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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Winter 2019 Newsletter

Volume 43 No. 4

So You Wanna Make Maple Syrup?

The EE staff is preparing for cold weather, wet feet, clothing smelling of wood smoke and a lot of work but the end result will indeed be the best tasting maple syrup you will ever have! Each year people from all over the North-eastern United States and Canada take to the woods to produce the sweet tasting syrup we all love. The method is fairly simple, tap a maple tree, collect the sap, and cook it until it turns to syrup. It is the same basic way that the Native Americans made syrup hundreds of years ago. A few things to keep in mind: it takes between 40-45 gallons of sap to make just one gallon of syrup, the sap only flows on days when the temperatures are above 35-38 degrees and when the nights are below freezing. Sap will spoil if it is not cooked or kept frozen. The entire maple sugaring season only lasts for a few weeks. After considering all of the hard work that goes into it, if you are still willing to give maple sugaring a try you will experience a renewal of your appreciation for the outdoors when you create the all-natural sweetener that is pure maple syrup.

There are many websites explaining the entire process as well as various places that you can buy equipment to help you on your sugary journey, but the best way to learn is to see the entire operation at a sugar bush. You can visit us on Saturday, March 7th for our Annual Maple Sugaring Public Day at our Meesing Sugar Bush or you can attend a workshop at Kettle Creek on Saturday, January 18th where we will be discussing the entire process and learn about different maple sugaring methods, equipment and more. We will also try to answer any questions you may have and share our 40 years of experience in producing maple syrup.*



Environmental Education Coordinator Roger Spotts cooking sap into syrup over the evaporator at the Meesing Sugar Bush.



Sap dripping into a bucket from a tapped maple tree.



Fresh maple syrup!



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Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

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Office Assistant Senior

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

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The KCEF Board is pleased with the results of the fundraising event held September 20th at Trout Lake, particularly since attendance improved over last year and everyone seemed to enjoy the evening. This year also marked the first combined KCEF and Kettle Creek members' event. Proceeds from this event enable the funding of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center's 2020 Wish List.

We would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters for a successful 2019 and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year.

-John Woodling, KCEF

28th Annual Dinner

September 18, 2020



KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.
Joseph Bedrick
Leslie J. Berger
Patrick Calpin
Ed Cramer
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly
Stephanie Spotts

Dear Members and Friends,

As 2019 draws to an end the staff at Kettle Creek is excited about some new programming options we will be offering in the New Year. We are always working to provide a wide range of outdoor educational programs for people of all ages and in 2020 that will certainly be the case. We will still offer traditional favorites such as Eagle Watches, Maple Sugaring, Bog walks and school programs. Bus trips to various places including an Elk watching trip in September and a repeat of the popular Chincoteague trip in October will also be offered in 2020.

Utilizing some of our new staff's interests we will offer additional photography workshops and trips, more kayak adventures and a new spin on some of our summer programs. We hope you can participate in some of these offerings and we look forward to attracting new visitors of all ages to Kettle Creek where we can explore the outdoors together.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff



Eagle Scout Completes Trail Project



Over the years the Environmental Education Center has been fortunate to have a number of Eagle Scouts complete their projects with us. These projects have been a great help to us in improving our trail systems, wildlife habitat, and overall programs. Recently Chris Gibson from Scout Troop 86 finished his trail project at the Tannersville Bog and visitors to the Bog have certainly benefitted. Chris and his troop finished the entrance trail with gravel and stone and eliminated safety hazards which existed on the trail. They also extended the gravel further into the preserve and now children and adults alike have a much easier time walking on the trail. Eagle Scout projects like this are a huge help to the staff and programs at the EE Center and we thank Chris and his family and members of Scout Troop 86 for their hard work!❄️

Eagle Scout, Chris Gibson

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

DECEMBER

21st – Saturday – Building Closed

24th – Tuesday – Building Closes at Noon

25th – Wednesday - Building Closed – Holiday

28th – Saturday – Building Closed

31st – Tuesday – Building Closes at Noon

JANUARY

4th – Saturday – Building Closed

11th – Saturday – Animal Autographs - Tracks and traces are the autographs of the animal world! Join a Kettle Creek staff member at 10am to wander the trails of Kettle Creek to search for signs of winter wildlife. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

