



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education



8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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

Winter 2018 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 42 No. 4

2019 Monroe County Master Watershed Steward Program

Penn State Extension and the Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) will be holding three information sessions for those interested in learning about becoming a Penn State Master Watershed Steward in 2019. The program is a collaborative effort between Penn State Extension, MCCD and local conservation groups and is designed to train people about the basics of water resource stewardship and create an energized group of citizen volunteers. Stewards receive 40 hours of classroom and field training and partake in 50 hours of volunteer service. Come learn more about the program at one of our three information sessions this January or visit <https://extension.psu.edu/programs/watershed-stewards/counties/monroe>. Hear from past participants about their experiences and learn more about projects our stewards have partaken in.



*"The Master Watershed Steward course was not only insightful...but it helped me create friendships and network, making it easier in becoming a better watershed steward. The stream testing and macroinvertebrates were my definite favorite!" -Beth**

Info Sessions

January 15th • 7-8pm
ForEvergreen Nature Preserve
1539 Cherry Lane Road
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

January 17th • 7-8pm
Western Pocono Community Library
131 Pilgrim Way
Brodheads ville, PA 18322

January 19th • 11am-12pm
Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center
8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360



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**Monroe County
Conservation District
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Office Assistant Senior

Becky Hippler
Groundskeeper

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

**Kettle Creek Environmental
Fund Update**

The KCEF Board is pleased with the results of the fundraising event held September 21st at Trout Lake, particularly since the format, venue and date were all different from previous years' events. Proceeds from this event enable the funding of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center's 2019 Wish List.

The Board is currently considering combining their fundraising event with the Annual Members and Friends Dinner and a decision in this regard will be reached soon.

We would like to thank all our sponsors and supporters for a successful 2018 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

If you are interested in becoming a KCEF Board member, please contact Alesia at the EE Center.*

-John Woodling, KCEF President

**28th Annual
Dinner**
September 20, 2019



KCEF Board Members

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

Welcome New Members!

James E. Kintzel MD and Family – Allentown, PA
Ernest J. Biondolillo – Long Pond, PA
Mary Frances Kresge – Stroudsburg, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

As 2018 comes to a close, we can look back on another fantastic year at Kettle Creek. Our school programs continue to offer students from all Monroe County School Districts the opportunity to explore and learn about the outdoors through hands-on experiences that can't be duplicated by technology. Our field trips to places throughout the area and beyond in search of birds, elk and more have proven to be very successful. Finally, our creek snorkeling programs are becoming more popular with each passing year. These programs would not be possible without the support of our members and also the hardworking Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF). Each year their annual fundraising dinner raises money to support Kettle Creek's Environmental Education programs, especially those in the schools.

Along those lines, we are pleased to announce that we are considering combining our Annual Member and Friends Dinner with the KCEF annual fundraising event. We feel this will help to eliminate the confusion that has existed about which dinner was which and it will also help to make for an enjoyable and successful evening. A final decision will be made soon and all of the details will be released in the spring, but we do know the event will be held at Trout Lake on Friday, September 20th, 2019. The dinner will include many fun activities along with revealing our short film contest winners and the opportunity to raise funds to support our educational efforts. We hope you will be able to attend!

Another event to add to your calendar will be our open house at Kettle Creek on Sunday, June 23rd. This free event, open to everyone, will highlight some of the programs we offer at Kettle Creek and allow us to meet members of our community.

We look forward to a great 2019 and thank you for your continued support. See you at Kettle Creek!*

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

News 'N Notes

DGLVR Program Exceeds One Million Dollars

MCCD's Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road Program Provides Grants to Local Municipalities for Environmentally Beneficial Road Maintenance Projects

Since 1997, when Polk Township first tested a new method for maintaining dirt roads on Hell Hollow, Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) has been assisting municipalities with improved methods for minimizing erosion and reducing sedimentation to local waterways. Twenty years later, the District, with funding provided through the State Conservation Commission (SCC), exceeded one million dollars in grant money allocated with a stream crossing replacement project on Haney Road in Hamilton Township.

