

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: TBD per COVID-19 regulations; tentatively planned for 7 PM on 8/12/2021 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop return; social distancing will be followed. July meeting was cancelled.

SRWC In The News



Work of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition and upcoming projects was recently highlighted in the May 7, 2021, edition of the Butler Eagle newspaper. The article called "Watershed Work" provided a little background information on the SRWC, our goals, and a project that will involve the rehabilitation of some of our older passive treatment systems. The SRWC received funding from the PA Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Program and the US Office of Surface Mining Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program to rehabilitate several of our older systems. Rehabilitation of the Ferris system is about to begin and should be completed

this year. Work on the SR101A system will also likely be completed this year. Thanks to reporter Eddie Trizzino for taking the time to talk to us and for sharing our work with the community! Keep an eye out for updates on this project in the coming months.

SRWC Participant Elected President of Professional Society

Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition participant **Tim Danehy** has been elected President of the American Society of Reclamation Sciences (ASRS) formerly known as the American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR). While technically elected only a one-year term as president, people elected so actually serve for three years as part of the National Executive Council: first as President-Elect, then President, and then Past President. Tim just recently began to serve in the volunteer position for one year as president where he will help to guide the organization, participate in a variety of technical committees, and help oversee putting on the annual conference. The conference, which attracts attendees from all over the world, has long focused on reclamation activities and often has a number of presentations on acid mine drainage treatment. Many of our SRWC participants are members of the organization, regularly attend the conferences and often provide presentations about the work that we do.



After a 2-year hiatus due to Covid-19, next year's conference is expected to be held in-person in Duluth, Minnesota. The American Society of Reclamation Sciences (ASRS) was originally founded in 1973 as a small West Virginia advisory council concerned with reclamation of lands that had been disturbed by coal extraction. ASRS has evolved into a professional society of international prominence, including members from 20 countries. Initially, ASRS focused on lands disturbed by coal mining. ASRS's professional interests now include all aspects of land reclamation and the protection and enhancement of soil and water resources regardless of the source of the disturbance. ASRS's mission is to represent and serve a diverse national and international community of scientists, practitioners, private industry, technicians, educators, planners, and government regulators involved in mineral extraction and the reclamation of disturbed lands. ASRS promotes the advancement of basic and applied reclamation science through research and technology transfer in the Society's annual meetings, workshops, published proceedings, newsletters, Reclamation Matters magazine, and the ASRS web site. Congratulations, Tim, on your election!



Dr. Darren Wood takes some notes about the mine discharge at the De Sale Phase I passive treatment system.

New Biology Professor Seeks to Conduct Research in Slippery Rock Creek Watershed

Dr. Darren Wood was recently hired by Grove City College as a biology professor in the position vacated by **Dr. Fred Brenner**, a longtime participant of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. Dr. Wood will teach ecology, wildlife and conservation biology, as well as fisheries and aquatic biology. He will also be developing courses in Geographical Information Science (GIS), which is a necessary skill in the marketplace today. He completed his doctorate and master's degree work at West Virginia University and earned a B.S. in fisheries biology from Mansfield University of PA.

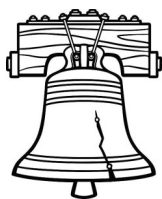
In April 2021, **Shaun Busler** from the SRWC met with Dr. Wood and his students to install a new conductivity data logger in Wolf Creek on the campus of Grove City College. This logger will provide the students not only a continuous data set but also an opportunity to learn how to use this versatile tool. Dr. Wood hopes to install additional data loggers in the watershed.

After installing the data logger, Shaun also gave Dr. Wood a quick tour of the watershed, highlighting many of the restoration projects that have been constructed in Slippery Rock Creek area over the last 25 years. Shaun and Dr. Wood visited the De Sale Passive Treatment Systems, three systems that were constructed in the early 2000's in the headwaters of Seaton Creek. These systems help transform a nearly lifeless stream into a productive fishery. Dr. Brenner and the SRWC conducted an electrofishing survey of the creek in 2004 and found that fish had returned to portions of the watershed. After two decades, these systems continue to successfully treat the mine discharges! Additional stream surveys will be highly beneficial to the on-going restoration efforts. Dr. Wood and Shaun also visited the treatment systems in the Blacks Creek Watershed, including McIntire, BC16, and BC19 & 19B.



Welcome to the watershed, Dr. Wood! We are excited about the future partnership!

Dr. Wood standing near a section of Blacks Creek that still needs some additional treatment.



