



MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Conservation Through Education

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Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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Website: mcconservation.org

Summer 2017 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 41 No. 3

# A Festival for All Things Buggy

What do caterpillars, ants, lightning bugs, grasshoppers, moths, cicadas, beetles and butterflies all have in common? They fascinate kids, freak out adults and they all belong to the largest group of animals on the planet – INSECTS. Join us for the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual **Bug Fest at Kettle Creek** on Saturday, July 8, from 10 am to 3 pm.

This annual event cohosted by the 4-H Insects Are Us Club features all day insect safaris, carnival games, buggy arts and crafts, the trivia wheel, the insect Olympics, a glass bee hive, a butterfly tent, presentations given by club members and the Insect Fashion Show – all family



members that come dressed as their favorite insect not only get to participate in the show but also get \$1 off of the admission fee. While at Bug Fest, visit all of the passport stamping stations and get a prize. Cost for Bug Fest is \$5 for children from ages 4 - 12. If you're under 3 or over 12 there is no cost to attend.

This is the social event of the summer season for families and friends of families with children. Children will have the time of their lives and the adults that join them might just find they've recaptured that childhood fascination they once had for all things creepy, crawly. ☼



## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION A SENSATION!

Under less than ideal weather conditions 1500 people joined us for the Monroe County Earth Day Celebration at the Northampton Community College Monroe Campus on Saturday, April 22. Intermittent periods of rain and cool temperatures couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of Earth Day goers as they listened to music, visited exhibitors and participated in family games and other activities. Close the Loop's annual give and take generated nearly 4,000 items donated for reuse, while the Monroe County Waste Management Authority collected 21,200 pounds of tires and 15,700 pounds of electronics for recycling. After back-to-back very successful events we are confident that the third Saturday of April will become a regular fixture on everyone's spring calendar. Join us on Saturday, April 21, 2018 for the next Monroe County Earth Day Celebration. ☼

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**Monroe County  
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 26th Anniversary KCEF Dinner/Auction was held on May 12, 2017 at Camelback with almost 200 people in attendance. A beautiful evening provided a great backdrop for this annual event. The Board extends its sincere thanks to our sponsors, donors and all who attended. Special thanks to Brendan McDonald, our auctioneer, to the Crop Circle Agents for once again providing entertainment, and the KCEEC staff for all their hard work in making the evening a success. Net proceeds were just under \$30,000, bringing the total raised since KCEF's inception to nearly \$850,000. A total of 26 sponsors, supported the event and their assistance is sincerely appreciated.

The Rose Schoch Award was presented to Frank May of Buck Hill Falls. He is past president of the Buck Hill Conservation Foundation and current president of the Barrett Township Open Space Advisory Committee. He has been a champion of open space education and protection in the greater Barrett township region. The award was present-

ed by KCEF Board member, Alan Young.

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

The KCEF Board thanks everyone who helped make this a successful year and wishes all a safe and healthy summer. *-John Woodling, KCEF President*

**26th Annual  
Dinner/Auction  
May 12, 2017**



**KCEF Board Members**

John Woodling, Pres.  
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.  
Thomas Felver, Treas.  
Jeffrey Wright, Sec.  
Joseph Bedrick  
Tim Brooks  
Patrick Calpin  
Charles Cilurso  
Trudi Lynn Denlinger  
Tim Fisher, II  
Kara Klaus-Major  
John Reilly  
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**Spaces are still available on our September 18-20 and October 9-11 Elk Trips! Visit [mccconservation.org](http://mccconservation.org) for more information.**

## News 'N Notes

### Healthy Pasture Healthy Horse

With the spring season in full bloom, you may notice that your pastures look as good as they have all year. It is important to maintain a healthy pasture by implementing best management practices such as rotational grazing to help maintain the health of your horse. We also need to be mindful about what types of forage species are actually growing in the pastures; some species can be toxic to horses and other livestock.

