

## THE CATALYST

### SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION MONTHLY ACTIVITIES UPDATE

**NEXT MEETING:** November meeting is cancelled. 10/12/23 attendance: J. Belgraden, C. Denholm, M. Dunn, D. Johnson, S. Smith, W. Taylor, S. VanDerWal.

### Calling All Students!

#### Applications Being Accepted for Annual Student Symposium on the Environment

Once again the Slippery Rock Watershed Coalition is partnering with Westminster College who will be hosting the Student Symposium on the Environment. This is a great event that provides students the opportunity to highlight their environmental projects, research, and artistic talent in a supportive atmosphere.

The in-person event will take place at Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA on the evening of Thursday December 7th starting at 5:30 pm. There will also be a virtual showcase for video, art and photo submissions.

The event is open to both high school and college students and can include poster, oral, video, presentations as well as artwork submissions.

Students can submit abstracts through the website link below:

<https://www.westminster.edu/academics/center-for-environment/environmental-symposium/symposium-submission.cfm>

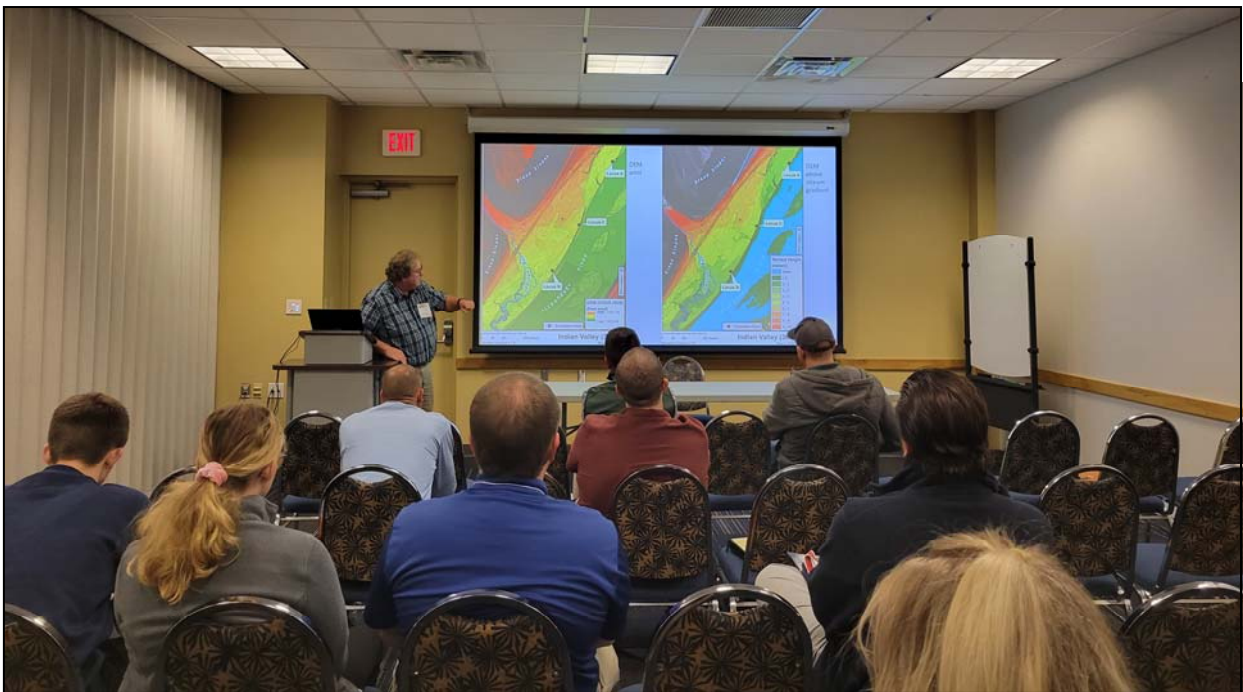
Questions can be directed to Dr. Helen Boylan of Westminster College [env@westminster.edu](mailto:env@westminster.edu) .

### Fishers Make a Come Back in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed

The fisher is a mid-sized carnivore, the second largest member of the weasel family in Pennsylvania, which includes mink, skunk, and otters. It is also sometimes known as a fisher cat, but it is neither a cat nor does it like to eat fish. Fishers are one of the few predators of porcupines and will eat almost any small mammal, bird, or insect. Adult males weigh seven to fifteen pounds and can grow to four feet in length, while adult females weigh from four to nine pounds and max out around three feet in size. Females give birth to up to six cubs in the spring who are completely dependent on their mother. By five months of age, they live independently but remain within their mother's territory until dispersing the following year.



