

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETINGS:** Tentatively planned for 7 PM on 8/10/23 at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Pizza/pop provided. July meeting was cancelled.

### **Happening Soon: Lake Arthur Regatta!**

A weekend of free family fun with eco-recreational activities for all ages is right around the corner! The annual Moraine State Park Regatta is the region's premiere outdoor summer event, full of land and water activities, nature-themed experiences, vendors from the local community, and much more, all happening in the beautiful setting of the South Shore at Lake Arthur. The 2023 Moraine State Park Regatta will take place Saturday and Sunday, **August 5th and 6th**.

Recreational activities available at the Regatta include archery, fly fishing, kayaking, standup paddleboarding, rock climbing, taekwondo, yoga, and more! All activities are free, but participants must have a wristband given upon completion of filling out a waiver on-site. Sign-ups are not being taken ahead of time. Activity descriptions, age limits, and schedule are available to view on the Regatta website at <https://morainestateparkregatta.org>.

Paddlesport racing will take place the morning of August 5th, with 3-mile and 6-mile options, with online registration required. Lake tours and workshops hosted by expert instructors and local outfitters will be happening throughout the weekend, as will kids activities at the Lake Arthur Lilypad, where kids will have the opportunity to get up close and personal with a variety of reptiles with Reach Out Reptiles. Lowes will be returning with more small projects for kids to do, with kits and tools all provided. It's also a great opportunity to learn about wildlife with Stormy Oaks Nature Conservancy. Kids can try out fishing with our volunteers, where we have a special permit – fishing licenses aren't required and kids who catch their first fish at the Regatta will receive a special certificate!

Live music, a volleyball tournament, and dozens of food, craft, and business vendors will be on hand to showcase their specialties. Another highlight is the Moraine Regatta 5k race, on Saturday morning, August 5th. Gift cards will be given to the first-place runner in each age category, male and female. Other Saturday highlights include a car cruise from 12 to 4 PM, and a fantastic fireworks show that will light up the sky at approximately 9 PM. In 2022, 244 memorial butterflies were released at the Regatta, in addition to the mass-release box of 100+ butterflies. This year the annual butterfly release will once again take place on Sunday morning, with hundreds of beautiful monarch butterflies expected to fill the skies.

You won't want to miss this super fun weekend at the lake! Be sure to check for activity details on the Regatta website to see if registration is required for a particular event.

### **Join Us for a Meeting!**

We hope you all remember, anyone and everyone is always welcome to join us at any of our monthly meetings of the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition (SRWC)! We meet every second Thursday of the month, at 7 PM at Jennings Environmental Education Center. Meetings consist of updates about local projects and activities related to the health of the watershed, growing partnerships, volunteer and learning opportunities, ideas for future projects, updates about Jennings and its water treatment systems, and of course the consumption of free pizza and pop! All ages are welcome, and even if you have little or no background in environmental areas, if you have any amount of interest in learning more or getting involved, please join us! New folks are exciting to see!

*please  
join us*





Keep your eyes peeled for this pesky invasive insect: the spotted lanternfly. If you see one, smash it! The PA Department of Agriculture has implemented a quarantine program to aid in protecting the state's economy and residents' way of life, as well as controlling the spread of this invasive species (*see back page article*).

## Historic Operation Scarlift Video on YouTube

An interesting vintage circa 1970 video all about the history of Operation Scarlift can be viewed on YouTube, thanks to WPCAMR! The video features a segment on Moraine State Park, host of the annual summer Regatta (*see front page article*). The Scarlift Program can be traced back to the year 1968, when, after more than a century of unregulated coal mining, Pennsylvania passed the Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act. It was the first act in the nation to address abandoned mine reclamation. On May 16, 1967, Pennsylvania voters approved a \$500 million environmental bond issue. A portion of this program was dedicated to the elimination of stream pollution from abandoned coal operations, air pollution from burning coal refuse banks, alleviation of subsidence from abandoned mining operations and elimination of underground mine fires. On January 19, 1968, the legislature enacted the "Land and Water Conservation and Reclamation Act" which directed \$200 million of that bond issue toward abandoned mine reclamation and mine drainage abatement within the commonwealth. The abandoned mine reclamation portion of the act, known as "Project 500," "Operation Scarlift," or "The Bond Issue Program," was administered initially by the Department of Mines and Mineral Industries and subsequently by the Department of Environmental Resources (now Department of Environmental Protection). In 1976, Department of Environmental Resources staff prepared the paper "Operation Scarlift - Mine Drainage Abatement" and presented it at the ASCE Annual Convention and Exposition.