14th - Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Animals in Winter” - Come to Kettle Creek to discover the fascinating ways animals survive Pennsylvania winters! We'll read a story, take a nature hike, and make a small craft to take home. This program for young children ages 3-6 will be held from 10—11am. Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. **(Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

18th – Saturday - Maple Sugaring for the Beginner - Join Roger Spotts for this two hour workshop beginning at 10am at Kettle Creek on backyard maple sugaring. January is the time to get ready for the sugaring season as we get set to tap trees in mid-February. The indoor program will include general information on making syrup, and a review of the equipment necessary to make syrup in your backyard. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

20th – Monday – Building Closed - Holiday

24th – Friday – Eagle Watch - Join an Environmental Educator 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. **Preregistration and payment required by Tuesday, January 21st, 2020. Seating is limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

25th – Saturday – Building Open gam -1pm

28th - Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Science of Snow ” – Learn about snow science with the help of some fun hands-on experiments. This program for young children ages 3-6 will be held from 10—11am. Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. **(Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

FEBRUARY

1st – Saturday – Art Opening: Faustina Falisi “Nature’s Beauty” – Enjoy the paintings of local artist Faustina Falisi in her first ever art show at Kettle Creek. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run January 31st through February 28th.*

5th – Wednesday – Eagle Watch - Join an Environmental Educator 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 proba-

bility 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. **Preregistration and payment required by Friday, January 31st, 2020. Seating is limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

8th – Saturday – Wildlife Conflicts in your Backyard – Join Roger Spotts to learn about the battles between people and Pocono wildlife in our very own backyards! The program begins at 10am and will take place indoors. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

8th – Saturday – Winter Bog Walk - Meet Roger Spotts at the bog at 2pm for this two hour winter walk on the boardwalk. We will discuss the bog in the cold months of winter and hopefully see tracks and signs of some of the wildlife that calls the bog home. Please dress to be outside and wear appropriate footwear. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Preregistration required by Friday, February 7th. Walk may be cancelled due to weather.** 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.

11th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Over and Under the Snow” – Join us for this entertaining program as we read “Over and Under the Snow” by Kate Messner. After our story session, we will explore the wintery world outside and search for signs of animals over and under the snow! This program for young children ages 3-6 will be held from 10—11am. Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE

***Preregistration is suggested for all programs offered and required for those where noted.
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: mccconservation.org

Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.

15th – Saturday – Building Closed

17th – Monday – Building Closed - Holiday

22nd – Saturday – Spotted Lanternfly Update – Join Matt Giambra at 10am to learn about this invasive insect. We will discuss what it is, where it's at, and where we go from here. **Cost: \$6/ non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

29th - Saturday – Red Cross Blood Drive - We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-2pm. Call Barbara at M CCD 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.

MARCH

7th – Saturday – Public Maple Sugaring Day – Our 43rd Public Maple Sugaring 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! The event runs from 10am - 3pm and is located at the Meesing Sugarbush outside of Marshall's Creek. **Cost: \$6/adult and \$4/children under 12; all members of the EE Center and all tree sponsors attend FREE of charge.**

7th – Saturday – Art Opening: "Scenes from Chincoteague" – Explore the island of Chincoteague through the works of Nancy Tully and Tim Weaver. This mixed media show depicts the beauty of the island. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs March 2nd through 30th.*

14th – Saturday - Building Closed

14th - Saturday - Maple Sugaring Scout Day - Scouts and their families are invited to attend our Scout Maple Sugaring Day at the Meesing Sugarbush outside of Marshall's Creek. 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. Preregistration is required by Wednesday, March 11, 2020.**

21st – 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. Preregistration is required by Friday, March 20th.**



Photo Contest Calendars

This year we received lots of stunning entries and there were some 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. Nancy Tully was the grand prize winner of the photo contest, and her photo of a yellow warbler taken at the Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge 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.*

Save the Date!



