



MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education

Winter 2015 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 39 No. 4



Monroe County Conservation District
8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
~~~~~

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

### 2015 Fall Memories...

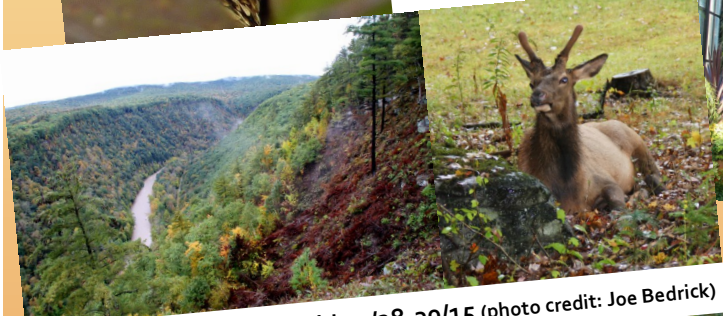


Rattlesnake  
Swamp  
Hike  
10/9/15

(photo credit:  
Bob Andresen)



Longwood Gardens Trip—"Nightscape" 10/16/15 (photo credit: Ken Hatt)



Elk Viewing in the PA Wilds 9/28-30/15 (photo credit: Joe Bedrick)



Look inside for what's happening this winter! ❄️



Scavenger Hunt Fun at our Annual  
Membership Picnic 9/27/15



Northern Saw-whet Owl -  
Project OwlNet 10/5/15

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### Rimrock Bridge Update



Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, PennDOT has announced that the Rimrock Bridge will be closed for at least two more months past the proposed opening date, which was scheduled for November. Crews discovered 45-foot deep concrete caissons in the center pier of the 60 year old bridge, which is blocking placement of the foundation for the new bridge. Bridge completion now scheduled for sometime in January. Please continue to follow the posted detour route (Rt. 33 South), or choose from the alternate routes below.

**Coming from areas North & West:** Take Rt. 611 South and turn Right on Rt. 715 South (OR take I-80 East and get off at the Tannersville exit [Exit 299], and make a Left at end of ramp onto Rt. 715 South). Follow Rt. 715 South for 4 miles, and make a Left at stop sign onto Neola Rd. Continue on Neola Road for 2 miles, and turn Left on Running Valley Rd. Follow Running Valley Road for 3.1 miles. Pass the intersection of Mutton Hollow Road, and Kettle Creek will be .5 miles on the Right.

**Coming from areas East:** Take I-80 West and get off at Exit 304 (Snydersville) to follow Rt. 209 South towards Snydersville. Travel 3.8 miles on Rt. 209 South, and make a Right onto Beaver Valley Rd. At the stop sign make a Left onto Business Rt. 209 South. Go almost 1 mile and make a Right onto Rimrock Dr. Go 0.3 miles and make a slight Left onto Mutton Hollow Rd. Follow Mutton Hollow Road for 1.8 miles and make a Right at the T onto Running Valley Rd. Travel .5 miles and Kettle Creek will be on the Right. ❄

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### Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) Board is very pleased to announce the date for the 25th Annual Dinner/Auction on Friday, May 20, 2016, at Camelback. Please mark your calendars now for the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of this major fundraising event.

Once again, the KCEF funded everything on the Environmental Education Center's "2015 Wish List" which included Conservation Camp, the High School and Junior Envirothons, and Bug Fest. In addition to the wish list, the KCEF also funded Pocono Mountain 3rd grade and East Stroudsburg 3rd grade programs, cost-share for the 1st and 2nd grade programs at Stroudsburg Area School District, the 4th grade wetland units in all four Monroe County School Districts, and a 10th grade biology program at East Stroudsburg High School South. In addition, trail cameras and dry bags were also purchased.

Letters of solicitation for sponsorships and donations were mailed in October, and responses have already started coming in. If you have suggestions for businesses or individuals who should be added to the mailing list, please provide the contact information to Alesia Gallo at (570) 629-3061 or agmccd@ptd.net. If you are interested in donating an item for the auction or raffle table please contact us or visit our website [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org) to download the donation form.

The KCEF is pleased to have added Trudi Quinn Denlinger to the Board. Trudi brings a wealth of experience in fundraising and has wasted no time in becoming an integral part of KCEF. Welcome, Trudi! ❄

-John Woodling, KCEF President



### Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

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Heidi Secord, Treasurer

Joseph Hanyon, Esq., Secretary

Paul Canevari

David W. Moyer

Charles A. Garris, Commissioner

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John K. Leiser, Ph D., John Lyman, P.E.,  
Theresa Merli, Edith Stevens,  
Janet Weidensaul

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District Manager

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Head Resource Conservationist

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

Matthew Giambra, John Motz  
Resource Conservation Specialists

Steven Baade  
Resource Conservationist

Honor Carpenter  
Watershed Specialist

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

Robert Gubitosi, Groundskeeper

The Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at 8 am on the third Thursday of each month in the District office.