One way to prevent horses from eating toxic plants that commonly occur in pastures is to make sure good quality forages are abundant. Horses will only eat toxic plants if that is all the pasture has to offer. This usually occurs when the pastures experience a season of drought or if they are overgrazed. At this time, the horse may look to the toxic plants in hopes of finding a new source of food. Some toxic plants commonly found on pastures are:

*Alsike clover* – looks similar to red clover but has no distinctive white markings on leaves as commonly found on red or white clover.

*Butter cups*- small yellow flower with 5 petals commonly found on overgrazed pastures.

*Pokeweed* – tall plant that produces clustered purple berries commonly found around fence lines.

*Jimsonweed* – easily identified by its distinctive tree-like shape with white or purple trumpet like flowers, and prickly seed capsules.

Additionally, there is a variety of trees known to be toxic such as cherry, pear, peach, black walnut, and all maple trees. This list is by no means all-inclusive but should act as a good stepping stone into the world of toxic pasture plants. Remember, the key to maintaining healthy pastures is to implement best management practices whenever possible.

For more information regarding the health of your pastures please contact Penn State Cooperative Extension or the Monroe County Conservation District. Additionally, please check out our new website at [mconconservation.org](http://mconconservation.org) for a running list of common weeds found in Monroe County pastures and fields. ✨

### Monroe County Water Quality Study

As spring transitions into summer, we set out to take a dip and cool off in our favorite swimming hole. Others may head to that secret fishing spot where they seek out the “one that got away” last year. Regardless of how you decide to enjoy your time outdoors, I would bet that in one way or another you will be spending some time at one of the many high quality streams within Monroe County.

The Monroe County Water Quality Study, first begun in 1985, is now in its 29th year of sampling. The study is a collaborative sampling effort between the Monroe County Planning Commission, Monroe County Conservation District, and multiple other local organizations.

The Monroe County Water Quality Study seeks to analyze the overall health of a given stream by taking four different parameters into consideration: in-stream water chemistry, water chemistry- taken for laboratory analysis with 16 different parameters analyzed, aquatic macroinvertebrate community composition, and riparian habitat analysis. The combination of the above four parameters is used to provide an overall understanding of the health and quality of that given reach of stream.

The results from the study can then be used to identify potential areas of concern, potential locations for additional protection to be added to a stream, and to determine if streams are maintaining their previously known conditions. Every year, the study seeks to identify sampling points across the entire county, with hopes of obtaining long-term data on multiple sites to analyze trends and fluctuations in stream health.

Performing an annual county-wide water quality study helps to provide a better understanding of the complex dynamics of these stream ecosystems. With a large majority of the streams located in Monroe County having the designation of “High Quality or Exceptional Value Waters” it is important to monitor these streams so that these unique ecological resources can be maintained for future generations.

As you head out to perform your summer activities, I urge you to take a moment and admire these beautiful streams located throughout the county. Appreciate the beauty and functions they provide to us, the diverse aquatic life they sustain, and most importantly go have some fun!

If you would like to review the results of the 2016 Monroe County Water Quality study, please visit: [monroe-countypa.gov/Dept/Planning/Documents/2016AnnualReport.pdf](http://monroe-countypa.gov/Dept/Planning/Documents/2016AnnualReport.pdf) ✨

### MCCD Dirt Gravel, & Low Volume Road Program Road Maintenance Workshop Well Attended

Our spring workshop for homeowners and associations was well attended with participants from Monroe, Carbon and Luzerne counties. The group learned how to identify signs and causes of erosion, why short term solutions repeatedly fail, and discovered long lasting solutions to sustainable gravel road design and how they work.

The program included information about the different types of stone aggregate, underground drainage systems to improve road base, permit requirements for stream crossings, and more. There were even samples of locally available stone products for folks to see and lift and shake.

The program was well received and will likely be held again in the fall or next spring. Stay tuned! Funding for the program was provided through the state’s DGLVR program as a complement to our educational efforts aimed at improving water quality through environmentally sensitive road maintenance practices. *Better roads=Cleaner streams.* ✨



## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### JUNE

**24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Let's Look at Trees** - At 10a.m., join Environmental Education Coordinator, Roger Spotts, for this program and walk at Kettle Creek focusing on trees. We will go over basic tree ID techniques and then spend our time out on the trails identifying some of the trees at Kettle Creek.

