



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education

Fall 2017 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 41 No. 3



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Nature Discovery Area to be Dedicated at Annual Open House



The staff at the EE Center and Conservation District would like to invite everyone to our 2017 Open House on September 24 from 1-4p.m. Attendees can enjoy hands on activities, refreshments and the official dedication of our new Nature Discovery Area at the Center. This is the 70th Anniversary of the Monroe County Conservation District and our efforts to promote soil and water conservation in Monroe County. Meet some of the staff, take a hike on a trail or just enjoy a nice fall day outside at Kettle Creek. We will have a full schedule of programs including the official dedication of Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area at 2:30 pm.

A Nature Discovery Area is designed to allow children of all ages to have a safe, fun and natural area to explore. There are several elements to the area including a canoe, tunnel, xylophone, talking tubes and much more. Our Nature Discovery Area will be the first of its kind in Monroe County and will be open to everyone year-round to discover nature. It is being dedicated in memory of Lilliana Denniston whose family have been members of Kettle Creek since 2010. In the spring of 2015, Lilliana passed away. Lilliana was passionate about nature and attended many of our day camps. Not only did she love being outside but she also had a very kind, gentle spirit. She loved the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. A plan was set forth to honor her memory by designing a Nature Discovery Area. With the help of the Denniston family, donations made in Lilliana's memory, the students of Dr. Elaine Roger's Facility Design Class at East Stroudsburg University, the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund, and Fasano Enterprises, this Nature Discovery Area has become a reality.

During the afternoon we will have on-going bird-banding, live snakes, rain simulator presentations and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there. 

Above: Lilliana Denniston at Kettle Creek's "World Around Us" day camp

Right: Day campers are the first to explore Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area



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Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

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Office Assistant Senior
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Groundskeeper

The Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at 8 am on the third Thursday of each month in

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) Board is pleased to announce the date for the 27th Annual Dinner/Auction on Friday, September 21, 2018 at Trout Lake. Please mark your calendars now for this major fundraising event. If you have suggestions for businesses or individuals who should be added to the mailing list, please provide the contact information to Alesia Gallo at 629-3061 or agmccd@ptd.net. If you are interested in donating an item for the auction or raffle table please visit mcconservation.org to download the donation form.

The KCEF funded everything on the Environmental Education Center's "Wish List" which included Conservation Camp, the High School and Junior Envirothons, and Bug Fest. In addition to the wish list, the KCEF also funded elementary school programs for students of all four districts throughout

Monroe County.

The Board is saddened by the passing of Charlie Cilurso, long time member. He will be greatly missed.

27th Annual Dinner/Auction September 21, 2018



KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.
Thomas Felver, Treas.
Jeffrey Wright, Sec.
Joseph Bedrick
Tim Brooks
Patrick Calpin
Charles Cilurso
Trudi Quinn Denlinger
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly
John J. Riley

2017 Conservation Camp Wrap Up

The week of July 15-22, the 43rd Monroe County Conservation Camp was held at ESU's Stony Acres Recreational site near Marshall's Creek. Twenty-six teenagers from around the county spent the week immersed in activities and presentations dealing with conservation issues both local and around the world. The students also took part in many hands-on activities including archery, fly fishing and trap shooting. They spent two days on the Delaware River and one student summed up their experience "Friends and laughter were found throughout the day, bodysurfing, flipping and just hanging around with everyone was very enjoyable."



2017 Outstanding Camper
Powell Posten

The camp is held each year in July and is sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District, Monroe County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs and generously supported by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and numerous Service Organizations. This year Powell Posten from Stroudsburg, PA was named outstanding camper. Camp is open to students ages 14-this year's high school graduate and the 2018 dates are July 21-28. Please check out our website for more information. 🍁



TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Submit your favorite photos taken in Monroe County!

Entries must be submitted by **September 29.**

Visit mcconservation.org/photo-contest for official rules and how to enter!

News 'N Notes



Stream Clean Up Crew

Summer Watershed Happenings

Summer has been a busy time for watershed work, between hosting homeschooolers for a WaterWaze Festival, stream litter cleanup events, and assistance with a rain barrel workshop.

We kicked off June by hosting 14 homeschool students to participate in an afternoon of activities including looking at pond critters, building rain gauges, and learning about the water cycle. Program participants each received a rain gauge funded by a grant received by PPL for the program.