## Water Lettuce at Kettle Creek?

Water Lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes* L. is an invasive aquatic plant that grows in rivers, lakes, ponds, canals or other slow moving water, according to Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (PA DCNR). This free-floating, light green, hairy, "head-of-lettuce" lookalike, though previously unknown to Pennsylvania, was recently spotted by our own Kettle Creek Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher along Mader Pond in the Kettle Creek Watershed, located in Bartonsville, PA.

It is suspected that this oxygen-limiting, invasive plant originally came in the ballast of early European exploring ships. Commonly used as aquarium vegetation, Water Lettuce reproduces vigorously forming tightly knit mats that, when introduced to a fresh waterbody, may limit fishing and boating as well as other native aquatic growth. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this PA aquatic invasive is on the State noxious weed lists in 46 states.

This nuisance plant may be introduced when people dispose of this aquarium plant into local waterways.

According to the National Oceanic



**Water Lettuce, *Pistia stratiotes* L. found 9/25/2015 in Mader Pond at MCCC**

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Great Lakes Aquatic Non-indigenous Species Information System (GLANSIS), several methods of control are being explored which include biological techniques such as the utilization of specialist herbivores, mechanical harvesters and chopping machines, and chemical herbicides.

Some of the best controls are things you can do yourself, such as washing all gear and boats before portaging from one waterbody to another waterbody, and avoiding transporting water and live bait. Most of all, if you get tired of that old aquarium, **don't** dispose of the water and vegetation in your local creek, pond, or wetland! ✨

## Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

"Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza" - You may or may not have been hearing this phrase a lot lately, but if you haven't, you soon will. Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a highly contagious virus that is transported from migrating water fowl to domesticated birds such as chickens, ducks, quail, pheasants, guinea fowl, and turkeys. Since December 2014, HPAI has been detected in several states such as Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin, but Pennsylvania has not yet had a confirmed case. However, Pennsylvania remains on high alert since it is part of the Atlantic pathway traveled by migratory birds. Though HPAI is not typically a threat to human health, it could have detrimental impacts on commercial and backyard poultry flocks.

If you suspect your flock may be suspect to HPAI, contact The Bureau of Animal Health & Diagnostic Services immediately at (717)

772-2852, or you can email RA-ahds@state.pa.us. For additional information regarding HPAI, contact Matt Giambra, Resource Conservation Specialist, at the Monroe County Conservation District at (570) 629-3060 or visit <http://extension.psu.edu/animals/poultry>. ✨

## Just one word....PLASTIC

What would our world be without plastic?

*History is shaped by the materials we develop and use. For thousands of years, humans used stone to fashion tools. Some 5,000 years ago, we learned how to make alloys of copper, and the Bronze Age began. Centuries later the Iron Age introduced iron as the material of choice. The introduction of Bakelite—the world's first synthetic plastic—in 1907 marked the introduction of the Polymer Age, according to the American Chemical Society, 2015.*

The word "Plastic" comes from the Greek "plastikos," meaning moldable. Though early plastics were made from naturally occurring, existing materials such as cellulose, soon thereafter came the creation of completely synthetic plastic. Leo Hendrik Baekeland is credited with the first patent in 1906 for the manufacture and applications of Bakelite.

Today, there is enough plastic thrown away each year to circle the earth four times (Hasselberger, 2015). This plastic "trash" usually ends up in landfills, in the ocean, or as litter in our parks and along roadsides.

So think twice before you buy that bottle of plastic drinking water, and imagine how much trash you could save with a reusable water bottle. ✨



# Kid's Niche: Winter Wonderland



As our earth begins to tilt **farther** away from the sun, the temperature outside starts to become much colder. During this time, the sun will set sooner and sooner every day. Certain animals will start a very long sleep (which can last until spring), certain plants will start to die, and leaves will start to fall from the trees.

There is another event that also takes place, and happens on a cold, cloudy **winter** day. It falls like rain from the sky, just very slowly. It's snow!

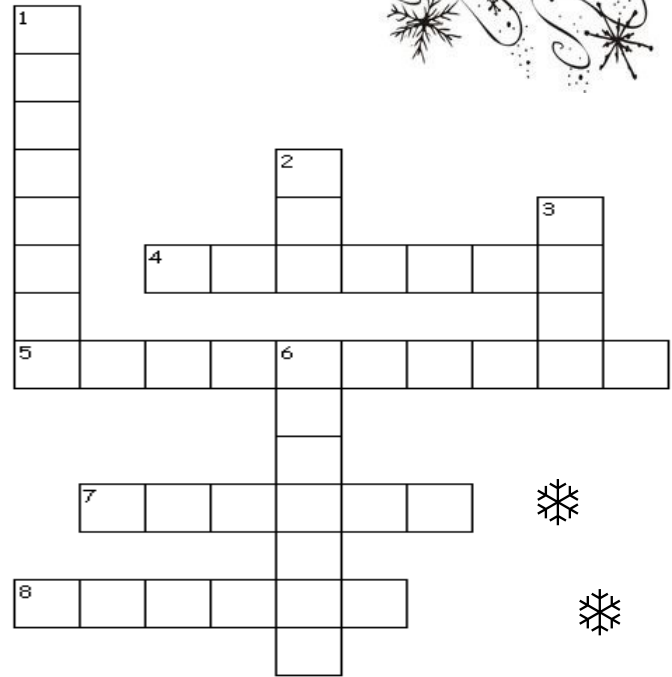
To find out how snow is formed, we need to begin our journey to where the snow is made, way up in the **sky**. Once enough clouds have gathered together and they are at freezing temperatures, snow begins to form. Snow begins in the form of water vapor. Once there is enough water vapor in the air, the vapor can start to form into an ice **crystal**.