Originally formed as the Dirt and Gravel Road Program, the program was initiated by Trout Unlimited (TU) with the assistance of PennDOT and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Funding was provided to DCNR and through the SCC to Conservation Districts that signed on to the program in an effort to reduce sediment pollution to streams at road interfaces. The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies was created at Penn State to figure out best practices and to train Districts and municipal employees on implementation.

In 1997, no one knew that the Center would become world renowned for its efforts and research into how to build better roads and keep streams cleaner. Today, Center staff travels the globe spreading the information gleaned from this program, and research into dust reduction, nutrient runoff, and aquatic organism passage are ongoing.

One of the outcomes from the success of the program came in 2013 when the program received a major increase in funding and experienced rapid expansion. Statewide funding jumped from five million dollars per year to thirty-five million dollars per

year, and the beloved Dirt and Gravel program was expanded to allow for work on low volume paved roads. The now DGLVR program has allowed Districts along with partner municipalities to tackle projects that could not be done at prior funding levels. MCCD now receives an annual allocation of nearly a quarter million dollars for road improvements that benefit local waterways. Over the next five years we will exceed our second million dollars.

The District would like to thank all of the municipal and state level partners who have made this program the success that it is today. Currently sixteen of the County's twenty municipalities are eligible to receive funding through Center provided training. There are three projects currently under contract for completion in the spring of 2019. For more information on the program, contact Resource Conservation Specialist John Motz at 570-629-3060.*



2019 NPDES Workshop

The Monroe and Pike County Conservation Districts have teamed up again the year to present the 2019 "The Big Picture" workshop, to be held at the Monroe Campus of Northampton County Community College in Tannersville on February 5th and 6th. The workshop is geared toward engineers, contractors, developers, and government officials looking to learn more about the permitting process and innovative stormwater and Green Infrastructure (GI) technology. This year's workshop will focus on the collaboration required for a successful project; from design of sustainable practices tailored to enhance the site specific natural resources to navigating the overlap of program and permitting requirements.

We are excited this year to collaborate with ACF Environmental, Senior Stormwater Engineer Robert Woodman – P.E., C.P.E.S.C. and Robin Anglemeyer CBLP-D CBLP-I, Landscape Designer from Strauser Nature. Our Keynote speaker, Robert Woodman, will present the challenges of the GI process and provide some conceptual framework for working collaboratively from start to finish. Mr. Woodman will also highlight some grant funded water quality projects, specialty private site development projects and some observations of regional GI efforts including the Philadelphia Green Streets program and an upcoming retrofit of the ASCE HQ in Reston, VA.

Ms. Anglemeyer will focus on the local perspective of Green Infrastructure and sustainability in stormwater and plant selection as it relates to the greater Pocono region. Other topics will include Chapter 102 interface with Chapter 105 and other programmatic updates such as E-Permitting, permit amendments and the Common Plan of Development.

During breaks, a unique selection of environmental stormwater vendors will be showcasing Best Management Practices and displays of innovative technology in the field of sustainable stormwater. Lunch and snacks will be prepared by the Northampton County Community College catering department.

For more information, agenda and registration, please visit <https://www.mcconservation.org/npdes-workshop.html>.*



KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

DECEMBER

22nd – Saturday – Building Closed

24th – Monday – Building Closes at Noon - Holiday

25th – Tuesday – Building Closed - Holiday

29th – Saturday – Building Closed

31st – Monday – Building Closes at Noon - Holiday

JANUARY

1st – Tuesday – Building Closed - Holiday

5th – Saturday – Building Closed

12th – Saturday – Building Open 9am-1pm

18th – Friday – Eagle Watch - 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: \$32/non-members, \$26/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 and payment required by the Tuesday preceding the program. Seating is limited.**

19th – Saturday - Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area Exploration – Focus on Winter Birds - Our Nature Discovery Area is the first of its kind in Monroe County and includes a canoe, tunnel, xylophone, talking tubes and much more. Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm to learn about different winter birds, make simple bird feeders and listen for their sweet sounds. Please dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear because this activity will take place outside. **This program is free.**

21st – Monday – Building Closed - Holiday

26th – Saturday – Building Open – 9am-1pm

FEBRUARY

2nd – Saturday - Wild Canids of the Poconos - Join Roger Spotts for this in-depth look at the three species of wild Canids that live in the Poconos. Coyotes, Red Foxes and Gray Foxes all call the Poconos home and are more common than you may think. We will look at what makes them different and also why they do the things they do. This program will begin at 10am.