The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

Pennsylvania Word Search



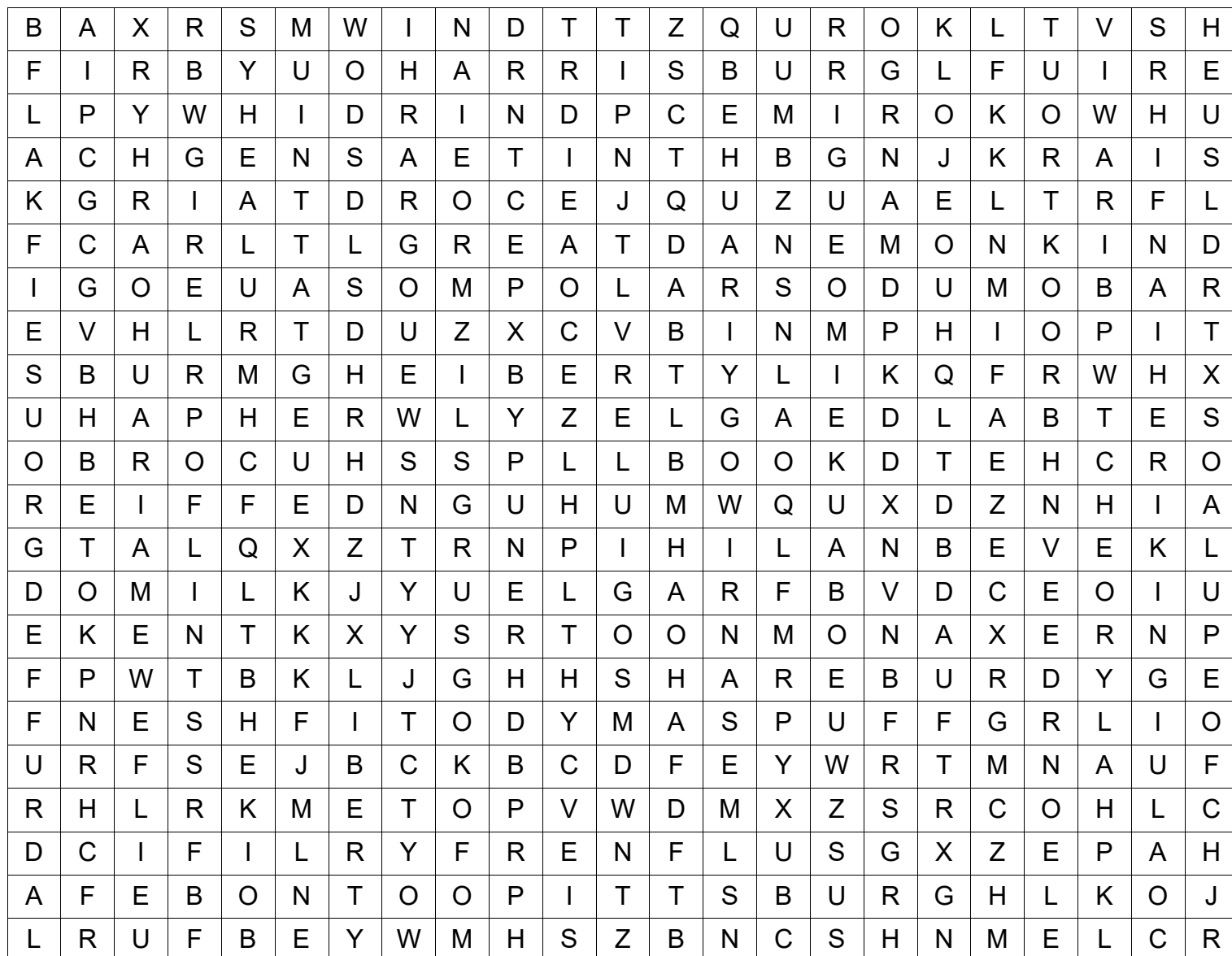
Have you spotted fireflies yet this summer, flashing their cool lights in the darkness of night? Fireflies produce a chemical reaction inside their bodies that allows them to light up. This type of light production is called bioluminescence. The firefly is actually the official state insect of Pennsylvania, and has been since 1974 when children circulated petitions and gave away bumper stickers to support their position that since there was a species of firefly named for PA (*Photuris pensylvanica*) it should be the official state insect. You may also have seen the official state flower in bloom, mountain laurel, or perhaps gone fishing for the official state fish: the brook trout. Below is a word search where 16 Pennsylvania-related words are hidden. Circle the words and send us your completed paper to earn a \$1 Amazon credit (sent to a parent's email). Credits can be saved to buy something extra cool! Happy summer!

Firefly
White tailed deer
Eastern Hemlock
Great Dane

Liberty
Independence
Harrisburg
Bald eagle

Ruffed grouse
Brook trout
Milk
Philadelphia

Harrisburg
Pittsburgh
Oil
Coal



Name _____ Age ____ Parent email address: _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
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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: 240 copies