



**MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Conservation Through Education



Monroe County Conservation District
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Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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Environmental Education 570-629-3061
Website: mcconservation.org

Fall 2016 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 40 No. 3

You're Invited to our Celebration!

40TH
anniversary

of our
**Environmental
Education
programs
1976 - 2016**



EE Museum
Tie-Dye
Critter Olympics

Refreshments
Bird Banding
Live Snakes



We invite you to our Open House to celebrate the **40th** anniversary of the Monroe County Conservation District's Environmental Education programs, along with the **25th** anniversary of the Monroe County Conservation District building!



Sunday, September 25th from 1 - 4pm



40 years of "Conservation Through Education"

Wow, 40 years of "Conservation through Education" programs at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. Since its humble beginnings in 1976, the EE Center has literally reached hundreds of thousands of people of all ages through its educational programs. Our mission has always remained the same, to educate people about the natural resources of the Pocono area so they are better able to make informed decisions on protecting those resources. Initially started with volunteers and interns, the EE Center has become an integral part of the Conservation District's overall conservation efforts. Monroe County and the surrounding area remain a beautiful region with many unique and diverse natural areas where people can explore and immerse themselves in the outside world. The founders of the Center showed great forethought when they got the program started in early 1976 on just an idea and a hope.

Throughout the Center's existence we have strived to provide quality EE programs for people of all ages. These programs have catered to many

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**Monroe County
Conservation District
Board of Directors**

- Joseph Hanyon, Esq., Chairperson
- Mark Sincavage, Vice-Chairperson
- Patrick Ross, Secretary
- Heidi Secord, Treasurer
- Paul Canevari
- David W. Moyer
- Charles A. Garris, Commissioner

Associate Directors

- Robert Armstrong, Carl B. Gould II,
John K. Leiser, Ph D., John Lyman, P.E.,
Theresa Merli, Edith Stevens,
Janet Weidensaul

District Staff

- Adam Schellhammer
District Manager
 - Lori Kerrigan
Head Resource Conservationist
 - Drew K. Wagner, P.E.,
Michael J. Wilk, P.E.
Hydraulic Engineers
 - Matthew Giambra, John Motz,
Andrea Mikol
Resource Conservation Specialists
 - Steven Baade
Resource Conservationist
 - Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator
 - Karen N. Boyle, Brittney Coleman,
Brian Hardiman, Darryl Speicher
Environmental Educators
 - Barbara Bistras
Administrative Coordinator
 - Alesia Gallo, Debra Martin
Office Assistant Senior
- The Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at 8 am on the third Thursday of each month in the District office.

40 years of "Conservation through Education"
(Continued from cover page)

different types of audiences and have taken us throughout the Poconos and literally the world. Along the way we have met many people and shared many special experiences. We have also addressed the more technical issues of our environment, working on programs dealing with site development, water quality, agriculture, and many more. The program offerings of the EE Center have been ever-changing and the staff involved over the last 40 years has brought their experience and ideas to the Center and helped the program evolve to meet our changing world.

Our name has changed several times as well, from the Meesing Nature Center to the Monroe County Environmental Education Center and finally to the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. Our mission, however, has never changed and we are constantly striving to develop new programs for our audience. Over the years we have received support and assistance from numerous individuals, groups, and organizations. They have shared our dream of a County EE Center for everyone to benefit from and enjoy. Our story has been a great one and we are grateful for everyone's support.

During the last 40 years there are many memories and lessons to be shared. To single out one would be impossible. However, our school programs have remained the cornerstone of our EE efforts for 40 years. These programs for local students focus on their local environment and give them the opportunity to explore it with hands-on learning activities. Using the natural world as a classroom remains the best method to teach kids about their environment and instill in them an appreciation for and conservation ethic. The words of Isabella B., a first grade student from Pleasant Valley Elementary School, sums things up nicely; "We went on a trip to Kettle Creek. We did many things. My favorite was seeing the flying squirrel. I loved it." In closing, 40 years of Environmental Education is a monumental event, thank you to everyone who has helped and supported us over the years. Please join us in celebrating the past 40 years on September 25th from 1 - 4pm and in continuing to provide the "Conservation through Education" programs in the future.

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update



The 25th Anniversary KCEF Dinner/Auction was held on May 20, 2016 at Camelback with over 200 people in attendance for this milestone event. KCEF President John Woodling noted in his remarks that this was indeed a milestone, recalling the very modest beginnings of this event under a tent at Water Gap Country Club.

The Board extends its sincere thanks to our sponsors, donors and all who attended. Special thanks to Brendan McDonald (Bob Teel's nephew) on his first Dinner Auction, 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 over \$800,000. A total of 26 sponsors, three of whom were new, supported the event and their assistance is sincerely appreciated.

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News 'N Notes

Harvesting Rainwater

Did you know that flushing the toilet is the single largest use of water in the average household? Using rainwater can help to offset the demand on your water supply—it can be used to flush toilets, water your garden, or wash your car.