2nd – Saturday – Art Opening: Andrea Henley "Nature's Simplicity" - Andrea combines her love of nature and macro-photography in a captivating exhibit depicting nature in the Pocono Mountains. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs February 1st through 28th.*

5th - 6th – Tuesday - Wednesday – NPDES Workshop - See page 3 for more information.

9th – Saturday - Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area Exploration - Focus on Animal Tracks and Other Clues - Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm to become a detective and learn about tracks other clues animals leave behind in winter. Please dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear because this activity will take place outside. **This program is free.**

15th – Friday – Eagle Watch - Join Pocono Avian Research Center on this field trip. *For more information see January 18th listing.*

16th – Saturday – The Science of Snow - Learn about snow science with the help of some fun hands-on experiments. Discover how snow is made and appreciate the unique beauty of ice! This family program begins at 10am. **Registration required by Wednesday, February 13th.**

18th – Monday – Building Closed – Holiday

23rd – Saturday – Building Closed

25th – Monday – Middle Creek Birding Field Trip - 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. Pocono Avian Research Center 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 at 6pm. Cost: \$32/non-members, \$26/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.**

MARCH

1st – Friday – Eagle Watch - Join Pocono Avian Research Center on this field trip. *For more information see January 18th listing.*

2nd – Saturday - Public Maple Sugaring Day – See page 7 for more information.

2nd – Saturday – Art Opening: Elaine Madere "Nature's Beauty" - The water-color and acrylic paintings inspired by the natural beauty of the Poconos, especially in the Lake Naomi area, will be on display. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs March 1st through 29th.*

2nd – Saturday – Red Cross Blood Drive - We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-1pm. Call Barbara at MCCD at 570-629-3060 for more information. To register or learn more about American Red Cross blood drives, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS.

9th – Saturday – Building Closed

9th – Saturday - Maple Sugaring Scout Day - See page 7 for more information.

10th – Sunday – Spring Ahead Birding - Meet at Kettle Creek. Join Pocono Avian Research Center on a birding adventure on the first day of spring. This program starts at 9am. Don't forget to change the clocks!

14th – Thursday – Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series – From 7pm to 8:30pm join Pocono Avian Research Center and learn some new tricks or hone some old skills identifying waterfowl including diving ducks, dabblers, and more. All ages welcome.

15th – Friday – Eagle Watch - Join Pocono Avian Research Center on this field trip. *For more information see January 18th listing.*

***Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered and required for those where noted.
All programs are \$6 for non-members, \$4 children under 12, EE Center Members are FREE, unless otherwise listed.
Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.
More information on these programs can be found on our website: mconconservation.org

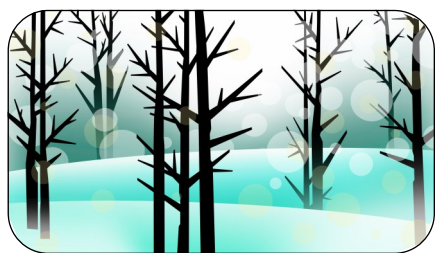
16th – Saturday - Introduction to Fly Fishing - The workshop will run from 9am to 12 Noon. Equipment, casting, strategy, fly-tying, basic trout stream macro-invertebrate entomology, and local fishing will be covered and demonstrated.
Cost: \$8/non-members, \$5/EE Center members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 15th.

