

THE CATALYST

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

NEXT MEETING: Tentatively planned for 7 PM on 3/9/23 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop provided. January and February meeting cancelled.

2022 Student Symposium On the Environment

The 2022 Student Symposium on the Environment was held on December 1st and was once again hosted by Westminster College at the McKelvey Campus Center and co-organized with the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition. The Symposium is an annual event to give students the opportunity to showcase their environmental projects, research, service projects, internships and artwork. This year was the 15th year that Westminster College has hosted the event. In addition, a networking lounge, sponsored by Westminster College's Professional Development Center (PDC), gave students the opportunity to interact with judges.

A record number of 115 students from six different regional colleges and four high schools participated in the event, including Chatham University, Duquesne University, PennWest University, Thiel College, Westminster College, Youngstown State University, Butler Senior High School, Central Valley High School, Lower Merion High School, and Wilmington Area High School.

These 115 students presented 73 different projects broken into seven main categories: Environmental Project, Environmental Research, Oral Presentation, Photography, Artwork, Video Project, and High School Research Presentation. For each category a winner and honorable mention were selected by a team of judges. The winner of each category earned a cash prize that was sponsored by the generosity of BioMost, Inc.

This year's winners and honorable mentions are:

Environmental Project Winner: "How Do Biotic Interaction in the Soil Contribute to Coastal Forest Ecosystem Resilience?" by Mia DiCianna, Chatham University.

Environmental Project Honorable Mention: "Boat Steward Internship at Pymatuning State Park" by Zoe Heckthorn, Thiel College.

Environmental Research Presentation Winner: "Investigating Impact of Homeowners Private Water Supply by Hydraulic Fracturing Communication with Abandoned Wells" by Kiley Miller, Duquesne University.

Environmental Research Presentation Honorable Mention: "Fungal Community Diversity Provides Potential Management Strategy for Spread of Microstegium Vimineum" by John Mamas, Chatham University.

Oral Presentation Winner: "Kinetic Degradation of Dye by TAML/H₂O₂ as Potential Remediation of Wastewater" by Claire Mock, Westminster College.

Oral Presentation Honorable Mention: "Repeated Survey of Odonta Associated with the Stream in the Allegheny National Forest" by Haley McEvoy, Jack Merola-Lapson and Sara Parker, Chatham University.



Continued on page 2...



The annual Student Symposium on the Environment was held December 1 at Westminster College with a record 115 college and high school student participants! The winning entry in the Photography category, by Butler Senior High School Junior Ben Busler, is shown here: a massasauga rattlesnake. These snakes are an endangered species and difficult to capture in photos due to their shy nature and scarce numbers in a specific relict prairie habitat.

...Student Symposium continued from page 1

Photography Winner: “Endangered Species: Massasauga Rattlesnake” by Benjamin Busler, Butler Senior High School. (*See Photo of the Month, above*)

Photography Honorable Mention: “Reflection” by Linnea Funari, Wilmington Area High School.

Artwork Winner: “Lazarus Species: Zanzibar Leopard” by Ryan Wasilko, Westminster College.

Artwork Honorable Mention: “Lazarus Species: Hawaii Mamo” by Olivia Lapikas, Westminster College.

Video Project Winners: “The Life of a Buzzfeed Cluster Student” by Samantha Sophia Galietta, Josh Collins, Shea O’Donnell and Avery Keenan, Westminster College.

Video Project Honorable Mentions: “Puerto Rico’s Environmental Crises” by Samantha Story, Felicity McDaniel and Ryan Gomes, Westminster College.

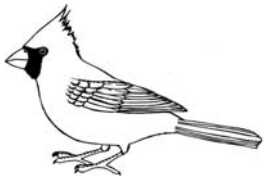
High School Research Presentation Winners: “A Citizen Approach to Analyzing Water Quality and Establishing a Baseline for Plastic/Nurdle Pollution in the Ohio River Valley” by Craig Whipkey’s AP Environmental Science class, Central Valley High School. Class members included Tanner Baughman, Sophia Colonias, Nadia Ehle, Julia Haney, Zachary Mclean, Brenan Morgan, Sydney Slater, Richard Turkovich, Gabrielle White, Gianna Cercone, Connor Denes, Megan Grimm, Hannah Harper, Jordan Hunter, Sydney McDermott, Sara Milozewski, Gaille Oneill, Mia Spinelli and Rowan Zilian.