Harvesting rainwater can not only prove to be an important money saving resource around your home but can help your municipal stormwater system do its job. During a heavy rainfall, storm drains and infrastructure can be overwhelmed with water. This can lead to flooding, and potential for transfer of pollutants like raw sewage, road salts, oil, and sediment into nearby streams and wetlands. Rainwater reuse is a valuable tool that can help reduce the amount of runoff into these municipal stormwater systems.

Some simple, cost-effective tools you can use are devices such as decorative rain barrels to capture the water from your gutters. This is an easy, practical, and economic way to capture and reuse stormwater right in your own back yard.

Rain gardens are another idea that can help you take advantage of the land's natural water runoff. Unlike a regular garden that needs watering, a rain garden is constructed so that it reuses water that would otherwise run off into the sewer systems. The bonus is that by diverting that water from the storm drain, you're giving your overtaxed municipal sewer system a break. (See "MS4" on page 7.)

For more ideas on where to purchase rain barrels or technical assistance with your rain garden, contact us here at MCCC at 570-629-3060.

Annual Bird Seed Sale

It's time to feed our feathered friends and we are pleased to once again offer some of the best quality bird seed on the market: Aspen Song Wild Bird Seed. Our distributor has allowed us to ensure quality seed at a good price for our members and friends. We are offering a wide variety of seed mixes and specialties, as well as bulk black oil sunflower seed.

The date for pick-up is Saturday, November 19th from 9am to 1pm at the EE Center. We will have extra seed and many new varieties of feeders to meet all your bird feeding needs available on the day of the sale and throughout bird feeding season. All members and past buyers will receive Bird Seed flyers in the mail in mid-September. To get an order form, call or visit mccconservation.org.

Bird seed types offered:

BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER: (25 & 50 lb.) The birds #1 choice in sunflower seeds with thinner shells and a high seed-to-shell ratio.

VALUE BLEND: (30 lb.) Contains red milo, cracked corn, white proso millet and black oil sunflower.

CHOICE BLEND (20 & 40 lb.) A wonderful blend of millet, black oil sunflower, cracked corn, peanuts, safflower and striped sunflower.

PREMIUM BLEND (20 & 40 lb.) Its twelve different ingredients include black oil and striped sunflower, tree nuts, canola, nyjer and dried fruit.

JUST DESSERTS (4 & 20 lb.) A shell-less mix of peanuts, tree nuts, sunflower kernels, pumpkin seeds, and hulled white millet.

SUNFLOWER KERNELS (5 lb.)

SAFFLOWER SEED (5 lb.)

FRUIT & NUT WOODPECKER BLEND (4 lb.)

FINCH BLEND (4 lb.)

NYJER (THISTLE) SEED (10 lb.)

HI-ENERGY SUET (11 oz.)

Project OwlNet is Back at Kettle Creek!

Kettle Creek will host the first official season of Project OwlNet under its own banding permit in the fall of 2016. The station will be open to the general public every Friday night in October; the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th; from 8 to 10pm (donations welcome!). Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project OwlNet, and have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. For anyone interested in helping out at the banding station, there will be a Project OwlNet orientation program on Saturday, September 24th beginning at 10am. For more information, please call the EE Center at 570-629-3061.



Northern Saw-whet Owl banded last fall at Kettle Creek



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will be holding a **blood drive** at Monroe County Conservation District! Saturday, Oct. 29th from 9am-1pm
For information, call Barbara at (570) 629-3060.

To register, please visit the website or call the phone number below.

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS



Left: 2016 Conservation Campers on their Delaware River canoe trip. Right: David Dietsch, 2016 Outstanding Camper.

42nd Annual Conservation Camp

What has 68 legs, 34 noses, and comes in all different sizes and shapes? The 34 Monroe County Conservation Campers that recently completed the week-long Monroe County Conservation Camp. These teens from all over Monroe County and a few from outside the county spent the week immersed in a wide range of environmental-themed activities. Countless organizations and individuals donated their time and/or money to make the camp experience possible. Highlights of the week included sighting 24 bald eagles on the Delaware River canoe trip, shooting archery, practicing their fishing skills, and getting wet on Stony Acres Ropes Course.

The camp is held each July and is sponsored by Monroe County Conservation District and the Monroe County Federation of Sportsmen Clubs and generously supported by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. On the last day of camp, all students received certificates from several conservation agencies and David Dietsch from Greentown, PA was named the outstanding camper for the week. Conservation Camp 2017 will be held July 15-22; check our website for details, mconconservation.org.



Trapshooting with BRCV Gun Club

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

(Continued from page 2)

The Rose Schoch Award was presented to Bob Demarest, a retired Pocono Mountain School District teacher whose long term involvement with the KCEEC and numerous other organizations made him a most worthy recipient. The award was presented by KCEF Board member, Pat Calpin.

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 Quinn Denlinger
- Tim Fisher, II
- Kara Klaus-Major
- John Reilly
- John J. Riley

The KCEF Board and KCEEC staff are working to prepare the 2017 Wish list for the coming year. Included on the list is to continue funding Conservation Camp, the Envirothon, and Bug Fest. Along with that we have committed to continue cost-sharing East Stroudsburg 3rd grade “Pocono Habitats” units and funding all four school district 4th grade “Wetland” units at the Bog and classroom visits. These activities are only possible because of the continued generosity of our many longtime supporters.

