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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2021 Newsletter

Volume 44 No. 2

Pleasant Valley Wins Monroe County Envirothon and Moves on to Compete in the NCF-Envirothon International Competition!

On May 22, 2021 the Monroe County High School Envirothon was held with ten teams from four County schools. The teams tested their knowledge of the environment through five different series of tests: Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, and Wildlife plus this year's Current Issue; Water Resource Management: Local Control & Local Solutions.

The Reece's Pieces of Pleasant Valley High School took first place in the Monroe County High School Envirothon. The Eastern Milkshakes of Pleasant Valley High School followed behind in second, with the Backstreet Buds of Pocono Mountain East High School taking third.

The Reece's Pieces moved on to compete in the 37th Pennsylvania Envirothon state competition which was held virtually on May 10, 11, and 25, 2021. High school students from 58 Pennsylvania counties participated in this year's event. Students were tested on the same

subjects as the County competition with the top 15 scoring teams also delivering oral presentations to a panel of judges who evaluated each team on its problem-solving capabilities, oral presentation skills, and recommendations to help solve the specific environmental challenge, which related to the current environmental issue.

The Reece's Pieces team of Pleasant Valley High School took first place in the PA State Envirothon Competition and it is with great pleasure that we announce that they will be moving on to represent the state of Pennsylvania at the 32nd NCF-Envirothon virtual competition planned for July 25 – 28 hosted by Nebraska Envirothon. More than 45 teams from the United States, Canada, and China are expected to compete.

The Reece's Pieces team of Monroe County is coordinated by advisor, Maricatherine Garr. Team captain: Emma Barrett, Team members: Zachary Dooner, Reece Kresge, Megan Chechel and Benjamin Keppel.

We are extremely proud to have the Reece's Pieces representing Monroe County, Pennsylvania at this year's NCF-Envirothon International Competition and wish them the best of luck! Stay tuned to our webpage and social network for an update on how they did.

The Envirothon is sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District, PA Envirothon Inc. and generously funded by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. The Envirothon was financed in part by a grant awarded to Pennsylvania Envirothon from the Community Conservation Partnership Program, using Environmental Stewardship Funds, under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. This project was also financed in part by a grant awarded to Pennsylvania Envirothon under the administration of the Shell Oil Company U.S.



**The Reece's Pieces
of Pleasant Valley High School**

Junior Envirothon Results

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center hosted the Junior Envirothon competition on Monday, May 17th, for fifth and sixth graders, and Tuesday, May 18th, 2021, 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 this year's Learning Station, Wetlands.

5th & 6th Grade

First Place: "Finikey Foxes" team from Clear Run Intermediate School

Second Place: "Pocono Meow-ntain" team from Tobyhanna Elementary Center

7th & 8th Grade

First Place: "The Flying Fishers" team of Pleasant Valley Middle School

Second Place: "The Diamond Back Snacks" team from Pocono Mountain East Junior High School

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center would like to congratulate and thank all of the participating students, teachers and advisors who participated in this year's Junior Envirothon!

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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**

We hope this finds you and your family healthy and ready for summer. The KCEF Board congratulates the Reece's Pieces of Pleasant Valley High School on winning the state competition and wishes them success at the NCF-Envirothon International Competition in July. Go Reece's Pieces!!!

KCEF participated in the NEPA Gives online event on June 4th and received \$1,410 in donations. Thank you to all those who supported the effort.

The Board has decided to postpone this year's fundraising dinner until 2022. We look forward to having a large, 30th Anniversary event and gathering together to celebrate.

Have a wonderful summer and please stay safe.

-John Woodling, KCEF President

**KCEF
Board Members**



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Ed Cramer
Tim Fisher, II
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Beth Moses
John Reilly
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Stephanie Spotts

Save the Date! BugFest is July 10th!



