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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Fall 2020 Newsletter

Volume 44 No. 3

2019 Educator of the Year Presented to Dr. James Feuerstein



Each year the Monroe County Conservation District recognizes an outstanding Monroe County teacher as Conservation Educator of the Year. Over the years, this award has singled out numerous outstanding teachers who make environmental learning fun and exciting for their students. With the different circumstances we are living under this year, we were not able to recognize this year's honoree at one of our public events.

We are pleased to announce that the Monroe County Conservation Educator of the Year for 2019 is Dr. James Feuerstein. Dr. Feuerstein teaches in the Pocono Mountain School District West Campus as their Gifted Education teacher for grades 3-12. Dr. Feuerstein has been involved with coaching all of Pocono Mountain West Envirothon teams for the past 10 years, working with three different competition levels. He also visits five different science classes each week to provide a mix of environmental education activities. These activities provide students with learning opportunities beyond what they can get in their normal classrooms and they

promote awareness and understanding of our natural world.

For Dr. Feuerstein's dedication to his students and his drive to teach about the environment, we are pleased to name him Monroe County's 2019 Conservation Educator of the Year. 🍁

Becker Scholarship Awarded to Tre Vaughn Ellis

The Monroe County Conservation District is pleased to announce that TreVaughn Ellis from East Stroudsburg South School District has been named the 2019-2020 recipient of the Stanley Becker Environmental Resource Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship is awarded to a graduating high school senior continuing his/her education in an environmental resources/conservation-related field. TreVaughn was selected from a very exceptional list



of candidates from area schools who are all looking to continue their education in an environmentally related field. TreVaughn will be attending American University to major in biology this fall. In his essay for the scholarship application, TreVaughn wrote that his love for biology, specifically the love of the Monroe County environment in which he grew up, prompted him to develop his mission to be educated and effect change either by making use of the law or by enacting it. His involvement with many different school and community groups just adds to his list of accomplishments. The Conservation

District along with members of the Becker family would like to congratulate TreVaughn on receiving this scholarship and wish him well in his upcoming college experience. 🍁

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Find Us Online!

FaceBook: @KettleCreekEnvironmentalEducationCenter
Instagram : @Kettlecreekeecenter
Twitter: @KettleCreekEEC
YouTube: Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center
www.mcconservation.org





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Conservation District
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Groundskeeper

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



**Kettle Creek Environmental
Fund Update**

The KCEF Board hopes this finds you healthy and staying safe. Although the COVID-19 restrictions continue and the 2020 fundraising event has been cancelled, KCEF has sought other sources of funding. Applications were submitted to the Monroe County Bar Association Foundation and to the County Commissioners for funds made available under the CARES Act of 2020. We are awaiting word on these applications and are hopeful that they will be approved.

The Board is also encouraged by the donations received from our sponsors in response to the letter advising them of the cancellation of the fundraiser. We very much appreciate this continued support and look forward to resuming our activities when conditions permit. 🍁
-John Woodling, KCEF President

For donation inquires please contact Kettle Creek at 570-629-3061

KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
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Dear Members and Friends:

The summer of 2020 has been a summer unlike any summer we have ever had here at Kettle Creek. We have had to cancel numerous programs and have worked to modify others to make them available under the current circumstances. It is difficult to make plans for programs over the next few months, but the EE staff has tried to provide a limited schedule of activities this fall for people of all ages.

All the programs we offer are following CDC recommended guidelines for masks, and social distancing wherever possible. We also continue to monitor temperatures for all participants and we ask that no one attend a program that is sick, not feeling well, or has someone in their household who has COVID-19. All Kettle Creek staff go through a health check each morning and we take extra care to sanitize all areas and equipment prior to and after each program.

The trails at Kettle Creek are open every day but the building will remain closed to the public until further notice. We are selling bird seed and feeders not only during our annual bird seed sale in October but also for curbside pick-up throughout the year. Just give us a call and we will take your birdseed order over the phone and arrange for pick-up Monday through Friday, from 8:30am-4:00pm.

Unfortunately, the Tannersville Bog boardwalk trails will remain closed for the remainder of 2020. The bog trails on Bog road are open for general hiking but please be aware this area is open to archery deer hunting in October through November.

Be sure to check out our website and online calendar for the most up to date program information including hikes, programs for kids, Saturday public programs, and Friday Zoom programs (online). We also will be posting video programs for all ages on our YouTube page and social media. If you have any ideas for Zoom programs please feel free to contact us we would be glad to hear your requests.

Enjoy the outdoors in this troubled time and we wish you and your family good health and safety. 🍁

-Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

Program Calendar

SEPTEMBER

9th – Wednesday - KC for Kids: Food Chains - Join us to learn all about food chains at 10am. **Cost is \$5 per child.** Three age groupings available. The program for ages 3-6 is one hour and a parent must attend with child. Ages 7-10 grouping and ages 11-14 grouping will run for one hour and thirty minutes. Preregistration is required and limited to 10 guests. Registration for each program will close once program is full or the day prior to the program. Those who are not registered in advance will not be permitted to attend. Programs will start promptly at designated times. Pay at the time of program. Cash or check made payable to MCCD only. Face coverings must be worn by all attendees at all times as required by CDC guidelines. Dress to be outside and get your feet muddy. Programs are entirely outdoors and may be cancelled due to severe weather.

