



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education



8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Admin/Technical 570-629-3060
Env. Education 570-629-3061
Website: mcconservation.org

Spring 2019 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 43 No. 1

Homeowner/HOA Driveway Workshop

Managing Water-Preventing Washouts

Does your driveway or private road resemble a stream channel during rainstorms? Are you tired of paying for expensive stone that washes away every time a big gully washer comes along? Would you like to actually *fix* the problem instead of patching it back up every time it happens? If so, then this workshop is for you! Join us for a leisurely pictorial tour of erosion on driveways and how to fix it. Explore concepts such as road shape, location, surface drainage, sub-surface drainage and stabilization. Find out why short term solutions repeatedly fail. Discover long lasting solutions to sustainable gravel road design and how they work. Time will be allotted after the program for your site-specific questions. Bring photos if you have them.



Saturday, April 13, 2019
9 - 11AM

SPACE IS LIMITED.
RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY CALLING 570-629-3060 TODAY!

Sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program. ♦

Learn How to Fix This

And This!



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**Monroe County
Conservation District
Board of Directors**

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Environmental Educators

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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**

After a successful event in 2018, the Board has decided to continue with the new format for 2019. The annual event will be on Friday, September 20th, 2019 at Trout Lake and will feature the results of the 2nd Annual Film Competition, raffles and other activities. We hope that you will join us for an evening of entertainment as we continue with this new approach.

The Board is pleased to again be able to fund the "Wish List" of projects submitted by the EE Center staff. This year's list includes the Envirothons, Conservation Camp, Bug Fest and funding for various school programs throughout all Monroe County School Districts. Funding for the "Wish List" is possible due to the generosity of our supporters and

we thank you for all of your contributions!

The KCEF is currently seeking new Board members and interested individuals should submit names and a brief bio for consideration. ♡

-John Woodling, KCEF

**28th Annual
Dinner**
September 20, 2019



KCEF Board Members
John Woodling, Pres.
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.
Joseph Bedrick
Tim Brooks
Patrick Calpin
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly

Welcome New Members!
Ryan Banks and Family – Stroudsburg, PA
Janice L. Sandt & Joseph P. Curran – Stroudsburg, PA
Lynda Messerschmidt – Saylorsburg, PA
Joan and James Griffin – Canadensis, PA
Pauline Hughes – East Stroudsburg, PA
Frances M. O'Hagan – Saylorsburg, PA
James Ruffini – East Stroudsburg, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

Spring brings with it new growth. At Kettle Creek we are looking to grow our programs in 2019. Along with the normal spring school programs we are adding some new Saturday programs, a few new field trips and additional canoe/kayak trips. We hope you can take advantage of these offerings and join us for some of these exciting events! We are also looking forward to the Monroe County Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 27th at the Northampton Community College Monroe Campus.

Along with new growth, we also experienced another change to our staff. We wish Brian Hardiman, who worked with us for 24 years, a happy retirement. Brian's birding adventures and herp searches became popular program offerings at the Center. We look forward to continuing some of these great programs with the help of the Pocono Avian Research Center and the addition of new staff.

As the snow melts, we hope that you will come out enjoy a day at Kettle Creek, hike the trails, look for wildlife, wander into the Nature Discovery Area and even stop by to say hello to our staff in the office. ♡

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

News 'N Notes



Longtime Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman Retired

For 24 years Brian was part of a team of environmental educators whose mission is dedicated to fostering community awareness through first-hand experiences of the natural environment of the Poconos. Children, college students, and adults alike have had the opportunity to benefit from Brian's passion for teaching about all living things here in the Poconos. He was instrumental in educating thousands of school students through our environmental education programs in all four school districts in Monroe County.

Brian also guided many popular trips in search of hawks, songbirds, and eagles. He took participants to places like Jacobsburg State Park, Raccoon Ridge, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, Trinidad and Tobago and Costa Rica. His lifelong passion for birds was something that many of his program participants were drawn to. He also has an intense passion for herps which include snakes, salamanders and frogs. Over the years, Brian organized two citizen scientist projects at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. One of them was Project FeederWatch, all about birds, the other was PARS (Pennsylvania Amphibian and Reptile Survey), which focuses on herps.