Dear Members and Friends,

It gives us great pleasure to announce that beginning June 1st the Monroe County Conservation District/Kettle Creek EE Center building has reopened to the public. It has been over 15 months since we had visitors in the building and with restrictions slowly being lifted we are pleased to welcome everyone back inside. The "Critter Room" and all the other public areas will be open and we will once again proudly display local artists work in the gallery. Our first exhibit for June will be the photo contest winners from 2020. We will also be displaying some outstanding posters created by area students for the National Association of Conservation Districts "Healthy Forests=Healthy Communities" program. Our gift shop is fully stocked with bird seed and feeders as well as stuffed toys, books and more. Operating hours for the building will be Monday through Friday 8:00am-4:30pm and some Saturdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm. We will be requiring masks for all visitors inside the building until further notice.

The staff just finished a busy virtual program schedule with all four public school districts in Monroe County and we want to thank the teachers and administrators for working with us to provide these Environmental Education programs for their students. We are also gearing up for a busy summer of outdoor programs for people of all ages. It's time to go for a hike or take part in our KC for Kids programs or even sign up your child for our summer day camp, "Get in Touch with Nature". We are very happy to announce that the Monroe County Conservation Camp is back for 2021. This camp, started in 1975 was forced to be cancelled for last year but it is back for July 17-24, 2021. It is a great opportunity for teenagers ages 14-18 to get "unplugged" at this electronics free camp that will allow them to interact with other campers in a safe environment and enjoy a real outdoor learning experience.

We are excited to welcome everyone back and we look forward to expanding our program offerings in the coming months as the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center returns to full operation. Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

DIRT & GRAVEL MINUTE

News You Can Use When Maintaining Your Gravel Driveway

“What kind of stone should I put on my driveway?” is a question we hear often. We’ve discussed road shape and maintenance of surface aggregate previously; we will spend time talking about surface and subsurface drainage practices in future issues. But for this issue we wanted to answer the basic question and present some of the options available and their pros and cons.

Monroe County is fortunate to have very good source material for stone products. The blue limestone found along the county’s southeastern ridges is very hard (durable when trafficked) and produces concrete-like aggregates (Driving Surface Aggregate-DSA). The West End offers varying types of shale products, most of which produce a very compactible, well drained base, but turn quickly to dust when trafficked. And the northern plateau region has red sandstone which varies in hardness and thus, durability.

Then there is the gradation, or stone sizing, and mixes thereof. There are two distinct stone products available at most local quarries and landscape suppliers: clean stone, similarly sized rock particles without fines, and aggregates, which are a mix of particles sizes, in some cases including smaller particles and fines. In general, clean stone is used for drainage, with visible void spaces between the particles of rock. Clean stone is also used for a base, often with a geotextile layer on top before adding an aggregate base or surface layer.

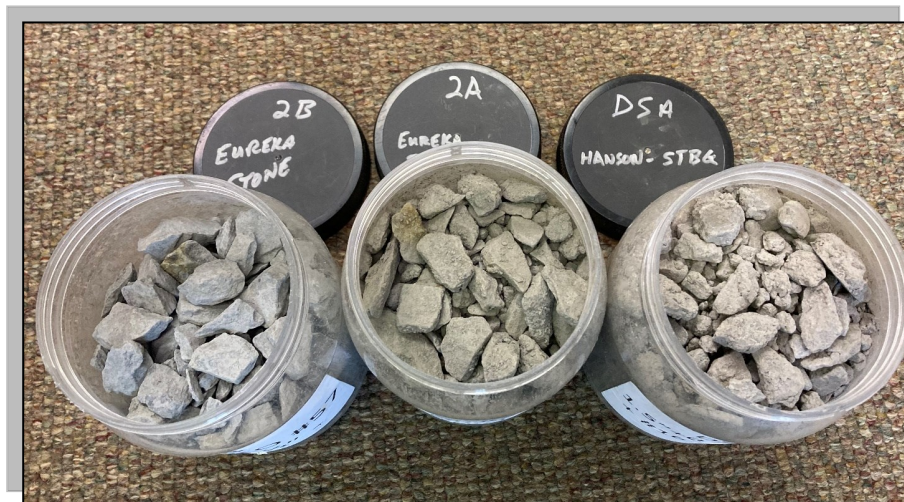
If you’ve ever walked on a driveway with a clean stone surface, you’ve noticed it is loose and does not compact well, whereas an aggregate surface is more solid and the particles are knitted together (tight). Information on various Pennsylvania aggregates can be found at the Center for Dirt and Gravel Studies under General Resources, Technical Bulletins: [Aggregate 101](#). We will discuss the function and aesthetics of both types of stone products. Traffic loads, both weight and volume (trips per day) should be considered when choosing a driveway surface.

