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www.mcconservation.org



MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Fall 2022 Newsletter

Volume 45 No. 3



## Discover Nature with New Elements at Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area

Using your imagination these days is surprisingly a rare feat; this is unfortunately true even amongst young children. Getting children to play outside these days is something that has been unusually difficult to do. This is strange to those of us who grew up in a world where you weren't back indoors until the street lights turned on. Many of us grew up outside, building forts, creating mud pies, catching frogs and even the occasional dip in a local creek or pond. To children nowadays, a different world exists at their fingertips---the world of technology. Tablets, phones and smartwatches provide a breadth of information all just a click away. Kids are so busy exploring the world through a screen when it comes time to get outside, it's no surprise that many are skeptical about dipping their toes in a puddle or lifting up a log to search for a salamander.

Lilliana Denniston was not like most children her age. She loved the outdoors and just generally enjoyed being outside. She was passionate about nature and was always wanting to learn more about her local environment. It was only fitting that the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center became one of Lilliana's favorite places to be. Lilliana, along with her family, became very involved with many of the programs at Kettle Creek. Lilliana even attended many of Kettle Creek's day camps.

In the spring of 2015, Lilliana unexpectedly passed away at the young age of 14. It was decided that there would be no better way to honor Lilliana than to dedicate a special place at Kettle Creek in her memory. Along with the help of Dr. Elaine Roger's Facility Design Class at East Stroudsburg University, the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund, and Fasano Enterprises and under direction of Environmental Educator, Karen N. Boyle, Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area was created on the Kettle Creek property.

A nature discovery area is a designated outdoor space designed to encourage children to use their imaginations while exploring a natural environment. Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area includes many amazing elements including talking tubes, xylophone, fossil pit, canoe amongst others.

In 2022, the Denniston family most recently added a mud kitchen to encourage children to get creative (and dirty). A Lending Library was also added in honor of Karen N. Boyle who was an Environmental Educator at Kettle Creek for over 30 years and taught Lilliana during many camps and programs. Karen played a huge part in the development of the Discovery Area and Lilliana's family wanted to honor her memory.

Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area at Kettle Creek is truly a special place. In 2022 alone, it was enjoyed by hundreds, whether they were spending the day enjoying the outdoors, attending a camp or program or just passing through. When people find out about the Discovery Area they are in awe, not only of its amazing elements but of the special connection it provides for children of all ages to their natural environment. Lilliana's kind, gentle spirit and passion for the outdoors truly shines through the uniqueness and splendor of this wonderful place at Kettle Creek.

If you haven't already done so, come out and visit Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area. It is open seven days a week throughout the year from dawn to dusk and can be accessed via the trail along the left side of the upper parking lot. If the gate is closed, please park below it. All are encouraged to play the xylophone, take an imaginary canoe ride or just sit quietly in a Magic Spot and observe the beauty of nature.



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**Monroe County  
Conservation District  
Board of Directors**

Robert Armstrong, Chairperson  
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Chuck Gould, Secretary  
Roger McFadden, Treasurer  
Donna Foulk  
Craig Todd  
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Hydraulic Engineers

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David Lucykanish, John Motz  
Resource Conservation Specialists

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Environmental Education Coordinator

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Alesia Gallo, Colleen Lidon  
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras  
Finance Manager

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**

The KCEF Board is busily preparing for the annual fundraiser to be held on September 29 at Trout Lake.

After a three year hiatus, this year's event will be special in several ways including observing the 30th anniversary, presentation of the Rose Schoch award posthumously to Karen N. Boyle, long time Environmental Educator, and some new games such as ax throwing.

Invitations have been mailed, and we hope you are able to join us for this special evening. KCEF has raised over 1 million dollars since its inception in 1991, and this would not have been possible without your continuing support. Please join us on September 29 as we continue to raise funds for EE Center programs and activities.

*-John Woodling, KCEF President*




As we transition into fall 2022, we can look back on a hot, dry summer filled with Kettle Creek programs for all ages. We appreciate all the support we are receiving for our programs and we hope to provide additional program opportunities during the upcoming fall season. Our summer day camps were at capacity and unfortunately we were not able to fit everyone in but we are hoping to expand the offerings for 2023 and get even more kids involved in our camp's hands-on experiences.

We are happy to welcome Colleen Lidon to our education staff. On her first day she jumped right into three straight weeks of day camp and met lots of excited kids looking to explore the 166 acres at Kettle Creek. We look forward to her contributions to Kettle Creek programs.