16th – Saturday - Lilliana’s Nature Discovery Area Exploration - Focused on Early Signs of Spring – Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm to go on a scavenger hunt looking for early signs of spring. We may make some crafts and get messy. Please dress warmly and wear appropriate footwear because this activity will take place outside. **This program is free.**

23rd – Saturday – Spring Hike at Kettle Creek - Join us at 10am as we hike the trails at Kettle Creek and look at the many natural happenings that spring brings to the Pocono forests. This two hour hike will be fun for the whole family and will help to get rid of that winter time cabin fever.

29th - Friday – Woodcock Watch - Timberdoodle, Bogsucker, and Big Eye are some of the strange nicknames given to the equally strange American Woodcock. Join Pocono Avian Research Center for this 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.

30th – Saturday – Backyard Biomes - Never before has suitable habitat for birds and other critters been in such short supply. Urban and suburban areas are expanding constantly, altering or destroying natural areas. By creating wildlife friendly gardens, we can provide beautiful oases for native wildlife that also conserve water and require little maintenance. Join us at 10am to learn some tips on creating productive and beautiful backyard garden habitats.



My First Elk Trip with KCEEC

By Barbara Bistras, MCCD Administrative Coordinator

After working at the District for over 12 years, I was finally able to join Roger for my first bus trip to Elk County. Since I normally don’t travel with a group, I wasn’t sure what to expect but it turned out to be one of the best trips that I have ever been on! Thanks to Roger, the trip was extremely organized, well guided, a lot of fun and not to mention we were well fed! We covered a lot of territory in three days yet I never felt rushed or that we missed anything. There was beautiful scenery at each stop and of course the trip did not disappoint with the amount of elk that we saw and heard. There were elk along roadsides, in viewing areas, and I even had a close encounter with one near the cabins one morning, which was more than I could have ever imagined! Not only did I learn a lot about the area and elk, I learned a lot about the other guests on the trip, some of whom I’ve either spoken to over the phone for years or just said hello to in passing but never really had the opportunity to spend time with. I truly enjoyed everything about the trip and am looking forward to seeing some old friends and making some new ones on our next trip! ❄️



American Red Cross

The American Red Cross will be holding a **blood drive** at Monroe County Conservation District!
Saturday, March 2nd
 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

An Owl of a Time

By Emily Reder, ESU Recreation Department Fall Intern



Barred Owl, discovered in a net on October 10th, 2018

For the past six weeks Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center hosted the 18th season of Project OwlNet with Darryl and Jackie Speicher from PARC (Pocono Avian Research Center). Kettle Creek is a master banding station and this was the fourth year for Project OwlNet under Kettle Creek’s own permit. Darryl and Jackie Speicher are Master Banders, which means legally they are permitted to net and band songbirds and the Northern Saw-whet Owl. During Project OwlNet, PARC set up nets in the woods and played a recording to attempt to lure and catch the smallest owls we have in the Poconos, the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Fall is the migratory period for Northern Saw-whet Owls. The purpose of netting these owls is for research. If a Northern Saw-whet Owl was captured in the net and was not previously banded, PARC would collect information about the owl and band it. Information such as age, eye color, etc. were collected and added to a database as well along with the date and time it was captured. The Northern Saw-whet Owls were once believed to be endangered in Pennsylvania and the netting of them is to keep track of their population numbers. During the 2018 season, 85 new Northern Saw-whet Owls, two foreign recaptured Northern Saw-whet Owls (a foreign capture is a bird that is already banded when caught. These captures are important because the bird already has a history and helps us learn more about them.), four in-season recaptures, and one Barred owl, for a total of 92 owls that were processed. One thing is for sure, Project OwlNet was a hoot! ❄

Retired Conservation District Manager, Craig Todd, Receives Prestigious Award



Bud Cook (left), 2002 Recipient of the Thomas P. Shelburne Award presents the same award to Craig.

On Thursday, October 25th, at the Northeast Environmental Partners (NEP) Dinner, Craig Todd received the Thomas P. Shelburne Environmental Leadership Award. This is the NEP’s most prestigious award that is given to a person who stands out in the community for his/her commitment to environmental quality, and who, over the long term, has proven to be an inspiring environmental leader and a champion of partnering. Several members of the Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) staff, past and present, as well as family members attended the event and were thrilled to see Craig recognized.

