

# THE CATALYST

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETINGS:** Tentatively planned for 7 PM on 6/8/23 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop provided. 5/11/23 attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, L. Furst, D. Johnson, S. Smith, W. Taylor, S. Van Der Wal

### Foltz School House Improvements & Open Houses

Jennings Environmental Education Center and 3MJC are opening the doors of the historic Foltz School to visitors this summer and fall for a series of open house-style days. This quaint and recently restored one-room schoolhouse is nestled on the edge of JEEC, along route 8. Each open day will have its own theme, allowing visitors to experience a number of different activities and information when they visit. No fee or registration is required to attend. Parking and restrooms will be available onsite during open hours. These open days are a unique opportunity for individuals of all ages to experience a piece of history and gain insight into what life was like for students attending a one-room school in the past. Upon arrival, visitors will be greeted by knowledgeable volunteers who will provide brief overviews of the school's history and answer any questions guests may have. The Foltz School has a rich history dating back to the late 1800s and visitors will have the opportunity to learn about its origins, its role in the local community, and how it operated as a one-room schoolhouse.

In addition to the volunteer-led overviews, visitors will be able to engage in self-guided interactive activities, designed to provide a hands-on experience of what it was like to be a student in a one-room schoolhouse, and that reveal the differences and similarities between schooling yesterday and today. As visitors explore the schoolhouse, they will have the opportunity to view authentic artifacts from the time period, such as antique desks, textbooks, and school supplies. They will also be able to see how the building has been preserved and restored to maintain its historical integrity.

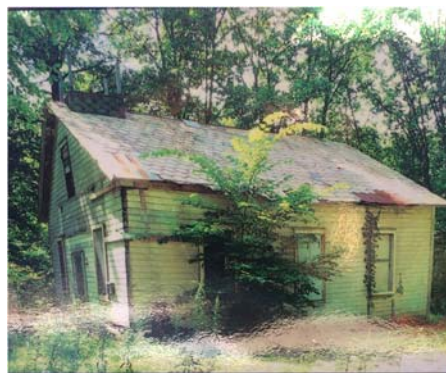
Jennings staff had long desired to restore the old, abandoned, one-room schoolhouse, which operated from 1880-1963, and utilize it as a museum of early local education history and culture and environmental education. Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI) and the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) received an Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) grant from the PA DEP to complete a multi-faceted project consisting of three sub-projects on public lands, one of which was the Foltz School improvements. The all-volunteer community organization Moraine, McConnells Mill and Jennings Commission (3MJC) was invaluable in the efforts to restore the schoolhouse. The school's interior and exterior were renovated, including electric heaters, insulation in walls and ceiling, wainscoting, drywall, trim, replica antique light fixtures, shutters, interior and exterior paint, driveway, and parking improvements. The photo montage below shows the appearance of the school house over a span of over 100 years. Be sure to come visit on an open house day for a unique experience and amazing step back in time.

#### Open House Dates:

Sun. June 11 — 10 AM to 3 PM  
Sun. July 9 — 10 AM to 3 PM  
Thurs. Aug. 3 — 3 PM to 8 PM  
Sun. Aug. 13 — 10 AM to 3 PM

Sat. Sept. 2 — 10 AM to 3 PM  
Sun. Sept. 10 — 10 AM to 3 PM  
Sun. Oct. 8 — 10 AM to 3 PM  
Wed. Oct. 18 — 10 AM to 3 PM

The Foltz school house is shown in the years 1911 (in use), 2011 (in severe disrepair), and in 2022 (after extensive renovations). More pictures can be seen in our Photos of the





The Foltz School house renovations were in the making for many years, and Jennings is pleased to showcase this project's completion. Visitors are invited to tour on several "open house" style days this summer and fall (see article page 1).

## Slippery Rock University Geography, Geology, and Environment Club Presentation

On March 23rd, Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC) participant **Cliff Denholm** of Stream Restoration Incorporated (SRI) was invited to give a presentation at Slippery Rock University's Geography, Geology, and Environment Club (GGE) meeting. Cliff was asked by the group to give a presentation about the work that the SRWC and SRI have been working on in the headwaters of Slippery Rock Creek.

Cliff started his presentation with an overview of the formation of acid mine drainage (AMD), differences between historic and modern methods of coal mining, land reclamation, and explanations of active and passive treatment systems. He then went on to discuss the work of the SRWC before delving into some specific projects that the SRWC has been working on the last few years as well as future plans.

Cliff explained how the North Country Trail (NCT) passes beside or, in some cases, directly through several passive systems, including SR81, Ferris Complex, SR101A, SR109, and SR114. Cliff discussed the designs and water quality of the treatment systems as well as the current ongoing efforts to rehabilitate several of those treatment systems through funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener program and the US Office of Surface Mine Watershed Cooperative Agreement Program (WCAP). In addition, the SRWC had received a grant through the Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization Program that included funding for trail improvements along the NCT which the Butler County Chapter of the NCT completed last year and work by the 3MJC and Jennings Environmental Education Center to restore the Foltz School House (see article, page 1).

As part of this project, the Ferris West system was completely rebuilt while maintenance was performed on the Ferris East system. At the SR101A system a sludge pond was constructed, and the settling pond and wetlands were cleaned and ready to remove more iron. You can read more about these efforts in past Catalyst issues. This year we will be rebuilding the SR81, SR114B, and SR114D treatment systems. Look for more articles about these projects in the coming months.

The students seemed very interested and asked excellent questions. Cliff was happy to give a presentation at his alma mater where himself first got involved with the SRWC many years ago.



# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### May Flowers Word Search

The old adage "April showers bring May flowers" is alive and well in western Pennsylvania! Plenty of April rain has helped local flowers thrive and paint the landscape in an array of beautiful colors and wonderful scents. Below is a list of 12 flowers you're likely to see this spring. Try to find them all! The words are hidden vertically, diagonally, horizontally, and backwards. If you send us your completed paper, we'll give you a \$1 Amazon credit! Credits can be saved up to buy something really awesome! Happy spring to you!

Tulips  
Daffodils  
Trillium

Daisy  
Hyacinth  
Spring beauty

Bluebells  
Mountain laurel  
Rhododendron

Azalea  
Iris  
Phlox

Lily of the Valley  
Buttercups  
Hepatica

H	Y	A	S	L	L	O	X	R	H	K	P	Q	U	M	E	L	S	O	G	I	J
K	N	R	S	P	U	C	R	E	T	T	U	B	R	O	R	I	A	Z	A	W	H
D	A	F	F	B	A	C	X	E	G	T	J	U	K	U	M	L	N	B	V	C	S
S	P	R	I	N	G	B	E	A	U	T	Y	B	L	N	A	Y	P	H	L	K	O
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A	Z	A	L	K	J	H	T	H	A	S	C	R	Y	N	J	G	J	I	L	E	H

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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
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