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www.mcconservation.org



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Spring 2023 Newsletter

Volume 46 No. 1

Capture Adventure at Conservation Camp!



For the past 48 years, the Monroe County Conservation District along with Monroe County Sportsmen's clubs have held an outdoor camp for teenagers. This camp is truly a unique experience which has exposed over 1,200 teenagers to the outdoor world and all its resources. We feel the camp creates an environment where every camper can participate in numerous outdoor activities while being a part of a group of 30 teenagers plus staff.

Campers from past years have commented on being a little uncertain when first arriving at camp but by the end of the week they considered it one of the best experiences ever. We strive to make the camp a positive experience for all participants and we feel the campers not only learn about the outdoors from many professionals in the field but also learn a little more about themselves along the way.

Activities include programs on natural history, wildlife management, water quality, archery, trap shooting, a high adventure ropes course and a two-day canoe trip on the Delaware River. Each activity is led by professionals in the field and is designed to be both informative and enjoyable. The camp is held at Stony Acres, an East Stroudsburg University facility near Marshall's Creek. The cost for the entire week is \$200 and includes everything from lodging to meals. We also have scholarships available for qualified campers. The 2023 camp will be held Saturday, July 15 through July 22 and applications are available online at mcconservation.org or by stopping in our Center. Camp is limited to 30 campers so please register early!

Inside This Issue

KCEF Update
Page 2

Around Kettle Creek
Page 2

Engineering Workshop
Page 3

Dirt & Gravel Workshop
Page 3

Calendar of Events
Page 4-6

Christmas Bird Count
Page 7

Maple Sugaring Photos
Page 7

BugFest Save the Date
Page 8

Day Camps for the Younger Crew

Get in Touch with Nature—Ages 7-10— Choose one week: June 19th - 23rd, July 31st - August 4th or August 7th - 11th—Get outside and explore this special place we call home! This camp is very hands on with nature so plan on getting muddy! **\$170 per camper**

Adventure Camp—Ages 11-13— Choose one week: June 19th - 23rd or July 31st - August 4th, 2023—Grab your gear and head out with us as we explore interesting places in the Poconos. This camp will include lots of fun field trips! **\$210 per camper**

*Camps are Monday through Friday, 8am-3:30pm with late pickup available for an additional fee. See application or give us a call for details. Applications can be found online at www.mcconservation.org.

Find us on Social Media!





**Monroe County
Conservation District
Board of Directors**

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Roger McFadden, Treasurer
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Donna Foulk
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Office Assistant Seniors

Becky Hippler
Groundskeeper

The Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at 10am on the third Thursday of each month in the District office. Work sessions are at 9am preceding the board meeting.

**Kettle Creek Environmental
Fund Update**

After 30 years on the Board and more than half of those as President, John Woodling has stepped down as President. He will remain a Board member and we look forward to John's continuing participation on the Board.

As many of you know, I was a member of the original KCEF Board in the early 1990's, co-chairing the first few fundraising dinners with Carol Dorshimer. In 2020 I returned as a Board member and have been working with the current Board the last few years. In February, the Board elected me to follow in John's footsteps as President. I can't say enough about how much the Board and the Conservation District staff have appreciated John's hard work over his tenure as President.

Save the Date—Thursday, September 21st, 2023! Our next fundraising dinner will once again take place at Trout Lake. We look forward to your attendance, donations and sponsorships in support of environmental educational projects. And don't forget to attend and participate in the EE Center programs described further in this newsletter.

-Dr. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President



Wow, here it is March 2023 and the EE staff is in the middle of maple sugaring. The season has gotten off to a great start and with each passing year it seems to start a little earlier. The staff enjoys producing the syrup and also meeting people of all ages who visit us in the sugar bush. While we are busy in the sugar bush we are noticing signs of spring constantly, the birds are singing their spring calls, the geese are migrating overhead, insects are starting to show up in the sap buckets and it won't be long until spring arrives.

With the arrival of spring, our Kettle Creek schedule gets very busy with school field trips to the Bog, Meesing and Kettle Creek. These next few months we will be working with several thousand students from area schools, helping them to learn more about their local environment. At the same time, we hope to offer programs for the general public on a variety of topics, including bird watching, seasonal changes, visits to the Tannersville Bog and some exciting kayaking opportunities.

This spring we also hope you celebrate Earth Day in some way. We will not be offering the County wide Earth Day celebration that we did in the past but we hope you take the time to enjoy the outdoors not only on April 22 but throughout the year.

Finally, please take the time to look at our summer camp programs for campers ages 7-18. We feel we offer some unique camp opportunities that are different from your standard summer camp because of all the hands-on experiences the participants have an opportunity to focus on. We are especially looking for teenagers who want to be "unplugged" from technology for a week and enjoy the company of 30 other campers as they explore the Monroe County outdoor environment at Conservation Camp. So much to do and so little time---we hope you join us at Kettle Creek!

Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

**KCEF
Board
Members**



Dr. Elaine Rogers, President
Leslie J. Berger, Vice-President
Joseph Bedrick, Secretary
Patrick Calpin
Gareth Denniston
Ed Cramer
Kara Klaus-Major
Jim Lambert
Brianna Strunk
Christine Wilkins
John Woodling

Save The Date

For the
2023 Engineering Solutions Workshop
Presented By:

Monroe and Pike County Conservation Districts

Friday, May 12th

8:30 AM -3:30 PM

NCC Monroe Campus- 2411 Rt. 715 Tannersville, PA 18372

6 PDH Credits Available

Topics Include:

- Spray Irrigation
- Site Feasibility Analysis
- Managed Release Concept (MRC)
- Notice of Termination
- Permit Processing Changes
- New BMP Manual



Registration will open April 3, 2023

RSVP by April 21, 2023

Cost is \$100.00 per person



Monroe County
Conservation District
monroecd@ptd.net
(570) 629-3060



Pike County
Conservation District
pikecd@pikepa.org
(570) 226-8220



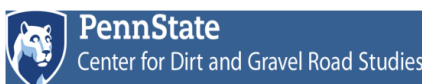
Monroe County Conservation District to Host Dirt and Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop *Homeowner Associations and Homeowners Are Encouraged to Attend!*

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! Learn how to identify signs and causes of erosion. Find out why short term solutions repeatedly fail. Discover long lasting solutions to sustainable gravel road design and how they work. Learn about the different types of stone aggregate, underground drainage systems to improve road base, permit requirements for stream crossings, and more. **This workshop**



will be held on Saturday April 29, 2023 at Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center from 9-11AM. Time will be allotted after the program for your site-specific questions. Bring Photos if you have them. SPACE IS LIMITED.

RESERVE YOUR SEAT BY CALLING 570-629-3060. Sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program.





2023 Spring Programming

Egg-ceptional Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, April 1st - 10am

Bring the family for a special egg-themed scavenger hunt. Participants will explore the Kettle Creek property, discover “egg clues” and figure out the answers, all while learning about animals that begin life as an egg! Prizes will be awarded to those families who complete the hunt. **Cost: \$10 per family.**

Art Opening: Laurinda Faye Guarriello

"A Photographer's Dance through the Poconos"

Saturday, April 1st - 11am

Come out and meet the artist for the debut of her display in the Gallery at Kettle Creek. Laurinda's work features nature photographs of images taken in the Poconos over the years. Laurinda's photography will be on display through the month of April. **Preregistration is not required for this program. There is no charge.**

Friday, April 7th —Building Closed—Holiday

Saturday, April 8th - Building Closed

Spring Mystery Birding Trip

Tuesday, April 11th - All Day

Hop on board the Kettle Creek Bus for a day of exploring parts of Monroe County. Join Roger Spotts as we visit several “wild” areas and do some hiking, birding, etc. The bus will depart the EE Center 8:30am and return by 4:00pm. Please dress for the weather and for some walking on wooded trails. Binoculars, a lunch, and something to drink are suggested. **Preregistration and payment required by Tuesday, April 4th. Cost: \$30 per person.**

The Great Pennsylvania Migrations

Saturday, April 15th - 10am

Come out to the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center and enjoy a presentation on the incredible journeys many animals take to reach Pennsylvania every year, as well as others who made the trip in times long past.

Cost: \$5 per person.

Saturday, April 22nd —Building Open

Hike at Resica Falls

Saturday, April 22nd —10am

Join us for a hike at the Resica Falls Conservation Easement off of Resica Falls Road. Participants should dress for the weather, wear sturdy footwear, and bring water. **In cooperation with the Brodhead Watershed Association and a grant through the William Penn Foundation there will be no charge for this walk.**

Register online at brodheadwatershed.org.

Saturday, April 29th —Building Closed

Exploring Long Pond: A Trip Down the Tunkhannock Creek Marshlands

Sunday, April 30th – 10am

Join us for a 6-mile paddle through the Tunkhannock Creek and Long Pond wetland system. The trip will begin at 10am where we will meet at the bridge on Kuhenbeaker Road, arrange shuttle, and then paddle to our take-out spot on Long Pond around 4pm. Participants can supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle and life jacket or specify rental needs at time of registration. (Our limited kayak rentals are first-come, first-serve, and come with a paddle, life jacket, and whistle.) Participants should also bring appropriate water shoes, binoculars, lunch,



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
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water bottle, and be sure to dress in layers! *This trip is water level dependent and cancellation may occur.*

Pre-registration is required by Tuesday before the program. Registration is limited.