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



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 thirteenth 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 27, 2020.** *



The American Red Cross will be holding a **blood drive** at Monroe County Conservation District! **Saturday, February 29th from 9am-2pm**

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

DIRT & GRAVEL MINUTE

News You Can Use When Maintaining Your Gravel Driveway

Does your driveway or private road resemble a stream channel during rainstorms? Are you tired having that expensive stone washing away every time we get a big rain? No matter how good your gravel road is designed and constructed, there will always be maintenance needed to keep it performing as intended. But if you don't have a good design to begin with, or if maintenance has been deferred for too long, no amount of maintenance is going to *fix* the problem. We'll be providing some basic, common sense and proven methods for keeping your driveway or road *in shape*, as well as identifying some of the common problems we see when out and about in the county.

Problem: Aggregate Separation a.k.a Ravelling

Ravelling occurs when bigger particles (stones) are loosened and moved out of the wheel tracks to the center or sides of the lanes. This can occur rather quickly when using 2A, especially on higher speed/volume roads. Separation also happens due to a loss of fines (dust) and wheel action over time. Snow plowing contributes sometimes mass movement of surface material to the sides, especially during soft (thawed) conditions.



Aggregate Separation

Solution: Remixing and Compacting Aggregate

Remixing the larger particles back into the road surface material requires both grading the particles back across the lane and loosening the existing material, or adding more fines, to mix them to get a homogenous mixture. A scarifier or stinger blade works well for this task.

Be careful not to pull organic materials (vegetation and topsoil) from the sides of the road onto the road surface - this will lead to potholes as decomposition and compaction occur. Blow or rake leaves and other undesirable material away from the edges prior to grading.

The grading and compaction process requires the work to be done with the proper moisture content in the aggregate. A half to an inch of rain the day prior seems to be about right. Otherwise, water should be added. This also reduces dust and loss of fines during the work. The grading process involves redistribution of material across the road, loosening the road material to below any washboard or pothole deviations, shaping to the proper crown or cross slope, and compacting the aggregate to the proper density. If you find you are into subbase material during this process, more driving surface material is needed. A minimum of four inches of material is recommended for routine maintenance. More information on this process is available on the internet.*



WINTER IS COMING...Where Does Your Manure Go?

Normal manure application seasons are spring and fall, but sometimes we need to use a third season: winter. We may depend on this season based on our manure hauling or simply because mother nature had other ideas. An especially rainy fall may lead to a winter application of manure on your crop fields. Winter is a crucial time of the year to think about protecting water quality, because the frozen ground limits the ability of the soil and plants to absorb manure and its nutrients. These applications can be made, but use the following rules when applying to help keep our clean water clean:

- Maintain a 100 foot setback from streams, ponds, lakes, drinking wells, and aboveground inlets to agricultural drainage systems.
- Fields receiving manure must have at least 25% residue from the previous crop, or an established cover crop.
- Do not apply manure to fields with a slope greater than 15%.
- Limit your manure application rates to 5,000 gal/Ac for liquid and 20 ton/Ac for solid non-poultry manure.

When applying manure in the winter remember that winter does not follow the calendar and is instead defined as the following: Between Dec 15th and Feb 28th, **OR** any time the ground is snow covered, **OR** any time the soil is frozen four inches or deeper.

These guidelines are for smaller operators that have less intensive operations and are applying their manure under a Manure Management Plan. Remember to write the application information in your farm records! If you are a CAO consult your nutrient management plan for winter application information.

Not sure if you should have a manure management plan or a nutrient management plan? Contact the Conservation District and ask for Amber at (570) 629-3060 or afmccd@ptd.net *

2020 MAPLE SUGARING SEASON

As fall approaches with winter soon to follow, the Meesing Sugar bush sits quiet and empty. It won't be long, however, until the EE staff heads to the Sugarbush to begin the 2020 Maple Sugaring Season.



The 2019 Maple Sugaring Season was a great year for making maple syrup with not much snow and several weeks of good weather. We tapped trees on February 13th and the sap ran consistently until March 27th. Due to that continuous run of sap we were able to produce 42.68 gallons of quality pure maple syrup one of our highest totals ever. On our annual public day the 284 people that visited us that day enjoyed fresh pancakes with our syrup.

