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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2023 Newsletter

Volume 46 No. 2

30 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE RECOGNIZED

On Thursday, May 18th, the Monroe County Conservation District Board recognized John Woodling for his dedicated service on the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Board. During much of John's tenure on the Board, he served as Chairman. District board member Craig Todd highlighted John's long standing commitment to environmental education as hard working chairman of the Fund and a volunteer at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. Guiding fundraising efforts and flipping pancakes in the middle of the woods at maple sugaring are just a few of John's annual commitments. Craig also praised John for his leadership and hard work as the long term director of the Monroe County Planning Commission. The County's been the beneficiary of Act 167 storm water management planning, Monroe County 2020 Comprehensive Planning, Open space planning and numerous planning studies in support of regional municipal planning.

John has always led with a smile and a positive attitude, as the fund has provided over \$1 million of support to the EE Center over its history. The board and staff appreciate all the dedicated hard work John has put in and we look forward to his continued involvement.



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**Monroe County
Conservation District
Board of Directors**

Robert Armstrong, Chairperson
Brian Winot, Vice-Chairperson
Roger McFadden, Treasurer
Craig Todd, Secretary
Sharon Laverdure, Commissioner
Donna Foulk
Jason Smith

District Staff

Kristina Heaney
District Manager

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Head Resource Conservationist

Drew K. Wagner, P.E.,
Michael J. Wilk, P.E.
Hydraulic Engineers

OC Hearthstone, David Hooker,
David Lucykanish, John Motz
Resource Conservation Specialists

Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

Brittney Coleman, Barrett Donna,
Alesia Gallo, Colleen Lidon
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras
Finance Manager

Diana Flint, Iwona O'Connor
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**

Save the Date!

Thursday, September 21, 2023

Plans are underway for our 2023 Fundraising Dinner to be held once again at Trout Lake. Dinner sponsorships are already coming in so if you have been invited to be a sponsor and have not yet sent your Dinner Sponsor Form please do so. If you would like to be added to our dinner sponsor list as an individual, family, business, or organization please contact us at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center and we will be glad to send the

information. Sponsorships are at the \$500, \$1,000 and \$1,500 levels. Invitations to attend the dinner will be sent out soon. If you would like to attend the dinner and have not received an invitation in the past, please contact us and we will be sure to send you one.

Last year's dinner raised almost \$20,000 through sponsorships, donations, ticket sales, games and raffles. All money that is raised at the dinner and otherwise donated to KCEF 501(c)3 is used to help provide environmental education programs for school children, college students, families and community groups in order to further educate all of us regarding the conservation of our natural resources and the stewardship of our natural environment. Please continue your donations and participation in our fundraising dinner to help further this important mission of the Monroe County Conservation District.

-Dr. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President

**KCEF
Board
Members**



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

Save the Date

Annual KCEF Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, September 21st, 2023

Trout Lake • Stroudsburg, PA

**Enjoy an Evening of
Games, Raffles and More!**

Around Kettle Creek

Wow! What a spring at Kettle Creek. The ongoing mission of the Kettle Creek EE Center is to provide quality EE programs to people of all ages. We have done that in a variety of ways over the last 45+ years but overall our main emphasis has been with Monroe County School students. The spring of 2023 is going to go down in our history as the busiest spring on record. We were concerned the last few years as the pandemic impacted all of our programs but this school year the local schools have requested the greatest number of programs in our history. The EE staff has been on constant program duty since finishing maple sugaring back in March. We have been conducting school classroom visits on a wide range of topics and follow-up field trips to Kettle Creek, the Bog, and the Meesing site. If you could follow one of our staff for a week you may be in a 4th grade classroom talking about Pocono wetlands on Monday, taking a group of kindergarteners on a sensory hike at Kettle Creek on Tuesday, followed up with a group of first graders doing a weather walk at Kettle Creek on Wednesday, leading a tour of the Bog on Thursday with high school students and finally finishing the week with a pond study for second graders. The last 2 ½ months have been that way at Kettle Creek and we are very happy that we could accommodate all the local students. The true scope of our schedule can be seen in the program numbers between March 20 and May 19; we did a total of 191 school programs for over 6,200 school students grades K-12. Definitely a spring to remember and one we can take great satisfaction in what we accomplished and more importantly the positive educational experiences all the students had.

What that means to our schedule is that at times we have to prioritize the school programs over our public programs but as spring turns into summer we now have more time to offer other popular programs like our Kettle Creek for Kids series and our summer day camps. We encourage you to look over our summer schedule and join in one of our programs. We could not provide all of our school programs without the support of the Conservation District Board, the Monroe County Commissioners and the funds provided by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund, as well as the support we receive from local school district administrators, teachers and the general public.

Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

Kayaks Purchased through O'Connor Foundation Grant



Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center would like to extend many thanks to the **O'Connor Foundation** who generously provided grant funds allowing us to purchase nine new kayaks, paddling gear, and a trailer to be used for our programs. The ability of Kettle Creek to provide participants with kayaks and gear allows those who do not have their own gear to experience Monroe County's many beautiful waterways (and beyond!). Novice and experienced paddlers alike can join us on fun and educational trips this summer season. Kettle Creek kayaking trips will include various lakes in the county, as well as Cranberry Creek (water-level dependent) and the Delaware River. The Kettle Creek staff is also excited to introduce our adventure day campers to kayaking this summer. Our new gear and trailer will even allow us to travel out of state this July on a three-day kayaking trip to the Adirondacks. We greatly appreciate the O'Connor Foundation for choosing to support us to make these paddling experiences possible, and we hope to see many participants on the water with us this season!

Monroe County High School Envirothon Results



The "Swamp Tigers" Team
of Pleasant Valley High School

On Friday, April 28th, 2023 at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, 15 teams from 5 local high schools participated in a competition to test their knowledge of the environment. The testing stations were Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, and Wildlife plus this year's Current Issue; *Adapting to a Changing Climate*. Participating schools were: East Stroudsburg Area High School - South, Evergreen Community Charter School, Pleasant Valley High School, Pocono Mountain East High School and Pocono Mountain West High School. Tests are given by cooperating agencies including the PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Game Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry and the Monroe County Conservation District Staff (MCCD). An educational program on this year's current issue topic was presented by David Hooker of the Monroe County Conservation District.

Envirothon Winner: "Swamp Tigers" team of Pleasant Valley High School

Second Place: "Diving Ducktators" team of Pleasant Valley High School

Third Place: "Breaking Bass" team of Pleasant Valley High School

The Swamp Tigers of Pleasant Valley High School were the highest scoring team at Current Issue, Forestry and Wildlife.

The Diving Ducktators of Pleasant Valley High School were the highest scoring team at Aquatics.

The Buffleheads of Evergreen Community Charter School were the highest scoring team at Soils.

The Envirothon is sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District, PA Envirothon Inc. and generously funded by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. The overall winning team received the coveted traveling trophy - the "Enviro-Owl" and a trip (Sponsored by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund) to the 2023 PA State Envirothon on May 24 at Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania.

The Swamp Tigers placed 2nd out of over 60 participating Pennsylvania counties in the Pennsylvania State Envirothon competition. Each student took home a \$750 scholarship. Great job Swamp Tigers!!!

Junior Envirothon Results

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center hosted the Junior Envirothon competition on Monday, May 15, for fifth and sixth graders, and Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 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.

The overall first place winner for the fifth and sixth grade competition was the "Cactus Makes Perfect" team from Tobyhanna Elementary Center. Receiving the overall second place trophy was the "Royal Elks" team from Swiftwater Intermediate School.

Teams were also recognized for high scores at the individual testing stations. Station winners for fifth and sixth grade were "Cactus Makes Perfect", Tobyhanna Elementary Center (Wetlands); "Fox Dynasty", Swiftwater Intermediate School (Trees); and "Preteenage Mutant Ninja Turtles", Stroudsburg Middle School (Ponds and Animals).

The seventh and eighth grade overall first place winner was the "Oily Oaks" team of Pocono Mountain West Junior High School. The seventh and eighth grade overall second place trophy was awarded to the "Monarch Butterflies" team from Pocono Mountain West Junior High. Station winners for seventh and eighth grade were Pocono Mountain West Junior High School's "Oily Oaks" (Animals and Ponds), Pocono Mountain West Junior High School's "Monarch Butterflies" (Trees) and Pocono Mountain West Junior High School's "Magical Maples" (Wetlands).

Chris Tosh of East Stroudsburg Elementary Named Conservation Educator of the Year

On Thursday, May 18th, the Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors and staff presented the 2022 Monroe County Conservation Educator of the Year Award to Christopher Tosh at the Monroe County Conservation District's monthly Board of Directors meeting.

Christopher is a fourth grade teacher at East Stroudsburg Elementary Center. He notes one of his greatest achievements as his participation in Trout Unlimited's Trout in the Classroom program where the class works with members of the local Trout Unlimited chapter to learn about clean water in our streams. Students are given trout eggs to raise until they are able to be released. During this time, the students are also learning about adaptations, food chains and watersheds. Monroe County, East Stroudsburg Elementary, and more importantly, its students are fortunate to have such a dedicated teacher.



Saturday, July 8th

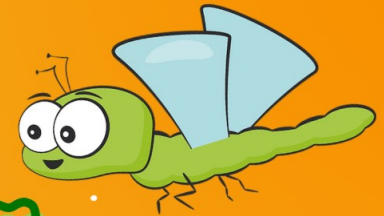
Morning Session: 9:30am-12pm

Afternoon Session: 12:30pm-3:00pm

Admission \$5/Child

Must Preregister; Call 570-629-3061

Free admission for Adults!