**27<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Kettle Creek for Kids - "Oobleck" - Changing States of Matter** - Learn the basics of physical science with a classic Dr. Seuss story and an opportunity to make and interact with the non-newtonian "slime" called Oobleck! This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10-11am. Cost: \$5/non-member, \$3/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.

**28<sup>th</sup> - 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-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.

### JULY

**1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed**

**4<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Building Closed - Holiday**

**5<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Bug Fest** - See cover for details.

**9<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - Public Bog Walk - Sunday** - This walk begins at 1p.m. For more information see June 28 listing.

**11<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Kettle Creek for Kids - "Hoot Hoot Hooray for Owls"** - Owls are a hoot! For more information see June 27th listing.

**12<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Amphibian Tales with a Cuban Flair** - Molecular Biologist, Dr. John Burns, from the American Museum of Natural History is coming back to Kettle Creek and he's bringing a friend. His groundbreaking work, as part of a team,

studying the relationship between a green alga and the spotted salamander has made news around the world. He will update us on his work with these critters and share with us his newest interest in reconstructing ancient microbes in a talk titled "Green salamanders and ancient bugs." His friend is Dr. Antonio Cadiz, a visiting herpetologist from Havana, Cuba and will share with us a Story of Cuban Amphibians. This extraordinary day of science begins at 10 am and will end with a reception to thank these world class scientists for sharing their knowledge and passion with us.

**18<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Kettle Creek for Kids - "Sounds of Summer"** - Learn about animal sounds. For more information see June 27th listing.

**19<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**19<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Josie Porter Farm Meandering "Good Old Fashioned Nature Walk for the Whole Family"** - Fun for all ages this walk, from 4-6p.m., will feature hands-on activities highlighting some of the many wonderful natural features at the farm. Walks meet in the farm parking lot on Cherry Valley Rd. Pre-registration is suggested. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or CSA members, children under 12 free.

**22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed**

**25<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Kettle Creek for Kids - "Solar Art"** - Join us for a walk to find beautiful objects in nature, and then make an art project out of them using the power of the sun! For more information see June 27th listing.

**26<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**29<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed**

### AUGUST

**1<sup>st</sup> - Tuesday - Kettle Creek for Kids - "Show 'N Tell"** - Share treasures from nature. For more information see June 27th listing.

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**4<sup>th</sup> - Friday - "What's in the Pond? at Quiet Valley"** - Join Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff from 10am-12pm as we explore the pond at Quiet Valley. Using nets and buckets we will be searching out the many different creatures that live in the water and after looking at them we will return them to the

pond. Please dress to walk outside and possibly get wet muddy feet. The walk will begin in front of the Gift Shop.

**5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Sssnakes Alive!** - Learn about these fascinating but often maligned creatures during this always popular program with Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman. Designed for all ages, this one-hour program starts at 10:00 am and includes live snakes.

**5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Art Opening: Terry Kloiber "Expressions of Nature"** - Just as nature utilizes many combinations of shapes, textures and colors, so do the artistic renderings of Terry Kloiber. Opening reception 11a.m.-1p.m.

**9<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed**

**13<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - Public Bog Walk** - This walk begins at 1p.m. For more information see June 28 listing.

**16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Josie Porter Farm Meandering "Macro-invertebrates of Cherry Creek"** - Wear shorts and shoes you can get wet as we wade into Cherry Creek from 4-6p.m. and search for the fascinating insects that live under the water and tell us about water quality. See July 19th listing for more information.

**19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Building Open**

**23<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

**26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed**

**30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 28 listing.

### SEPTEMBER

**2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday - Building Closed - Holiday**

**4<sup>th</sup> - Monday - Building Closed - Holiday**

**5<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday - Full Moon Bog Walk** - Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30 p.m. and participants should bring a flashlight. For more information, please see listing for June 22nd.

**6<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see June 21st listing.

**9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday - Art Opening: Joan Lech "Wood as an Art Medium"** - Joan uses reclaimed wood from nature to create

\*Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or visit our website [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).

usable items and works of art through woodcarving and woodturning. Opening reception 11a.m.-1p.m.