Additional photos are available at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/westminstercollege/albums/72177720304138259>

Videos show casing artwork and student produced videos are available at: <https://www.youtube.com/@studentsymposiumontheenvir9176/playlists>

A short video of the award winners is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AC_V0fyYbAs

Congratulations to the winners and all of the students for their hard work. We greatly appreciate their efforts as well as the judges who volunteered their time and all of those who came to support the students. Next year’s event is already scheduled to be held on Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023, so mark it down on your calendar.



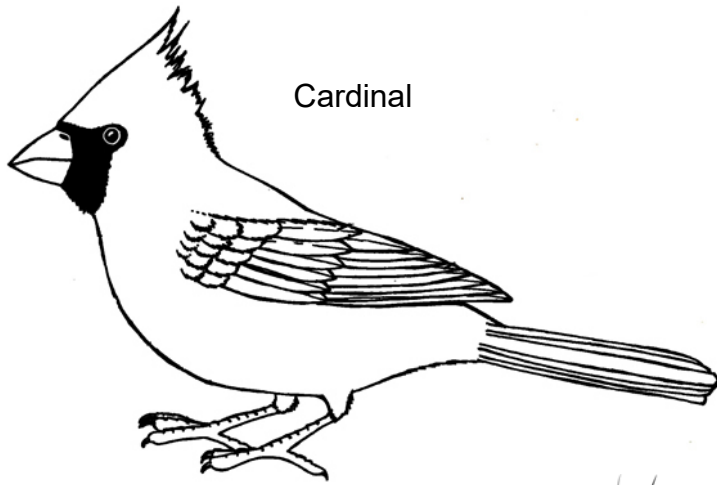
The KIDS Catalyst

SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY

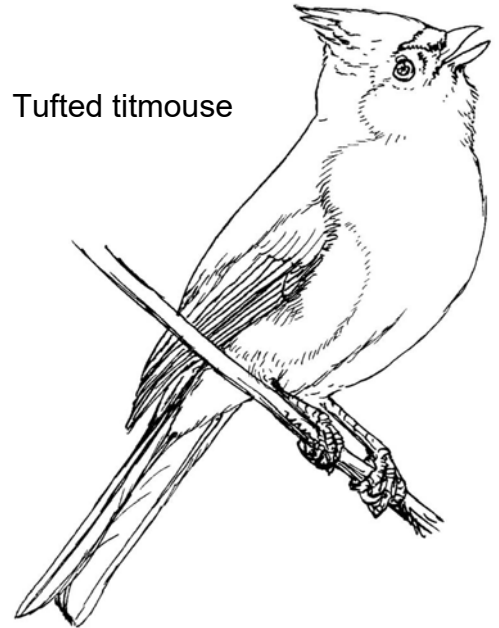


Winter Birds to Color

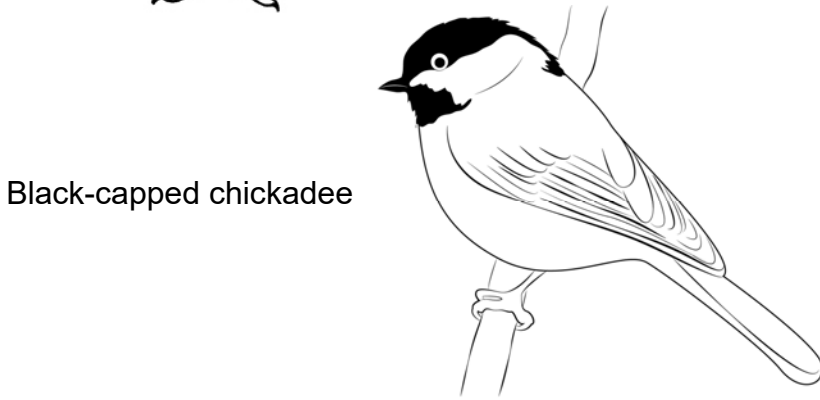
It's always nice to see splashes of bright colors on those gray winter days! And a bright red cardinal or beautiful blue jay will stand out in a white snowy landscape! Below we have pictures of 5 common backyard birds you are likely to see in Pennsylvania during the winter months. We hope you enjoy coloring them, and if you send us your completed paper, we'll give you a \$1 Amazon credit through a parent's email address! You can save up your credits to buy something really special!