BUGFEST



Spaces Still Available for 2023 Conservation Camp

Conservation Camp is a week-long residential program held at Stony Acres, a 119-acre Wildlife Sanctuary/Recreational Facility owned by the students of East Stroudsburg University in Marshalls Creek. Conservation Camp provides young ages 14 through 2023 high school graduates with hands-on classroom and field instruction covering many aspects of natural resource conservation and management. Camp will take place July 16th-22nd, 2023. Call today for more info or visit mconconservation.org for an application today!



2023 Summer Programming

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

Plant ID Hike at Kettle Creek

Saturday, June 17th - 10am

Come hike the trails at Kettle Creek and learn about the many trees, shrubs, and other plants that grow here. Pre-registration is required.

Cost: \$6 per person

Monday, June 19th —Building Closed—Holiday

Summer Solstice Yoga Class

Tuesday, June 20th —6pm

Join us for an all adult level yoga class where we will welcome the summer solstice. This class will take place at the Mattioli Pavilion at Kettle Creek. **Bring your mat or towel to lie on and an open mind. Optionally, bring blocks or straps you may wish to support your practice. Cost: \$5 per person**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, June 21st - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Hike to the Top

Saturday, June 24th — 10am

Most people are not aware of the trails on the north side of Running Valley Road at Kettle Creek. Join EE Coordinator Roger Spotts as we journey to the top of the hill and explore a less visited part of the Wildlife Sanctuary. This 2 hour program will be a moderate difficulty hike and is suitable to people 8 yrs. And up. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring a water bottle.

Cost: \$6 per person



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
8050 Running Valley Road
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(570)629-3061
www.mcconservation.org

Family Trees-Meet the Artist/Papercutting Demonstration

Saturday, June 24th - 11am

Watch Sue Gettlin as she demonstrates her papercuts with photos and explains the history of the process. This is a family friendly event for all ages.

Event is free of charge. Registration is required.

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, June 28th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

KC for Kids: Queens, Kings and Wild Things

Thursday, June 29th - 10am

Join us to learn about leaders in the animal world such as queen ants and bees. This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited.

Cost: \$5 per child

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, June 30th - 9:30am - 2pm

We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9:30am-2pm. 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**

Saturday, July 1st—Building Closed

Tuesday, July 4th—Building Closed—Holiday

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, July 5th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

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

KC for Kids: Build an Animal

Thursday, July 6th - 10am

Using natural materials kids will build a camouflaged animal and hide it along a trail for other kids to find. This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited.

Cost: \$5 per child

BugFest

Saturday, July 8th - 9:30am-12pm & 12:30pm-3pm

Displays, activities, games, crafts, live insects, insect safaris, and presentations all day, all about insects! Join us for the morning or afternoon session. Come dressed as your favorite bug and receive a discount on admission price!

Cost: \$5/child ages 4 - 12. Parents can attend for free.

Sunday Bog Walk

Sunday, July 9th - 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. **Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.**

Cost: \$6 per person

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, July 12th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

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



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.

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KC for Kids: Pond Peeking

Thursday, July 13th - 10am

Take a peek at the fascinating creatures that reside in Kettle Creek's ponds. This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited. **Cost: \$5 per child**

Sunset Bog Walk

Thursday, July 13th - 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**

Saturday, July 15th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, July 19th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

KC for Kids: Scales, Skin, Feathers, Fur: What Covers an Animal?

Thursday, July 20th - 10am

Learn about the differences between animals based on what covers their body. This program is for children ages 3 - 6. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited. **Cost: \$5 per child**

Saturday, July 22nd—Building Open

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, July 26th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, July 29th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 2nd - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, August 5th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 9th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, August 12th — Building Open

Saturday Bog Walk

Saturday, August 12th - 2pm

Join us at 2pm 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**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 16th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Sunset Bog Walk

Thursday, August 17th - 6:30pm

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

Saturday, August 19th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 23rd - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, August 26th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 30th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Saturday, September 2nd—Building Closed

Monday, September 4th—Building Closed - Holiday

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 6th - 10am

See June 14th listing for detailed information.

Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.

Cost: \$6 per person

Art Opening and Demonstration: Laura Gonzalez “Our Beautiful World”

Saturday, September 9th - 11am

The artwork of Laura Gonzalez will be on display throughout the month of September. Her works include various subject matters and can be seen in places throughout Stroudsburg. Join us on Saturday, September 9th where she will be demonstrating how to create frameable artwork out of leaves. Participants should bring a variety of leaves, preferably ones that are not too dry, as we will use them as patterns. You may also bring either hard board or stretch canvas in any size. **Event is free of charge. Registration is required.**

Sunday Bog Walk

Sunday, September 10th - 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. **Registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot.**

Cost: \$6 per person

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MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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WEBSITE: mcconservation.org

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Monroe County Conservation District's Annual Photo Contest

In an effort to support the conservation of our county's natural resources, we feel it is important to allow the public an opportunity to showcase what they feel are Monroe County's finest natural resources.

12 Winners will be Chosen
Each winner will receive maple syrup and a calendar!

For full rules and how to submit a photo visit www.mcconservation.org