**13<sup>th</sup> - 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: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.

**17<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - Public Bog Walk** – This walk begins at **1p.m.** For more information see June 28 listing.

**20<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see September 13 listing.

**22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday - Evening Walk and Stargazing at Quiet Valley**- As daylight fades the farm comes alive with the sounds of the nighttime creatures. Join Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff from 6:30pm-9:00pm as we hike at dusk to discuss this nighttime community and then end with stargazing in the field (weather permitting). Please dress to be outside. The walk will begin at the picnic pavilion at Quiet Valley.

**23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday – Building Closed**

**24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday - Open House**

**27<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk** - For more information see September 13 listing.

**30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday – Bird Feeding Basics** - Are you interested in feeding the birds? Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am to learn about winter bird identification, types of birdfeeders and the different birdseed available at Kettle Creek.

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

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

**More information on these programs can be found on our website: [mconconservation.org](http://mconconservation.org)**

# Water Ways



## Stream Restoration Work on Cherry Creek

Trails were reopened in May at the new Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge, the former Cherry Valley Golf Course, under the management of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Restoration work at the Cherry Valley is beginning to take shape, transforming the old golf course to a more natural state. USFWS recently acquired the property adding 193 acres to the Cherry Valley Wildlife Refuge, a refuge known to support endangered bog turtle populations. The restoration work consisted of meadow plantings which are beginning to come in with the assistance of June's steady rain, transforming the manicured turf into a sea of silvery grasses. With the assistance of the USFWS and the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited, a 1000-foot section of Cherry Creek is taking on a new life. Boulder placements, cross-vanes, and log deflectors are shaping the channel to create variable flow regimes, providing multiple micro-habitats preferred by trout species and other aquatic organisms. Additionally, riparian plantings were completed along the stream's floodplain consisting of a variety of native grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and trees.

Fish habitat structures like those implemented in the Cherry Creek project promote development of riffles, runs, and pools all equally important in promoting habitat for trout and the aquatic insects they feed on. The instream structures are designed to scour and sort bedload sediments and create gentle meanders within the stream. The meanders help to decrease the gradient of the stream, like switchbacks on a mountain road, reducing the overall flow velocity promoting a more stable stream channel. Buffer plantings will also help protect the high quality stream by improving bank stability, providing shade and filtering stormwater. Monitoring of the water quality and stream habitat is also planned to assess the success of the project in the oncoming years. ⚙️

**Don't forget the little ones!**  
Kettle Creek for Kids programs run Tuesdays through August 1 from 10-11am for ages 4-6.





### Family Canoe Trip on the Delaware

August 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

Join Kettle Creek EE staff for a fun and relaxing two-day paddling trip on the Delaware River! The trip will cover approx. 20 miles of the river from Dingman’s Ferry to Smithfield Beach. We’ll float at a leisurely pace and take time for river interpretation, swimming, fishing, bird watching and more. We’ll camp one night along the river in a designated campsite where we will cook over a campfire and explore the area with a night hike. Great for individuals, couples, and small family groups. Trip includes canoe or kayak rental, four meals, transportation, river interpretation, and a good time! Camping gear and dry bags are also available. Cost: \$120/non-member, \$110/EE Center member, \$40/non-paddling children under 12.

Call and register today! Registration deadline is August 8<sup>th</sup>. ☀

**Spaces are still available for the 2017 Conservation Camp!**

*Scholarships Available!*  
**July 15-22**  
**Ages 14-HS Graduate**

### Dear Members and Friends,

Wow, what a busy spring here at the EE Center. We had school children of all ages visit the Center and the Bog to take part in hands-on outdoor learning experiences and for some it was there first time on an outdoor hike. While that may be hard to believe kids today do not spend a lot of time outdoors for a variety of reasons. Our activities take them outside in a safe environment to experience the wonders of the Pocono’s Natural World. We appreciate the cooperation we receive from the local school districts and teachers as well as the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund who help to fund these programs.

