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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Fall 2021 Newsletter

Volume 44 No. 3

Kettle Creek Makes the Move to Become a True County Wide Environmental Education Center



Since the Environmental Education program was established by the Conservation District in the 1970's we have always relied on our members for the support we needed to grow the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center and its programs. These loyal members made it possible to eventually fund and build the present day Environmental Education Center and to shape our educational programs to help us reach people of all ages in Monroe County. Our membership contributed to our fundraisers, attended our programs, donated their time and so much more and we cannot thank them enough for all of their support.

As time has gone by we have seen a change in our membership numbers and make-up. While we still have lots of loyal members, we have made the decision to eliminate our membership fees and make Kettle Creek a county based community Environmental Education Center, having everyone who walks through our doors or attends our programs be considered a member beginning September 30, 2021. This will allow us to better promote our programs and hopefully open our doors to more people of all ages.

We are adjusting our program fees to one price for all adults and at times a separate price for children under 12 but there will be no need to have separate member/non-member rates. Our gift shop prices will be slightly lowered since there will be no 10% discount for members. Our annual bird seed sale will have two prices: one cheaper price for our annual October sale and a slightly higher price for seed sold in the gift shop throughout the rest of the year.

We will still be producing a newsletter several times a year and it will be emailed to anyone who requests it. We will also mail a hard copy to anyone that contacts us because they can't receive it electronically. Notices of our programs will be posted to various social media platforms as well as on our website. We will be striving to get the word out about Kettle Creek and all the programs we do throughout the year.

To some of you these may seem like drastic changes, but we have given this change a lot of thought and we believe it is the best path forward to grow the Center throughout the entire community. We truly want to reach all members of the Monroe County community, young and old, and we want everyone to know about the programs and services we provide. We will be accepting donations to help support our Environmental Education programs as membership fees have done in the past and we will still provide all of the services you have come to expect from Kettle Creek. We have not made this choice lightly and we look forward to everyone's support as Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center moves into the future and truly becomes your community's Environmental Education Center.

We would like to thank all our members who have supported us, some for many years, and we hope you continue to be involved with Kettle Creek and support our Environmental Education efforts. If you have any problems, concerns or questions please contact me at rsmccd@ptd.net anytime and we can discuss them further. We hope to see everyone at Kettle Creek!

Roger Spotts, EE Coordinator 🍁

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**Monroe County
Conservation District
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Alesia Gallo, Matthew Giambra
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras
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Diana Flint
Office Assistant Senior

Becky Hippler
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**

We hope this finds you and your family healthy and enjoying the last days of summer. The KCEF Board congratulates the Reece's Pieces of Pleasant Valley High School on placing 7th at the NCF-Envirothon International Competition in July. Way to go, Reece's Pieces!

Although this year's fundraising event has been postponed until 2022, we are fortunate to be receiving donations and sponsorships from our long-time supporters. These have enabled programming to continue throughout the summer, and school programs will be starting soon. Thank you to all.

The Board has formed a Project Committee chaired by Leslie Berger who is our new Vice-President. This group will work on selecting a major project to be undertaken with memorial funds given in memory of Karen N. Boyle and other funds as well.

Have a wonderful fall season and please stay safe.

-John Woodling, KCEF President

**KCEF
Board Members**



John Woodling, Pres.
Leslie J. Berger, Vice-Pres.
Joseph Bedrick
Patrick Calpin
Ed Cramer
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly
Dr. Elaine Rogers
Stephanie Spotts

**Welcome
Aboard!**



David Hooker, Watershed Specialist

I graduated from Bloomsburg University with a B.S. in Environmental Biology. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, kayaking, and anything that gets me outdoors. I'm excited to be on board here at the District, and I'm looking forward to helping the community with any of their watershed needs!



Barrett Donna, Environmental Educator

I'm originally from Connecticut, but I've lived and worked in ten different states since graduating high school. I studied environmental science and conservation biology at Goshen College in Indiana, and I've lived in Pennsylvania for the last three years. I like hiking, camping, and exploring new places, and I'm excited to share my love of nature with students and others here at Kettle Creek.