As more water vapor joins that ice crystal, it can start to grow **branches** like a tree. The more water vapor the ice crystal sticks together with, the heavier the ice crystal gets. Once the ice crystal is heavy enough, it will start to fall from the sky.

As the ice crystals fall, they join together with even more water vapor, which cause the ice crystal to become **bigger**. However, if the temperature closer to the ground is too warm, then the ice crystal starts to melt. The melting of the ice can become more like **glue**, which causes other ice crystals to stick to it, forming a snowflake.

Once on the ground, the snowflake might not melt right away, if the temperature is too cold. This can cause other **snowflakes** to begin piling on top of one another, causing an accumulation, or buildup of snow.

There are benefits to having snow on the ground. Snow is water, and we need water to live. Once snow starts to melt, the water from the snow fills underground streams. Animals hide under the snow to escape from predators. Also, if there is enough snow if on the ground, there is a chance that you may not have school or work that day! ❄️



Across

Down

- 4. Once there is enough water vapor in the air, the vapor can start to form into an ice \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. This can cause other \_\_\_\_\_ to begin piling on top of one another, causing a build up of snow.
- 7. Snow happens on a cold and cloudy \_\_\_\_\_ day
- 8. As the ice crystals fall, they can join together with even more water vapor, which can cause the ice crystal to become \_\_\_\_\_.

- 1. As more water vapor joins that ice crystal, it can start to grow \_\_\_\_\_ like a tree.
- 2. To find out how snow is formed, we need to begin our journey where the snow is made, way up in the \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. The melting of the ice can become more like \_\_\_\_\_, which can cause other ice crystals to stick to it, forming a snowflake.
- 6. As our earth begins to tilt \_\_\_\_\_ away from the sun, the temperature outside starts to become much colder.

Resource: Clouds Are Us. 13 June 2003. 24 April 2012 <<http://www.rcn27.dial.pipex.com/cloudsrus/snow.html>>  
Created by Charles LaSala, ESU Student

Down: 1. crystal 2. sky 3. glue 4. farther  
Across: 4. crystal 5. snowflakes 7. winter 8. bigger

# 2016 MAPLE SUGARING SEASON



As winter arrives, the Meesing Sugarbush sits quiet and empty. It won't be long, however, until the EE staff ventures into the Sugarbush to begin the next Maple Sugaring season.

2015 started off cold in the Sugarbush and no real sap ran until mid-March. Once the season started, it turned into a great year with over 37 gallons of quality syrup produced and a wonderful Public Day event with over 300 people visiting the Sugarbush and eating pancakes doused in fresh Meesing maple syrup.

We hope you can make plans to join us this season and enjoy the sweet taste of locally made pure maple syrup. Our 39th Public Maple Sugaring Day will be held Saturday, March 5, 2016, from 10am - 3pm. The day will feature a tour of the Sugarbush including stops to learn about Native American and early pioneer methods of making maple syrup, our evaporator process, and methods of identifying and tapping a maple tree. After the tour, everyone will get a chance to taste some of our syrup on freshly made pancakes! Cost: \$5/adult and \$3/children under 12; **all members of the EE Center and all tree sponsors attend FREE of charge.**

We will be sponsoring a **special day for scout groups on Saturday, March 12, 2016.** Programs can be scheduled between 9am - 2pm and are open to any level of scouts and their families. Cost: \$5/adult, \$3/scouts and children under 12 and includes our syrup on freshly made pancakes. **Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 2, 2016.**

Dates set for programs in the Sugarbush are Monday, February 29 through Friday, March 11. All groups interested in scheduling a tour should call the Center to set aside a time block. Each program takes 1 1/2 to 2 hours and includes learning about maple sugaring from the earliest methods used by Native Americans to present day collection/evaporation techniques. The group will also tap a maple tree and take home a sample of sweet maple syrup. Cost: \$3/participant, spaces fill up fast, so please register early. The Sugarbush is located 5.5 miles north of Marshalls Creek on Creek Road. For more information call (570) 629-3061, Monday through Friday from 8am to 4:30pm.

## Sponsor - A - Maple Tree

In 2015, over one hundred different groups, families, or individuals sponsored trees in our Sugarbush. These sponsorships raised over \$2,000 which was used to help pay the expenses for our group tours of the Sugarbush. We are hoping that in 2016 even more people will help us by sponsoring a tree. We tapped a total of 244 trees last year, so there are plenty available.

For \$25/tree, each sponsor receives 1 pint of our fresh maple syrup, a handsome certificate, free admission to our Public Day Program on Saturday, March 5, 2016, for up to four people and a map showing the location of your tree in our Sugarbush. Don't miss this opportunity to become involved with one of our most popular programs! Call us or complete and return the Sponsor Form below by Friday, February 26, 2016 to become a sponsor. A tree sponsorship also makes a wonderful gift!



