

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: TBD per COVID-19 regulations; tentatively planned for 7 PM on 9/9/2021 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop return; social distancing will be followed. July and August meetings were cancelled.

The Latest Attraction at Jennings: The Goats

Maintaining the only protected prairie in Pennsylvania is never an easy job. Invasive species such as barber-y, multi-flora rose, aspen, and other saplings are always popping up. To make sure these species don't take over the native plants in the prairie, management strategies such as herbicide application, brush cutting, and prescribed burns are used. Recently the prairie at Jennings Environmental Education Center has been ex-



Sammy

expanded to allow for more plant diversity and increased habitat for the endangered massasauga rattlesnake. The existing portion of the prairie was about 15 acres, but in the past couple years an additional 18 acres have been added. With the ongoing prairie expansion project comes many more invasive species to manage. To reduce the increased workload for staff at Jennings, goat grazing was added to the list of management practices. Si and Sammy are the two domestic goats that currently call the prairie home. They are fed every other day with supplemental grains, but there are

plenty of plants and invasive species for them to munch on. They are kept in a 3-acre area with an electric fence, but once most of the invasive species are gone within that enclosure, the fence will

be relocated, and they will tackle other areas of the expansion. They are given fresh water; however, they get most of their water through the plants that they eat. They love eating woody invasive species, but they will also eat plants that humans typically hate such as the thorny multi-flora rose and poison ivy. Goats have very tough gums and digestive organs, so thorns really don't hurt them. They have a four-chambered stomach, plus they are cud chewers, so they get to chew their food twice. The



Si

goat's digestive system also destroys seeds, so eaten seeds are not replanted. One might worry that goats would eat the plants that are supposed to be in the prairie, but they usually leave plants like goldenrod alone and go for small saplings instead. This is the first year that Jennings has had goats, but the project will likely last several years. Depending on how well Si and Sammy do, more goats may be added in the future.



To see the goats at Jennings, you'll want to park on the prairie side of 528 and take Blazing Star trail all the way to the end. You will see the electric fence and have chances of seeing them on Blazing Star, Prairie Loop, and Deer Trail.

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



PHOTO OF THE MONTH

A record-breaking crowd of 28,000 enjoyed the Lake Arthur Regatta at Moraine State Park over the weekend of August 7th and 8th. The 5K race winners are shown at Left, with board members and planning team folks shown at Right.

ARIPPA Highlights SRWC Work

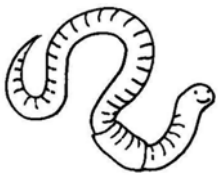
The Appalachian Region Independent Power Producers Association (ARIPPA) recently highlighted the SRWC in their newsletter! ARIPPA recently made the decision to highlight different watershed groups in their newsletters similar to the periodic H.O.P.E articles written as part of *The Catalyst*. We at the SRWC would like to thank Cristy Sweeney, the Director of Finance & Public Affairs at ARIPPA, for sharing this information and article with us! It was an honor to be chosen the first group spotlighted.

ARIPPA's article included information on the goals of the SRWC, data about the watershed, descriptions of the work the SRWC focuses on, and details of a few treatment systems — the SRWC has completed over 20 treatment systems in the watershed, the oldest of which has just turned 26 years old! ARIPPA also mentioned additional work done by the SRWC to improve the health of the Slippery Rock watershed and also contribute to AMD treatment across the state, including stream bank restoration, watershed conservation planning, creating a water monitoring network, and maintaining Datashed, an open-source, user-friendly GIS enabled water quality database for sharing information with the public.

We are very thankful for our partnership with ARIPPA and admire their work using coal refuse as a fuel to generate electricity. ARIPPA is a non-profit trade association comprised of independent electric power producers, environmental remediators, and service providers located in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. It was first organized in 1989. Based in Camp Hill, PA, ARIPPA uses coal refuse as a primary fuel to generate electricity. Utilizing circulating fluidized bed (CFB) boiler technology to convert both anthracite and bituminous coal refuse into electricity, ARIPPA plants also provide unique multimedia environmental benefits by combining the production of energy with the removal of coal refuse piles and reclamation of the land for productive purposes.

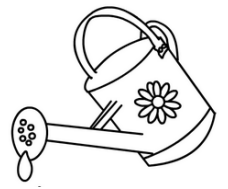
ARIPPA celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2019, at which time a report analyzing the economic and environmental benefits of Pennsylvania's coal refuse reclamation to energy industry showed the industry contributes \$615 million per year to the Pennsylvania economy, supports at least 3,000 jobs, and provides \$37 million in annual environmental and public benefits on top of the up to \$267 million in annual avoided costs to the Commonwealth from the remediation performed by the industry. That's a lot to be proud of!