We hope you can make plans to join us this season! Our 43rd Public Maple Sugaring Day will be held Saturday, March 7, 2020, from 10am - 3pm. The day will feature a tour of the Sugar bush 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.**

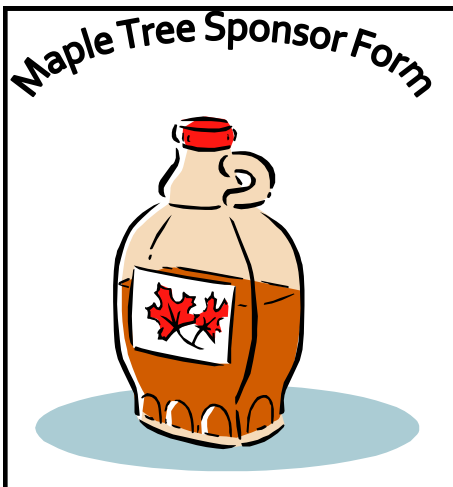
We'll be sponsoring a **special day for scout groups on Saturday, March 14, 2020.** Programs can be scheduled between 9am - 2pm and are open to any level of scouts and their families. Cost: \$6/adult, \$4/scouts and children under 12 and includes our syrup on freshly made pancakes. **Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 11, 2020.**

Dates set for group programs in the Sugarbush are Monday, February 24 through Friday, March 13. 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 2019, over 190 different groups, families or individuals sponsored trees in our Sugarbush. These sponsorships raised over \$4,000.00 which was used to help pay the expenses for our group tours of the Sugarbush. We are hoping that in 2020 even more people will help us by sponsoring a tree. We tap around 250 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 7, 2020, 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 28, 2020 to become a sponsor. A tree sponsorship also makes a great 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 250 maple trees are tapped in Meesing's Sugarbush. Become part of our sugaring program by sponsoring a maple tree this year!

PUBLISHED BY:
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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Winter Maintenance Tips for Homeowners: Salt Reduction

Road salt and deicers are routinely applied to roads, driveways, and sidewalks for winter safety. While important for reducing accidents, these chemicals can have a negative impact on our streams, lakes and groundwater resources. Road salt as well as other chemical deicers are all types of "salt" that can increase the salinity of our water resources. Diluted concentrations of salt are not considered harmful, but salts can build up in soil and groundwater resources over time, impacting drinking water quality and habitat for aquatic organisms. One concern is salt contamination in our drinking water wells, especially for people with reduced salt diets. In addition to impacting water resources, these salts can cause corrosion of vehicles, damage sidewalks and driveways, harm landscaping, and hurt pets. Here are some tips to reduce the amount of salt you use around the home and to protect your water resources.

Shovel first: Do not apply salts on top of snow which can cause snow to melt and refreeze later. Instead remove as much snow as possible by shoveling early and often. Avoid driving or walking on top of snow which can cause compaction and snow to turn to ice. Additionally, as ice melts and turns to slush, quickly remove it to prevent refreezing.

Chip and Scape: Manual removal of ice and compacted snow can help reduce the areas you need to treat. Special hand tools such as ice choppers and scrapers can make this job a little easier.

Use a Salt Spreader: Hand held salt spreaders can help spread salt and deicers at an appropriate rate. For proper application you should only be using about 1 pound (about a 12 ounce mug full) of salt per 1000 square feet. There should be no piles or overlapping crystals of salt.

Pay attention to the Temperature: Most salts and deicers do not work below 15 degrees Fahrenheit. Check the label on the product and do not apply when temperatures are too cold.

Sweep Up: Sweep up excess salt after the storm to prevent it washing away once the snow melts. Dry areas still covered with crystals of salt and deicer can be swept up and disposed of once the threat of ice and snow is passed.

Pay Attention to Problem Spots: It is likely that there are a few problem areas around your home that ice frequently accumulates. These areas may have drainage issues that can be corrected come spring time such as low spots in a driveway or areas of ice/snow melt off the roof. Correction of these issues can help prevent accumulation of ice in the future. ❄️

