

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** 7 pm on 4/9/20 at Jennings Environmental Education Center, pizza and pop provided.  
**3/12/20 meeting attendance:** J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, B. Kuban, S. Smith, W. Taylor, F. VanAtta

### State Game Lands 151 Expands in Mercer County

If you have ever looked at an aerial photo south of the Grove City exit on I-79, you may have noticed a cluster of ponds sandwiched together (see photo of the month on the next page). These ponds were created by diking wetlands and were used for aquaculture farming from the 1970s to the 1990s. Ducks Unlimited bought the property with the hopes of returning the site to a valuable wetland system. They have recently sold the property to the PA Game Commission, which will be included within State Game Lands 151. The Game Commission plans to install new water control structures so that the wetlands can mimic natural wetlands and attract more ducks and wildlife. These changes should help stop the spread of invasive species. State Game Lands 151 serves numerous wildlife and waterbirds, including several species of concern.

Black Run, a tributary to Slippery Rock Creek, provides the source of water for the wetlands. The property is in the Celery Swamp Important Bird Area and Ducks Unlimited Northwest Pennsylvania International Conservation Priority Area and is within 30 miles of Pymatuning Reservoir and 60 miles of Lake Erie. The ponds and wetlands will provide an excellent stopover location for migratory birds and will provide habitat and foraging opportunities for birds and bats.



The ponds and wetlands located in the middle of the aerial photo have been added to State Game Lands 151.

### Call for Volunteers — Planting Along Slippery Rock Creek on April 4th

A planting is scheduled for the Slippery Rock Creek stream bank restoration project on April 4th, dependent on the number of volunteers available. With the coronavirus pandemic, our local colleges and universities have moved to online classes and as a result, will likely not be available to help this year! The stream bank is still in need of planting and the trees and shrubs are ready at the nurseries. The planting is located outside and there is plenty of room for “social distancing”. **If you or your group is interested in helping with this planting, please call Shaun Busler at (724) 776-0161.** The more people that can help the better!

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Stream bank planting in 2015 at the Slippery Rock Campground. Come help plant the newest project at the campground. See article on the first page.

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### Mining and Reclamation Guest Presentation at St. Luke Lutheran School

On Friday, March 13th, students in Mrs. Melissa Busler's 7th grade science class at St. Luke Lutheran School in Cabot were treated to a presentation by guest speaker **Shaun Busler**, biologist and GIS Professional from Stream Restoration Incorporated and SRWC volunteer. Shaun spoke to the class about mining, reclamation, and abandoned mine drainage. Mrs. Busler's students had been in a unit of study on freshwater and ways it can become polluted. It was the perfect opportunity for Shaun to visit the class and share his firsthand experiences with combating AMD.

Shaun shared a lot of great information with the 7th graders on why we need mining, the differences in how mining is currently performed compared with mining in the past, how AMD forms, how it can be treated by using either active or passive treatment systems (and what those differences are), AMD problems across the globe, water quality tests and data to determine if a system is working to clean the water, the work of the SRWC in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed area, and how reclaimed minerals can be repurposed for things like dyes and pigments in ceramic.

Shaun enjoyed his time spent in the classroom and was impressed by the ability of the students to answer many of his questions. The 7th graders are looking forward to a spring field trip visit to Lutherlyn, where they will use water testing kits at a stream site near a closed coal mine on Lutherlyn's property. As in much of PA, the mine was not sealed properly and the result is constant pollution that threatens life in the nearby stream. A passive treatment system has been installed to remove the pollution. Students will use water testing kits to investigate the chemistry of the mine water as it passes through the system.

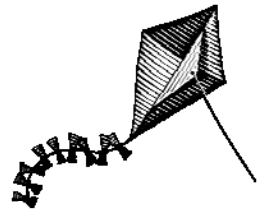






# The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



## Spring into a Word Search!

March 20 marks the first day of spring! To celebrate the warmer temperatures and sunshine, we have a special Spring word search this month! Try to find the 18 "signs of spring" hidden in the word search below. Circle the words, and return the page to us for a \$1 credit to spend on Amazon! You can save the credits month after month to buy something really fun!

- |          |          |           |           |        |        |
|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Sunshine | Umbrella | Raindrops | Birdhouse | Bunny  | Windy  |
| Garden   | Tulips   | Puddles   | Daffodils | Jacket | Kite   |
| Robins   | Green    | Cardinals | Crocuses  | Easter | Chicks |

R	A	V	W	D	A	B	J	R	F	F	M	I	O	L	P	C	Q	T	C
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_



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

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