Stormwater Runoff in Monroe County

How Low-Cost Green Infrastructure Can Have a Big Impact on Stormwater Runoff



Pensyl Creek Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

What is green infrastructure?

The term green infrastructure encompasses a wide array of things, all constructed with the common purpose of slowing, filtering, and absorbing stormwater before it reaches our waterways. Green infrastructure can help mitigate problems like flooding, water contamination, and habitat destruction from heavy rainfall events. It can be anything from a rain barrel fed by your gutters, to a large bioretention pond taking in stormwater runoff from a mall parking lot. The varying scale of green infrastructure projects allow anyone from a homeowner to a corporation to take part in stormwater management, and help protect our waterways and downstream neighbors.

Why is stormwater a concern for Monroe County?

As excessive stormwater runoff travels, it picks up contaminants that can eventually make their way into our groundwater and surface waters. It can cause significant erosion like what's pictured above, damaging our infrastructure and our environment. Our county is home to a large portion of Pennsylvania's high quality and exceptional value waterways. Sediment and other contaminants carried by runoff are some of the greatest threats to our pristine aquatic environments.

What can you do as an individual?

There are plenty of small things you can do around your property to help control stormwater runoff. Your downspouts are an easy place to start. Consider draining them into a small gravel bed lined with native plants to stop the water from eroding your yard. Do you have a low spot in your yard where water pools after a storm? Look into planting a rain garden! A rain garden can be as simple as a few water-tolerant native plants in your yard. Do any small thing you can; a large number of small scale actions from everyone can create large scale benefits for our community and waterways! 🍁

Examples of Low-Cost Green Infrastructure

Riparian Buffers:

These are vegetated filter strips next to a body of water that help to slow and filter stormwater runoff. The most effective type is a forested buffer, but planting anything is better than nothing! Multi-functional buffers planted with fruit bearing trees are popular with farmers looking to protect waterways without taking an economic hit from the change in land use.

Median Planting:

Instead of having grass between your street and sidewalk, plant some native shrubs or trees. Woody species will reduce your maintenance hassle, while herbaceous species like wildflowers increase your curb appeal! These help to slow the flow of runoff into our sewers by improving water infiltration.

Downspout Disconnection:

Rather than routing your downspouts directly into the sewer, direct them into a gravel bed surrounded with vegetation to slow the flow and improve infiltration. Another option geared more towards residential homes, is directing your downspouts into a rain barrel to use as a water source for your garden or landscape. The Monroe County Conservation District and local watershed organizations frequently host rain barrel workshops.

Cutting Down on Lawns:

Our love for perfectly manicured lawns can be toxic for stormwater management! Excessive fertilizer and pesticide application hurts our water quality, and by choosing a lawn you're greatly reducing your land's ability to manage stormwater. You don't have to completely eliminate your lush green lounging area, but consider replacing some of it with (can you guess?) native plants to create your own backyard stormwater buffer.

For more information on green infrastructure, contact your local Watershed Specialist:
David Hooker dhmccd@ptd.net
(570) 629-3060

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

September

17th – Friday - Paddle at Tobyhanna Lake - 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.**

18th – Saturday – Hike to the Top - Join us at 10am for a pleasant morning ramble through the forest as we discuss the fascinating natural history of our area, and how events in the past have shaped our modern world. We will venture to the top of the unnamed ridge at Kettle Creek and search for one of pre-history's mysteries. The hike is steep in spots, so we'll take it easy. Wear hiking shoes or boots, dress for the weather, and bring water. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost is \$5 per person.**

22nd - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Along the way, our environmental educators will explain the Bog's formation, its interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Cost is \$5 per person. Exact cash or check preferred (no credit cards). Please wear appropriate footwear for walking in the woods and through fields. Pre-registration is required. Masks must be worn throughout the duration of the walk.**

25th – Saturday – Building Closed

28th – Tuesday - Waterfall Photo Trip - You know what's great? Waterfalls. You know what else is great? Fall Foliage. What happens when you put them together? Pure magic! Join Matt as he leads a photo trip to Shohola Falls to capture some of the best artwork nature has to offer. Bus will depart from Kettle Creek at 8:00am and will return by 1:00pm. Please pack a lunch to eat at local picnic area. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$15 per person.**