Two stream cleanup events were also organized over the summer to address litter in and along Monroe County streams. The first was along the Aquashicola Creek where MCCD Staff and volunteers teamed up with support from PennDOT. The crew gathered 20 bags of litter in total along a two-mile stretch of Upper Smith Gap Road which parallels the creek. The second event was conducted at Smithfield Beach at the Minisink Park. The event was hosted by Smithfield Township and the volunteers and MCCD staff collected 15 bags of trash, two tires, shopping cart, and a lawn chair. This site has been a hotspot for litterbugs looking for streamside access resulting in restricted access to the park during summer weekends.

Finally, the MCCD Watershed Specialist assisted in putting together a rain barrel workshop hosted by Middle Smithfield Township and the Brodhead Watershed Association in conjunction with their annual River Ramble. A total of 37 rain barrels were given away for a nominal fee. Barrels were donated by Coca Cola, and the fittings donated by Home Depot. The program was a great success and Middle Smithfield is planning on hosting a second workshop in fall. 🍁



Monroe County Conservation District Awards Dirt and Gravel Low Volume Road Maintenance Grants: Chestnuthill, Hamilton and Middle Smithfield Townships Benefit

The Monroe County Conservation District Quality Assurance Board (QAB) recommended three municipal grant applications to the District Board for funding in May of 2017. The Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Road Program (DGLVR) provides grant monies to eligible state and local government entities for road maintenance/



Haney Road Pre-Project

improvements that reduce sediment runoff to streams and water bodies. The program is administered by the Conservation District under an agreement with the State Conservation Commission.

In 2017/2018 Monroe County CD has been allocated \$223,641.00, an increase of over \$10,000 from the prior year. Eligible municipalities attend an Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Training to qualify for funding. One of this year's grant recipients just became eligible this spring.

The following applications have been approved for funding by the MCCD Board of Directors:

Chestnuthill Township-Hypsie Gap Road Phase III- LVR: \$85,080.00

on a \$100,230.00 project involving base improvements and new pipes to disperse additional runoff.

Hamilton Township-Haney Road Stream Crossing Replacement- LVR: \$133,000.00 on a \$183,000 project to replace a multi-culvert crossing with a single span aluminum arch culvert.

Middle Smithfield Township-Upper Zion Church Road- DG: \$39,725.36 on a \$63,823 project to add drainage pipes, side drains and DSA to 2600' of gravel road.

This year's awards total \$257,805.36. Municipalities provide in-kind matches to add value to the projects funded through the program. Since its inception in 1997 the Monroe County DGLVR Program has provided more than \$406,216 to local municipalities and the game commission to improve stream quality by reducing sediment pollution. This year's projects, when completed, will put our program at over half a million dollars. 🍁

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER

Visit www.mcconservation.org for September Calendar of Events.

OCTOBER

4th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at 1pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour journey into the Bog environment. Please wear appropriate footwear. For more information, please see listing for June 22nd. Pre-registration required and limited. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12.** Pre-registration is required and limited. **Directions:** Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right.

5th - Thursday - Home School Program "Fossils" - Fossils are a link to the past. Come learn about fossils and have fun looking for them. Two Age Groupings Available: Ages 5 - 10 (2 - 3:30p.m.) and Ages 11 - 18 (2-4p.m.). **Pre-registration is required by Monday preceding the program.** **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Members if registration is made prior to October 2. Cost After Deadline: \$8/non-members, \$6/EE Members**

5th - Thursday - Harvest Moon Hike at Kettle Creek - Kettle Creek will open its gate for a special hike through the wooded trails illuminated by the full moon from 6:30-8:30pm. Please wear sturdy shoes and dress for the weather. **Light refreshments will be available after the hike.** **\$6 for non-members, \$4 children under 12, EE Center Members are FREE.**

7th - Saturday - Monroe County Farm Tour - The 2017 Monroe County Farm Tour will be held from 9am - 3pm (rain date October 8). See page 6 for more information.

7th - Saturday - Art Opening: Laurinda Rubin "Tannersville Cranberry Bog: An Artists' Canvas" - As a local artist and natural steward for the Tannersville Cranberry Bog, Laurinda has collaborated with local artists in the area to celebrate this local landmark for the community to enjoy. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

11th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information, see October 4th listing.

13th - Friday - Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - Kettle Creek will host the third season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to the general public October 13th, 20th, 27th and November 3rd; from 8 to 10pm (donations welcome).

Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project OwlNet, and have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. Preregistration suggested.

14th - Saturday - Building Closed

15th - Sunday - Bog Day - See page 5 for more information.

18th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information, see October 4th listing

20th - Friday - Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - For more information, see October 13th listing.

21st - Saturday - Building Open

25th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information, see October 4th listing

26th - Thursday - Birding at Brigantine - Forsythe (formerly Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge in southern NJ is a migratory hotspot for a diversity of birds. Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman for a full day of birds and fun. Meet at Kettle Creek at 7am; return at 8:30pm. **Cost: \$28/non-members, \$22/EE Center members and includes bus transportation.** Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. A dinner stop will be made. **Pre-registration required.**

27th - Friday - Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - For more information, see October 13th listing.

28th - Saturday - Building Open - 9am-1pm - Bird Seed Sale Pick Up

NOVEMBER

1st - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information, see October 4th listing

2nd - Thursday - Home School Program "Wild Canines" - Ages 11-18 - (3 - 6p.m.) Join us for a program about wolves and other wild predators. We'll take a field trip on our bus for a tour of the Lakota Wolf Preserve. **Registration is limited to 13 students. Preregistration and prepayment required by Monday, October 30. Cost: \$25/non-member, \$20/EE Member. Ages 5-10 - (3 - 4:30 p.m.)** Join an environmental educator for a program from all about our wild canines living in the Poconos. **Pre-registration is required by Monday preceding the program.** **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Members if registration is made prior to October 30. Cost After Deadline: \$8/non-members, \$6/EE Members**

3rd - Friday - Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - For more information, see

October 13th listing.

4th - Saturday - Art Opening: Stephanie Spotts "Don't Choose the Art; Let the Art Choose You" - Stephanie's explorations in art, take her out of the usual and lands her smack dab in the middle of what's next. One thing is sure; she likes to make the viewer smile. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

5th - Sunday - "Wildlife Signs at Quiet Valley" Join Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff on a 2-hour outdoor hike learning how to ID the signs these animals leave behind. Please dress to walk outside. The walk will begin in front of the Gift Shop. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or Quiet Valley members. Children under 12 free.**

10th - Saturday - Building Closed - Holiday

11th - Saturday - Building Closed

18th - Saturday - Brodhead Watershed Association's Water Wiser Program - The weather is no problem for the Indoor Watershed Olympics! Kids and their grownups can test their knowledge of something we all take for granted — good old H₂O. This activity from 10:30am-12pm is suitable for elementary age children, who must be accompanied by parent or guardian. Sponsored by Brodhead Watershed Association, funded by a Dr. Claus Jordan Endowment Grant from Lehigh Valley Health Network Pocono Foundation. **Free, but registration is required.** 570-839-1120 or 570-629-2727 or email info@brodheadwatershed.org

23rd - Thursday - Building Closed - Holiday

24th - Friday - Building Closed - Holiday

25th - Saturday - Building Closed

DECEMBER

2nd - Saturday - Art Opening: Photo Contest and Gingerbread Birdfeeder Display - Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest. Winners will be revealed and the top 12 photos will be available on a 2018 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit Environmental Education programs at Kettle Creek. Gingerbread birdfeeders will be on display as well. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

7th - Thursday - Home School Program "Birds of the Poconos" - Learn about a Citizen Scientist program called Project Feederwatch that Kettle Creek EE Center

*Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or visit our website www.mcconservation.org.

is part of. Bird identification and activities will be part of this program. Two Age Groupings Available: Ages 5 – 10 (2 – 3:30p.m.) and Ages 11 – 18 (4p.m.). **Pre-registration is required by Monday preceding the program. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Members if registration is made prior to December 4. Cost After Deadline: \$8/non-members, \$6/EE Members**

9th – Saturday – Building Closed

16th – Saturday – Building Closed

17th – Sunday – Christmas Bird Count - Birdwatchers of all skill levels wanted. For more information, please contact Brian Hardiman at bhmccd@ptd.net or (570) 629-3061.

