

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: 7 pm on 1/9/20 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.
December meeting cancelled.

Student Symposium a Success!

On December 5th, the annual Student Symposium on the Environment was once again held at Westminster College marking the 12th straight year the college has hosted the event. The student symposium arose from the annual Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition Symposium which began in 1996 where students and professionals presented research specifically related to the watershed restoration activities of the SRWC. After several years, students were given their very own event, which was later expanded to include any environmental related topic. The purpose of the student symposium is to provide a venue for students to showcase their environment-related research, projects, internships, and artwork in a positive and friendly atmosphere.

This year's event attracted over 80 students from eight regional colleges and universities including California University of Pennsylvania, Chatham University, Duquesne University, Geneva College, Saint Vincent College, Slippery Rock University, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, and Westminster College. There were also several high school students from Greenville Sr. High School. There were 45 posters and 5 oral presentations.

The quality of the work is always impressive and the judges have a daunting challenge of visiting and evaluating all of those posters! The following awards and honorable mentions were earned:

Environmental Project Poster: "No More Wasting Away: The Reduction of Food Waste and Plastics at Westminster College" by **Julia Serbati**, Westminster College.

Honorable mention: "Population decline of American kestrels (*Falco sparverius*): a demographic study " by **Stephanie Van Horn**, Westminster College.

Research Project Poster: "A Review of Risks and Management Options for Cat Colonies in Suburban and Urban Areas" by **Bailey Dunks** and **Kayla Troxil**, Westminster College.

Honorable mention: "Influence of seasonal land use on breeding site selection and reproductive success of American kestrels in western Pennsylvania " by **Laura Fox**, Westminster College.

Oral Presentation: "Sulfate Reduction Using an Encapsulated Growth Environment" by **Taylor Rosso**, Duquesne University.

Honorable mention: "Characterizing Coqui Frogs in Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens" by **Haley Moore**, Duquesne University.

High School Poster: "Linking Acorn Parasitism Rates with Wood Duck Densities" by **Ashley Milleson** and **Tyler Dickson** from Greenville Junior-Senior High School.

Honorable mention: "Web Area as a Predictor of Yellow Garden Spider Size" by **Skylar Swartz**, Greenville Junior-Senior High School.

Thanks to all who participated, and congratulations to those who won an award! Remember this event takes place every December, so if you missed out this year (as an entrant, judge, or casual attendee) be sure to join us next year!





Student award winners pose for a photo at the December 5th annual Student Symposium on the Environment. Over 80 students from western Pennsylvania colleges, universities, and high schools participated! See article, front page.

Christmas Tree Recycling

The following is a list of local options for recycling cut Christmas trees after the holidays. It is very important to remember that **all locations require trees to be free of all decorations and any plastic bag**. Please contact individual sites for more information.

Seneca Landfill: 421 Hartmann Road - Evans City, PA 16033 — www.senecalandfill.com 724-625-9000. Cost is \$5 per tree, collecting now thru January 31, 2020.

Cranberry Township Residential Curbside Collection: 724-776-4806. Trees should be placed at the curb during the Collection Connection customer's regular collection day during the weeks of January 6 and January 13. Cut tree into 4 foot lengths, remove ornaments, tinsel, lights & plastic bag, if any. Do not place in the green lid yard waste carts. After January 17, Collection Connection customers must place a \$4 Bulky Item sticker on each 4 foot section of tree for removal on their regular collection day.

Back to Nature (Stirling Landscaping Center) at 840 Mercer Rd. Butler — 724-287-7921. Must call before dropping off. Cost is \$3.00 per tree for drop-off (7 days per week) until the end of February 2020.

Penn Township – Drop off at the Road Dept. or Fire Hall. Please call Penn Township at (724) 586-1165 for more detailed information.

Slippery Rock Community Park – 320 N. Main St., Slippery Rock 16057 (724) 794-8180 (free drop off through January 5, 2020) Drop off site in front of the playground will be clearly marked with a tree collection sign and trees must be placed in that area.

Zelienople and Harmony Boroughs - The Zelienople Lions Club will be picking up trees in Zelienople and Harmony on January 11, 2020 from 9 am to noon. There is no cost. Please place them at the curb of the home and volunteers will pick them up.

Some other communities may have a curbside pickup program for their residents – call your municipal building for details. Also remember that depending on your community's regulations (check to be sure), trees can be used to create brush piles that provide resting areas and escape locations for birds and small animals.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Winter Fun: Hidden Picture!

It might be winter, but in this month's Kids' Catalyst activity there are little bits of summer to be found! Hiding in the winter landscape below are several items more common in summertime. Circle them or color them in if you can find them! If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 credit to use on Amazon (via a parent's email address). Credits can be saved to purchase something special! Have a fun winter!



Try to find...

- Ice cream cone
- Straw hat
- Sunscreen bottle
- Cool drink
- Sun
- Popsicle
- Pair of shorts
- Sunglasses

Name _____ Age _____

Parent email _____

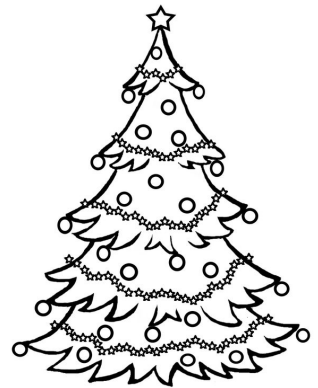


Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
434 Spring Street Ext.
Mars, PA 16046

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. December distribution: 250 copies

'Tis the Season to Recycle...

Deck the curbs with bins of paper
Fa la la la la, la la la la
'Tis the season to recycle
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Don we now recycled cardboard
Fa la la la la, la la la la
Save the ancient yuletide boxes
Fa la la la la, la la la la



No doubt you've heard of the three R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Did you ever stop to ponder why most folks hear or see the words in that order? It's best to reduce consumption in the first place. Purchase products with less packaging. Carry items home from a store without using a plastic bag. Reduce can also mean turning off lights and devices when not in use, or taking shorter showers. Carry a reusable water bottle around instead of plastic water bottles. When we do have "stuff" it's important to try to reuse items. At this season of the year, try to save Christmas wrapping paper, boxes, etc. to use again next Christmas. It's good to recycle, of course, but the process of recycling something still uses energy, time, money, and resources. It's even better to reduce or reuse.

Every year, the United States generates approximately 230 million tons of solid waste, a.k.a. "trash". This is about 4.6 pounds per person per day. Less than one-quarter of it is recycled; the rest is incinerated or buried in landfills. Keep in mind, during the holidays, a lot of the decorations, packaging, and extras we have laying around can be repurposed or recycled. Most Christmas cards, envelopes, and wrapping paper (so long as there is no foil in it) can be recycled, as can real Christmas trees (*see article, page 2*). Cardboard boxes are recyclable, as is the thin cardboard also called paperboard. Paperboard makes up cereal boxes, tissue boxes, many of the boxes toys are packaged in, cracker boxes, etc. All paper can be recycled. If you are not recycling your paperboard yet, consider making it a New Year's resolution! You will truly notice a difference on the amount of "trash" going into your garbage cans!