The KCEF Board thanks everyone who helped make this a successful year and wishes all a safe and healthy fall.

- John Woodling, KCEF President



Bob Demarest, recipient of the Rose Schoch Award

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER

Public Bog Walk - 7th - Wednesday - 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 its protection. Please wear appropriate footwear. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. **Pre-registration is required & 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.

Home School "Astronomy at Big Pocono" - 8th - Thursday - See last page.

Sunset Hike to Warnertown Falls - 8th - Thursday - Explore this special spot and learn its history as the sunlight fades and sunset colors fill the sky. This relatively short hike on easy terrain is perfect for a workday evening. Meet at Kettle Creek at 5:30pm to load the bus—feel free to bring your own refreshments to enjoy next to the waterfall. We will return to Kettle Creek at 9pm. Cost: \$15/non-members, \$12/EE Center members. **Pre-registration required.**

Turtles of the Poconos - 10th - Saturday - Join us at 10am to learn about these amazing creatures and perhaps even find one on the Kettle Creek property! Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Art Opening: TOALC Photo Club - 10th - Saturday - See last page for details.

Public Bog Walk - 11th - Sunday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required & limited.**

Public Bog Walk - 14th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Full Moon Bog Walk - 16th - Friday - Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a flashlight. For more information, please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required & limited.**

Wildlife Detectives - 17th - Saturday - The mystery of what lives around your house or along your favorite hiking trail will be unveiled as we discuss the techniques for becoming a wildlife detective. This 2-hour program at 10am is designed

for ages 8 on up and will be conducted on the trails at Kettle Creek. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Public Bog Walk - 21st - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Josie Porter Farm Meandering - "Late Summer Wildflowers" - 21st - Wednesday - September has some of the brightest flowers of the year blooming in the fields around the farm. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and dress to be outside. Walks meet in the farm parking lot on Cherry Valley Rd at 4pm. Pre-registration is suggested. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or CSA members, children under 12 **FREE.**

Fall Equinox Hike - 22nd - Thursday - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman in saying hello to fall on this four-mile round-trip hike to Hemlock Pond, a hidden jewel atop the Kittatinny Ridge in the DWGNRA. Cost: \$24/non-member, \$18/EE Center member and includes bus transportation. Meet at KC at 8:30am; return at 4pm. Bring a lunch, water, and be prepared to hike over rocky, uneven ground. **Pre-registration required.**

Project Owl Net Orientation Program - 24th - Saturday - See page 3 for details.

Public Bog Walk - 24th - Saturday - This guided walk begins at 2pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required & limited.**

40th Anniversary of EE Celebration & Open House - 25th - Sunday - See cover page and mconconservation.org for details.

Public Bog Walk - 28th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

The Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt - 30th & 1st - Friday & Saturday - Please see page 9 for more information. **Pre-registration required.**

OCTOBER

Monroe County Farm Tour - 1st - Saturday - NEW this year—we are providing transportation to 13 passengers who reserve a seat on the bus. For information, time, and a list of the farms, please see page 8. Cost: \$15/non-member, \$10/EE Center member. **Pre-registration required.**

The Secrets of Squirrels - 1st - Saturday - Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am to learn about squirrels,

where they live, and their entertaining and unique adaptations. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Hawk Mountain Field Trip - 5th - Wednesday - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman on this trip to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and learn about the history of this storied hawk watch while witnessing firsthand the autumn raptor migration. Meet at KC at 8:30am; return at 5:30pm. Cost: \$29/non-member, \$23/EE Center member, and includes bus transportation and entrance fees to HMS. Binoculars, food and water, and hiking footwear suggested. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a moderately strenuous one-mile hike to the North lookout. **Pre-registration & payment required.**

Public Bog Walk - 5th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Home School "The Lenape Indians" - 6th - Thursday - See last page for details.

Project Owl Net Saw-whet Owl Banding - 7th - Friday - See page 3; 8-10pm.

Autumn's Aromas - 8th - Saturday - Every season has distinctive smells and Darryl loves to sniff them out. Join him at 10am for this 1 ½ hour olfactory walk as he shares some of his favorite smells around Kettle Creek. Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Art Opening: Claudia Hill - "Working with Nature's Canvas" - 8th - Saturday - Please see last page for details.

Building closed - 10th - Monday - Holiday

Public Bog Walk - 12th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Lakota Wolf Preserve Field Trip - 14th - Friday - Back by popular demand! Learn about some of the world's most amazing animals as we explore the Lakota Wolf Preserve in Columbia, NJ and observe the four different packs of wolves living there (plus fox and bobcats too). This is a great wildlife photography opportunity—don't forget your camera! If we're lucky, maybe we can hear a wolf howl! Meet at the EE Center at 9am and return at 1:30pm. Cost: \$28/non-members, \$24/EE Center members. **Pre-registration & payment is required & limited.**

Continued on next page

*Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8am to 4:30pm, and most Saturdays from 9am to 1pm or visit our website www.mconconservation.org.

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

OCTOBER Cont'd

Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - 14th - Friday - See page 3; 8-10pm.