Checks should be made payable to:  
**Monroe County  
 Conservation District (M.C.C.D.)**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

If Gift, Recipient's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

For gift, please check one: Send letter/certificate to: Me  or Gift Recipient

How many trees would you like to sponsor? \_\_\_\_ (\$25 per tree)

Please return to: **Monroe County Conservation District  
 8050 Running Valley Road  
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

*Each year around 240 maple trees are tapped in Meesing's Sugarbush. Become part of our maple sugaring program by sponsoring a maple tree this year!*



## MCCD Calendars Available!



Above: 2016 calendar cover photo—Dragonflies dancing on the water in Middle Smithfield Township, taken by Andrea Henley.

We are proud to showcase our Photo Contest winners in our first ever Monroe County Conservation District calendars! The 2016 calendars will be available in the gift shop, at the cost of \$10 (tax included). All proceeds benefit Kettle Creek Environmental Education Programs. ✨ (Makes a great gift!)

## Biology Through Ecology

This October the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center teamed with the Biology faculty at East Stroudsburg South High School to provide an exciting lesson on the real world application of biological concepts being taught in the classroom. The unit was titled *Biology Through Ecology* and entailed 2 classroom lectures and a 4-hour field experience for every Biology I student. Together we explored the science of life from the remarkable properties of water that make all life possible, to the wonders of an interactive community of living things within an ecosystem. The students were introduced to members of their community engaged in monitoring environmental conditions through examination of the macroinvertebrate community of our streams and the plant community of a forest, during a visit to Pinebrook Park in Stroud Township. This collaborative effort is a pilot program with several desired benefits: connecting students with professionals engaged in scientific ecological study, building a base-line of data that future biology students can use to trend conditions, and generating an exciting atmosphere where students gain the knowledge of how ecosystems work and develop an inquisitive nature into the functions of life. ✨

## Stanley Becker Memorial Scholarship Applications Available



The Monroe County Conservation District and members of the Stanley Becker family are pleased to announce applications are now being accepted for the ninth annual Stanley Becker Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded to a graduating senior in Monroe County who is planning on attending college and majoring in an environmental field. The recipient will be presented the \$500 scholarship at our annual dinner on Friday, April 8, 2016. To receive an application or for more information, please contact our office. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 11, 2016. ✨

## If You Play Their Song They Will Come

Project OwlNet is a confederation of avian ecologists working to understand the population dynamics and migratory ecology of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Started in the mid 90's as a means to determine relative abundance, it has grown to include researchers from all over North America. Here in PA, we were concerned at first with relative abundance. Once thought to be so rare as to be considered for inclusion on the endangered species list, Project OwlNet has shown this diminutive little owl to be relatively common. Everywhere researchers set up nets and play the owl's repetitive *toot, toot, toot* call, they are found. For the first time the Pocono Avian Research Center brought Project OwlNet to Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, and on October 5th banded the first Northern Saw-whet Owl ever documented here. For the 2015 season there were a total of 68 owls. Additionally, every Friday night the banding station was open to the public, and on several memorable occasions enthusiasts had the incredible experience of getting to see one of the world's cutest creatures up-close and personal. ✨

**\*SAVE THE DATE!\***

### Monroe County Earth Day Celebration



**When: Saturday, April 23, 2016  
from 10am - 4pm**

**Where: Northampton Community College (NCC) Monroe Campus  
on Rt. 715 in Tannersville, PA**

**\* Live Music \* Exhibitors \* Give & Take \* Speakers \* Tire Amnesty \* E-cycling \* Children's Activities \* Workshops \* Food \* and more!**

*Please join us as we celebrate Monroe County's environmental efforts and successes!*

Sponsored by MCCD/NCC Monroe  
For more information, please call the EE Center at (570) 629-3061.



**Eagle Watches  
Every Friday  
from January 22—  
February 12**

See calendar page 7  
for more information.  
Staff Photo

## Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt Winners

The Long-tailed Jaegermeisters won for the third year in a row. They found an incredible 77 species of birds. Again, the Snipe proved too elusive to find.

## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### DECEMBER

**KC "Disco" Hike - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman continues his series of seasonal Discovery Hikes with this exploration of Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. From 10 - 11:30 am, we'll search for anything and everything the natural world has to offer in the early winter. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Building closed - 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

Building closes at 12pm - 24<sup>th</sup> - Thursday

Building closed - 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday - Holiday

Building closed - 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

**Winter Fun Days - 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday & Wednesday** - Kids bored during Winter break? Join us for outdoor and indoor environmental activities that are fun and educational! Designed for children ages 9-12, you may sign up for one day or both! Wednesday includes a half-day eagle-watching trip in the Kettle Creek bus! The first 25 will be accepted for Tuesday, and Wednesday is limited to 13. **Pre-registration and payment is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to program. Pre-payment must be received by Friday, December 18th. Cost: \$30/1-day or \$50/2-days non-members, \$25/1-day or \$40/2-days EE Center members.**

Building closes at 12pm - 31<sup>st</sup> - Thursday

### JANUARY

Building closed - 1<sup>st</sup> - Friday - Holiday

Building closed - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday

**TU Beginner Fly-Tying Course - 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> -**

**Wednesdays & Saturdays** - Sign up for this exciting, new **eight-week** beginner basic fly-tying course spearheaded by former PA State Champion Fly Tyer Scott Cesari and renowned Catskills Fly-Tying Guild Fly Tyer, Tim "Shorty" Bartholomew. The class will run on two Wednesday evenings from 7-9pm, five Saturday mornings from 9am-12pm, and also includes an optional full-day chartered bus field trip, at a shared additional cost, to the annual mega Fly Fishing Show in Somerset, NJ! **One material fee of only \$35/person includes: all required course supplies and fly-tying materials, a printed manual describing requisite flies, and free use of tools. Note: the**

*first session on Weds, January 6 will be at Stroudsburg Junior High School, Room 125. Please contact Scott Cesari at (610) 730-7928 or smcesari@epix.net to register. Space is limited! Pre-registration is required by January 2, 2016.*

**Who Lives There? - 9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle for a program on animal homes. In winter we are tucked inside our cozy houses protected from the elements. You might be surprised at what animals depend on to protect them. Come learn about and look for animal shelters at Kettle Creek from 10 - 11:30am. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Pennsylvania Farm Show Bus Trip - 12<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday** - Pennsylvania is proud to host the largest indoor agricultural exposition in the nation, with nearly 6,000 animals, 10,000 competitive exhibits, and 300 commercial exhibits. Join us for a trip in our 13-passenger, wheelchair-accessible bus to the 100th Pennsylvania Farm Show. We'll leave from the EE Center at 8:30am and return at 8:30pm. Cost: \$32/non-members, \$26/EE Center members. **Pre-registration and payment is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance. Note: Inclement weather date is Thursday, January 14th.**

**All About Trail Cameras - 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Whether they are used by hunters for pre-season scouting, officials for conservation management, or animal lovers curious about what animals are lurking through the backyard, trail cameras are an incredible tool for learning about our "wild" neighbors. Join us at 10am to learn all you need to get started in trail camera photography, including the differences in camera models and technology. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Building closed - 18<sup>th</sup> - Monday - Holiday

**Eagle Watch - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Friday** - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman on this field trip to the upper Delaware River in search of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Once a rare sight, many wintering and resident eagles now inhabit this region and the probability for sightings is high. Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return 5:30pm. Cost: \$28/non-members, \$22/EE Center members and includes bus transportation. Participants should pack a lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather. Stops will be

made for coffee and snacks. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

**Feeder Fidelity - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday** - Join Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher for a morning of banding birds at the feeders of Kettle Creek. This 2-hour program begins at 10am. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Eagle Watch - 29<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Full description please see listing for 1/22. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

**"Whose Track is That?" - 30<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join EEC Roger Spotts from 10am - noon for this study of animal tracks and the stories they can tell. We will discuss Track ID and then explore the trails at Kettle Creek trying to solve the mysteries of the tracks on the trails. Please dress to be outside on snow-covered trails. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

### FEBRUARY

**Home School Program "Bald Eagles of the Poconos" - 4<sup>th</sup> - Thursday** - Please see last page for details.

**Eagle Watch - 5<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Full description please see listing for 1/22. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

**Art Opening: Jim & Denise Thomson - "Wildlife of the Water Gap and Beyond" - 6<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

**Tree Tapping Day - 9<sup>th</sup> - Tuesday** - Please see page 11 for more information. Note: Inclement weather date is Wednesday, February 10th.

**Eagle Watch - 12<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Full description please see listing for 1/22. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

**Winter Tree ID - 13<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Trees are easy to identify in the summer with their leaves, but do you know how to identify them in the winter? Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am for a program that will teach you how. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/

*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 8 am to 4:30 pm, and most Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm or visit our website [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).



## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

Building closed - 15<sup>th</sup> - Monday - Holiday

**Tree Pest & Disease Management - 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Invasive pests and tree diseases can have devastating ecological, economical, and social impacts in our communities. Although several of our native PA tree species have already been affected, there is new hope for recovery on the horizon. Join us at 10am for a presentation discussing the Chestnut Blight, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, the Emerald Ash Borer, and Dutch Elm Disease, and learn what scientists are doing to save our native trees. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Lakota Wolf Preserve Field Trip - 25<sup>th</sup> - Thursday** - Learn about some of the world's most amazing animals as we explore the Lakota Wolf Preserve in Columbia, NJ and observe the 4 different packs of wolves living there (plus foxes 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 and payment is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance. Note: Inclement weather date is Friday, February 26th.**

Building closed - 27<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

## MARCH

**Middle Creek Birding Field Trip - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Wednesday** - Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a major stop-over for tremendous numbers of Snow Geese— their huge flocks in flight sometimes create a “blizzard” of birds. Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman will lead this trip to observe this stunning spectacle of nature. In addition, a variety of waterfowl, raptors, and other birds should be seen. Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return 6pm. Cost: \$30/non-members, \$24/EE Center members and includes bus transportation. Participants should pack a lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather. **Pre-registration and payment is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to trip.**

**Home School Program “Amazing Animal Adaptations” - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday** - Please see last page for details.