On behalf of the Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff we would like to thank Brian for all of his years of commitment and many contributions to the success of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. We wish him only the best as he moves into

the next chapter of his life and know that it will be filled with many natural adventures! ♡

MCCD Grant Update

The start of a new year brings fresh optimism and excitement at MCCD. We are in the process of finalizing several grant agreements that will bring over \$100,000 into Monroe County solely for the purpose of improving water quality and habitat. The first project in focus will be a multifunctional riparian forested buffer that will be installed at the ESSA Bank Headquarters in Stroudsburg, PA. We have been working closely with ESSA Bank, Stroud Regional Open Space and Recreation Commission, and the United Way to design a restoration project that meets the needs of multiple organizations and helps meet valuable program outcomes. This project will add habitat value to the area, stabilize the banks of McMichael Creek, add a unique recreational opportunity in the area, and provide the community with a multi-purpose outdoor classroom. Funding for the buffer project was provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts.

The second project will be the target of the majority of the grant funding, which we were awarded through the Growing Greener Grant Program. We will be partnering with the Pennsylvania State Game Commission to complete a streambank stabilization and habitat restoration project on State Game Lands #38 in Jackson Township. We received overwhelming support for this project from state legislators, local elected officials, business owners, and non-profit groups. We are in the preliminary planning stages now, and the funding will allow us to have the project designed and permitted. Additional grant funding will be needed in the future for the construction phase. We are grateful for the widespread community support, without which we most likely would not have been awarded the grant.

Stay tuned for upcoming project and program updates throughout the spring season! ♡

Composting Manure

Have you been wondering what could be done with all of the manure generated from your operation? Maybe you could consider composting it! Composting manure can reduce the amount of animal waste by 40-70% and will leave with you a great, nutrient-rich, product that is perfect for conditioning your soils. However, there is a science (and art) to making pure compost and below are a few things to consider before getting started.

1. Storage – you want to be sure you have a covered area of at least 3'x3'; otherwise the piles may not be able to retain enough heat to reach the proper internal temperature needed to create compost.
2. Mixing – you want to make sure you are mixing the compost several times during the composting process. When compost is finished, it will be dark brown and crumbly. Regular mixing will make sure enough oxygen is getting to the microbes that are actually breaking down the material and ensures an even temperature throughout.

3. Testing – In order to officially call or sell it as compost, you will have to get the material tested. "Compost testing is important for characterizing the beneficial physical and chemical properties of a compost, as well as, for identifying potential problems with compost use" – Penn State Extension. To find out more information on how to compost manure visit the Penn State Extension's website and don't miss the opportunity to create this "black gold"!

See <https://extension.psu.edu/making-and-using-compost> ♡



**Information for the 2019
Elk Trip is now available at
mccconservation.org
Seats are filling up fast!**

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

APRIL

6th – Saturday – Art Opening: Kathleen Gubitosi “Brushstrokes of Wildlife” - Kathleen’s passion and love of wildlife and of nature is exhibited through her very first show at Kettle Creek. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs April 1st through 30th.*

11th – Thursday – Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series – Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm to learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at **identifying herons and cranes** including whooping cranes, great blue herons, great egrets, night herons and more. All ages welcome.

13th – Saturday - Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop – *See cover for more information.*

18th – Thursday - 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. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.**

19th – Friday – Building Closed - Holiday

20th – Saturday – Building Closed

27th - Saturday – Monroe County Earth Day - Join us as we celebrate Monroe County’s environmental efforts and successes! From 10am - 3pm there will be ongoing live music, speakers, exhibitors, workshops, give & take, tire amnesty, e-cycling, children’s activities, food, and more! New this year will be the Pocono Arts Council Earth Speaks Exhibit from 1-3pm. Sponsored by MCCD and Northampton Community College (NCC) Monroe campus, the event will take place at NCC’s beautiful Monroe campus on Rt. 715 in Tannersville. Don’t miss it! *Check out mcearthday.org for more information.*

29th – Monday - Birding the Bog with Pocono Avian Research Center at 7am – Combine one of the most unique natural settings with one of the most spectacular natural phenomena and you get a morning of migration birding at the Bog. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or Nature Conservancy members and children under 12.**

MAY

4th – Saturday – Art Opening: Ruth Bush “Breath of Fresh Air” – Ruth is attracted to the organic quality of natural elements and incorporate them into her abstracts. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs May 1st through 30th.*

8th – Wednesday - Birding the Bog with Pocono Avian Research Center at 7am - *See April 29th listing.*

9th – Thursday – Salamander Meander – Join Pocono Avian Research Center at 6pm where we will search the trails at Kettle Creek for these slimy creatures.