White-Tailed Deer - 15th - Saturday - Join EE Coordinator Roger Spotts for this informative look at one of our largest wildlife species beginning at 10am. We will look at the deer's lifestyle, feeding habits, and interactions with humans in this 1-hour program. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Bog Day - 16th - Sunday - 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.

Full Moon Paddle at Brady's Lake - 16th - Sunday - Join Kettle Creek staff for a unique and leisurely paddle around Brady's Lake under the calming light of the full moon. We'll listen and watch for animals that become active when the light begins to fade. Participants are required to provide their own kayak or canoe with valid launch permit (can be purchased online), life jacket, and flashlight or headlamp. Meet at Brady's Lake parking lot at 6pm. Suggested donation: \$8/non-members, \$6/EE Center members. **Pre-registration required.**

Public Bog Walk - 19th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Josie Porter Farm Meandering - "Nature's Bounty" - 19th - Wednesday - Fall is the season for preparations for the colder weather to come. As we hike the farm for the last walk of the year we will discuss what is taking place in the natural world. Full description please see listing for September 21st.

Bus Trip to Longwood Gardens to see Nightscape: A Light and Sound Experience - 21st - Friday - Don't miss this opportunity to see the Gardens in all their daytime glory, then experience a new kind of beauty as you immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and spectacle of Longwood after dark. Bring a lunch; dinner can be purchased from the café, restaurant, or the popular Beer Garden. Our day will begin with a 1-hour guided tour,

then participants can roam the Gardens at their leisure. Meet at the EE Center at 11am; we'll return at 11pm. Cost: \$60/non-members, \$50/EE Center members, which includes admission, guided tour, and bus transportation. **Pre-registration & payment are required & limited. Pre-payment must be received by Friday, October 14th.**

Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - 21st - Friday - See page 3; 8-10pm.

Costa Rica Dreaming - 22nd - Saturday - Costa Rica is a true paradise for the bird-watcher and naturalist, boasting a bird list of over 800 species as well as a diverse array of other wildlife. Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman at 10am for a presentation highlighting his three visits to this biologically rich country and previewing his next Costa Rica birding adventure scheduled for February 2017. Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Public Bog Walk - 26th - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Birding at Brig - 27th - Thursday - Forsythe (formerly Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge in southern NJ is a migratory hotspot for a diversity of birds. Join Brian Hardiman for a full day of birds and fun. Meet at KC at 7am; return at 8:30pm. Cost: \$28/non-member, \$22/EE Center member and includes bus transportation. Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. A dinner stop will be made. **Pre-registration required.**

Project OwlNet Saw-whet Owl Banding - 28th - Friday - See page 3; 8-10pm.

Fossil Find - 29th - Saturday - Join us at 10am to learn about fossils and hunt for your own at the Kettle Creek quarry. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

American Red Cross Blood Drive at Kettle Creek - 29th - Saturday - We are hosting a 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.

NOVEMBER

Home School "Saw-whet Owl Banding" - 1st - Tuesday - Please see last page.

Public Bog Walk - 2nd - Wednesday - This guided walk begins at 1pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required.**

Who's Gonna Hibernate? - 5th - Saturday - November is a time when critters, like us, are getting ready for winter. Some store food, some eat lots of food to gain weight while others move away. Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am to learn about your favorite Pocono critters and what they'll be doing during the winter months. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Art Opening: George Miller - "Pocono Area Landscapes" - 5th - Saturday - Please see last page for details.

Tree I.D. at Quiet Valley Farm - 6th - Sunday - Join Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff at 1pm on a 2-hour family outdoor hike and learn how to ID the trees on the farm and a little about their natural history. Please dress to walk outside. The walk will begin in front of the Gift Shop. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE Center or Quiet Valley members, children under 12 **FREE.**

Building closed - 11th - Friday - Holiday

Autumn's Sounds - 12th - Saturday - The crunching of leaves as one walks along a woodland trail is one of the joys of the season. Join Darryl Speicher at 10am for an auditory ramble as he strolls along the trails of KC with a keen ear on the sounds of the season. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Public Bog Walk - 12th - Saturday - This guided walk begins at 2pm. Full description please see listing for September 7th. **Pre-registration required & limited.**

Mystery Birding Trip - 18th - Friday - Join Brian Hardiman on this field trip where the destinations and target birds will not be revealed until the day of the trip. Meet at KC at 8:30am; return at 5:30pm. Cost: \$24/non-member, \$18/EE Center member and includes bus transportation, plenty of birds, and a good time! Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks. **Pre-registration & payment required.**

Annual Bird Seed Sale - 19th - Saturday - Please see page 3 for information.

Building closed - 24th-26th - Holiday

DECEMBER

Art Opening: Photo Contest Display - 3rd - Saturday - See last page for details.

Kettle Creek Refund Policy: For all pre-paid programs, refunds will be given only if notification is given at least one week in advance.

***Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8am to 4:30pm, and most Saturdays from 9am to 1pm or visit our website www.mcconservation.org.**

Water Ways

Monroe County MS4 Roundtable

MCCD will be hosting an MS4 roundtable meeting on August 30th to assist municipalities with meeting their requirements under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System for their Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4). Under this program, eleven municipalities will be required to get permit coverage or seek a waiver for stormwater discharges in Monroe County. Population density from the 2010 census was used as the trigger for the PA Department of Environmental Protection to pull these municipalities into the program.