If you haven't been by to visit in a while the trails are waiting to hike, the Discovery Area is ready for kids of all ages to play in and our small gift shop may have the perfect gift for you or a friend. Stop by and see us and we are always glad to hear of any suggestions you may have for Kettle Creek.

Roger Spotts  
Environmental Education Coordinator

<p><b>KCEF Board Members</b></p>	
<p>John Woodling, Pres. Leslie J. Berger, Vice-Pres. Joseph Bedrick, Secretary Ed Cramer, Treasurer Patrick Calpin Gareth Denniston Kara Klaus-Major John Reilly Dr. Elaine Rogers</p>	







## Monroe County Conservation Camp 2022

During a week in July, twenty teenagers from Monroe County and the surrounding areas spent eight days at ESU’s Stony Acres facility learning all about conservation in the county and beyond. This annual camp is operated by the Monroe County Conservation District with support from the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and various Sportsman’s Clubs and civic organizations throughout the county.



This was the 47<sup>th</sup> year of Conservation Camp and over the years countless students have participated as campers and returned to help staff the camp in following years. Campers learned about canoeing, soil, forestry, wildlife management, participated in a high ropes course adventure as well as canoeing 26 miles over two days down the Delaware River. At the end of camp they were all recognized for their involvement at the camps annual family day.

We look forward to 2023 Conservation Camp July 15<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>. The camp is open to teenager’s ages 14–through the year’s high school graduate and scholarships are available. For more information on next year’s camp please contact Kettle Creek or visit our website.



## KCEEC Welcomes Colleen Lidon



“I grew up in the Lehigh Valley and have a lifelong love of nature and exploring Pennsylvania’s beautiful natural spaces. Some of my favorite activities include hiking, camping, kayaking and yoga. Since graduating from East Stroudsburg University with a BA in Environmental Studies, I have gained experience as an environmental educator, river guide and outdoor education program coordinator. I am so happy to now be a part of the team at Kettle Creek and I look forward to working with students and adults in Monroe County!”



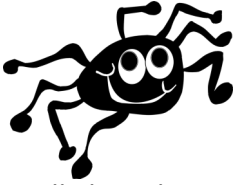




## Meet the Artist: Terry Kloiber “Amalgrams of Nature”

Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup> - 11am-1pm

Terry Kloiber carves and burns gourds, creates jewelry, paints and works in various fiber arts. Her work will be on display through the month of October.



## Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.

## KC for Kids: Not So Spooky Spiders

Thursday, October 6<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

We learn all about how our 8-legged friends help our habitats and are not so spooky after all. We will read a story, search for spiders on our trails, weave our own webs and make a spider pinecone craft!

**This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.)**

**Preregistration is required and limited.**

**Cost: \$5 per child.**

**Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**



## Full Moon Bog Hike

Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm

Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a flashlight. Please wear appropriate footwear.

**Preregistration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed—Holiday**

## Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.

## Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup> - 8-10pm

Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the fourth season of Project Owl-net. The station will be open to the public October 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project Owl-net, and may have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. Preregistration is required and limited.

**Donations welcome.**

**Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

## Saturday Bog Walk

Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup> - 2pm

Join us at 2pm 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. **Pre-registration is required and limited.**

**Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.**

**Cost: \$5 per person**

## Mystery Trip

Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> - 8:30am-4:00pm

Jump on the Kettle Creek Bus with EE Coordinator Roger Spotts as we spend the day exploring locations in Monroe County searching out fall foliage and other signs of fall as well as the approaching winter season.

**Participants should dress for the weather, sturdy walking shoes, pack a lunch, binoculars, and something to drink. Registration is required by Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>.**

**Cost: \$25 per person.**



# 2022 Fall Programming *(cont.)*



## Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.

## KC for Kids: Getting Squirrely

Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

Those crazy squirrels are pretty smart! Learn how they plan ahead in order to survive our cold Pocono winters. **This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited.**

Cost: \$5 per child.

## Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> - 8-10pm

Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the fourth season of Project Owl-net. The station will be open to the public October 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project Owl-net, and may have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. Preregistration is required and limited.

Donations welcome.

## Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> - 9am - 1pm



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 [mconconservation.org](http://mconconservation.org).

