



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education



8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

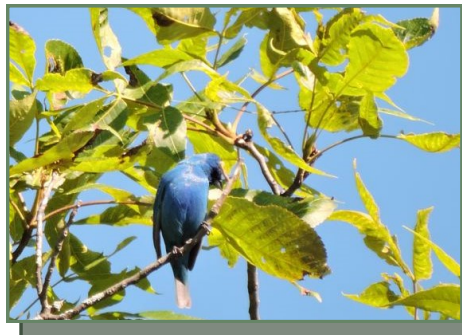
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Summer 2018 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 42 No. 2

Celebrate Bog Day!

Ten to fifteen thousand years ago, an enormous glacial lake stood in what is today known as the Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Pitcher plants, sundews and orchids galore—something new is always blooming in the Bog! From Monroe County residents to natives of Japan, people from far and wide have witnessed the magic that exists within the Bog. Whether it is your first time or your fifth, each experience in the Bog is sure to leave an impression on you.

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy, invites you to attend the annual Bog Day event on Sunday, August 12 with walks and light refreshments. During this day of celebration, all walks will be FREE to all participants, however, preregistration is required. There will be walks along the boardwalk at 10:30am and 1:30pm with a special walk at 10am (topic to be announced). Please mark your calendars, call to register and join us for a day celebrating the beauty of the Tannersville Cranberry Bog!



Pictured from Left: Sundews, Indigo bunting, Pitcher Plants. Photos provided by The Older Adult Learning Center.

Mind BOGgling Facts:

- The Tannersville Cranberry Bog is the southernmost, low-altitude boreal bog along the eastern seaboard.
- The Bog acts like a giant sponge—soaking up runoff and rain while cleansing water and controlling pollution throughout the Pocono Creek watershed. During the devastating hurricane of 1955, bridges below the Bog were left intact while others in the region were destroyed, due to the Bog’s sponge-like properties.
- A considerable portion of the Tannersville Cranberry Bog is covered with a boreal forest of black spruce and tamarack, two conifers normally found in Canada.
- Topography, soil, peat, moisture, acidity, light exposure and the perfect temperatures combine to provide the perfect environment for the white-fringed orchid, grass-pink orchid and rose pogonia which can all be found in the Tannersville Cranberry Bog. ✨

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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

With summer fast approaching, that means that the 2018 dinner is right around the corner! Things are gearing up and sponsors and donations are coming in steadily. This year, for the first time ever, a short film competition will be featured as the evening's entertainment. The deadline to enter your short film in our first ever film competition is August 1, 2018. Rules and entry form can be found at mconconservation.org.

At this time, school programs funded by KCEF have been completed for the 2017-2018 school year and more will resume in the fall. "The Wopities 2.0" team from Pleasant Valley High School won the County Envirothon and went on to place 16th in the state competition. The Envirothon and these school programs are just a few of the wish list items funded through your generous donations and support. If you or your business is interested

in sponsoring or donating, please contact Alesia at 570.629.3061.

We look forward to another successful year and to seeing you on September 21st. Your continued support is very much appreciated. ☀

-John Woodling, KCEF President

27th Annual Dinner/Auction September 21, 2018



KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.
Thomas Felver, Treas.
Jeffrey Wright, Sec.
Joseph Bedrick
Tim Brooks
Patrick Calpin
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly

Welcome New Members!

Dorainne Flores and Family – Bronx, NY
Wierzba Family – Stroudsburg, PA
Michael Shepard & Family – Waymart, PA
Herman Garrison & Family – Waymart, PA
Barry Kwasny – Stroudsburg, PA
John Lezak – East Stroudsburg, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

Summer has finally arrived and even though it was a very wet spring we were able to get all the 4th graders to the Bog and they were able to experience a wetland up close. One student even commented that her feet felt squishy like the Bog after wading through some standing water on the boardwalk. Our school programs with local elementary students continue to remain our main focus during the school year but as summer approaches we look forward to more family and kid oriented programming. Please plan on joining us for some of the exciting upcoming events like the BioBlitz at the Glen Run Preserve, Bug Fest at Kettle Creek and our series of KC for Kids programs. We also encourage you to visit Liliana's Nature Discovery Area with your children to experience outdoor hands-on play opportunities.

Kettle Creek is also happy to be working with the Pocono Avian Research Center on a wide range of programs on birds and the environment and we look forward to more combined program opportunities in the future.

Don't forget about summer camp! Spaces are still available in the Monroe County Conservation Camp for ages 14 through this year's High School Graduate in July and the Getting in Touch With Nature day camp for ages 7 through 13 in August.

We hope to see you this summer at some of our events and encourage you to get outdoors and enjoy the experience.