The MS4 program is intended to address pollution contributions from storm sewers through municipal adherence to Minimum Control Measures, implementation of Pollution Control Measures, and development of Pollution Reduction Plans. Specifically, municipalities will be required to implement "Best Management Practices" (BMPs) such as encouraging the use of Low Impact Design (LID) or Green Infrastructure, conducting stormwater outfall monitoring, and providing education and outreach to the municipality's residents.

MCCD will be offering to those affected municipalities technical assistance to meet many of the program requirements. Specifically, MCCD plans to assist the municipalities with its education and outreach requirements, as well as sections of the permit pertaining to Erosion and Sediment Control. Additionally, the Monroe County Planning Commission has volunteered to assist with map development associated with the program as municipalities will be required

to develop maps of their stormwater outfalls, stormwater pipe network, and stormwater BMPs which will help municipality's better address the source of pollution to their streams.

BWA Green Infrastructure Workshop—Come Win a Rain Barrel!



The Brodhead Watershed Association (BWA) will be hosting three public workshops in Stroud Township, East Stroudsburg, and Stroudsburg to present its Green Infrastructure Plan, and provide green tips to homeowners. Green infrastructure is designed to absorb, filter, and cleanse as much runoff as possible, treating rainwater naturally to prevent it from flooding the watershed. Green infrastructure can be as small as a planter box or as large as a wetland – everyone, no matter their resources, can find a way to incorporate water-pervious areas. Come learn how to build a rain garden, install a rain barrel, and "live green" to keep your drinking water and streams clean. Community members will be encouraged to share their ideas on locations they would like to see more rain gardens to help beautify their community and improve water quality within the Brodhead Watershed. There will also be a drawing to win a FREE rain barrel at each workshop. For more information, visit brodheadwatershed.org, call 570-839-1120 or email info@brodheadwatershed.org.

Meeting Times:

Sept. 14th @ 7pm – Stroud Township Municipal Building (1211 North 5th St., Stroudsburg)

Sept. 20th @ 7pm – Danbury Depot, East Stroudsburg (5 S. Kistler St., East Stroudsburg)

Sept. 28th @ 7pm – Stroudsburg Municipal Building (700 Sarah St., Stroudsburg)

Wind Farm at Bethlehem Water Authority

Atlantic Wind is proposing to build a wind turbine farm composed of 37 turbines, enough to power 30,000 homes, across approximately 260 acres owned by the Bethlehem Water Authority in Penn Forest Township. The area is managed by the Authority to protect water resources for Bethlehem's residents. The Authority has championed this project stating that Atlantic Wind would provide clean energy to the region, and generate up to \$100,000 annually in local revenue.

The Nature Conservancy's easement on the property allows for turbines as long as best management practices are followed. Environmental groups including the local Sierra Club support this project, calling out the long-term benefits of green energy and the potential to reduce the effects of climate change. However, citizens and some local scientists are concerned for the impact of building an expansive wind farm on the ecologically sensitive area. Specifically, environmental concerns include the level of earth disturbance on the steep ridgeline, and the potential for the wind farm to impact migratory bird species including ospreys and bald eagles. Currently the project is under review by the Penn Forest Township Zoning Hearing Board to determine whether the project meets the criteria for a special exception to its zoning ordinance.

Monroe County Farm Tour 2016



From the farm to our table, most of what we eat today travels approximately 1,500 miles. That requires a great amount of non-renewable resources, which in turn creates a lot of pollution. Today many people consider what impacts their actions have on the environment in terms of a “carbon footprint.” One easy way to reduce our carbon footprint is to buy locally grown foods. By buying local, we are also supporting our local economy.

The Monroe County Conservation District is proudly hosting the 2016 Farm Tour to connect consumers with local producers. Participants will have the opportunity to visit local farms to learn about their available products and farm management. The 2016 Monroe County Farm Tour will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 9am to 3pm (Rain date will be Sunday, October 2nd).

NEW this year—MCCD is providing transportation to 13 passengers who call and reserve a seat on the bus. We will be meeting at MCCD at 8:15am and will be leaving for our first farm at approximately 8:30am. Don't wait to reserve your spot. Seats will fill up quickly! Bring a lunch. Cost: \$15/non-member, \$10/EE member.

Brochures and maps for this self-guided tour will be available at the farms, our office, and on our website, mccconservation.org. For more information, please call our office at 570-629-3060. Currently the following farms will be participating in the event, but check back on our website for additional farms prior to the event.

Pohopoco Creek Alpacas

216 Merwinsburg Road
Effort, PA 18330
570-242-3587

www.pohopococreekalpacas.com

Pohopoco Creek Alpacas raises alpacas to sell and harvests fleece for yarn, clothing and accessories. Educational Activity: The owner will discuss where alpacas are from, what they are used for and how the property is managed. **Directions:** From Brodheads ville travel north on Route 115 approximately 2 miles to Merwinsburg Rd. Travel approximately 0.25 miles to 216 Merwinsburg Road on the right, continue on the driveway to the top of the hill.