Clean stone: Commonly in PA-1B or 2B stone (ASSHTO #67 or 57) are commonly used for driveways and walkways. Sizes range from 3/8”, to 3/4” with small variations. We also see 1B used behind retaining walls as it is pourable. They work best on flatter slopes, induce little dust splatter on vehicles after a rain, and have a “clean” uniform appearance. They don’t however compact well, and can present some challenges for young and older pedestrians. They are not “smooth” and can roll around underfoot. The smaller size is better than the larger for walkability. They offer a moderate wearability overall, but because they are coarse particles they do grind against each other under traffic and break down into dust over time.

PennDOT 2A Most people have heard of 2A- 2A is actually a PennDOT specified drainage aggregate, with the largest particle size passing a 2” sieve, some in between sizes, and up to 10% the size of a pencil point. Compactability is very high with 2A and it provides a smoother surface for pedestrians than clean stone. It looks pretty smooth when rolled, however the larger particles do tend to “pop out” from traffic load. It wears somewhat better than clean stone as it knits together due to the variations in particle size making it one of the best all-around driveway stones you can get.

DSA- Driving Surface Aggregate was developed by Penn State to provide a durable surface similar to asphalt. It has more smaller particles and fines to “cement” the aggregate than 2A has. When dry, DSA resembles concrete. It does require special maintenance, but for high volume or heavy haul roads, it will produce the least dust and long term durability. On driveway applications, it does produce a lot of dust splatter on the lower portion of vehicles but alternatively does produce a seriously stable surface for walking and driving. It needs to be paver placed, so installation costs are somewhat higher, but maintenance intervals are longer than other types of stone. More info can be found by contacting the District office at 570-629-3060 or on the Center for Dirt and Gravel’s website www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu.

Now that you have this information, check out how they look, how they perform- do they hold their shape, do they resist erosion on steep slopes, and how often do they get maintained, and how easy are they to walk? As you travel, take note of the various driveway materials folks use and the next time you have to add material to your own driveway, we hope you’ll know: *what kind of stone should I put on my driveway?*



KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

JUNE

19th – Saturday – Critter Detective Training - Have you ever looked at a hole in the ground, or a scratch on a tree, or a simple footprint and want to know what animal made it. Join Roger Spotts for this fun training session for the whole family on interpreting animal signs. We will explore the trails at Kettle Creek looking for animal signs and learning their secrets. Upon conclusion all participants will receive a certificate as an expert wildlife sign detective. The program begins at 10am. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

22nd – Tuesday – KC for Preschoolers: Fishing Fun! - Fish have scales, fins, and swim. We will be taking a close-up look at fish and learning how cool they are! This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Program runs from 10-11am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

22nd – Tuesday – KC for Kids: Pond Exploration – We'll grab some nets and dip into the pond to see what amazing creatures we can discover. This program is intended for children 7-11 years of age and runs from 10am-11:30am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

29th - Tuesday – KC for Preschoolers: Bird Beak Buffet - Bird beaks are multi-functional tools! But why do different birds have different beaks? Join us to learn all about birds and how their unique beaks help them survive! This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Program runs from 10-11am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

29th – Tuesday – KC for Kids: Shelter & Fort Building - A fun lesson that teaches you all of the skills you need to create a safe and reliable shelter! This program is intended for children 7-11 years of age and runs from 10am-11:30am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