11th – Saturday - Wildflowers at Kettle Creek - Kettle Creek is home to some beautiful spring wildflowers. Plan on joining Roger Spotts at 10am for this 1 ½ hour hike on the trails to look for and identify the early blooms of spring.

12th – Sunday – Century Day - Roger Spotts will be driving the Kettle Creek bus as Darryl Speicher, from Pocono Avian Research Center, will be on the lookout for 100 species of birds for this year’s Century Day! We’ll meet at Kettle Creek at 7am then head to the River Valley to start our day. **Cost: \$35/EE Center members, \$40/non-members.** The fee includes lunch, beverages and snacks throughout the day. Registration and payment required and by Wednesday, May 8th. **Registration is limited.**

15th – Wednesday - Birding the Bog with Pocono Avian Research Center at 7am - *See April 29th listing.*

16th – Thursday – Learn the Birds: Identification Series – Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm where you can learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at **identifying warblers** including common yellowthroat, prairie warbler, magnolia warbler, hooded warbler and more. All ages welcome.

18th – Saturday - It Could Happen to Anyone (Hug-a-Tree Program) - Anyone can get lost in the woods. This program with Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle from 10 – 11:30 am is for children ages 5 – 12 and their parents. It will teach children what to do if they do get lost and include a demonstration with the Northeast Search and Rescue K- 9 Unit.

19th - Sunday – Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at 1pm at the

Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour 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: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.**

22nd – Wednesday - Birding the Bog with Pocono Avian Research Center at 7am - *See April 29th listing.*

25th – Saturday - Building Closed

27th – Monday - Building Closed – Holiday

30th - Thursday – Canoe/Kayak Trip at the Bog - Join us on a paddling trip into the Bog Preserve on Cranberry Creek. The program lasts 3 hours. Participants are required to provide their own kayak or canoe. Meet at the Bog parking lot at 10am. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.**

JUNE

1st – Saturday - Red Cross Blood Drive - We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-1pm. 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.

1st – Saturday – Art Opening: Terry Flatt “Nature’s Magic” – The exhibit will include beautiful photos from countries including Great Britain, Europe, Africa, South America, Australia/New Zealand, Iceland, Norway and more! *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs May 31st through July 1st.*

5th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at 10am 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: \$6/non-**

***Preregistration is suggested for all programs offered and required for those where noted.

All programs are \$6 for non-members, \$4 children under 12, EE Center Members are FREE, unless otherwise listed.

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



Join us for Bug Fest on July 13th!

See website for details.



MCCD 2019 Rain Barrel Sale Order Form

PICK-UP DATE: Saturday, April 27, 2019
TIME: 11am - 2pm at Northampton Community College Monroe Campus
ORDER DEADLINE: Wednesday, April 17, 2019

members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.

6th - Thursday – Canoe/Kayak Trip at the Bog - See May 30th listing.

8th – Saturday – Bird Fest - Come to the Environmental Education Center for a celebration of everything Avian, during Bird Fest from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Learn about what makes birds so special. There will be a lot of fun activities, games, and bird walks, banding demos and the bird call competition. **Cost is \$5/ children ages 4 through 12, free for adults and children 3 and under.**

9th - Sunday – Public Bog Walk - See May 19th listing.

12th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 5th listing.

13th - Thursday – Canoe/Kayak Trip at the Bog - See May 30th listing.

13th – Thursday – Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series - Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm to learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at **identifying breeding birds** including black-capped chickadee, indigo bunting, house wren and more. All ages welcome.

14th – Friday – Building Closed – Holiday

15th – Saturday - Building Open - 9am-1pm

19th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 5th listing.

21st – Friday - Family Campout at Kettle Creek - From 7pm Friday through 7pm Saturday, join Pocono Avian Research Center for campfire stories, a night hike, morning birding, salamander meander, fossil hunting and more! Details to follow.

22nd – Saturday – Building Closed

23rd – Sunday - Kettle Creek Picnic – Join the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff for an afternoon filled with hands on activities, refreshments and fun! There will be live snakes, bird-banding and an award presentation for the Volunteer of the Year. This event is free and runs from 12pm-3pm!

26th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 5th listing.

29th – Saturday - Herp Walk - Join environmental educator Alexandra Machrone at 10 am for a walk around Kettle Creek looking for reptiles and amphibians. We will be searching under rocks and logs and looking in ponds to see how many cool critters we can discover.