The act was amended several times, and \$120 million of the bond issue was allocated for the abatement of stream pollution from abandoned mine drainage (AMD); \$20 million for the abatement of air pollution from burning refuse banks; \$40 million for the control of underground mine fires; and \$20 million for the control of surface subsidence over abandoned mines. Utilizing Operation Scarlift bond funding, between 1968 and 1981 the department spent \$78,000,000 to complete 500 stream pollution abatement projects, and an additional \$64,000,000 to extinguish 76 underground mine fires, stabilize 156 areas subjected to mine subsidence and prevent air pollution at 28 burning refuse banks. A central component of Operation Scarlift was identification and monitoring of AMD discharges from abandoned deep mines throughout Pennsylvania, a focal point still today. The SRWC is pleased to have installed over 20 passive treatment systems in the watershed to treat abandoned mine discharges, and has reclaimed nearly 130 acres of abandoned mine lands. Check out the video for a taste of western PA history and to see what some of the project sites looked like 50+ years ago!



# The KIDS Catalyst

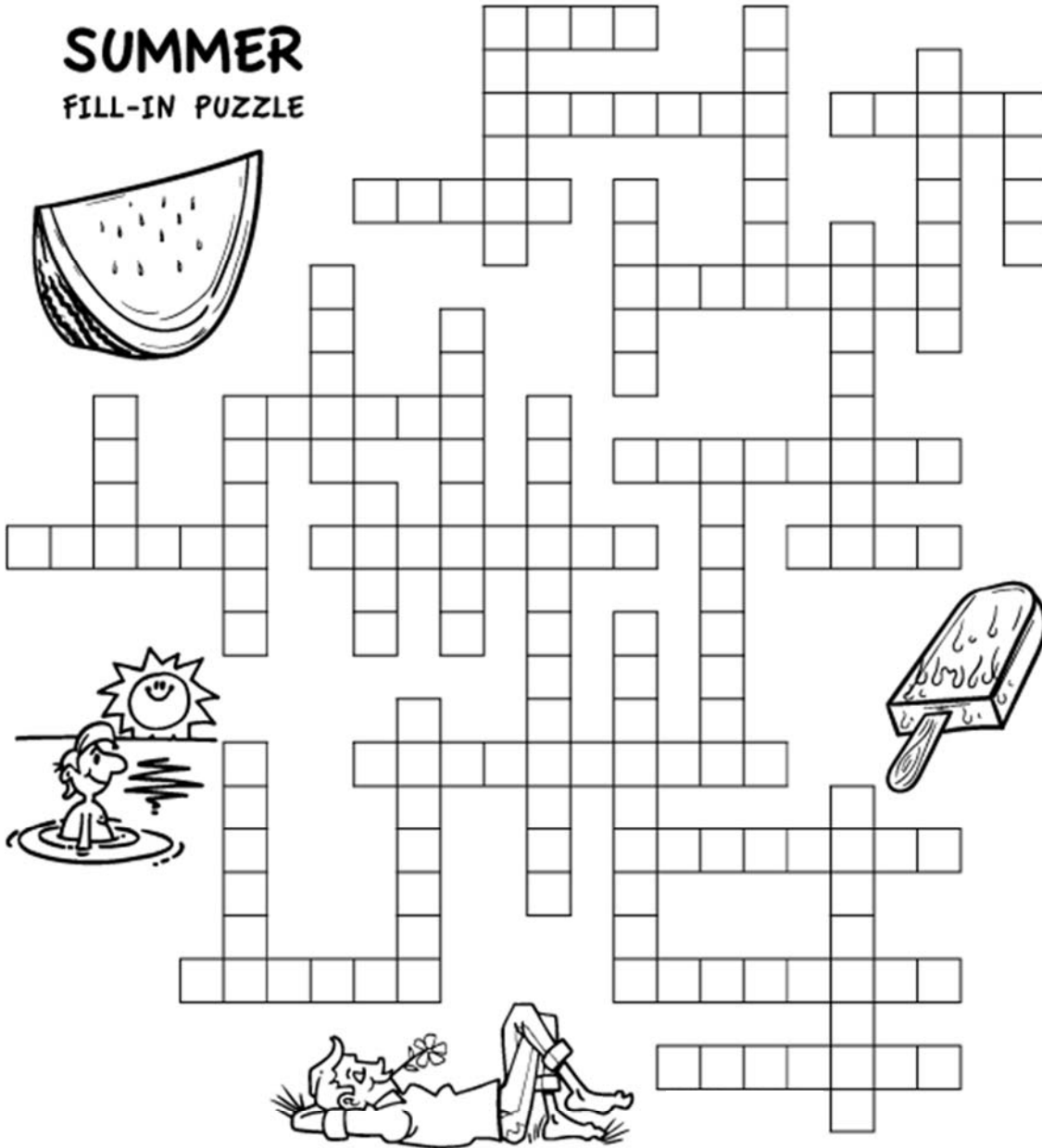
## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Summer Word Challenge