28th - Tuesday - KC for Preschoolers: Spotted Lanternflies – Have you seen any of these colorful bugs flying around your house. Learn all about these unwelcome bug invaders! This program starts at 10am and is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

29th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

October

2nd - 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. **To register or learn more about American Red Cross blood drives, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS**

6th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

9th – Saturday – Building Closed

11th – Monday – Building Closed- Holiday

12th - Tuesday - Fabulous Fall Mystery Bus Trip - Jump on the Kettle Creek Bus and enjoy a day of exploring led by Roger Spotts. We will leave Kettle Creek at 8:30 am and return at 4:00 and spend the whole day discovering different parts of Monroe County in the fall. Please bring a lunch, wear shoes for walking and binoculars. We may take a few short hikes throughout the day. Masks will be required on the bus. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$15 per person.**

12th - Tuesday - KC for Preschoolers: Amazing Fall Leaf Colors – Take a hike as we look at all the different bright leaf colors at KC! **See Sept. 28th listing for more information.**

13th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

16th – Saturday – Impressions of Nature - Printing with leaves, flowers and other objects allows you to create intricate patterns and works of art. Join Alesia at 10am for this fun, relaxing way to unleash your inner artist. We will venture out on a short walk to collect some natural materials, and then head inside to start creating. Design your own tote bag, greeting cards and more! **Cost is \$8 per person to cover the cost of materials. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, October 13th.**

17th - Sunday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry

Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

19th – Tuesday - Full Moon Hike at Tannersville Bog - Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a flashlight. **Cost is \$5 per person. Exact cash or check preferred (no credit cards). Please wear appropriate footwear for walking in the woods and through fields. Pre-registration is required.**

20th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

22nd – Friday – Project OwlNet - Kettle Creek will host the seventh season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to those who preregister on October 22nd, 29th and November 5th; 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. **Pre-registration is required by the Thursday before each program. Registration is limited to 20 participants and no walk-ins will be accepted. Masks must be worn during program.**

23rd – 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. 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.**

26th - Tuesday - KC for Preschoolers: Bears – Let's learn about the largest animal in the Poconos, the fascinating Black Bear! **See Sept. 28th listing for more information.**

27th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

29th – Friday – Project OwlNet - Kettle Creek will host the sixth season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to those who preregister on October 22nd, 29th and November 5th; from 8 to 10pm (donations welcome). Participants will learn more about the North-

*****Masks are mandatory at all programs. Preregistration is required for all programs offered unless noted otherwise.**

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: mccconservation.org

ern Saw-whet Owl, Project OwlNet, and have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. **Preregistration is required by the Thursday before each program. Registration is limited to 20 participants and no walk-ins will be accepted.**

30th – Saturday – Building Closed

November

3rd - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at **1pm** at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. **See Sept. 22nd listing for more information.**

5th – Friday – Project OwlNet - Kettle Creek will host the sixth season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to those who pre-register on October 22nd, 29th and November 5th; 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 is required by the Thursday before each program. Registration is limited to 20 participants and no walk-ins will be accepted.**

6th – Saturday – Morning Bird Photo Walk - Join Matt at 9am on this photo walk where we try to capture some of the birds that call Kettle Creek home. A telephoto lens of 200mm or longer is preferred but not required. Dress for the weather. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost is \$5 per person.**

11th – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Closed

13th – Saturday – Building Closed

20th – Saturday – Building Closed

25th – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Closed

26th – Friday – Holiday - Offices Closed

27th – Saturday – Building Closed

December

4th – Saturday – Photo Contest Winners - 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 2022 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit environmental education programs at Kettle Creek. A slideshow of all entrants will be presented at 11am. *Exhibit runs through January 31st, 2022.*

11th – Saturday – Building Closed

18th – Saturday – Building Closed

23rd – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Close at Noon

24th – Friday – Holiday - Offices Closed

30th – Thursday – Holiday - Offices Close at Noon

31st – Friday – Holiday - Offices Closed

Pleasant Valley High School Envirothon Team Places 7th in NCF Envirothon International Competition



The 32nd annual NCF-Envirothon competition, hosted by the National Conservation Foundation (NCF) and the Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), was held on July 25-28, 2021. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions and health concerns,

the 2021 NCF-Envirothon competition was completely virtual, a first for the Envirothon program.