Thank you for your continued support! ☀

Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

News 'N Notes

DSA vs. 2A

Better Roads...Cleaner Streams

The MCCD Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road Program has a clearinghouse of information on environmentally sensitive road maintenance that can both save money and clean streams. We work with municipalities and private road maintainers alike to improve roads, reduce maintenance costs, and minimize sediment pollution.

Our spring workshop for homeowners and associations was well received again this year. 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.

Following the workshop, we were invited to an old subdivision in Barrett Township to provide technical assistance on their proposed road maintenance plan. They are starting off on the right foot, addressing drainage as phase one of their plan. Next they plan to surface the roads, which are either tar and chip or gravel, depending on how much traffic they receive.

A lot of the discussion was about how to manage water overall, and there were some 'ah ha' moments as we toured the various roads in the hilly subdivision. Older subdivisions operated under the 'collect and convey' premise, i.e. get rid of the water. Today we try to divide and disperse the runoff, allowing opportunities for infiltration and groundwater recharge. (Who doesn't love water?) Simple ideas like adding discharge points where there were opportunities, reducing slope length, and changing the road crown/cross-slope to direct water, can reduce the cost of both construction and maintenance.

The other topic that was big on their minds was the surface material on the gravel roads. Is this DSA (driving surface aggregate) stuff worth the added expense? For reference, 2A is around \$9/ton, and DSA is around \$14/ton. Of course the bigger money is in the installation, but when you are talking about thousands of tons, 50% more does make a difference in the bottom line. Most homeowners however are more in the hundred(s) of ton(s) arena. Here, the installation cost may play the bigger factor. We will be observing some sample placements this summer to see how they perform, so more on that in up-

coming editions. For now- DSA or 2A?

DSA and 2A are both stone aggregates, meaning they are a mixture of different size particles made of the parent stone material. Monroe County contains some of the most durable bluestone in the state. PennDOT developed 2A as a drainage stone for placement under concrete and blacktop surface materials. It is somewhat compactable, having different size, angular particles, however it still contains void spaces, hence its drainage abilities. DSA on the other hand, was developed as a surface material. DSA contains different size angular particles, and more fines and dust, making it very compactable, like concrete. Twenty years of research by the Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies show that properly placed DSA outperforms 2A in longevity, maintenance cycles, and dust production.

For more info visit <https://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/general-resources/driving-surface-aggregate-dsa> or contact John Motz, MCCD DGLVR Program Administrator at 570-629-3060. ⚙

Manure Nutrients and Water Quality

With the weather getting warmer and the sun shining brighter, everyone is happy to see the flowers blooming, the veggies growing, and the trees all leafed out. However, sometimes what grows in the warmth and sunshine is not always something that you would like to see.

Surely, we have all experienced the sight of a body of water such as a pond, stream or small lake that has been completely covered with green algae. The terminology used to describe that phenomenon is eutrophication. The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines eutrophication as the process by which a body of water becomes enriched in dissolved nutrients (such as phosphates) that stimulate the growth of aquatic plant life usually resulting in the depletion of dissolved oxygen.

As you can imagine, eutrophic bodies of water have an extremely difficult, if not impossible, time supporting aquatic life. One of the best things we can do to help prevent eutrophication is to manage the nutrients coming from livestock manure.

If you have any type of livestock on your property, the state requires that you complete and implement a proper manure management plan. A plan will

not only help you decide what to do with unused manure, but it can even help save you money by using it as fertilizer.

If you would like to learn more about the manure management regulations please visit our website at www.mcconservation.org or contact Matt Giambra at 570-629-3060 for help in completing your plan. ⚙

Pocono Avian Research Center Office Moves to Kettle Creek



This year will be the 19th season that the Pocono Avian Research Center (PARC) will be conducting MAPS, monitoring

avian productivity and survivorship, at the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

As exciting as another season of MAPS is for everyone involved there is even more good news to spread. The Monroe County Conservation District and the PARC have entered into an agreement that allows PARC to run all of their operations from the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. By moving the base of their operations to Kettle Creek, PARC feels they can better fulfill their mission of raising the awareness of our native birds through research, education and community involvement. Both organizations are excited by the new arrangement and are planning educational programs and volunteer opportunities that will build on what they have been doing independently so successfully. As always you can join us for MAPS at Kettle Creek and other locations around the Poconos. Until we meet, PARC and Kettle Creek wish you all Good Birding! ⚙

Thank you to WestRock paper company for their generous donation of poster board that will be used for programs and events!



KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

JUNE

19th – Tuesday – Campfire Program – Get outdoors and enjoy an evening bonfire with s'mores from 7pm-9pm. This program will be fun for the entire family! **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/members and children under 12.**

23rd – Saturday - Building Closed

22nd – 23rd - Friday-Saturday - 2018 Bio-Blitz – We will be holding this exciting two day event at Glen Run Preserve, in cooperation with Pocono Heritage Land Trust on the preserve's 180 acres just outside Stroudsburg. A Bioblitz is designed to be part contest, part festival, part educational event and part scientific endeavor that will bring together scientists and the public, in a race against time to count species of plants and animals that live at Glen Run. The public is invited to get involved on Saturday, June 23rd from 9:00-3:00 and kids of all ages are encouraged to help count species. We will be staging the event at the Cherry Valley Wildlife Refuge facilities on Cherry Valley Road. All activities at the BioBlitz are free. The event is generously supported by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. For more information or to sign up as part of a survey team, please call the EE Center at 570-629-3061.

27th - 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. Directions: Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right.**

30th – Saturday – Building Closed

JULY

4th – Wednesday – Building Closed – Holiday

7th – Saturday - Bug Fest - Displays, activities, games, crafts, live insects, insect safaris, and presentations all day, all about insects! Festival runs from 10am - 3pm. **Cost: \$5/child ages 4 - 12. Come dressed**

as your favorite bug and participate in the Insect Parade and receive a discount on admission price! **Parents can attend for FREE. Refreshments will be available.**

11th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

14th – Saturday - Art Opening: Steve Kagar "Pocono Plateau Plus" - This exhibit features a compilation of expressive, acrylic paintings from the Pocono landscapes and "PLUS" indicates paintings from the different ski areas Steve has skied in the western U.S. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run through July 31st.*

15th – 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.**

18th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

21st – Saturday – Building Closed

25th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

28th – Saturday – Ssnakes Alive! - Learn about the identification and biological roles of the snakes of our area during this always popular program with Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman. Designed for all ages, this 1 ½ hour program begins at 10am and focuses on local species and includes live snakes. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

AUGUST

1st - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

4th – Saturday – Art Opening: Pocono Photo Club "The Four Seasons of Pennsylvania" - The club's picturesque landscapes reveal the ever-changing world of nature, its beauty, uniqueness, and culture through the photographic lens of the Pocono Photo Club members. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. Exhibit runs through August 31st.*

4th – Saturday – Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area Exploration – A Nature Discovery Area is a designated outdoor area designed to allow children of all ages to have a safe, fun and natural area to explore. Our Nature Discovery Area is the first of its kind in Monroe County. Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm where we will feature special activities in addition to the elements already in the area including a canoe, tunnel, xylophone, talking tubes and much more! **This program is free.**

8th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

11th – Saturday – Natural History Hike to the Top - Join us at 10am for a pleasant morning ramble through the forest as we discuss the fascinating natural history of our area, and how events in the past have shaped our modern world. We will venture to the top of the unnamed ridge at Kettle Creek and search for one of pre-history's mysteries. The hike is not strenuous, but it is steep in spots. Wear hiking shoes or boots, dress for the weather, and bring water. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.**

11th – Saturday – Perseid Meteor Shower Paddle – Join Environmental Educator Brittney Coleman from 8pm-10pm to enjoy the splendor of the night sky from the middle of Brady's Lake! This will be a peak night to witness the Perseids Meteor Shower, the best meteor shower of 2018. We'll also listen and look for nocturnal wildlife as the light fades into night. This special event will be held at Brady's Lake in SGL#127 near Pocono Lake. **Pre-registration is required and limited.** Participants must supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle, PFD, and flashlight or headlamp. This event is dependent on clear skies and will be cancelled if inclement weather. **Suggested donation: \$10/non-members, \$8/EE Center members and children under 12.**

12th – Sunday – Bog Day - The Tannersville Cranberry Bog is a very special place which contains many unique plants and animals. Please join us for a whole day of FREE walks and events starting at 10am. Information on the bog preserve history and the Nature Conservancy will be available. **Pre-registration required. Directions: Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right.**

***Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. And required for those where noted. 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.**

15th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

18th – Saturday – Nature Exploration - Nature is filled with interesting things to explore. Walk Kettle Creek’s trails with environmental educator Ali Machrone at 10am to see what can be discovered in nature and create your own nature journal from the things you see on your hike.

Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.

22nd - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

25th – Saturday – Building Closed

29th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

SEPTEMBER

1st – Saturday – Building Closed

3rd – Building Closed – Holiday

5th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

8th – Saturday - Lilliana’s Nature Discovery Area Exploration – A Nature Discovery Area is a designated outdoor area designed to allow children of all ages to have a safe, fun and natural area to explore. Our Nature Discovery Area is the first of its kind in Monroe County. Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm where we will feature special activities in addition to the elements already in the area including a canoe, tunnel, xylophone, talking tubes and much more! **This program is free.**

8th - 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.