**Public Maple Sugaring Day - 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see page 5 for information.

**Art Opening: Will Daskal - “Woods and Waters” - 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

Building closed - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

**Scout Maple Sugaring Day - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see page 5 for information. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

**Mystery Birding Field Trip - 18<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman on this popular birding adventure where the destinations and target species are not revealed until the day of the trip. Pre-trip scouting and local reports will determine where we go to see the best avian goodies. Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return 5:30pm. Cost: \$28/non-members, \$22/EE Center member and includes bus transportation, plenty of birds, and a good time! Participants should pack a lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather. **Pre-registration and payment is required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip.**

**Fly Fishing Workshop - 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join several members of the Brodhead chapter of Trout Unlimited from 9am - 12 noon for an introductory program on fly fishing. Equipment, casting, strategy, fly-tying, basic trout stream macro-invertebrate entomology, and local fishing areas will be covered and demonstrated. A film, slide program, and raffles are included with admission. Cost: \$8/non-members, \$5/EE Center members and children under 12. **Please call the EE Center to register. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 18, 2016.**

**Behind the Scenes at the American Museum of Natural History - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday** - Darryl Speicher has made arrangements for a unique opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes at the American Museum of Natural History. Our guide on this adventure will be Stroudsburg native John Burns. John is a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Sackler Lab of Comparative Genomics. The bus will leave Kettle Creek at 8:30am and return by 5:30pm. Cost: \$45/non-members, \$35/EE Center members. **Pre-registration and payment is required and limited. Sign up by Friday, March 18, 2016.**

Building closed - 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday - Holiday

Building closed - 26<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

**Stalking the Wild Woodcock - 30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - Timberdoodle, Bogsucker, and Big Eye are some of the strange nicknames given to the equally strange American Woodcock. Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman for this 1 ½ hour program where you will learn about the life history and amazing courtship displays of this fascinating and entertaining little bird. Meet at the EE Center at 6:30pm for a brief presentation before traveling to the Tannersville Bog area to observe the woodcock's lovesick antics. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

## APRIL

**Amazing Amphibians - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday** - Join John Burns, Ph.D. of the American Museum of Natural History at 10am for a morning of amazing amphibian adaptations. John is a Stroudsburg native and has been working on gaining a greater understanding of the incredible relationship between spotted salamanders and symbiotic green algae. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Art Opening: Linda Stockman - “Wildlife Art” - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

**Home School Program “The Three R's” - 7<sup>th</sup> - Thursday** - Please see last page for details.

**Annual Members and Friends Dinner at Trout Lake - 8<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Please mark your calendars for our Annual Members and Friends of Conservation Dinner to be held at Trout Lake Retreat. Invitations will be mailed to all members in February, or you can call us at 570-629-3061 to receive more information.

**Early Spring Bird Walk - 9<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Bird migration is just getting underway at this time... Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman at 9:30am for this two-hour stroll along the Kettle Creek trails searching for early spring arrivals as well as lingering wintering species. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Monroe County Conservation District Rain Barrel Sale - 16<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see page 9 for information.

**Monroe County Earth Day - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday** - Join us as we celebrate Monroe County's environmental efforts and successes! Please see page 6 for details.

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



# Water Ways

## Watershed Groups of Monroe County

The following nonprofit organizations work to protect local water quality. Get involved by attending a meeting or visiting their website.

### Aquashicola/Pohopoco Watershed Conservancy

Meetings:

Date: 3rd Tuesday of every other month

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Polk Township Municipal Building

Email: APWC.NEPA@gmail.com

Website: [www.apwc-pa.org/](http://www.apwc-pa.org/)

### Brodhead Watershed Association

Meetings:

Date: 1st Monday of each month

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Full Board Meetings (Quarterly—Feb., May, Aug., Nov.) @ Monroe County Conservation District;  
Executive Committee Meetings (all other months) @ Hughes Library

Email: brodheadwatershed@verizon.net

Website: [www.brodheadwatershed.org](http://www.brodheadwatershed.org)

### Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Mgmt. District

Meetings:

Date: 3rd Wednesday of each month

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Mgmt. District

Email: LWWMD@verizon.net

Website: [www.wallenpaupackwatershed.org](http://www.wallenpaupackwatershed.org)

### North Pocono C.A.R.E.

Meetings:

Date: 2nd Monday of each month

Time: 7:30 PM

Location: Thornhurst Township Municipal Building

Email: NPCARE@att.net

Website: [www.northpoconocare.org](http://www.northpoconocare.org)

### Shawnee Creek Watershed Conservancy

To obtain information about meetings please email:

Email: info@shawneepreservationsociety.com

Website: [www.shawneepreservationsociety.com](http://www.shawneepreservationsociety.com)