This year, 42 teams – 35 from the United States, four from Canada and three from China – competed in the NCF-Envirothon Competition for scholarships and awards.

Pennsylvania was proudly represented by the winners of the county and state competitions, the Reece’s Pieces team of Pleasant Valley High School (Monroe County, PA). Members of the team include team captain Emma Barrett, Reece Kresge, Zachary Dooner, Jacob Possinger and Benjamin Keppel. The team members competing in the NCF-Competition were led by their advisor, Pleasant Valley High School teacher, Maricatherine Garr. **Pennsylvania placed seventh in the NCF-Envirothon landing the hard working students \$1,000 scholarships.** 🍁



Conservation Camp Wrap Up



Pictured left to right: Roger Spotts, EE Coordinator; Adam Kaczmarzyk, 2021 Outstanding Camper; Genni Martinelli, Asst. Head Counselor

The week of July 17-24 found us once again back at Stony Acres conducting the Monroe County Conservation Camp after a one year hiatus. Teenagers engaged in numerous activities and programs on their local environment and “unplugged” for a week of fun and interaction. The Conservation District would like to thank all of the program presenters

and other volunteers who helped make this camp possible even during COVID. The campers spent two days on the Delaware River, toured a local family produce farm, challenged themselves on the ropes course; learned about archery, fly fishing and so much more. It was a busy schedule and their end of camp reflections showed they thoroughly enjoyed the week. At the end of the week, Adam Kaczmarzyk, from Swiftwater, was named outstanding camper for his overall camp experience. He will receive a partial scholarship to attend a statewide camp in 2022.

The Camp staff would like to thank all sponsors who provided scholarships for students to attend camp. We would also like to send out a big thank you to Chuck and Maddy Constantine, the caretakers at Stony Acres for helping to make camp possible this year during COVID. They went above and beyond to set up the facilities at Stony Acres after being closed down for over a year. Maddy and Chuck have been a part of Conservation Camp for over 35 years and we are grateful to both of them for their involvement.

Conservation Camp is held each year in July and is a one week residential camp for teenagers 14 years old thru graduating seniors. Keep an eye out for information on next year’s camp in the coming months on our website. 🍁

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future



Thank You Summer Staff!

A big thanks to Genevieve (Genni) Martinelli, Santiago Churion and Delaney Henasey for all of their hard work they gave to Kettle Creek this summer. They spent countless hours maintaining our hiking trails at our three outdoor sites, maintained our pond shorelines, helped set up for Bugfest and other events, and even collected and split enough firewood that will last us our whole maple sugaring season! They certainly worked hard this year and we appreciate all of their time and efforts.

Thank you to Haneen Akhatib and Kristian Constance who worked with us throughout the summer via Summer Youth Employment Program. They were very helpful in working with all of our staff and gained some great experience for the future.

We would also like to thank our ESU Intern, Derek Lederer for working diligently with the Kettle Creek staff throughout the summer. His efforts with programs, school groups and camp were very much appreciated. Best of luck in your senior year Derek!

Last but not least, we'd like to give a special shoutout to Jamie Falgie, a volunteer who helped us out with programs over the summer and also helped with data entry for our Turtle Tracking program.

Thanks again to all! We are so fortunate to have worked with all of these wonderful people over the summer! 🍁

MCCD Board Director Retires

The Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) board and staff would like to extend a sincere thanks to former Director Pat Ross, for his years of leadership and service to the District. For nearly 20 years Pat served as a Director, and subsequent Chairman, volunteering his time and offering his expertise to better the goals and objectives of the organization. MCCD thanks Mr. Ross for setting the example for advocacy and enrichment in Monroe County and playing a large role in helping us continue to provide environmental education and natural resource protections within our community.

The Gallery at *Kettle Creek*



Upcoming Artists

September - Darryl Speicher *"For the Birds"*

October - Claudia Hill *"Gourds: Nature's Canvas"*

November - Rachel Keslosky *"Living with the Seasons"*

December - Photo Contest Display