

8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Admin/Technical: 570-629-3060  
Env. Education: 570-629-3061  
www.mcconservation.org



MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Winter 2022 Newsletter

Volume 45 No. 4

# PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED



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The results are in and although we received numerous entries that beautifully represented the bounty of natural resources in Monroe County, only twelve winners could be chosen for the 2023 calendar. All winners received a copy of the calendar and a pint of maple syrup from our very own Meesing Sugarbush. The cover winner receives a calendar and a quart of maple syrup. This year's cover winner was Jeffrey Sidle with his photo of a hummingbird-clearwing moth and wild bergamot. Kettle Creek is once again pleased to offer 2023 calendars for sale in the Gift Shop for \$9.95 plus tax. All winners will have their photographs on display in the Gallery at Kettle Creek through January 31<sup>st</sup>. Stop in today to browse the photos and purchase a calendar!

*Find us on Social Media!*





**Monroe County  
Conservation District  
Board of Directors**

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Environmental Education Coordinator

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Alesia Gallo, Colleen Lidon  
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras  
Financial Manager

Diana Flint, Iwona O'Connor  
Office Assistant Seniors

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 hopes this message finds you healthy and preparing for the holiday season. We are very pleased to report that the annual fundraiser held on September 29 at Trout Lake was well attended, and the net proceeds were just under \$20,000, an increase of more than 50% over the previous event in 2019. Many thanks to all our sponsors, attendees and contributors!

The Project Committee continues to evaluate plans for a new entrance to the EE Center, and hopes to begin major fundraising for this project in 2023.

New Board members are always needed, and the next several years will be very important as we undertake the new entrance project and continue to support on-going programs and activities. Please contact Diana at the EE Center if you are interested in being a part of these activities.

I would be remiss if I didn't indicate that this is my last message as President of KCEF. After 30 years on the Board and more than half those as President, I am stepping down from the office, although I hope to be able to remain a Board member. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve KCEF over these many years, and I am thankful that I had the opportunity to do so.

The Board extends our very best wishes to you and your families for a joyful Christmas season and a healthy, prosperous New Year.

**-John Woodling, KCEF President**

**KCEF  
Board  
Members**



John Woodling, President  
Leslie J. Berger, Vice-President  
Joseph Bedrick  
Patrick Calpin  
Gareth Denniston  
Ed Cramer  
Kara Klaus-Major  
John Reilly  
Dr. Elaine Rogers



We know winter has arrived when the birds start to become regular visitors as they enjoy the offerings at Kettle Creek's feeders. The colder temperatures may keep us indoors but the staff at Kettle Creek is setting up a number of outdoor programs exploring the outdoors in winter. Whether it is an eagle watch, a full moon hike or a winter stroll thru the bog we hope you take the opportunity to join us.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a full supply of bird seed to help your feathered friends get through the winter feeding season. Stop by and pick up some seed, a new 2023 calendar featuring our photo contest winners, and visit the art gallery which has a different artist displaying their work each month.

Finally keep an eye on our website and social media sites as we announce our 2023 overnight bus trips, kayak programs, and camp dates. We have some new offerings we think you will find interesting.

Roger Spotts  
Environmental Education Coordinator

## 2023 Monroe County Master Watershed Steward Class



Do you have a deep love of water, wildlife, and woods? Do you enjoy learning about the environment and being outdoors? Is it important to you that we preserve our waterways and natural areas for future generations? Take action! Join the **Master Watershed Steward Information Session for Carbon, Monroe, and Pike Counties** and learn about the MWS program!

### When

Wed., Jan. 11, 2023  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

or

Wed., Jan. 18, 2023  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET

### Format

*Live Online  
via Zoom*

### To Register:

<https://extension.psu.edu/master-watershed-steward-information-session-for-carbon-monroe-and-pike-counties>

The Master Watershed Steward (MWS) program educates and empowers volunteers to do conservation projects and help educate their communities.

To date, the Monroe County program has contributed 5,562 hours to county projects, valued at \$166,597! The Monroe County Conservation District is proud to be one of their partners in conservation. If this sounds like it's for you, register for the information session and contact the Monroe County Master Watershed Steward coordinator, Jim Vogt, at [jav45@psu.edu](mailto:jav45@psu.edu).