Cardinal



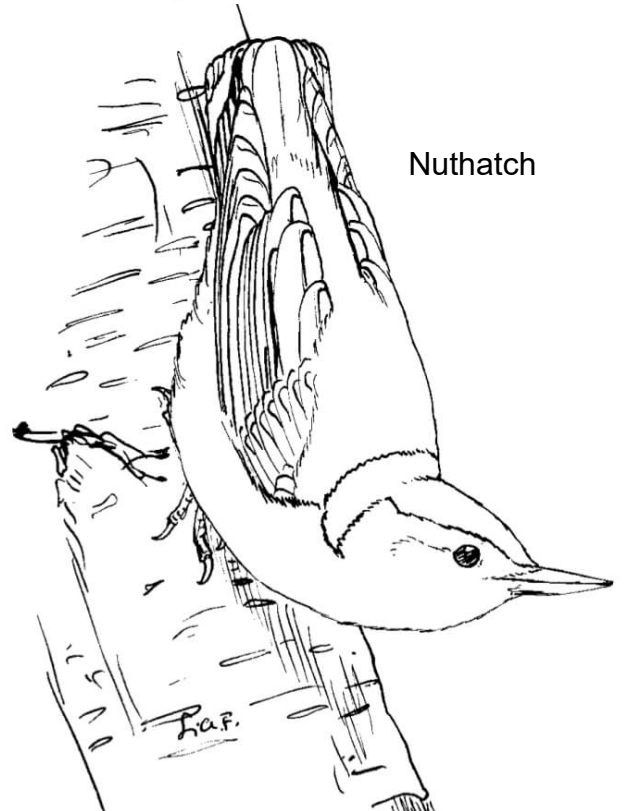
Tufted titmouse



Black-capped chickadee



Blue jay



Nuthatch

Name _____ Age ____ Parent email address: _____



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated
A PA Non-Profit Organization
PO Box 837
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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), PO Box 837, Slippery Rock, PA 16057, sri@streamrestorationinc.org, www.srwc.org. Feb. distribution: 240 copies

Upcoming Fun at Jennings Environmental Education Center

Looking to try something new in the New Year? Need an activity to break up the winter blah's? There's always something happening at Jennings Environmental Education Center! Here are 2 upcoming activities to be held at Jennings: 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Nature Trivia Nights

Join us on the last Wednesday of January, February, and March for Nature Trivia Nights hosted by Jennings staff! Come solo or as a team. Everyone can play! Be ready to compete, have fun, and test your nature knowledge. Prizes for winners. These events are free and no registration is required.

Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – Critter Courtship
Wednesday, March 29, 2023 – Marvelous Maples
6:00pm – Center Classroom

Home Sweet Home: Backyard Maple Sugaring

Here's an opportunity for adults who want to try making their own tasty maple syrup! From choosing appropriate trees through tapping, collecting and evaporating maple sap, participants will learn, observe and practice the steps in the sugaring process, and discover how it can be done on a backyard scale. Information and resources will be provided for finding out more and getting started at home. The program is free, with equipment available to purchase. Participants must be 16 or older. Registration is required by February 3rd. Register online or by calling 724-794-6011.

Saturday, February 11 at 8:30am to 12:30pm