

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** TBD per COVID-19 regulations; tentatively planned for 7 PM on 10/14/2021 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop return; social distancing will be followed. September meeting was cancelled.

### Hunting Opportunities Abound in the Watershed

As fall approaches, many venture outside to hunt. The Slippery Rock Creek Watershed is blessed with many different hunting opportunities. For those without permission to hunt on private land, thousands of acres of public land are available. Some of these opportunities are highlighted below:

**State Game Lands:** As previously noted, five State Game Lands (**SGL**) are located within the watershed: SGL #95 in Butler County, SGL #130 in Mercer and Venango Counties, SGL #151 and SGL #284 in Mercer and Lawrence Counties and SGL #216 in Lawrence County. The 9,383-acre State Game Lands #95, Butler County's largest preserve with over 6,000 acres in the watershed, is noted for bear, deer, turkey, small game and waterfowl.

**State Parks:** Hunting and trapping are permitted in designated areas and during established seasons in both McConnells Mill and Moraine State Parks. The training of dogs is also permitted in the hunting areas of both parks from the day after Labor Day through March 31 of each year. The hunting of woodchucks or ground-hogs is prohibited at both parks. Common game species at *McConnells Mill State Park* include grouse, deer, turkey, rabbit and squirrel. Approximately 13,600 acres is available for hunting and trapping at *Moraine State Park*, where popular game species include waterfowl, deer, turkey, grouse, bear, rabbit, pheasant and squirrel.

**Conservation Lands:** Hunting and trapping is permitted on Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) properties in accordance with Pennsylvania Game Laws. Two WPC properties are located in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed: the 33-acre *Miller Esker Natural Area* and the 115-acre *Wolf Creek Narrows Natural Area*. Both tracts are located near Slippery Rock, PA.

### New Sludge Pond Constructed at SR101A

As part of the Slippery Rock Passive Treatment Rehab & Maintenance grant, the SRWC is rehabbing several passive treatment systems in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek on located on State Gamelands #95. One of those sites is SR101A. The SR101A passive system was constructed in 1998 and is now 23 years old! This system was one of the first constructed in the watershed and has continuously been treating water since it was constructed with little maintenance. The ALD currently is functioning well, but additional limestone will likely be needed in the next five years. The settling pond and wetlands are also full of iron sludge and organic debris to the point they are beginning to reduce treatment efficiency. In places, the AMD is flowing over the berm of wetland 1, thereby bypassing a portion of the treatment, potentially damaging the berm, and creating a sloped wetland on the berm.

Last month, a new sludge pond was built by **Ryan and Cory Mahony of Bio-Most, Inc.** This pond was filled with the iron sludge and organic debris from the settling pond and wetlands in the passive treatment system. Cleaning these ponds and wetlands will increase the sludge capacity and effectiveness of the treatment system. Thanks to Ryan and Cory for getting a little orange!





A nice day to bike and sail at Moraine State Park, one of the many beautiful areas of the watershed!

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!!**

### **PA AMR Conference: October 27-28**

With the theme “Overcoming Challenges — A Bright Future”, this year’s PA Abandoned Mine Reclamation Conference is set to take place **October 27 and 28**. The conference will be virtual in nature, but will still include many excellent exhibitors, presentations, speakers, networking opportunities, everyone’s favorite May-fly Awards, and more! This year’s conference will utilize the Whova Web Application, which not only incorporates Zoom for video chats and webinars but also has virtual networking (that will start before and continue well after the conference), surveys, virtual booth space where attendees chat with exhibitors, and much more. The virtual conference web applications will open weeks ahead of time for participants to get used to browsing around and start chatting with other registered attendees and exhibitors. This will be helpful in planning ahead and arranging schedules to sign up for particular sessions.

To access the virtual conference, the first step is to register through **[treatminewater.com](https://treatminewater.com)** and the EPCAMR store (like every other year) and you will be provided the credentials/instructions to access the Whova Virtual Conference Applications in a follow-up email.

### **Northwest PA GIS Conference: October 28-29**



The 15th Annual Northwest Pennsylvania GIS Conference will be held on October 28-29, 2021 at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Many thanks to Clarion University for allowing an in-person event! Registration is now open to attend, present and/or exhibit. Check the preliminary conference Agenda, which is updated regularly. Presentation, exhibition, map gallery entry, and regular registrations are available online at [www.nwpagisconference.com](http://www.nwpagisconference.com). Please contact Dr. Yasser Ayad ([yayad@clarion.edu](mailto:yayad@clarion.edu)) with any questions.



# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

### Scarecrow Coloring Page



Don't be scared of our scarecrow! He won't hurt you! We hope you have fun with this month's coloring page! Scarecrows were first created to do just what their name suggests — scare off crows and other birds that would eat valuable crops. The first scarecrows appeared 3000 years ago and were made by the Egyptians to protect wheat fields near the Nile River. There is a village in Japan named Nagoro which has 35 people living there, but over 350 scarecrows! Enjoy the coloring page, and if you mail us your completed work of art we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit through a parent's email that you can save up!



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_ Parent email address: \_\_\_\_\_



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