Over the course of 34 years at MCCD, Craig worked tirelessly with a multitude of organizations, groups and individuals all in the name of conservation. During the span of his career, Craig’s commitment and unique approach to conservation at MCCD served as a model to other districts within the state as well for state and federal conservation partners. He has been instrumental in preserving the sensitive resources in Monroe County while advocating growth in compliance with environmental regulations.

Generations to come will reap the benefits of what Craig Todd was passionate about and fought for during his tenure at Monroe County Conservation District. Even after retirement, he continues his efforts as he serves on multiple boards and works with a variety of environmental organizations. ❄

Stanley Becker Memorial Scholarship Applications Available

The Monroe County Conservation District and members of the Stanley Becker family are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the twelfth 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 receive a \$500 scholarship.



To receive an application or for more information, please visit mconconservation.org.

Deadline for applications is Friday, March 29, 2019. ❄

2019 MAPLE SUGARING SEASON

As fall approaches with winter soon to follow, the Meesing Sugarbush sits quiet and empty. It won't be long, however, until the EE staff heads to the Sugarbush to begin the 2019 Maple Sugaring Season.



The 2018 Maple Sugaring Season was interrupted by a "blizzard with strong winds" but overall proved to be a very successful season. We tapped trees on February 13th and the sap ran consistently until March 29th. Due to that continuous run of sap we were able to produce 40 gallons of quality pure maple syrup. Our annual public day had to be rescheduled but the 311 people that visited us that day enjoyed fresh pancakes with our syrup.

We hope you can make plans to join us this season! Our 42nd Public Maple Sugaring Day will be held Saturday, March 2, 2019, 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: \$6/adult and \$4/children under 12; **all members of the EE Center and all tree sponsors attend free of charge.**

We'll be sponsoring a **special day for scout groups on Saturday, March 9, 2019.** Programs can be scheduled between 9am - 2pm and are open to any level of scouts and their families. Cost: \$6/adult, \$4/scouts and children under 12 and includes our syrup on freshly made pancakes. **Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 6, 2019.**

Dates set for group programs in the Sugarbush are Monday, February 25 through Friday, March 8. 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: \$4/participant, spaces fill up fast, so please register early. The Sugarbush is located 5.5 miles north of Marshalls Creek on Creek Rd. For more information call (570)629-3061, Monday through Friday, from 8am to 4:30pm.

Sponsor a Maple Tree

In 2018, over 125 different groups, families or individuals sponsored trees in our Sugarbush. These sponsorships raised over \$3,000 which was used to help pay the expenses for our group tours of the Sugarbush. We are hoping that in 2019 even more people will help us by sponsoring a tree. We tap around 240 trees each year, so there are plenty available.

For \$25/tree each sponsor receives one pint of our fresh maple syrup, a handsome certificate, free admission to our Public Day Program on Saturday, March 2, 2019, 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 the office or complete and return the Sponsor Form below by Friday, February 22, 2019 to become a sponsor. A tree sponsorship also makes a great gift!



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

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

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

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold." - Aristotle



Celebrate Earth Day with us!
Visit mcearthday.org for more details.

Photo Contest Winners Announced!

This year we received lots of amazing entries and there were some very difficult decisions to make while choosing the winners. We would like to thank all who participated and congratulate all of the winners! All winners received maple syrup from the Meesing Sugarbush as well as a complimentary copy of the calendar, featuring their photo. Lora Kuehner was the grand prize winner of the photo contest, and her photo of two baby hummingbirds in a nest taken in Kunkletown is featured on the cover. For a complete list of winners visit our website. Calendars featuring the winners are on sale in the gift shop for \$7.99 plus tax. ❄️



2019 Artist Line Up

January - Photo Contest Display
December 1st through January 31st

February - Andrea Henley
February 1st through 28th
Opening Reception: February 2nd, 11am-1pm

March - Elaine Madere
March 1st through 29th
Opening Reception: March 2nd, 11am-1pm

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

Let's *get* Social