### Tobyhanna Cr./Tunkhannock Cr. Watershed Assn.

Meetings:

Date: 3rd Monday of each month

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: The Nature Conservancy, Long Pond

Email: tctcwa@hotmail.com

Website: [www.tctcwa.org](http://www.tctcwa.org)

SAVE THE DATE:

**April 16, 2016, 9am - 1pm**

**Monroe County  
Conservation District's  
Rain Barrel Sale**

**Where: Monroe County  
Conservation District**

**Details and order form will be  
included in our Spring newsletter!**



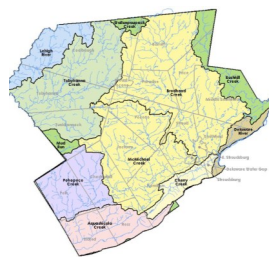
## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Earth Speaks" Art Show

The Pocono Arts Council, along with several local partners including the Monroe County Conservation District, will be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Earth Speaks" juried art exhibition next April in the ARTSPACE Gallery in Stroudsburg. Last year's exhibition centered around the climate crisis and was national in scope. For 2016, the show will be a little broader, with an environmental crisis theme, and be regional in scope. The show is open to all, with awards available in a variety of mediums including 2-D, 3-D, Photography and Printmaking. Students are welcomed and encouraged to enter. The art

opening will be on Saturday, April 16. The deadline for entry will be in late January, 2016. For further information, call Laura Goss at 570-476-4460 or email her at [laura@poconoarts.org](mailto:laura@poconoarts.org).



## Monroe County Watershed Alliance



**Next meeting:  
Tuesday, June 28, 7 pm  
at Monroe County  
Conservation District**

## Did you know...?

*Out of the 83,000 miles of streams in PA, only 2% are classified as Exceptional Value (EV).*

*80% of those EV streams are here in the Monroe, Pike, and Wayne County portions of the Poconos.*

Let's make sure our local waterways stay "exceptional!"



## 2015 Dirt & Gravel Road Program Project Highlight: Zion Church Road

Monroe County Conservation District administers the state's Dirt and Gravel grant program funded through the Soil Conservation Service. In the spring of 2015, the MCCD Board of Directors awarded Middle Smithfield Township \$51,683 on a \$94,559 project on Zion Church Road near the Delaware River. The project involved replacement and improvement of drainage facilities, adding stable head and end walls to pipes, clearing road-side vegetation, and reshaping and surfacing of the road. The project reduced sediment runoff and provided a stable driving surface on over 3,100 feet of road. ✨

### Before and After photos of Zion Church Road improvement project:



*Before: The project runoff was channelized in wheel ruts and road surface material was washing off the road, clogging pipes, ditches, and costing the township money to replace.*



*After: Completed crowned road section with paver placed, roller-compacted Driving Surface Aggregate sends runoff to the sides of the road so surface material is not lost.*

## Grant Application Period Opens for Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program

The Monroe County Conservation District announces the opening of the 2015-2016 grant application period under their Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) Program. The program is open to owners of public roads, such as local municipalities and the Pennsylvania Game Commission, for projects which provide environmental benefits to local waterways through improved road design and maintenance practices. The program has funded over \$200,000 in local road improvements since its inception in 1998. In 2015, annual allocations to the District have jumped to over \$200,000 per year.

The application period for the DGLVR program is open from November 1 until April 30. The District will accept applications from eligible entities, which are required to have a representative trained in Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance (ESM) road maintenance practices in order to apply. Potential applicants are required to contact the District and arrange a pre-application site visit. The District is also available to review potential project sites with interested eligible parties. Contact the technical section at (570) 629-3060 for additional information, or visit our webpage on the Center for Dirt and Gravel site: <http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/pa-program-resources/conservation-districts> and select Monroe County. ✨

*Farmers, you're invited! The 2016 Farmer's Appreciation Banquet is being held on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Polk Township Firehouse on Route 209, Kresgeville, PA. Contact Matt Giambra at MCCD for details.*

### Penn State Extension Manure Management Workshop for the Horse and Small Farm Owner

Hosted in cooperation with Monroe County Conservation District, the Penn State Cooperative Extension is presenting a FREE Manure Management workshop at MCCD on January 20 & 27, 2016 from 7 to 9pm. This workshop, funded by a grant from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts, is designed to help horse and farm owners learn how to improve the quality of their pastures, store and utilize manure nutrients, develop sacrifice areas, and protect environmentally sensitive areas. Participants will use this knowledge to prepare a manure management plan for their farm and will leave the workshop with a completed plan that complies with state regulations.



Space is limited, so sign up early! To register for this FREE workshop, please contact Donna Foulk at (610) 746-1970 or email [dlf5@psu.edu](mailto:dlf5@psu.edu). You may also call Resource Conservation Specialist Matt Giambra at the MCCD office, (570) 629-3060. ✨



## Dear Members and Friends,

The EE Center always strives to meet the ever-changing environmental educational needs of the local schools and communities. In the past few months, we have toured Monroe County farms, explored Elk Country, PA, visited Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, and guided 4<sup>th</sup> graders through the Tannersville Bog, just to name a few. We have also piloted a program with 10<sup>th</sup> grade Biology students at East Stroudsburg South teaching "Biology through Ecology" and focusing on local resources to help the students understand real world situations. All of these programs would not be possible without the support of our members and friends, and we are very grateful for that.