Borger Farms

540 Silver Springs Blvd.
Kunkletown, PA 18058
484-809-4503

Borger Farms is a multigenerational farm that grows sweet and field corn, pumpkins, and other produce. Borger Farms also raise beef cattle. Most of the row crops are planted with the use of a no till planter. Educational Activity: The farm owner will discuss management of the farm for raising beef and vegetables. **Directions:** From Route 209 in Kresgeville travel south on Silver Springs Blvd. for approximately 2 miles, the farm property is on the left.

Stryker Farm

3045 Mountain Road
Saylorsburg, PA 18353
570-269-2995

www.strykerfarm.com

Stryker Farm raises heritage breed pigs and meat goats humanely and naturally outdoors on pasture and forest land. Educational Activity: Take a tour of the farm to learn about the challenges of producing naturally raised and fed meat goats and pigs. **Directions:** From Route 33 south take the Wind Gap exit, take right onto Old Route 115, travel 0.25 miles and make first left onto Mountain Road, travel 1.5 miles, driveway is on the right.

The Garden of Giving

2556 Rising Hill Drive
Saylorsburg, PA 18353
570-402-1282

The Garden of Giving provides fresh produce and eggs to Monroe County food banks. Educational Activity: Participants will learn about the mission of The Garden of Giving and plant garlic for harvesting next year. **Directions:** From Route 209 and 715 intersection at Wawa, take 715 north for approximately 4 miles, make a right onto Rising Hill Drive, The Garden of Giving is located at the 7th house on the right.

Josie Porter Farm

6514 Cherry Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-992-0899

www.josieporterfarm.com

Josie Porter Farm is a biodynamically managed vegetable farm. It is home to Cherry Valley Community Supported Agriculture, and the Josie Porter Farm Buying Club. The mission of the farm is to provide a connection to the land and food through education, farming and community. Educational Activity: There will be a special presentation from a West African organic farmer, farm tours, and the store will be open. **Directions:** From Route 611 south of Stroudsburg take Route 191 south for approximately 0.9 mile, make a right onto Cherry Valley Road, go 1.7 miles, the farm is on the left.

Don't Forget—MCCD's 2nd Annual Amateur Photo Contest

Send in photos that showcase Monroe County's finest Natural Resources! Earn a spot in both our art gallery and a 2017 MCCD calendar! Submissions due September 30th.



For details and entry form, please see the link on our website, mccconservation.org.

Introducing our New District Manager!

Monroe County,

My name is Adam Schellhammer and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the newest addition to the Monroe County Conservation District Team. I am also proud, and humbled, by the fact that I will be accepting the torch of District Manager from Craig Todd, whose dedication to conservation efforts in Monroe County is widely recognized and respected throughout the state. I find myself in the envious position of becoming a part of a team that contributes so much to the community, and I can not thank them enough for their warm and generous welcome during this transition.

For a little background on myself; I spent a great deal of time outdoors as a child, like many others that find themselves drawn to the conservation field. Hiking, fishing, and exploring the waterways of central Pennsylvania dominated my time and it was those activities that led me to pursue a career that allowed me to remain close to the natural world. I earned my B.S. in Environmental Biology from Millersville University and my M.S. in Natural Resource Management from Virginia Tech (Sorry Penn State fans). Since graduating I have been anything but stationary. I have spent time with land trusts, the National Park Service, environmental non-profits, and expanded my scope to international issues while working in New Zealand and addressing water quality issues in southern China. My work has provided me the opportunity to work with some incredible people and gain a wealth of experience which I plan on employing to protect and improve the beautiful landscape here in Monroe County.

I, along with my wife Beth, am excited to be putting down some roots here in the Poconos and we are looking forward to the journey that lies ahead!

Sincerely,

Adam Schellhammer



District Manager Adam Schellhammer visiting a wildlife rehabilitation center in Australia

The Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt

It's that time of year to get your team together and compete in the Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt. The teams are trying not just to find more birds than the competition, but the rarest birds in Monroe County over a 24 hour period. This year's snipe hunt will begin at 5pm on Friday, September 30th and end at the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at 5pm on Saturday, October 1st. Following the hunt all the teams will be treated to dinner and presentation of the coveted GMC Snipe Hunt trophy. Will the Long-tailed Jaegermeisters three-peat as champions or will another team of snipe hunters capture the trophy this year? For a copy of the official Great Monroe Snipe Hunt rules and registration information contact the EE Center at 570-629-3061. Cost: \$15/team member. All participating team members will receive an official Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt license. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 28th.



BioBlitz 2016 Results from West End Regional Park

On June 17 and 18, 2016, the West End Regional Park was invaded by scientists of all ages and backgrounds as they conducted a BioBlitz on the 244-acre park. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour survey of all the plants and animals that live on a property to determine the overall diversity and health of the ecosystem. Teams of surveyors combed the area capturing and identifying the many different species that live at the park and when the 24-hour period was up a total of **798** species were counted. The invertebrates led the way with 303 total species followed closely by the botany team which recorded 293 species. We also found numerous other

organisms to complete the count. The surveyors ranged in age from 75 to 4 years old and the interaction between these scientists and the public provided a lot of opportunities to share information about science in general. We would like to thank the West End Park and Open Space Commission for assisting with the Blitz and allowing us to use this beautiful site. Additionally, the funding for the event was generously provided by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. Please plan on joining us in two years for the next Blitz at the recently acquired Nature Preserve at Godfrey Ridge.

Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program Update

Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program provides grant funding to local municipalities to reduce environmental impacts and long-term maintenance costs associated with public roads. The Program was enacted into law in April 1997 as part of the PA Vehicle Code, with funding included via the transportation bill providing funding to the Conservation Districts through the State Conservation Commission. Monroe County has received annual allocations of \$100,000 for the dirt and gravel program and \$113,000 for the low-volume road (<500 vehicles/day) program. This is a significant increase from our previous \$20,000 allocation and has enabled funding for larger projects with significant impacts on area streams.

The program is unique among transportation and water quality programs in that it asks municipalities to contribute toward the project costs, and establishes local control of how grants are awarded through the county conservation districts. The conservation district, through its Quality Assurance Board (representatives from the District, Fish and Boat Commission and Natural Resources and Conservation Service), establish policies for implementation of the grant program,

and review and score proposed projects for funding based on environmental benefit, cost-effectiveness, and long-term reductions in sedimentation and maintenance. Municipalities, for their part, generally provide the labor and equipment to do the projects. Most projects in recent years have seen a 40-55% match of in-kind contributions by municipalities.

Grant applicants are required to have someone trained through the Dirt and Gravel Road Center's Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) Program to be eligible, and the road must be publicly owned and open to travel. Currently, half of Monroe County's municipalities are eligible for funding by having at least one person trained in ESM practices. Training is provided free of charge to eligible municipalities at various locations around the state. The initial training is two days and attendance by road managers as well as equipment operators is recommended. Feedback from the recent training in Monroe County was well-received by those in attendance. Some of the equipment operators noted the information provided on managing runoff, grading and aggregate placement will be beneficial on all road maintenance activities, not just those funded

through the grant program.

In the future, the District plans to provide additional information to the public on the technical aspects of the program, in order to help private roads owners such as those in developments, or just individuals with long driveways, minimize sediment pollution and reduce maintenance intervals on dirt and gravel roads. Much of the information about the program and road maintenance in general is available on the Penn State website at <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/general-resources> under technical bulletins. The ESM guide is also available at the same link. Technical questions can be directed to our Dirt and Gravel Program technician John Motz at 570-629-3060.



*Placement of stone subbase in geotextile web designed to hold road bed in place.
Photo courtesy of Polk Township*

Interseeder Demonstration

On June 30, 2016, Monroe County Conservation District held an Interseeder Demonstration on four farms across the county. Chris Houser and Greg Roth, from Interseeder Technologies, brought the Interseeder as a part of a four-county effort to educate the farming community of the benefits of starting cover crops early in the planting season. This allows for a fully covered field in the spring which helps prevent soil erosion. Other benefits include; enhancing soil nutrients, suppressing weeds, increasing corn yield from rotation

effect and can essentially help reduce farming costs.

At each of the four farm locations, four different cover crops/cover crop mixes were used, each covering roughly a quarter acre. The cover crops were Annual Rye, Crimson Clover, Rye/Crimson Clover Mix, and T.A. Seeds Indy Mix (Rye, Clover, and Tillage Radish). These varieties were picked for their ability to prevent erosion and scavenge nutrients. Progress of these crops will be documented throughout the summer. The findings from the demonstration will be presented in October at a workshop that the public

will be invited to, date to be announced. For more information including the dates and locations of the workshops, contact Resource Conservation Specialist Matt Giambra at 570-629-3060 or at mgmccd@ptd.net.

Financial and other support for this project is provided by the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, Inc. through a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Dear Members and Friends,

The fall of 2016 brings many new and exciting things to the EE Center as well as some old and popular activities. We encourage everyone to join us at some of our upcoming programs and to check out our website for the details on all the activities at the Center.

This fall we are continuing our school programs for Monroe County students. We work with all four school districts in Monroe County to provide hands-on learning experiences for the students on the local environment. These students range from Kindergarten all the way up through high school and we are grateful for the school district's support and the support of the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund for their financial assistance.



We hope to see you at the Open House as we celebrate *40 Years of Environmental Education*.

Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

Twenty-Five Year Milestone for Volunteer Karin Metrock

September 2016 marks *TWENTY-FIVE* years of volunteering at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center for Tobyhanna resident Karin Metrock. The staff and Board of Directors congratulate Karin on this impressive accomplishment and extend a sincere thank you for her unwavering dedication and selfless giving of her time over these past twenty-five years. During this period she has volunteered for a myriad of duties that would fill this page!

Karin is a fixture behind the gift shop counter on Saturdays, and you can also bump into her at any number of special events ranging from Bug Fest, the bird seed sale, or maple sugaring's Public Day and Scout Day. During her quarter century of service to Kettle Creek, Karin has been recognized an unprecedented five times as our Volunteer of the Year. Enough cannot be said in praising Karin for her commitment to Kettle Creek and helping us accomplish our goals as an EE center.

