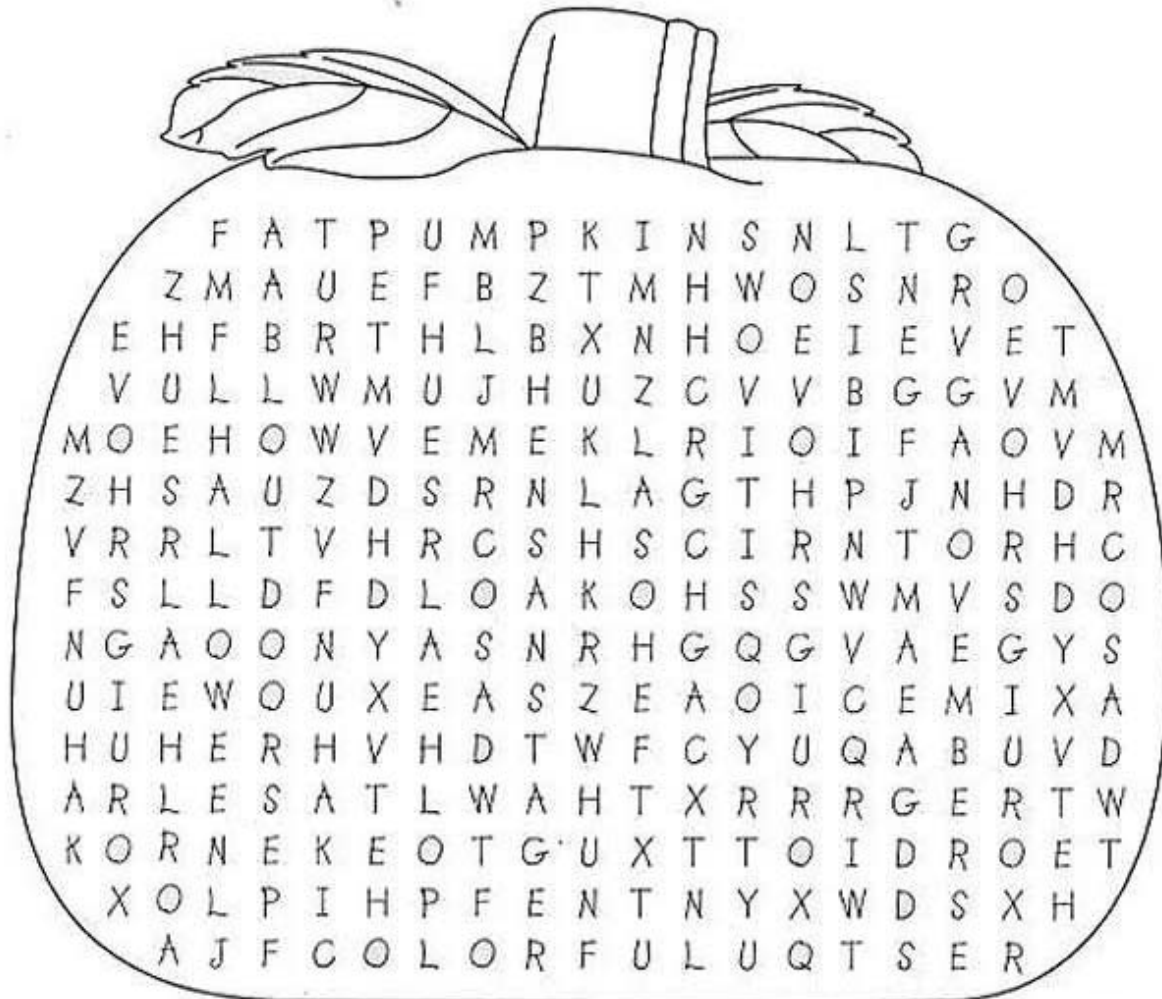
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Autumn word search fun!

Time to think Fall! There are 15 autumn words hidden in the pumpkin below! If you can find them and circle them all, send us your paper — and we will send you a \$1 Amazon credit through a parent's email address! You can save up credits to buy something extra awesome. Have fun this fall, and we hope you enjoy our word search!



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. October distribution: 250 copies