### Who is this for?

- Those who have a strong desire to make a positive difference in their communities
- Those who have a keen interest in the environment
- Those who are willing to learn and teach
- Those who have time to volunteer

### What will you learn?

- Learn about the MWS program training, structure, commitment, and requirements
- Discover the types of projects in which the MWS volunteer team engages
- Be introduced to valuable program partners
- Learn about Penn State Extension and the Land Grant College system

### What do Master Watershed Stewards do?

- Teach adults and children about water quality, wildlife habitats, and the environment
- Develop educational materials
- Organize and conduct educational events, stream clean-ups, and invasive plant removal projects
- Design and maintain demonstration gardens
- Conduct stream monitoring projects and research
- Research and write newsletters and online articles
- Partner with municipal officials on projects, such as bioswales, rain gardens, native meadows, and other green stormwater management solutions





## Program Guidelines

Preregistration is required for all programs offered unless noted otherwise by calling 570-629-3061.

Cash or checks made payable to MCCD only.

Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.

Kettle Creek  
Environmental Education Center  
8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360  
(570)629-3061  
[www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org)

# 2023 Winter Programming



## Winter Solstice Yoga Class Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> —6pm

Winter Solstice is thought of as a time of death and rebirth when Nature’s powers and our own souls are renewed, framing the longest night of the year. This all adult level yoga class will be held in the Gallery at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. **Bring your mat or towel to lie on and an open mind. Optionally, bring blocks or straps you may wish to support your practice. Cost: \$5 per person**

**Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>—Building Closes at Noon—Holiday**

**Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup> - Building Closed - Holiday**

**Friday, December 30<sup>th</sup> —Building Closes at Noon—Holiday**

**Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup> - Building Closed - Holiday**

## Tracks Telling a Tale Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> - 10am



Join Environmental Education Coordinator, Roger Spotts for an outside hike to look for tracks at Kettle Creek. This program will explain the methods of identifying the tracks and hopefully offer insight into the story they can tell about our animal neighbors. **Please dress for the weather. Cost is \$5 per person.**

**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed**

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed—Holiday**

## Eagle Watch Bus Trips January 20<sup>th</sup>, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

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.** Participants should pack a lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks. **Preregistration and payment required for all trips. Seating is limited. Cost: \$35 and includes bus transportation.**

## Winter Survival Skills Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> - 10am

Join us for a morning of outdoor exploration and putting our winter survival skills to the test. We will learn about foraging local wild edibles in winter, learn basic fire building skills and construct shelters from materials found in nature. This program is geared for children ages 8-14. **Cost: \$5 per person.**

**Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed**

## Nancy Hopping Presents “The Lighter Side of Wildlife” Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - 11am

February artist and local photographer Nancy Hopping shares a collection of humorous wildlife videos, mostly taken in her own backyard! Suitable for all ages, this program is sure to make you laugh and see the lighter side of wildlife in the Poconos. Nancy’s photography will be on display through the month of February. **Preregistration is required for this program. There is no charge.**

## Winter Bog Walk

Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> - 2pm

Weather permitting we will be venturing into the Bog to look at this unique habitat at a different time of the year. **Pre-registration is required by February 3<sup>rd</sup>.** Participants should dress for the weather and wear proper footwear. **Meet in the Bog parking lot located at 552 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg, PA. In cooperation with the Brodhead Watershed Association and a grant through the William Penn Foundation there will be no charge for this walk.**

## Full Moon Walk at Kettle Creek

Saturday February 4<sup>th</sup> - 6:30 pm



Join us for the opportunity to take a walk under the light of a full moon on a clear winter night. Even though it is the middle of winter there are many things going on outside at Kettle Creek. A walk for the whole family to enjoy. Please dress for the weather and possibly snow covered trails. Hot chocolate will be served at the end of the walk.

**Cost is \$5 per person and registration is required and limited.**

**Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed**

**Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed**

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed—Holiday**

## Reading the Forested Landscape

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - 10am

Join Environmental Educator Barrett Donna and hike the trails at Kettle Creek, and learn how to read the human stories and natural history preserved in our forest. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate footwear.

