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MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Spring 2021 Newsletter

Volume 45 No. 1

# Exciting Bus Trips Offered for Fall



**K**ettle Creek is excited to be sponsoring bus trips to wonderful, wild places once again. We will be journeying to the "PA Wilds" in late September to observe bugling elk in their home range on September 20-22. If you are more into the beach and birds, we will be visiting Assateague Island and Chincoteague in Virginia on October 24-27. There are limited spaces available on each trip so don't delay in registering!

The elk trip is an opportunity to see this majestic animal in its natural habitat as the breeding season is taking place and the large, dominant bulls are bugling and are more visible. It also is a great opportunity to see some truly wild places in Pennsylvania as we travel through the forests of the north-central part of the state. This three day trip features elk viewing as well as visits to four state parks, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon and a cabin stay along a beautiful stream.

The Assateague and Chincoteague Birding Adventure will take us to Assateague Island for bird watching, scenic beach exploration and the opportunity to view the famous wild horses that inhabit the island. We will stay three nights in Chincoteague, Virginia and explore the National Wildlife Refuge as well as state park facilities. We will also take a boat ride around the beautiful bays and marshes in search of close-up looks at the birds and horses that inhabit the area.

We will be following all CDC recommended COVID-19 guidelines throughout the trip and full refunds will be given if we cancel the trip. Spaces on both trips are going quickly, please register early. ♡

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Conservation District  
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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 you are all safe and healthy as we move into spring. Programs are continuing, and maple sugaring had a good year. We have tentatively selected October 7th, 2021 as the date for our annual fundraiser at Trout Lake. A final decision on this event will be made in early summer, and hopefully it can be held as planned. We are also participating in the 24 hour NEPA Gives online fundraising event on June 4, and further information on this event will be forthcoming. Please support us in this effort and please stay safe.  
-John Woodling, KCEF President

**30<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Dinner**

**October 7th, 2021**



**KCEF Board Members**

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



**Dear Members and Friends,**

The birds are singing, the trees are budding, and spring has arrived in the Poconos. With the arrival of spring we have also expanded the activities at Kettle Creek. We are offering outside Saturday programs on select days as well as programs for preschoolers during May. We will continue to build up our program offerings as CDC guidelines permit and we are hopeful that a full schedule of environmental education programs, field trips, and activities are just around the corner.

We are excited about our two summer camps for July and August as well as our fall bus trips to the PA Wilds and Chincoteague. We look forward to opening the building to the public beginning June 1 including the Gift Shop, the Gallery and the Display room for visitors once again. We will also be displaying art in the gallery with the first exhibit being the winners of our 2020 photo contest during the month of June. All visitors will be required to wear masks at our programs and while visiting the building until further notice.

The trails remain open daily for hiking and exploring and Lilliana's Nature Discovery area is a great place for kids to burn off some of the excess energy they have from being cooped up indoors. There is a lot happening at Kettle Creek and we hope you can get involved. We will be adding programs to our schedule as we go so please check out our website regularly for the latest updates or follow us on Facebook or Instagram to find the latest news.

Wishing all of a safe and enjoyable spring and hope to see you soon. ♦

Sincerely,  
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff



# Maple Sugaring 2021: All SWEET Things Must Come to an End



When we arrived to set up the sugar bush for our 2021 Maple sugaring season we were greeted by 27" of snow and all the challenges that brings to maple sugaring. The staff jumped right in, literally and got the sugar bush set up and ready to go. The snow kept the ground and air temperatures cold through late February so the sap run started a little later than normal and we had to tap trees on snowshoes (which is always interesting).

We had our first run of sap on Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and even though it was a small amount, the sugar content was excellent and the syrup was sweet! Over the course of the next few weeks, we had enough sap almost every day to keep the evaporator fired up and slowly producing syrup. Due to COVID-19 we had to modify our programs and our groups were limited but the two public days on March 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> were very well attended and registration was completely full. We were not able to serve pancakes but the maple syrup lollipops were a big hit. We had a record number of tree sponsors, 230, whom donated \$25 each and received recognition and Kettle Creek maple syrup for their support.

When you are out in the sugar bush collecting sap, hanging buckets and boiling the sap, it is a great time to welcome in spring as well. The Kettle Creek staff was treated to flocks of geese overhead, the battling nuthatches at the bird feeders, and the arrival of the phoebes telling us the season was ending as they chas-tised us to leave the sugar shack so they could build their nest above the woodpile. The warm temperature and swelling buds brought an end to the season on March 25<sup>th</sup>.



## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### APRIL

**17<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Early Spring Bird Walk** - Join a Kettle Creek staff member for a morning birding adventure. We will visit several different habitats throughout the property to see some of our early Spring migrants and our usual residents courting and nesting. We will begin our walk from the KC parking lot at 8:30am sharp! We will have a few pairs of binoculars for guests to use, but feel free to bring your own. This birding program is appropriate for teens and adults. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

**24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Earth Day Family Scavenger Hunt** – Join us for an Earth Day Scavenger Hunt! Families or groups can pick up a sheet of riddles that they must work together to solve as they explore the trails at Kettle Creek. Small prizes will be awarded upon completion and a random winner will be chosen to receive a special prize. **Scavenger hunt sheets will be distributed at 1pm and participants should plan to complete the scavenger hunt and check in no later than 2:30pm. Pre-registration is required as spaces are limited. Cost: \$10 per family.**

**26<sup>th</sup> – Monday –Healthy Forest Walk** - Join Environmental Educator, Roger Spotts, for this 90 minute hike at Kettle Creek looking at trees and what makes a healthy Forest Habitat. Walk will begin at 10am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