8th – Art Opening: Nancy Tully “Nature’s Keepsakes” - This exhibit is all about capturing a special moment and then sharing that memory with others...keepsakes. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. Exhibit runs through October 1st.*

12th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - For more information see June 27 listing.

Plastic in the Poconos

With the approach of summer, I look forward to annual family beach vacations, braving the cold ocean waves, and salty air. While we make our annual trek down to Ocean City, Maryland, my favorite stops are not the crowded beaches off the boardwalk but the quieter natural beaches of Assateague and Chincoteague that still offer opportunities to explore and discover local marine life. While by no means are these beaches remote or untouched, finding remnants of our disposable lifestyle; chip bags, water bottles, plastic caps and straws strewn about in the sand and detritus, reminds you of humanity’s impact on the environment, even in the most remote corners of our earth.

One of the most astonishing reminders of this is the plastic debris we find in our oceans, driven by the currents and amassed in growing islands, in places not visited by most of the human population. With the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” one of many plastic islands, now doubling the size of Texas; there is growing need to take action to prevent continued plastic pollution of our waterways. Despite improvements in recycling participation, worldwide only 9% of single use plastics is recycled (National Geographic, July 2017) and in the US only 25% is recycled. Much of what isn’t recycled ends up in our oceans, depicted by graphic images of the stomach contents of perished marine organisms.

While plastic pollution finds its ways to our oceans through obvious and deliberate means such as littering, a large amount also will make to our oceans via a less obvious route, such as losses during manufacturing and transportation of plastic products. For example, in March a truck carrying pelletized HDPE plastic, used in the production of many single use plastic products, dumped its load of these pellets otherwise known as nurdles right here in Monroe County into the Pocono Creek after an accident on Route 80. While local efforts cleaned up a significant amount, plastic pellets can still be found from the headwaters of the creek all the way to its mouth. Eventually, these particles will find their way to the Delaware Bay and Atlantic Ocean, if not intercepted along the way.

Annually the United States produces approximately 60 billion pounds of HDPE pellets (Pacific Protection Initiative, April 2008), and accidents like what happened on the Pocono Creek contribute to the growing issue of micro-plastic pollution of our oceans. More and more, local and international governments are grappling with how to deal with the threat of plastic pollution to one of our most important natural resources; water. For example, in 2016 California banned the use of single use plastic bags and the European Union is currently proposing legislation to ban the use of many single use plastic items (Daily Mail). While the use of single use plastics is heavily embedded into our culture, there are many ways you can break the habit of the use of single use plastic items. For example, remember to use reusable grocery bags, carry a reusable water bottle and coffee mug, and say no to unnecessary straws at restaurants. While it may be difficult to completely stop using these products, it has become more socially acceptable, and even encouraged over the past few years, to do so. Incentives such as coffee shops encouraging people to bring their own travel mug, or reminders at the grocery store to bring your reusable bags help bring about social change. While clean-up efforts can go a long way to help with our plastics problem, a long term solution needs to consider the source of our plastic problems by limiting their use. ⚙️



Nurdles Along Sand Spring Run, Over 3 Miles from the Crash Site.
Photo Courtesy of Bob Heil, Executive Director, Brodhead Watershed Association

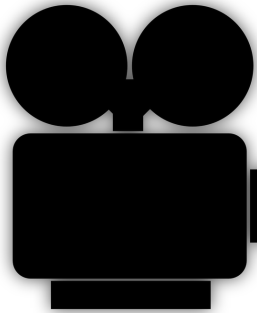
*****Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.**

More information on these programs can be found on our website: mconconservation.org

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

"The whole secret of the study of nature lies in learning how to use one's eyes..." - *George Sand*



KCEF Film Competition

Visit mcconservation.org for info
Deadline to Enter is August 1st

2018 Artist Line Up

July - Steve Kagar

July 2nd through 31st

Opening Reception: July 14th, 11am-1pm.

August - Pocono Photo Club

August 1st through 31st

Opening Reception: August 4th, 11am-1pm.

September - Nancy Tully

September 1st through October 1st

Opening Reception: September 8th, 11am-1pm.

Elk Viewing Anyone?



Openings are still available on our September 17-19 and October 8-10 trips to Elk County. Spend three days with Roger during the prime bugling season! For more information check out mcconservation.org/bus-trips.

Get the latest updates from
Kettle Creek by finding us on
social media!

Let's *get* Social