JULY

5th – Monday – Building Closed – Holiday

6th – Tuesday - KC for Preschoolers: In a Grasshopper's World – We will look for grasshoppers in their natural habitat and learn all about this fascinating little insect. This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Program runs from 10-11am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

6th – Tuesday – KC for Kids: Growing up Wild - It's not often that kids get to be outside and just be... well... kids. During our time together kids will be encouraged to explore their curiosity and hone in on their innate skills to climb, jump, balance and of course PLAY! **Old sneakers that could get wet and muddy recommended!* This program is intended for children 7-11 years of age and runs from 10am-11:30am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

8th – Thursday - Little Mud Pond - This hidden gem over in Delaware State Forest offers a feeling of wildness and beautiful views of the surrounding state forest. The large pond is stocked with trout, but is best suited for kayaking and canoeing (feel free to bring your fishing pole and license). **Join us at 9am on Thursday, July 8th, and we will paddle before the temperatures get too hot. Bring your lunch and go for a quick dip afterwards! Participants must provide their own kayak or canoe, paddle, and PFD (life jacket). Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: Suggested donation of \$10.**

10th – Saturday – BugFest – Displays, activities, games, crafts, live insects, insect safaris, and presentations all day, all about insects! Join us for the morning session from 10am-12pm or the afternoon session from 12:30pm-2:30pm. **Cost: \$5/child ages 4 - 12.** Come dressed as your favorite bug and receive a discount on admission price! Parents can attend for FREE. Preregis-

tration is required and limited.

13th – Tuesday - KC for Preschoolers: Seed Need - Learn about seed dispersal and plant your own wildflower seeds. This program is intended for children 3-6 years of age. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Program runs from 10-11am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

13th – Tuesday - KC for Kids: Tree Like Me – Comparing ourselves to trees may seem silly, but if we take a closer look we will find that we are quite similar! This program is intended for children 7-11 years of age and runs from 10am-11:30am. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$5 per child.**

17th – Saturday – Building Closed

23rd – Friday - Buck Moon Paddle at Brady's Lake - Enjoy a unique and leisurely paddle around the remote Brady's lake under the calming light of July's full moon. We'll listen and look for animals that become active when the light fades to night. **Participants must supply their own kayak or canoe, paddle, PFD (life jacket), and flashlight or headlamp. Meet at Brady's Lake parking lot in SGL#127 at 8pm. This event may be cancelled if inclement weather. Pre-registration required and limited. Cost: Suggested donation of \$10.**

24th – Saturday - Herp Hike – Discover the reptiles and amphibians that call Kettle Creek home! We will look under rocks and logs, explore Mader Pond and even meet our resident corn snake, Cleo. Registration is required and spaces are limited. The program begins at 10am. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

AUGUST

7th – Saturday – Building Closed

14th – Saturday – KC for Adults - Are you a "grown up" who still feels like a kid at heart? Do you sometimes feel like the stressors of modern-day life have dulled your primal instincts? Join Matt from

*****Masks are mandatory at all programs. 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

10am-12 pm for a this program for adults only. In our time, we'll be rediscovering what makes being out in nature so awesome and how we can use it to better our everyday lives. **Cost: \$6/ non-members, EE Center members are free.**

21st – Saturday - Basement Life - Join Roger Spotts as we search the forests of Kettle Creek looking for the fascinating creatures that live in the "basement". We will be looking under rocks and logs in search of all kind of creepy crawly things. **Fun for the whole family this program begins at 10am. Registration is required and spaces are limited. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

26th – Thursday - Paddling the Delaware River – Join us on this all-day paddle on the scenic Delaware River. We will paddle 10 miles of river from Bushkill to Smithfield Beach and immerse ourselves in the river environment. This slow-paced paddle is good for beginners and experienced paddlers alike and will have time built in to examine the river habitat, swim, snorkel, and just enjoy the river. Bring your own kayak or canoe or we will help you rent one. Sturdy water shoes, swimwear, lunch, towel, sunscreen and something to drink are all you need to bring for this trip down the Delaware. **We will meet at the Bushkill Access on the river at 8:30 am and we should be finished around 4:00 pm. If you need to rent a boat please let us know when you register and we will set it up for you. Registration deadline is Monday, August 23rd. Please note there is a \$10 parking fee per vehicle that you will be responsible for at the Bushkill Access. Cost: \$15/per person if you have your own boat and \$40/per person if you would like to rent one. For more information or to register please call 570-629-3061.**