As you look through this newsletter you will find plenty of opportunities for not only kids but people of all ages to get outside and learn about bugs, birds, bogs, canoeing on the Delaware and more. We are pleased to offer these programs and are always open to any suggestions for program ideas you may have. Please join us for an outdoor program or sign your child or grandchild up for one of our hands-on camps.

### Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

**Welcome New Members!**  
 Raquel Guglielmo – Effort, PA  
 Karen & Leonard Barthol – Stroudsburg, PA  
 Michael Polashenski – East Stroudsburg, PA  
 Cameron Smiley – East Stroudsburg, PA  
 Russell Thrall III and Family – Stroudsburg, PA  
 Dee Berger – Easton, PA  
 Nicole Fish – Blakeslee, PA  
 Katrina Bullock – Effort, PA  
 Kim Jacovelli – Effort, PA



**August 7-18, 2017**  
 Sign up for 1 week or 2 of  
 our Getting in Touch with  
 Nature Day Camp!  
 Ages 7-13

# And the Winners Are...



**Monroe County Envirothon Winners: The "Chuck Fergus" team of Pleasant Valley High School taking Fifth Place in the PA State Competition**

Over the past few months, individuals from all over the County were recognized for their dedication to conservation.

On April 27, Education Coordinator Roger Spotts and Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher accepted the Crystal Award from the Colonial Intermediate Unit for Excellence in Education by an outside organization for the 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology through Ecology program at East Stroudsburg High School South on behalf of the MCCC.

At the Annual Members and Friends Dinner on March 31st, long-time volunteers Bill and Helen Miller received the Volunteer of the Year award for their dedication to the Center. Also at this dinner, Patti O'Keefe was awarded the 2016 Conservation Educator of the Year Award for her dedication to teaching others about Monroe County and its unique resources over the span of her career at the Evergreen Community Charter School. Gabriel Schaefer of Effort was awarded the 2016 Stanley Becker Scholarship which is given to a prestigious Monroe County student pursuing an environmental major in college.



**7th & 8th Grade Junior Envirothon Winners - "Highly Koalified" Pocono Mountain West Junior High School Team**

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center hosted the Junior Envirothon competition on Thursday, May 11, 2017, for fifth and sixth graders, and Friday, May 12, 2017, for seventh and eighth graders. Competing teams from area schools were tested on their knowledge of the Pocono environment at four stations—Animals, Trees, Ponds, and Climate Change. The overall first place winner for the fifth and sixth grade competition was the "Nature's Native Navigators" team from the Blue Ridge Home School and the seventh and eighth grade overall first place winner was the Pocono Mountain West Junior High School team of the "Highly Koalified".



**5th & 6th Grade Junior Envirothon Winners - "Nature's Native Navigators" team from the Blue Ridge Home School**

On Friday, April 28, 2017 at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center 16 teams from 5 local high schools participated in a competition to test their knowledge of the environment. The "Chuck Fergus" team of Pleasant Valley High School took first place in the overall competition and went on to compete in the Pennsylvania State Envirothon Competition on May 23 and 24 at the University of Pittsburgh Johnstown where they took home fifth place out of 64 counties.

A big congratulation to all of these award recipients!

*\*\*\*Costs associated with Envirothon competitions are are generously supported by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund☺*



**Pictured left to right: Bill and Helen Miller– Volunteer of the Year, Gabriel Schaefer - Stanley Becker Environmental Resource Scholarship Recipient, and Patti O'Keefe - Conservation Educator of the Year**



**Darryl Speicher and Roger Spotts accept the Crystal Award for excellence in education**



**Frank May of Buck Hill Falls - 2016 Rose Schoch Award Recipient at the 26th Annual KCEF Dinner Auction**

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*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

“Land really is the best art.”  
-Andy Warhol



## HIT US WITH YOUR BEST SHOT!

*Submit your favorite photos  
taken in Monroe County!*

Visit [mcconservation.org/  
photo-contest](http://mcconservation.org/photo-contest) for official  
rules and how to enter!

Get the latest photos from  
Kettle Creek by finding us on  
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Let's *get* Social