22nd – Friday – Building Closed at Noon

23rd – Saturday – Building Closed

25th – Monday – Building Closed

29th – Friday – Building Closed at Noon

30th – Saturday – Building Closed

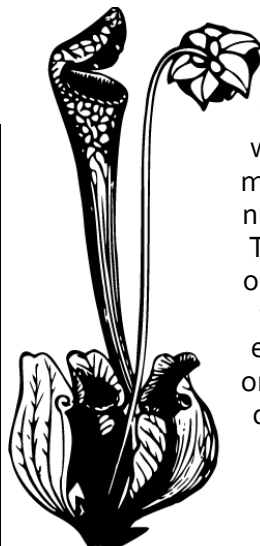
*****Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.**

More information on these programs can be found on our website: mconconservation.org



WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS

- Kromer Family – Effort, PA
- Mary Santucci – Stroudsburg, PA
- Doug & Liz Jacoby – Bala Cynwood, PA
- Brenda Wilkins – East Stroudsburg, PA
- Demers Family – Stroudsburg, PA
- Yvonne LeBlanc – Canadensis, PA
- Pamela Hoffner- Northampton, PA
- Tobin Family – Cresco, PA
- Susan Flad – Stroudsburg, PA
- Mike & Suzanne Kuehner – Saylorsburg, PA



**2017 Bog Day Celebration
Sunday, October 15th**

The Bog Preserve Committee, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy and the Environmental Education Center, has scheduled the Annual Bog Day at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog. The day will feature a schedule of guided walks onto the boardwalk and also a walk highlighting the recent vegetative management efforts to encourage rare species in the bog. Information on the Bog Preserve and The Nature Conservancy will be displayed and light refreshments will be served. There is no fee for the walks, however, pre-registration is **required.** 🍁

Dear Members and Friends,

Time passes and changes occur at the EE Center. It is truly bittersweet that we announce that Darryl Speicher has moved on to a different job teaching at Evergreen Community School in Cresco. Darryl has added so much to our programming over the past 17 years and he will be missed. We are lucky that he will be staying in the area and with his wife Jackie will be continuing to operate the Pocono Avian Research Center. They will be returning to Kettle Creek often to band and monitor bird populations and provide educational programs for the center. Our loss is the gain of all the students at Evergreen as their new science teacher will challenge them and provide many new and exciting learning opportunities.

We also lost the services of one of our long time Administrative Assistants, Deb Martin. Deb retired from the Conservation District this past July after working for the District for over 20 years. During that time, Deb was always available when we needed a helping hand cooking pancakes at Maple sugaring, feeding the students at the Envirothon, and helping out the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund on their yearly auction to raise money for our EE programs.

The staff at the Conservation District takes a team approach to get our programs and projects done and these two team members will be sorely missed. The entire staff and Board at the Conservation District wish Darryl and Deb well and thank them greatly for their time at the District.

**Monroe County Conservation District
Board Members and Staff**



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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

“Love the trees until their leaves fall off, then encourage them to try again next year.” -*Chad Sugg*

Monroe County Farm Tour

The 2017 Monroe County Farm Tour will be held on October 7, 2017 from 9am – 3pm (rain date Oct. 8). Every year the Monroe County Conservation District, in collaboration with Penn State Cooperative Extension, host a fall farm tour to showcase the diversity of agriculture in the County. This is a self-guided tour that allows participants to enjoy each farm for as long as they would like. Additionally, MCCD will be offering transportation for a cost of \$10 per person (limited to 13 passengers).

This year's farm tour hosts include; Big Creek Vineyard and Winery, Josie Porter Farm, Mountain View Vineyard and Winery and The Garden of Giving. For more information and a map of all of the farm locations visit our website at mconconservation.org. To register for the bus tour and for additional questions contact Matt Giambra at 570-620-3060 or mgmccd@ptd.net. 🍁



**American
Red Cross**

The American Red Cross will be holding a **blood drive** at Monroe County Conservation District!

Thursday, October 12th from 1-6pm
For information, call Barbara at (570) 629-3060.

To register, please visit the website or call the phone number below.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



This Contest is for the Birds!

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is sponsoring a new contest for people of all ages that will benefit the birds at KC and also allow you to show your creativity. We are holding a “Gingerbread Bird-feeder Contest” where participants design a birdfeeder made from gingerbread and enter it in a contest where

the feeder will be judged on creativity, originality and functionality. The feeders will be on display at the KCEEC beginning December 2 and then will be placed around the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary for the birds. A complete list of contest rules and an entry form can be found on our website. We hope you join in on this contest for the birds! 🍁

Get the latest photos from
Kettle Creek by finding us on
social media!

Let's *get* Social