Historically, fishers were widespread across the conifer and hardwood forests of Pennsylvania; however, extensive trapping and deforestation reduced their range. Fishers were thought to have been extirpated about a century ago. Reintroduction efforts began in West Virginia in 1969, in New York in 1979, and in Pennsylvania between 1994 and 1998. The populations of fishers are now well established and have been expanding throughout the state. Numerous sightings have occurred in the Slippery Rock Creek Watershed, particularly in the headwaters around State Game Lands 95.



Brian Fritz, archeologist, shows a colorful map displaying the differently aged alluvial terraces along the Allegheny River at the NW PA GIS Conference.

## Northwest Pennsylvania GIS Conference Continues to Engage the GIS Community

The 17th Annual Northwest PA GIS Conference took place October 19 and 20 at Pennsylvania Western University, Clarion, also known as PennWest Clarion. PennWest Clarion has provided a wonderful venue for the event from the very beginning of the inception of the conference. **Shaun Busler**, SRWC participant and member of the conference steering committee, was in attendance at the event. Participants were able to enjoy many networking opportunities in person with other GIS professionals and academics. The conference represented some of the best GIS practices in the community today.

This year's conference featured both in person and virtual speakers. Jeremy Jurick (photo to the right), Director of Regulatory Policy at Armstrong, gave the keynote presentation and discussed their use of GIS in the broadband industry. Armstrong is the 11th largest cable telecommunications company in the US and is based in Butler, PA.

Some of the other topics presented included 3D GIS, mapping services during covid-19 pandemic, ArcGIS online, LiDAR prospectation of 19th century iron ore mines, ArcGIS tools for stormwater reporting, open source software, PA BaseMap 2030, GIS Modeling of Alluvial Terraces Along the Allegheny River, PASDA updates, and Navigating Federal Lands & Easements. ESRI, the makers of the leading GIS software, made use of the virtual technology to present on Automating Your Production Processes, Web App Builder, and What's New with ArcGIS Online and ArcGIS Pro.

Many thanks to PennWest Clarion for hosting the event and the sponsors, including PennWest Clarion, ESRI, Keystone GIS, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc., and Eagleview, for helping make this conference possible. For more information about the event, visit [www.nwpagisconference.com](http://www.nwpagisconference.com).





# The KIDS Catalyst

## SLIPPERY ROCK WATERSHED COALITION FUN ACTIVITY



### Animal Trivia Word Unscramble

How well do you know your animals? This month we're sharing some of the most amazing facts about some of the world's coolest animals! Can you tell which animals are being described with each question? Unscramble the letters after each clue to find your answer. If you mail us your completed paper, we'll send you a \$1 Amazon credit through a parent's email address! You can save your credits to buy something extra fun!

1. \_\_\_\_\_ The tongue of this animal can weigh as much as a car!  
EBUL AHEWL
2. \_\_\_\_\_ This is the world's deadliest animal, killing about 725,000 people every year due to diseases they spread and outnumber all other animals except ants & termites.  
QUTOSIMO
3. \_\_\_\_\_ One of these has the strongest bite of any animal in the world, 5000 pounds of pressure per square inch (we humans have 100 pounds of pressure to compare)  
CCDLROEIO
4. \_\_\_\_\_ The Giant Pacific one of these has blue blood, 3 hearts, and 9 brains.  
PTSOCOU
5. \_\_\_\_\_ These animals often "hold hands" while they sleep so they don't float away from each other.  
ETROT
6. \_\_\_\_\_ A garden \_\_\_\_ has about 14,000 teeth!  
ANLSI
7. \_\_\_\_\_ This animal spends 7 months of the year frozen! 2/3 of its body water turns to ice, but they will thaw and hop back to life when it gets warm again.  
OOWD FGOR
8. \_\_\_\_\_ This tiny creature can jump 200 times its body size!  
LFAE
9. \_\_\_\_\_ This type of worm has 32 brains, 300 teeth, and 5 pairs of eyes.  
ECLHE
10. \_\_\_\_\_ A newborn one of these is about the size of a lima bean, and will live in its mother's pouch for 8 months before venturing out for a jump on its own.  
GNORAKAO
11. \_\_\_\_\_ This color-changing animal can have a tongue length equal to its entire body length!  
CNELAMHOE
12. \_\_\_\_\_ This animal is known for sleeping up to 20 hours a day due to its low-energy diet and intense amount of energy needed to break down toxic leaves.  
OAAKL BREA
13. \_\_\_\_\_ This is the only bird able to fly backwards. Its heart can beat up to 1260 times per minute, and while they have no sense of smell their hearing is better than human hearing.  
MGUINBIHM RD

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



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