Whether you enjoy summer time spent playing baseball, hiking, kayaking, picnics, or swimming, we hope you like word puzzles! This summer word puzzle challenges you to fit in all of the words at the bottom of the page into the squares in the puzzle, with one letter in each box. Think you can do it? If you send us your completed paper, we'll email you a \$1 Amazon credit to a parent's email address! You can save your credits to buy yourself something extra special!

### SUMMER FILL-IN PUZZLE



- |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>4 letter words</b> | <b>5 letter words</b> | <b>6 letter words</b> | <b>7 letter words</b> | <b>8 letter words</b> | <b>8 letter words</b> | <b>9 letter word</b>  |
| heat                  | cabin                 | bikini                | camping               | baseball              | mosquito              | fireworks             |
| lake                  | humid                 | hiking                | cookout               | campfire              | popsicle              |                       |
| path                  | kayak                 | picnic                | cottage               | campsite              | swimming              | <b>10 letter word</b> |
| pool                  | trail                 | season                | puzzles               | canoeing              | outdoors              | watermelon            |
| warm                  |                       | shorts                | sandals               | holidays              |                       |                       |
|                       |                       | summer                |                       |                       |                       | <b>12 letter word</b> |
|                       |                       |                       |                       |                       |                       | strawberries          |

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



Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition c/o Stream Restoration Incorporated  
A PA Non-Profit Organization  
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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](mailto:sri@streamrestorationinc.org), [www.srwc.org](http://www.srwc.org). July distribution: 240 copies

## **Spotting the Spotted Lanternfly**

The Spotted Lanternfly is an invasive species native to Asia. In 2014 it was found in Pennsylvania, in Berks County, and has since spread to multiple counties which are now quarantined. If you see a spotted lanternfly, it's imperative to immediately report it online or via phone by calling 1-888-4BADFLY, especially if you are not inside the quarantine zone.

You should also kill this insect. Squash it, smash it... anything to get rid of it. In the fall, these bugs will lay egg masses with 30-50 eggs each. Adults are killed by cold winter temperatures, but the egg masses survive into the spring and release a new generation. These insects can accidentally be spread long distances by people who transport objects containing their egg masses to new locations. A Quarantine and Treatment Order is in place to help prevent the spread of spotted lanternfly in Pennsylvania. Quarantine zones may be expanded to new areas if SLF detections are confirmed. A county is placed under quarantine when evidence of a reproducing population of spotted lanternflies, such as an egg mass or a group of adults, is found by the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



These insects are harmful due to the fact that they feast on 70 different plant species and significantly damage or kill the plants. The spotted lanternfly has spread to 26 PA counties as well as parts of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and West Virginia. It has been wreaking havoc on the East Coast fruit tree, wine, and lumber industries.

Juvenile spotted lanternflies and adults prefer to feed on the invasive plant "tree of heaven", which should be cut down and destroyed whenever possible to help control the spread of the spotted lanternflies. These insects feed on a wide range of crops and plants such as grapes, almonds, cherries, peaches, apples, hops, walnuts, and hardwood trees like pine, willow, poplar, oak, maple, and sycamore.

Check out this issue's Photo of the Month to familiarize yourself with this insect's appearance. And remember, if you see one, kill it immediately! And consider reporting its location.