Cost: \$15 if you bring your own boat, \$25 to use KCEEC Boat

Birding the Bog

Wednesday, May 3rd - 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. **Pre-registration is required and limited.**

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

Full Moon Bog Hike

Thursday, May 4th - 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: \$6 per person

Saturday, May 6th—Building Open

Birding the Bog

Wednesday, May 10th - 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. **Pre-registration is required and limited.**

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

Meet the Artist: Joyce Love

“From Here to There Capturing Nature’s Beauty”

Saturday, May 13th - 11am

Local artist Joyce Love will be at the Gallery at Kettle Creek for a meet and greet session to discuss her latest exhibit which will feature paintings of various scenes (most with wild flora and fauna) from the Poconos and other areas. Her work will be on display through the month of May. **Preregistration is not required for this program. There is no charge.**

Birding the Bog

Wednesday, May 17th - 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. **Pre-registration is required and limited.**

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

Saturday, May 20th—Building Closed

Sunday Bog Walk

Sunday, May 21st - 1pm

Join us 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. **Pre-registration is required and limited.**

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, May 27th—Building Closed

Monday, May 29th—Building Closed—Holiday

Canoe/Kayak Trip at the Bog

Thursday, June 1st – 10am

Join us on a paddling trip into the Bog Preserve on Cranberry Creek. The program lasts 3 hours. Participants can supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle and life jacket or specify rental needs at time of registration. (Our limited kayak rentals are first-come, first-serve, and come with a paddle, life jacket, and whistle.)

Meet at the Bog parking lot at 10am. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Cost: \$15 or \$25 if equipment rental is needed

Full Moon Paddle at Brady's Lake

Saturday, June 3rd - 8pm

Join the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center and enjoy a unique and leisurely paddle around the remote Brady's Lake under the full moon. We'll listen and look for animals that become active when the light fades to night. Participants can supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle, life jacket, and flashlight or headlamp or specify rental needs at time of registration. (Our limited kayak rentals are first-come, first-serve, and come with a paddle, life jacket, and whistle.) Meet at Brady's Lake parking lot in SGL#127 by 8pm. This event may be cancelled if inclement weather.

Preregistration required and limited. Suggested donation of \$15, \$25 if using KCEEC rental equipment.

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, June 7th - 10am

Join us 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. **Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville**

Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Canoe/Kayak Trip at the Bog

Thursday, June 8th - 10am

Join us on a paddling trip into the Bog Preserve on Cranberry Creek. The program lasts 3 hours. Participants can supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle and life jacket or specify rental needs at time of registration. (Our limited kayak rentals are first-come, first-serve, and come with a paddle, life jacket, and whistle.)

Meet at the Bog parking lot at 10am. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Cost: \$15 or \$25 if equipment rental is needed

Sunday Bog Walk

Sunday, June 11th - 11am

Join us at 11am 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: \$6 per person

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, June 14th - 10am

Join us 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. **Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville**

Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Sunset Bog Walk

Thursday, June 15th - 7pm

Explore the beauty of the bog just as the sun sets. Please wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Monday, June 19th—Building Closed—Holiday

THE 42ND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT



On December 18, 2022, twenty-eight volunteers spent a total of 62 hours scouring the Poconos for birds as part of the National Audubon Society’s Christmas Bird Count. The CBC is the oldest citizen science effort in the world. This year, the Pocono Mountain count circle added a total of 3891 birds of 58 different species.

Highlights included a record number of hooded mergansers, a great blue heron and a fox sparrow. Although there were no firsts for the count circle black vultures had another spectacular showing of 64 individuals. Given that there were none ever recorded in the first three decades of effort it is a clear signal that the climate is changing. Another sign being detected by efforts like the CBC is the black-capped chickadee. For decades this species always outnumbered those of the tufted titmouse. For the second season in a row the titmouse count has exceeded that of the chickadee. In the southern portion of the black-capped chickadees range there is competition with the Carolina chickadee. Where the two species intermingle hybridization is occurring as the Carolina chickadees range expands northward due to habitat suitability brought on by climate change. We know that Carolina chickadees have reached the south side of the Kittatinny Ridge in Northampton County, where active hybridization between the two species is being monitored by Dr. Amber Rice and her grad students at Lehigh University. Her research shows that most of the hybrid eggs are infertile and never hatch leading to decline in the population. There is some evidence that things are not yet suitable for Carolina chickadees north of the Kittatinny in the Poconos, although they have already crossed the ridge to our southwest. Perhaps our efforts during the PM CBC are showing the vanguard of Carolina chickadee incursion. This is something that bears monitoring in the future.

We want to thank all the volunteers for their continued efforts to keep this important work going. The 43rd annual Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count will be held on Sunday December 17, 2023. Mark it on your calendars now so you don’t miss out on being part of this worthwhile effort, and all of the fun of course.

Darryl Speicher
PM CBC Compiler



Maple Sugaring 2023

Than you to our Tree Sponsors, Volunteers and Attendees for another amazing year!



Photos Courtesy of
Ann Summa

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Save the Date!
Saturday, July 8th, 2023

BugFest

A Celebration of Insects!

See mcconservation.org for more information