**Cost: \$5 per person.**

## Maple Sugaring Public Day

Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>



Take a 90-minute tour of our Meesing sugarbush focusing on the history of maple syrup from the Native Americans to the early settlers in this region. Learn how to “tap” a maple tree to obtain sap, and watch as we demonstrate how to cook the sap until it is sweet maple syrup. You’ll complete the tour at our pancake station where the finished product is served over freshly made pancakes. **Preregistration is required by calling 570-629-3061. Participants may choose a time from 10am-2pm for their 90-minute tour. Cost: \$6/adults, \$4/children under 12. Tree sponsors attend free of charge. PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER INCLUDING SHOES APPROPRIATE FOR TRAIL WALKING!**



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-2pm. Call Barbara at MCCD at 570-629-3060 for more information. **To register or learn more about American Red Cross blood drives, visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) or call 1-800-RED CROSS**

## Art Reception: The Green Planet Hypothesis

Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>—11am-1pm

The Gallery at Kettle Creek will feature Darryl Speicher and Students from Evergreen Community Charter School during the month of March. Darryl Speicher has had three previous shows in the Art Gallery at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. His sons, Jordan and Jacob, contributed pieces to those shows. They are now adults living their own lives far from the Poconos so Darryl has asked the student body where he teaches, Evergreen Community Charter School, if they would be interested in contributing a piece of art to this show. The result will be on display during the month of March. There will be a reception for Darryl and the students that participate on Saturday, March 18 from 11am to 1 pm. **No charge for this event.**

## Vernal Equinox Yoga Class

Tuesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>—6pm

Join us as we welcome spring with an all adult level yoga class. This class will be held in the Gallery at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. **Bring your mat or towel to lie on and an open mind. Optionally, bring blocks or straps you may wish to support your practice. Cost: \$5 per person.**

## Act 167 Storm Water Management Plans

Over the last two years the Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) has been working diligently on the renewal of the Act 167 Storm Water Management Plans for the Brodhead Creek, McMichaels Creek, and Tobyhanna Creek Plans. On December 2, 2022 the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) completed review and approval of the plans for consistency with municipal floodplain management plans, state programs that regulate dams, encroachments and water obstructions, and state and federal flood control programs.

Now that the plans have been approved, it starts the clock for municipalities to enact or amend and implement such ordinances as necessary to regulate development in a manner consistent with the plan by **May 2, 2023**, according to Section 11(b) of Act 167. A Model Ordinance is provided in the approved plans to make the process consistent and less of a burden on the subject Municipalities.

Plan reviews and renewals are needed, and required every 5 years, in order to maintain effective management of storm water and water quality throughout the county. The periodic renewals and updates also identify new storm water issues in the community, provide protection of infrastructure and assets, maintain consistency with the County Hazard Mitigation Plan and increase eligibility for emergency funding from FEMA and PEMA. The WPAC, with representatives from each municipality, along with our state and local partners, worked these past years to update the Plans to account for high tunnel farming practices, updated and new technology BMPs, consistency with 25 Pa. Code Chapter 102 - Erosion and Sediment Control, and to provide updated release rate district mapping.

Municipalities required to adopt Draft Plan renewals in the Brodhead Creek and McMichaels Creek Watershed are contained within seventeen (17) municipalities in Monroe County and one municipality in Pike County as follows: Barrett, Paradise, Chestnuthill, Coolbaugh, East Stroudsburg, Greene (Pike County) Smithfield, Hamilton, Jackson, Middle Smithfield, Mt. Pocono, Pocono, Price, Ross, Stroud, Stroudsburg, Tobyhanna, and Tunkhannock.

The Tobyhanna Creek, encompasses the northwest portion of Monroe County and portions of eastern Carbon County and southern Wayne County is contained within four Municipalities in Monroe County, one Municipality in Carbon County and one Municipality in Wayne County: Coolbaugh, Mount Pocono, Tobyhanna, Tunkhannock, Kidder (Carbon County), Lehigh (Wayne County).

For more information or to view the approved plans visit our website: <https://www.mcconservation.org/act-167-plans-and-maps.html>



## Project Feederwatch Update



Our 2022-2023 Project FeederWatch season is off to a great start! So far, our volunteers have identified 23 different species of birds visiting our feeders, with blue jays, dark-eyed juncos, mourning doves, tufted titmice and black-capped chickadees being among the most common. If you are interested in participating in Project FeederWatch, please email [clmccd@ptd.net](mailto:clmccd@ptd.net) for more information. Don't forget we have a variety of birdseed available to purchase in our gift shop so you can attract birds to your own backyard feeders!