We look forward to continuing to work with ARIPPA in the future and value their support. If you'd like to learn more about the work ARIPPA does, visit their web site at <https://arippra.org/>



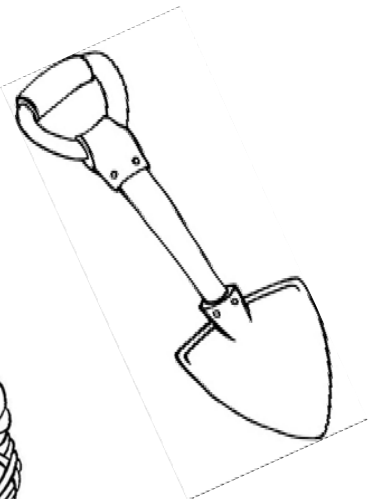
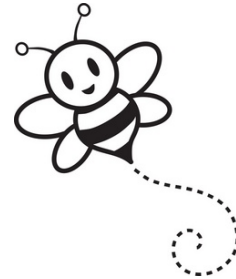
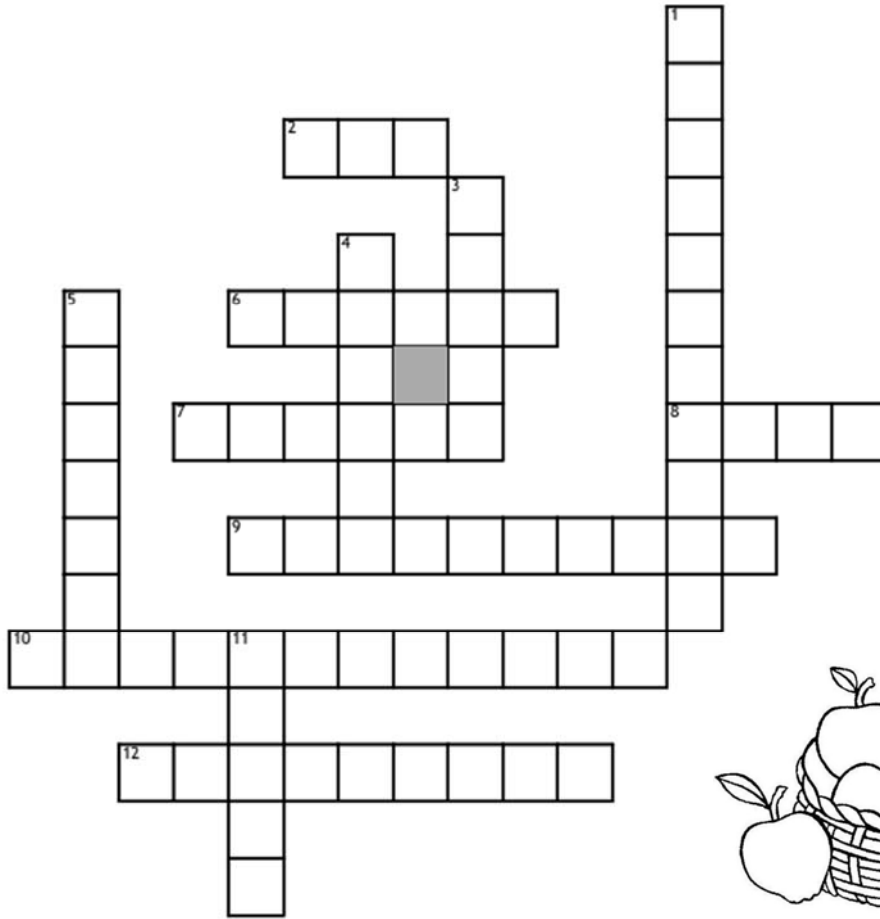
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



Garden Crossword Puzzle

Do you or someone you know have a garden? Maybe it's a vegetable garden, with tasty tomatoes, carrots, onions, cucumbers, or lettuce. Or maybe it's a flower garden, visited often by butterflies and bees, filled with pretty colors and lovely smells. This month's activity is a garden crossword puzzle! Use the clues to write word answers in the boxes. If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit as a prize, through a parent's email address! You can save up your credits to buy something extra special!



Across

2. We are the main ingredients in small rectangular pastries. My name rhymes with pig.
6. I help people dig, but am big enough to use with both hands.
7. We are fruits that come in many different colors. We grow on trees and people love baking us in pies too!
9. I help gardeners dig in soil, but small enough to fit in one hand.
10. We are red and sweet. Our seeds are on the outside and we come in different sizes.
12. I am what people like to plant vegetables and flowers into. I can be small or large and usually shaped like a rectangle.

Down

1. We are a small round fruit. People love us in pies and we have a greenish inside.
3. We grow easily in any garden. People don't like it when we invade a green space.
4. Bees collect us to help flowers, fruits, and vegetables grow.
5. I am a type of fertilizer. Decomposers help me become full of nutrients. I am a type of soil.
11. We are called decomposers. We wiggle and live deep in soil.

Name _____ Age ____ Parent email address: _____



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