As the winter season begins, we look forward to new and exciting educational opportunities and we encourage all of you to shake off those winter doldrums and join us at a program or on one of our bus trip outings. The Kettle Creek bus has been a great addition to our programs and we would like to remind everyone that it is wheelchair compatible. Make plans now for Public Tapping Day in the Meesing Sugarbush on February 9, or enjoy pancakes on Saturday, March 5 at our Public Day Maple Sugaring program. We are also excited to be holding our Annual Members and Friends Dinner at Trout Lake on April 8. This beautiful location will lend itself nicely for our event and will allow us to offer children's prices to make it an affordable outing for families and friends. ❄️

### Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

#### Annual Members and Friends Dinner 2016

Attention all EE Center supporters! Please mark **Friday, April 8** on your calendar for the Annual Members and Friends of Conservation Dinner, taking place this year at Trout Lake Retreat and Conference Center, near Bartonsville, PA. This entertaining evening will feature delicious food, an exciting program, and several well-deserved awards. Invitations to all members will be sent in early February. You can also request additional information from our office.



We look forward to seeing you at the dinner! ❄️

Thanks to our summer work crew for all their hard work!



#### 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 |

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

**If you would like us to e-mail your newsletter:**

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please Share With A Friend

\_\_\_\_\_ **New** \_\_\_\_\_ **Renewal**

#### Tree Tapping Day



On Tuesday, February 9, we invite people of all ages to join us beginning at 10am as we tap maple trees in the Meesing Sugarbush outside of Marshall's Creek. This day is set aside for setting up all of the things necessary to get ready for our 2016 Maple Sugaring Season. We'll tap trees, run the tube collection lines, set up the evaporator, and more. You are welcome to spend one hour or the entire day

with us in the Sugarbush. There is no charge for the day, and we will provide warm beverages! You'll need to dress in warm layers and wear boots as we trudge through the Sugarbush. The event is weather permitting and we suggest you call and pre-register and so we can update you on conditions. It will certainly be a fun day in the Sugarbush! Note: Inclement weather date will be Wednesday, February 10. ❄️

#### A Warm Welcome to our New Members!



Salvucci Family, Saylorsburg  
 Adam Keene & Family, New York, NY  
 Meloni/Madrid Family, New York, NY  
 Hon. David Parker, East Stroudsburg  
 Elissa Abrahamsen & Family, Stbg.  
 Bruce & Roxanne Antorowich, DWG  
 Schuyer Larsen, Saylorsburg

Sandy Krummel, East Stroudsburg  
 The Natiello Family, East Stroudsburg  
 Nia Esposito, Cresco  
 Shannon Bellis & Family, Lehighon  
 The Marshall Family, Tannersville  
 Rosemary Schlernitzaver, Ardsley  
 Carole O'Reilly, Kunkletown



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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 STROUDSBURG, PA 18360  
 PERMIT NO. 502

*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

## 2016 Home School Programs

We are continuing to offer hands-on environmental education experiences for any interested home school students. Activities include classroom instruction and outdoor learning opportunities for all ages with students divided into three age groups: K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (parent accompaniment required), 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each month a different topic will be addressed and all classes will be led by an Environmental Educator from 2 - 4pm. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$3/EE Center members for most programs. **Pre-registration is required and limited by the Monday preceding the program date.**

**February 4 – Bald Eagles of the Poconos** (note special cost and time for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade) – Our national symbol has made a remarkable recovery and now nests throughout the Poconos. Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade will take a bus field trip to search for eagles along the Delaware River. Time: 10:30am to 3:30pm. Cost: \$18/non-members, \$15/EE Center members. Limited to 13 participants. K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade program will be held at 2pm.

**March 3 – Amazing Animal Adaptations** (note special cost) – Have you ever been face to face with a bobcat? It's possible at this program with guest speaker Kathy Uhler from the Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. Kathy's exciting and informative program includes a variety of live animals from her facility. The program begins at 2pm and is for grades K - 12. Cost: \$14/non-members, \$10/EE Center members.

**April 7 – The Three R's** – We should all be practicing The Three R's... "R" you? Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling are important conservation practices and benefit both the environment and our communities.

**February 1 - 29: Jim & Denise Thomson - "Wildlife of the Water Gap and Beyond"** - Jim and his wife Denise have traveled all over the United States and Canada in search of magnificent creatures. Enjoy a photo exhibit of animals that come from near and far. Opening Reception: Saturday, February 6, 11am - 1pm.

**March 1 - 31: Will Daskal - "Woods and Waters"** - An artistic tribute to the bucolic splendor of the Pocono Mountains. Will's paintings are rooted in bits of reality, as well as his own personal existence, forming a springboard for situations he might observe or imagine. Opening Reception: Saturday, March 5, 11am - 1pm.

**April 1 - 30: Linda Stockman - "Wildlife Art"** - Linda concentrates mostly on wildlife art and occasionally portraiture and animation, using oil and acrylic paints as her mediums of choice. Opening Reception: Saturday, April 2, 11am - 1pm. ✨

## 2016 Kettle Creek Art Gallery Schedule



**January 1 - 31: Photo Contest Display** - Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources photo contest. The top 13 photos will be available on an MCCD 2016 calendar.