## An Exciting Owlnet Season at Kettle Creek

By Jackie and Darryl Speicher, Pocono Avian Research Center

Project Owlnet, a continent wide survey of the Northern Saw-whet Owl, at the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary began this year on the night of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Although, the season started a few days later than normal it would prove to be one of the most exciting owl banding seasons ever. What made it so exciting? Well, we didn't set any records this year for total owls encountered, nor did we encounter any owls that made incredible long distance journeys to visit Kettle Creek. What made Owlnet 2022 at Kettle Creek exciting was the ability to share what we love to do with so many enthusiastic visitors. Each scheduled program was full of participants both human and avian.

It started with the very first Friday night program. The room was full of people and after a brief description of what we were up to, which always comes with the disclaimer that the owls are wild and so not often very cooperative, we were successful on the very first net check. As frequent visitors to the banding station know this is not always the case and there have been several instances where a room packed with people has waited to see an owl for hours to no avail, but not on this night. Then we had a first at Kettle Creek during a program, we caught a Barred Owl. Approaching the building I could hear the chatter in the room and noticed the tail lights of someone pulling out on to Running Valley Road. The group let out an audible gasp when I stepped into the room. This large raptor seemed nonplused as it looked out at the audience.

Then there was a night when we got five Saw-whets on the very first net check. It was almost too much for the participants to absorb as we banded, recorded data and released the birds in time for the next net check. I find that it is better to start with fewer early birds when you have a group still trying to understand what it is all about.

What it is all about is trying to learn more about the migratory ecology and population dynamics of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Jackie and I have been involved with Project Owlnet since the year 2000. In that time span we have noticed some interesting trends, like the role moon phase can play in capture rates, the fluctuations of the ratio of hatch year to adult birds and the apparent shift of migration a few days later than it was 20 years ago. We are also noticing an increase in Project Owlnet participation as more researchers join the ranks of nocturnal banders.

Totals for Project Owlnet at Kettle Creek this year were 1 Barred Owl, 54 Northern Saw-whet Owls banded and 2 Northern Saw-whet Owls recaptured. We like to say that the most exciting birds are those that are already banded. This year was no exception. Sure the first bird of the season is always extremely exciting. Every year I wonder if this might not be the first year we don't get any owls. We came close to none in 2007 when we only banded 8 owls for the entire season. But owls that are already banded are contributing to our understanding of where they are going and how widely they may range on their way. In 2016 we recaptured an owl that was originally banded in 2012 in Estes Park, Colorado. This year we had two foreign encounters, one of which was originally banded on Block Island, Rhode Island. Makes me wonder, do they breed on the island, and if not, why would a saw-whet owl make the 13 mile flight from the mainland to get there? When it left Block Island did it take the closest route back to the mainland or did it take off for Montauk Point on Long Island? For me it's all the questions that we have at the end that make the season so exciting and 2022 was quite exciting indeed.



## Eagle Scout Project Completed at Kettle Creek

The staff at Kettle Creek would like to thank Andonia Quartey, for completing his Eagle Scout project with Kettle Creek. Andonia, along with his Troop and family, donated all the materials and built four very sturdy picnic tables for our pancake station in the maple sugar bush. These tables will be filled with participants at our public days where they will be able to enjoy fresh pancakes and our sweet syrup while seated comfortably at one of these tables. Andonia also upgraded our trail entrance at Kettle Creek with some much needed mulch. Eagle Scout projects have been very beneficial to our programming over the years and we look forward to working with more scouts in the future. Thanks again Andonia.



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

*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*



## 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 fourteenth 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 [mcconservation.org](http://mcconservation.org). *Deadline to submit an application is Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.***



## Sponsor a Maple Tree

Maple tree sponsorships are here again! For \$25/tree each sponsor receives a half pint of our fresh maple syrup, a certificate, free admission to one of our Public Day Programs on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> for up to four people and a map showing the location of your tree in our Sugarbush. This year's public day event will be held on two separate days and the number of guests will be limited so preregistration is required. Download a Sponsor a Tree form on our website or give us a call at 570-629-3061 for more information.