## Bog Day

Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> - Walks at 10am & 1pm

The Tannersville bog stewardship committee along with The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring their annual Bog Day on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>. This day features guided walks on the boardwalk as well as information on the bog and light refreshments. It also gives participants the opportunity to meet some of the volunteers who help to maintain and protect this unique natural area. Walks will be held at 10am and 1pm and registration is required.

## Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> - 1pm

See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.

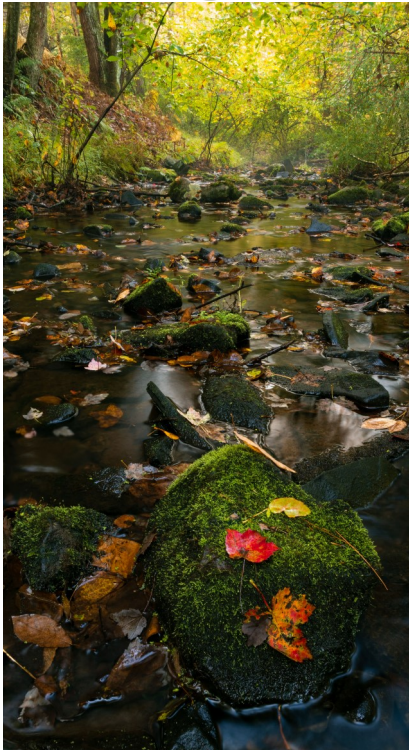


## Trick or Trash

Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> - 10am

There are lots of spooky things that happen when Halloween comes around--the biggest one being all of the waste that is generated by this holiday! Come out and learn some tips on making your Halloween a more sustainable one, create a craft using recycled materials and even enjoy some treats!

Cost: \$5 per person.



## Program Guidelines

Preregistration is required for all programs offered unless noted otherwise by calling 570-629-3061.

Cash or checks made payable to MCCD only.

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

Kettle Creek  
Environmental Education Center  
8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570)629-3061  
[www.mconconservation.org](http://www.mconconservation.org)

**Wednesday Bog Walk**  
Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 1pm  
*See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.*

**Meet the Artist: Matt Giambra & Drew Wagner “Wonders of Photography and Woodwork”**  
Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup> - 11am-1pm

Photographer Matt Giambra and woodworker Drew Wagner have teamed up to exhibit their outstanding work at Kettle Creek. Matt’s photographs will feature a nature theme and Drew’s woodworking is made from wood sustainably sourced from local trees and mills. **Both artists will be giving presentations about their work beginning at 11am.**

**Wednesday Bog Walk**  
Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> - 1pm  
*See September 21<sup>st</sup> listing for details.*

**Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed—Holiday**

**Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Wilderness Survival**  
Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> - 10am

Learn all about outdoor survival skills including forest foraging, fire building techniques and construct your own shelter from materials found in nature.

**Cost: \$5 per person.**

**Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed—Holiday**

**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Photo Contest Art Opening**  
Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11am

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 2023 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit environmental education programs at Kettle Creek. Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.

Exhibit runs through January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

**Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Building Closes at Noon**

**Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> – Building Closed**

**Saturday, December 30<sup>th</sup> – Building Closes at Noon**

**Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> – Building Closed**



# District Dirt and Gravel Road Program Receives High Marks

## Better Roads...Cleaner Streams

The MCCD Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program recently underwent its triennial review by the State Conservation Commission and Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies. This quality control/quality assurance (QA/QC) review ensures the District is properly implementing the grant program and following program policies. The review includes a financial review, an administrative review, and review of projects implemented across Monroe County over the three year period. All three categories received "Exceeds Expectations" ratings in the 2022 QA/QC Final Report.

Since 2014, the District has received approximately a quarter million dollars annually to provide funding to municipalities for road maintenance projects that reduce sediment pollution to streams and improve stream road crossings allowing for better aquatic organism passage. We are nearing the two million dollar mark as we approach 2023 with over \$300,000 in projects currently under contract. Since its inception in 1997, and the first dirt and gravel project on Hell Hollow Road in Polk Township, the District has spent over \$990,000 on 21 dirt and gravel projects. There have been 8 low volume (paved) road projects completed since 2014 when paved roads became eligible for funding, with over \$800,000 in grant monies provided by through the District. And we have maintained a low overhead, with administrative and education costs at 8.8% of our total funding allocation.

As of 2022, seven municipalities and the PA Game Commission have partnered with the District to complete partially or completely grant funded projects across both dirt and gravel and low volume roads. Barrett, Chestnuthill, Hamilton, Middle Smithfield, Pocono, Polk and Tobyhanna Townships have received grants through the program. Municipalities are required to have someone trained in Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) to be eligible to apply for grant funding. Currently 13 of the 20 municipalities in Monroe County are eligible.