**27<sup>th</sup> – KC for Preschoolers – Tremendous Trees** – Join us as we learn all about trees and discover what makes them so special! This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$5 per child**

**28<sup>th</sup> - Exploring Long Pond: A Trip Down the Tunkhannock Creek Marshlands** - Join us on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> for a 6-mile paddle through the

Tunkhannock Creek and Long Pond wetland system. This rare and diverse protected habitat-the Pocono Barrens-is home to many special species of plants and animals, which can be difficult to see-except from the water! The trip will begin at gam where we will meet at the bridge on Kuhenbeaker Road, arrange shuttle, and then paddle to our take-out spot on Long Pond around 3pm. **Participants need to provide their own canoe/kayak, PFD, appropriate water shoes, binoculars, lunch, water bottle, and be sure to dress in layers! Cost: \$15/non-member, \$10/EE Center member and children under 12. Pre-registration is required by Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Registration is limited.**

### MAY

**1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday – Spring Bird Migration through the Forest** - Birds depend on healthy forests for food and nesting areas. Join us at 8am for this two hour morning walk at Kettle Creek to look for migrating and resident songbirds. Participants should bring binoculars. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

**8<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Poking in the Pond** - Join us on Saturday, May 8th as we explore the ponds at Kettle Creek and discover the fascinating aquatic critters living there. Learn about the food web in the pond and the special adaptations that allow these animals to survive in their aquatic environment. We will catch and identify the unusual creatures that call this place home, so please wear shoes that can get muddy or wet (no open-toed footwear, please). This hands-on, family-oriented program starts at 10am; buckets and nets will be provided. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

**11<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday – KC for Preschoolers - Play Date with Nature** - Join us at 10am where kids will learn that it's okay to get their hands dirty, in fact, it's good for them! During our time they will immerse their senses in nature as

well as create art made with materials from the earth. This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$5 per child**

**18<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday – KC for Preschoolers – Wonderful Worms** - Join us at 10am where we will explore the Kettle Creek property in search of earthworms and learn all about them along the way. This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants. Cost: \$5 per child**

**22<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday – Birding Photo Walk** – Join Matt at gam on this photowalk where we try to capture some of the birds that call KC home. A telephoto lens of 200mm or longer is preferred but not required. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

**25<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday – KC for Preschoolers – Terrific Turtles** – Join us at 10am where we will learn about turtles and do a cool turtle craft! This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. **Pre-registration is required and limited to 10 participants. \$5 per child**

**31<sup>st</sup> – Monday - Building Closed – Holiday**



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

**Saturday, June 5th  
from 9am-2pm**

For information, call Barbara at (570) 629-3060.

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

[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800-RED CROSS

Pre-registration is required and limited for all programs. All participants are required to wear masks and practice physical distancing for all programs. Please continue to check our website and social media for calendar updates and changes. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.



# 2021 Conservation Camp

The Monroe County Conservation District and the Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs is pleased to announce the dates for the 2021 Monroe County Conservation Camp from July 17<sup>th</sup> through 24<sup>th</sup>. The Camp will be held at East Stroudsburg University's Stony Acres facility near Marshalls Creek. This camp was started in 1975 and provides students ages 14 through this year's high school graduate with the opportunity to spend a week with conservation professionals learning all about the local environment and their professions. Filled with hands-on activities and experiences, the camp has been proven to be a fun-filled event for all involved. Some of the more popular activities include: Wildlife Management, Archery, Challenge Course, Astronomy, Fly Fishing and the two-day canoe trip on the Delaware River.



This year's camp will be following all the CDC COVID-19 guidelines and will have limited registration. Campers will work with other teenagers in an outdoor setting in an electronics free camp learning and sharing many new experiences. Registration is now open! Check out the application on our [website](#) and register early for this one of a kind camp experience



## Kicking off the Monroe County Water Quality Study

This spring staff from the Monroe County Conservation District and the Monroe County Planning Commission geared up in waders to kick off the annual Water Quality Study. A total of 41 sites were sampled within each major watershed in Monroe County over a two-week period. Water samples were collected for lab analysis, and in stream monitoring was conducted with a multiparameter meter to document the streams pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. Additionally, aquatic bugs or "macroinvertebrates" were sampled by kicking and sweeping the stream substrate into D-frame nets, to quantify an Index of Biological Integrity or "IBI" score.

Aquatic macroinvertebrates tell us a good deal about the water quality of our streams based on their level of pollution tolerance. Critters like stoneflies, mayflies, and caddisflies are generally less tolerant to pollution and their prevalence in many of our streams indicates the relative abundance of clean water. The study is important for document our water quality over time and helps us to identify both high quality and exceptional streams as well as streams that are possibly becoming impaired. While the 2021 study will be available later this year, the 2020 Water Quality Study report and a Story Map of the sites and data collected from 2015-2020 is available at [monroecountypa.gov](http://monroecountypa.gov).



**Exciting News!**

We have a shipment of rain barrels arriving the first week of May, these barrels will be for sale through the gift shop for \$90 plus tax. Please call to reserve your barrel today! *Quantities limited.*





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*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

**Hands-on  
Outdoor  
Experiences**



**Experienced  
Environmental  
Educators**

Spend one week or two with the staff at  
Kettle Creek EE Center

**“Getting in Touch with Nature!”**



We'll **explore** the trails at the Kettle Creek  
Wildlife Sanctuary;

**learn** about the critters, plants, and  
habitats of the Poconos;

**splash** around in the puddles, ponds, and  
creeks at Kettle Creek;

**cook** over a campfire, and so much more!

**It's a camp that you don't want to miss!**

**Ages 7 - 13**

**August 2<sup>nd</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Camp is Monday–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 [mconconservation.org](http://mconconservation.org)