Reflecting on her time here, some of Karin's fondest memories include seeing children attend our programs and grow in their knowledge of the outside world. She enjoys watching their faces while they excitedly tell her everything they know. Karin is also very grateful for the friends she has made, visitors and staff alike, and summed up her volunteer service by saying, "I have had so much fun and laughed so hard, so many times...it's really been a hoot!"



Thank you Karin!

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

DATE _____

Make check payable to:

Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)

8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$ 30.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+)	\$ 10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Individual	\$ 500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Family	\$ 750.00

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Please Share With A Friend

New Renewal

Don't miss out—Join the Costa Rica Birding Adventure!

February 3 – 14, 2017

Only the size of West Virginia, the Central American country of Costa Rica boasts an incredibly rich diversity of birds—over 800 species have been recorded there. Journey south with Brian Hardiman to enjoy spectacular birds such as the Resplendent Quetzal and Scarlet Macaw while soaking up the tropical warmth. Costa Rica is also home to a great variety of colorful tanagers, over 50 species of hummingbirds, and many other equally impressive birds. We are also likely to see howler and capuchin monkeys, sloths, coatimundis, and crocodiles. This will be Brian's 4th trip to Costa Rica and 14th overall to the American tropics. For details and an itinerary for the trip, contact Brian Hardiman at 570-629-3061 or bhmccd@ptd.net.



Welcome to our New Members!

Liz Reeder and Family, Stroudsburg
Sandra Erb, Mt. Pocono
Camillo Family, Brodheadsville
Gilliland Family, Stroudsburg
Caprioli Family, Stroudsburg

Camillio Family, Brodheadsville
Mangler Family, East Stroudsburg
Amanda Cherif, East Stroudsburg
Shteyngard Family, Brooklyn, NY



8050 RUNNING VALLEY ROAD
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
TELEPHONE: 570-629-3060 FAX: 570-629-3063
E-MAIL: monroecd@ptd.net
WEBSITE: mcconservation.org

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Fall Home School Programs

We are continuing to offer hands-on environmental education experiences for any interested home school students. Each month a different topic will be addressed. **Pre-registration is required and limited by the Monday preceding the program date.**

September 8 – Astronomy at Big Pocono (*note special cost and time) – Guest speaker Rich Grebb will introduce students to the night sky and the stars, planets, and constellations that fill it during this program for K–12th graders held at Big Pocono State Park. There will be telescopic views of Mars and Saturn’s rings and moons, plus views of the Hercules Star Cluster and Andromeda Galaxy. Cost: \$8/EE Center member, \$10/non-member. We will meet at 7:30pm at Big Pocono State Park.

October 6 – The Lenape Indians (*note special cost) – Guest speaker John Kraft will present this engaging program from 2-4pm, on traditional Lenape culture and their daily life, beliefs, and creative expressions. Mr. Kraft is director of Lenape Lifeways, Inc., a non-profit educational outreach organization in New Jersey, and has over 40 years of experience as an archaeologist, educator, author, and illustrator of the Lenape culture. The

program is for grades K–12th. Cost: \$10/EE Center member, \$14/non-member.

November 1 – Saw-whet Owl Banding at Kettle Creek (*note special date and time) – Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher will present this program on the diminutive and fascinating northern saw-whet owl. Darryl will discuss *Project OwlNet*, a continent-wide banding effort that monitors the migratory ecology and population dynamics of this owl species. Students will observe firsthand the operation of an owl banding station, with the opportunity to see the capture, banding, and release of a saw-whet owl. This program for grades K–12th begins at 7pm. Cost: \$3/EE Center member, \$6/non-member.

December 1 – ESU Wildlife Museum and Planetarium Tour (*note special cost and location) – Students will meet Kettle Creek staff at 1:45pm at East Stroudsburg University’s Schisler Museum of Wildlife and Natural History. This program, for grades K–12th, will include a guided tour of the museum and its dioramas of the wildlife and biomes of North America and the world, in addition to a show at the McMunn Planetarium. Cost: \$5/EE Center member adult or student, \$7/non-member adult or student.

2016 Art Gallery Schedule

September 1 - 30: TOALC Photo Club
The Photo Club of the Older Adult Learning Center is composed of a variety of individuals drawn together by their enjoyment of photography. Artistry is expressed through diverse subjects and different photographic techniques. *Opening Reception: Saturday, Sept. 10, 11am-1pm.*

October 1 - 31: Claudia Hill - “Working with Nature’s Canvas” - The gourds on display here show how versatile this natural canvas can be. Gourds can be painted, carved, wood-burned, woven, beaded and sculpted. Regardless of how the artist works with a gourd, its natural beauty always shines through. *Opening Reception: Saturday, Oct. 8, 11am-1pm.*

November 1 - 30: George Miller - “Pocono Area Landscapes” - The exhibit will include acrylic paintings of fields, ponds, lakes, and flowers in the Pocono Mountains area. *Opening Reception: Saturday, Nov. 5, 11am-1pm.*

December 1 - 31: Photo Contest Display - Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources photo contest. Winners will be revealed and the top 13 photos will be available on a 2017 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit Environmental Education programs. *Opening Reception: Saturday, Dec. 3, 11am-1pm.*