16th – Wednesday - KC for Kids: KC Trees – Learn all about the trees on the Kettle Creek property at 10am. **See Sept. 9th listing for more information.**

23rd – Wednesday - KC for Kids: White-Tailed Deer – Join us at 10am to learn about this common Pocono mammal. **See Sept. 9th listing for more information.**

26th – Saturday –Seasonal Cues from the Top - It's only September, but believe it or not, plants and animals have already tuned in to the subtle cues in nature telling them to prepare for winter. Join a KC Educator at 10am on a guided hike to the top to learn the ways different flora and fauna get ready for this harsh season in the Poconos. **Please dress for the weather and a moderately difficult hike. Appropriate for hikers over the age of 8. Preregistration is required as spaces are limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

30th – Wednesday - KC for Kids: Seasonal Changes – Learn all about the changing of the seasons beginning at 10am. **See Sept. 9th listing for more information.**

OCTOBER

3rd - Saturday – Red Cross Blood Drive - We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-2pm. Call Barbara at MCCD at 570-629-3060 for more information.

6th – Paddle at Tobyhanna Lake - On Tuesday, October 6th at 1pm, join us for a paddling adventure on Tobyhanna Lake located in Tobyhanna State Park. We will explore, observe, and discuss the plants, animals and history of the lake. **Ages 14+.** You must provide your own boat and paddle. PFDs and launch permit required. Meet at the Tobyhanna State Park boat launch area at 1pm. Registration is required and limited for this excursion. Donations accepted. For more information, please call the E. E. Center at (570) 629-3061, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or visit our website.

12th – Monday – Offices Closed- Holiday

24th – Saturday – Bird Seed Sale - It's time to feed our feathered friends and we are pleased to once again offer some of the best quality bird seed on the market: Aspen Song Wild Bird Seed. Our distributor has allowed us to ensure quality seed at a good price for our members and friends. We are offering a wide variety of seed mixes and specialties, as well as bulk black oil sunflower seed from 9am to 1pm at the EE Center. We will have extra seed and many new varieties of feeders to meet all your bird feeding needs available on the day of the sale and throughout the bird feeding season. **To get an order form, visit mccconservation.org.**

31st – Saturday – Halloween Hike at KC - Moonlight will spill through the trees at Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary on Saturday, October 31, 2020, illuminating creatures that go bump in the night! But don't fear, grab a flashlight (or headlamp) and come in costume (if you want) for an evening hike through the forest. Test your senses as we adjust to the dark, walking by the light of the full moon. We won't run into any monsters, but our journey may reveal spooky sounds, glowing fungi, nocturnal creatures, and other mysteries of the night. The hike will end with s'mores and stories around the campfire! **Time: 6:30 - 8:30pm. Cost: \$5/person. Preregistration is required and limited. Masks are required during the program.**

NOVEMBER

11th – Wednesday – Holiday - Offices Closed

26th – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Closed

27th – Friday – Holiday - Offices Closed

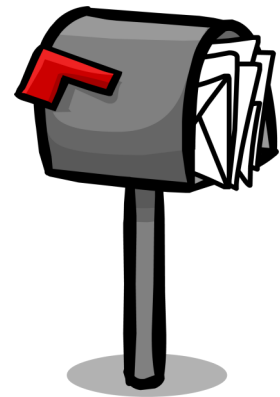
DECEMBER

24th – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Close at Noon

25th – Friday – Holiday - Offices Closed

31st – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Close at Noon

Check your Mailboxes or Email!
Renewal notices for your Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center memberships are being sent out. Please complete your forms and return to them to the Center. Thank you for your continued support!



MCCD Annual Photo Contest

Our Annual Photo Contest is coming to a close so be sure to submit your photos before the deadline hits! All submissions should be uploaded to www.mccconservation.org by Friday, September 25th. A complete list of contest rules is also on our website.

We are looking forward to your photo submissions!



Spotted Lanternfly Update

We have now entered into the time of year where the spotted lanternfly (SLF) has reached its adult stage. This is an important time to help combat these invasive pests because not only are they easier to see at this time, but this is also when they start laying their eggs! Each egg sack you find may contain up to 50 individual SLFs!! It is important to know what the egg sacks look like so you can scrape them off whatever surface they are on, into a plastic bag filled with alcohol, and destroy up to fifty SLFs in one shot. The egg masses are about one inch long and will have a grey color to them as opposed to the gypsy moth egg sack which is more brownish-tan. It is also important to note that people often mistaken harmless lichens, which are even a sign of good air quality, for SLF egg masses. Lichens are often patchy, flakey, crusty and have a green hue to them and are often abundant on the tree and/or rock they are living on. If you think you have SLF egg masses on your property, give us a call at 570-629-3060 and we will help you with the next steps. 🍁



Spotted Lanternfly Egg Mass



Spotted Lanternfly Egg Masses



Lichen