Rain Barrel Features:

- ◆ 58-Gallon, Repurposed, Food-Grade Plastic Barrel
- ◆ Terra Cotta Colored, once held olives
- ◆ 42 inches tall x 24 inches wide
- ◆ Bulk Head Style Fittings
- ◆ 2 Piece Screened Lid
- ◆ 2 Screened Overflows
- ◆ Neoprene Gaskets
- ◆ Brass Spigot & Bottom Drain
- ◆ No Adhesives used in Construction
- ◆ Fixtures are all garden-hose thread
- ◆ Non-Corrodible Materials
- ◆ Does not need to be hard fit
- ◆ May connect two barrels together via the bottom drain using a garden hose
- ◆ May swap the spigot with the bottom drain and elevate the barrel to maximize the available water
- ◆ Not included: downspout elbow or garden hose



\$75

Mail Order and Check To:
 Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)
 8050 Running Valley Road
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360
Checks made payable to: MCCD

✂

Rain Barrel Cost: 75.00/ea.

X number of barrels: _____

= Sub Total: _____

6% Sales Tax: _____

Total: _____

NAME _____

PHONE NUMER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

EMAIL _____

✂

Get in Touch with Nature Camp

Ages 7-13

From Monday, August 5 through Friday, August 16, 2019 your child can spend one week or two with the experienced staff at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center "Getting in Touch with Nature"!

Campers will be split into age groups and will participate in age appropriate activities. We'll explore the trails at the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary; learn about the critters, plants and habitats of the Poconos; venture to other cool places in Monroe County; splash around in the puddles, ponds and creeks at Kettle Creek and so much more! It's a camp that you don't want to miss. Hands-on activities combined with the resources of the EE Center provide a safe environment for a child interested in "Getting in Touch With Nature". Camp is Monday through Friday from 8am - 3:30pm.

Cost: 2 Weeks/EE Member/\$250, Non-member/\$275 or 1 Week EE Member/\$160, Non-member/\$175. Late Pick-up 3:30 – 6pm Cost: \$50/week or \$10/day. Applications available at mconserver.org.



Family

PICNIC

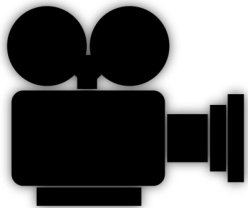
Sunday, June 23rd • 12pm-3pm



Birdbanding • Live Snakes • Refreshments

Games, Activities and More!

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund's Outdoor/Environmental SHORT FILM COMPETITION



BEST FILM: \$500 CASH PRIZE

1ST RUNNER UP: \$250

2ND Runner Up: \$150

Winners will also receive two complimentary tickets to the KCEF Dinner on September 20, 2019 at Trout Lake Retreat and a write-up in the dinner program.

RULES:

- Film must be created by a student either residing in or attending a Monroe County school, college or university.
- Film must be no longer than five minutes in length.
- Film must have an environmental or outdoor recreation theme.
- Each director can submit a maximum of two films.
- Films must be submitted on a flash drive or disc no later than August 2, 2019.
- To submit a film: complete the film application (available online) and submit along with the copy of your film to: KCEF, 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.

****By submitting your film, you are giving KCEF (Kettle Creek Environmental Fund) the right to view and share your film, in part or in its entirety, for future promotion of KCEF.*

For questions, please email kettlecreekfund@gmail.com. The film competition information including a full set of rules and application can be found online at www.mcconservation.org.

If you are interested in learning more about KCEF or its annual dinner, please also visit us on the web. ♡

Saturday, April 27, 2019

Live Music

E-cycling

Tire Amnesty

Earth Speaks Exhibit

10am-3pm

Monroe County Earth Day



Exhibitors

Family Activities

Give & Take Event

Children's Activities



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Northampton
Community College

MONROE CAMPUS

www.mcearthday.org

PUBLISHED BY:
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WEBSITE: mcconservation.org

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

**SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE!**

CONSERVATION CAMP

Sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District and Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs

JULY

20-27

**OVERNIGHT
RESIDENTIAL**

**Ages 14 through
2019 HS Graduate**

**Stony Acres Ropes Course
Wildlife Management
Two-Day River Trip
Archery
And More!**

**Download Applications at:
www.mcconservation.org**

**CONTACT:
Roger Spotts
(570)629-3061
rsmccd@ptd.net**