28th – Saturday – Building Closed

SEPTEMBER

4th – Saturday – Building Closed

6th – Monday – Building Closed - Holiday

Eagle Scout Installs Bluebird Boxes



Recently, Eagle Scout candidate Anthony Quartey completed his Eagle Scout Service Project at Kettle Creek. Anthony and members of his family and his Scout Troop installed over a dozen bird houses along the trails. There were several houses for wood ducks by Swink pond, as well as screech owl and bluebird nesting boxes along various other trails. We look forward to having "bird tenants" move in and raise their families. Be on the lookout as you hike Songbird trail at Kettle Creek. We would like to thank Anthony for a project well done.



There are still spaces available at the Monroe County Conservation Camp for ages 14-2021 high school graduates as well as our Get in Touch with Nature Day Camp for ages 7-13. Visit our website or give us a call for an application and more information.

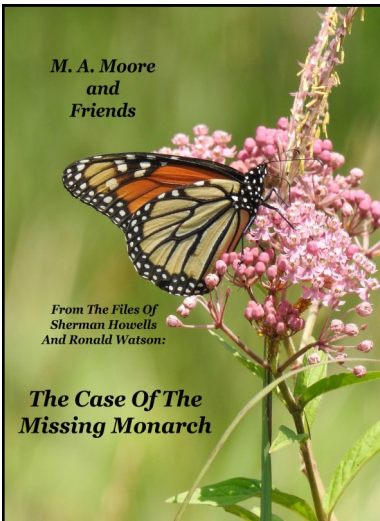
Honor Society Plants Tree at Kettle Creek

In honor of Earth Day members of East Stroudsburg School District's JT Lambert National Junior Honor Society planted a tree at Kettle Creek. Members Katelyn and Allyson Mayor donated a young Silver Maple tree and with the help of their advisor, Mrs. Burns they planted it just off Black Bear trail. There is a small plaque marking the tree which they generated from a 3-D printer at school. We hope the tree grows tall and strong and we appreciate the donation from the Jr. Honor Society.



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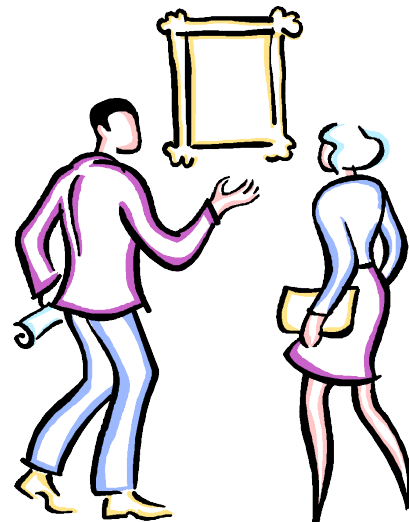
Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future



Local Author Raises Funds for Cherry Valley National Wildlife Center through Book Sales

Now available at the Kettle Creek gift shop!
The Case of the Missing Monarch By M. A.

Moore and Friends follow detectives Sherman Howells and Ronald Watson as they scour the Pocono Mountains searching for a lost heir of Romanian royalty. Illustrated with over 70 full-color pictures of the Poconos donated by area nature photographers. **\$20 (cash only please)** Each purchase donates another \$4 to the Friends of Cherry Valley.



The Gallery at Kettle Creek Upcoming Artists

- ← →
- June - Photo & Poster Contest Winners*
 - July - Andrea Henley "Wings & Things"*
 - August - Terry Flatt "Birds are Magic"*
 - September - Darryl Speicher*