The program is administered by Resource Conservation Specialist John Motz, and Finance Manager, Barbara Bistras, with oversight by District Manager Kristina Heaney. The program is served by a Quality Assurance Board (QAB) consisting of two District representatives (Chuck Gould, Chair, Kristina Heaney, voting member) a representative from NRCS (Ed Vinton) and a representative from PFBC (Alec DeLong). The QAB is responsible for reviewing projects and policies for recommendation to the District Board. The MCCD Board of Directors makes the final decisions on program policy and project funding.

The MCCD Board had a chance to review the QA/QC report prior to its August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, where the report was unanimously accepted. Board Chair Bob Armstrong commended the District staff for "Exceeding Expectations" and providing much appreciated funding to participating municipalities. Program Administrator John Motz thanked the Board and Barbara for their ongoing support of this valuable pollution reduction program. The full report can be found on the dirt and gravel pages of our website.

Additional information on the program or reducing sediment pollution from roads can be found on the District website, or by contacting John Motz, MCCD DGLVR Program Administrator at 570-629-3060.

### Brady's Lake Rd-SGL #127 Tobyhanna Twp - PA Game Commission

**Photo 1** - Underdrain installed along road to maintain dry road base.

**Photo 2** - Completed road section with multiple cross pipes



### Park Lane Pocono Twp UNT to Brodhead Creek

**Below Photo** - 2722 Stream section built through road crossing to ensure stream function and stability as well as maintaining aquatic organism passage.







**KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER  
ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE DAY, October 22, 2022**

For Office Use Only

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT  
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

*For more information on bird seed please visit our website  
at [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org) or call 570-629-3061.*

**\*\*ORDER DEADLINE\*\***  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022**

Quantity Ordered	Description of Wild Bird Seed	Day of Sale Price	Total
	25 lb. Bag Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$28.25	
	50 lb. Bag Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$53.25	
	30 lb. Bag Value Blend	\$22.50	
	20 lb. Bag Choice Blend	\$27.45	
	40 lb. Bag Choice Blend	\$53.25	
	20 lb. Bag Premium Blend	\$31.50	
	40 lb. Bag Premium Blend	\$58.25	
	5 lb. Bag Sunflower Kernels	\$14.75	
	5 lb. Bag Safflower Seed	\$10.10	
	4 lb. Bag Fruit & Nut Woodpecker Blend	\$14.25	
	4 lb. Bag Finch Blend	\$12.35	
	10 lb. Bag Nyjer (Thistle) Seed	\$24.35	
	12 oz. Hi-Energy Suet	\$1.45	
	12- 12oz. Hi-Energy Suet	\$16.60	

**MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM AND CHECK TO:**

**Monroe County Conservation District  
8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
(MCCD) Monroe County Conservation District**

Subtotal Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Plus 6% Sales Tax: \_\_\_\_\_

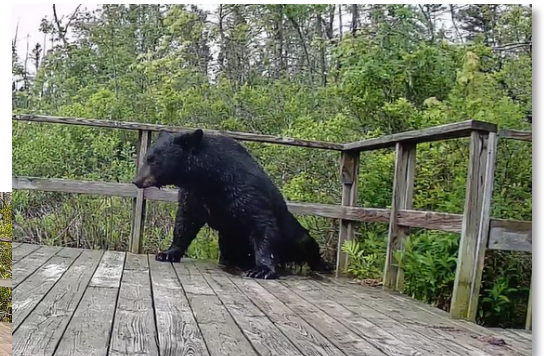
Donation to Help Fund EE Programs: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

# Summer Bog Visitors



## *Upcoming Artists*

### **September**

Will Daskal *"Pocono Bucolic Splendor"*

### **October**


Terry Kloiber *"Amalgams of Nature"*

### **November**

Matt Giambra & Drew Wagner  
*"Wonders of Photography & Woodwork"*

### **December**

Photo Contest Display



Don't Forget—MCCD's Annual Amateur Photo Contest Send in photos that showcase Monroe County's finest Natural Resources! Earn a spot in both our art gallery and a 2023 MCCD calendar! Submissions due September 29<sup>th</sup>. For details and entry form, please see the link on our website, [mcconservation.org](http://mcconservation.org)