



MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education



8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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

Winter 2016 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 40 No. 4

## Project OwlNet Recap: 100 Saw-whets Banded at Kettle Creek!

There are many exciting things to report about project OwlNet at Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary during the 2016 season. Although it was the second year for OwlNet it was the first under Kettle Creek's own permit. This may seem like a minor matter but is significant with regard to Kettle Creek's mission moving forward.

From October 10 to November 14, one hundred Northern Saw-whet Owls passed through the Kettle Creek banding station. Eleven of the owls encountered were already banded, one of which was originally banded in October of 2012 at the Estes Park, CO owlNet station. This is a distance of over 1,700 miles almost due west from Kettle Creek. This is one of the greatest eastward movements for this species ever documented!

Another interesting bird visited with us on Halloween. It was the busiest night of the season with thirteen owls in the nets, one of which only had one eye. The bird was an adult and the injury was quite old as there was no sign of trauma, just an empty eye socket. In every other way she was a healthy, feisty adult female.

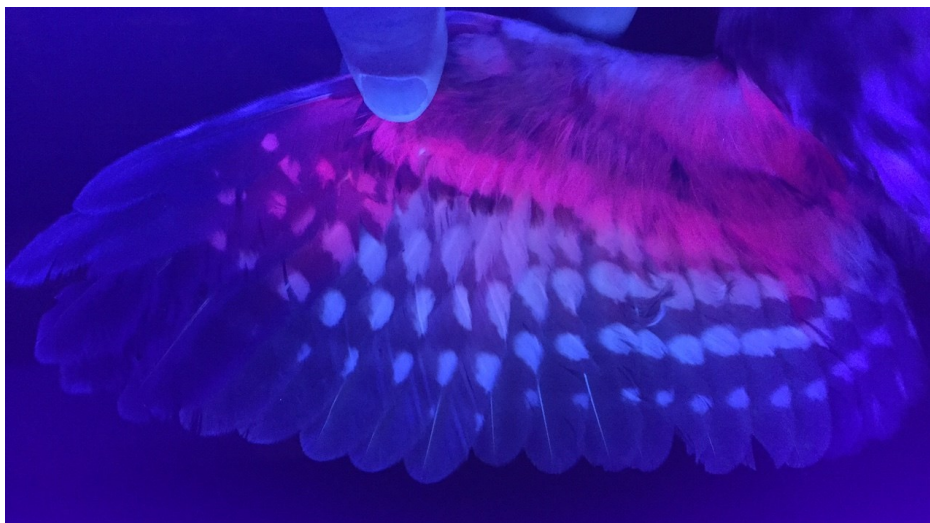
The 2016 season wasn't just a record for owls it was a very successful season for visitors. Over 200 people came by to learn more about owls and project owlNet during the Friday evening open houses. Many of our friends came to help us out and a steady reliable crew of service learning students from Northampton Community College collectively made the 2016 season of Project OwlNet one for the ages. ❄



The 100th Owl by Maura Mulherin



Banded Saw-whet Owl



Black lights are used to look for color variations in feathers which help determine an owl's age.

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**Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors**

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Patrick Ross, Secretary
Heidi Secord, Treasurer
Paul Canevari
David W. Moyer
Charles A. Garris, Commissioner

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Steven Baade Resource Conservationist
Roger Spotts Environmental Education Coordinator
Karen N. Boyle, Brittney Coleman, Brian Hardiman, Darryl Speicher Environmental Educators
Barbara Bistras Administrative Coordinator
Alesia Gallo, Debra Martin Office Assistant Senior
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 Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) Board is very pleased to announce the date for the 26th Annual Dinner/Auction on Friday, May 12, 2017, at Camelback. Please mark your calendars now for this major fundraising event.

Once again, the KCEF funded everything on the Environmental Education Center's '2016 Wish List' which included Conservation Camp, the High School and Junior Envirothons, BioBlitz and Bug Fest. In addition to the wish list, the KCEF also funded Pocono Mountain 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, a GoPro camera, bird banding equipment and snorkel equipment were 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 to download the donation form.

Through the generosity of the Monroe County Commissioners and ESSA Bank and Trust KCEF received the funds to print updated versions of the John Serrao Reptiles and Amphibians of the Poconos book. This valuable field guide is available for purchase in the KCEEC gift shop! Proceeds from the book sale benefit the educational programs at KCEEC.

\* -John Woodling, KCEF President

**KCEF Board Members**

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

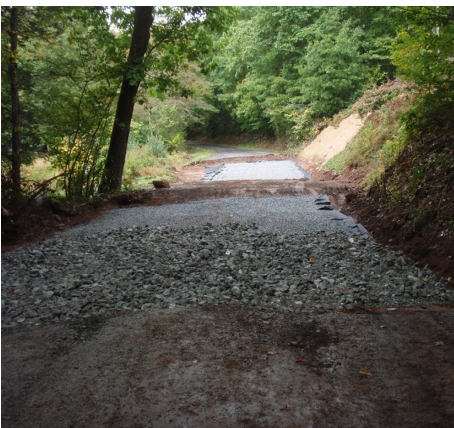


A huge thank you to our summer work crew for keeping our trails and building neat and in order over the hot summer months!

# News 'N Notes

## Monroe County's First Low Volume Road Project Completed

The first Low Volume Road (LVR) project to be completed under the county's Dirt Gravel and Low Volume Road (DGLVR) program is on Hyspie Gap Road in Chestnuthill Township. The project is located in the Township's northern corner near McMichaels Creek, designated as an Exceptional Value – Cold Water Fishery. The Township applied for the grant in 2015 to address drainage and road base improvements on this 1400 foot section of Hyspie Gap Road. The project contract was awarded to Shiffer Bituminous of Dotter's Corner. Under the DGLVR program eligible municipalities apply for funding to improve stormwater drainage and management to reduce sediment and other pollutants to local streams, as well as the long term maintenance costs. Municipalities provide funding for some aspects of the project so that grant money stretches project dollars to fix drainage problems on these lesser travelled roads (less than 500 vehicles per day). Chestnuthill applied for \$110, 572 with municipal in-kind contributions of \$24,500. The actual project costs came in lower than expected, at just under \$103,000, and a grant cost of just under \$95,000. The Township is planning future projects on other sections of Hyspie Gap Road.\*



Hyspie Gap Road, Chestnuthill Township

## NPDES Workshop

Each year Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) offers a public training event at the District offices. This year MCCD is teaming up with Pike County to host the **2017 Winter NPDES Workshop on Friday, January 20, 2017 from 8:30am-3:30pm.** Keeping up to date with changes to NPDES and avoiding common mistakes will help expedite permit processing for engineers, planners, developers and contractors. Hot topics will include Act 162 Buffers, Offsite and Downstream discharge analysis and Rate reduction, Basin dewatering issues and Recordation at Notice of Termination.

PDH credits are available for this winter session, so mark it on your calendars. We will send out an invitation to those on our mailing list when registration opens. If you'd like to get on our list, please contact us at 570-629-3060.

Space and parking are limited so please sign up early. Fee: \$25 includes the workshop with light refreshments and lunch included.\*

## 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 tenth 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, March 31, 2017. To receive an application or for more information, please contact our office. Deadline for applications is Friday, March 10, 2017.\*

## Monroe County Earth Day 2017

The first county-wide earth day celebration in over 35 years was a huge success. Everyone involved agreed that we need to do it again so the date is set: The Monroe County Earth Day for 2017 will be held on Saturday April 22, on the Monroe County Campus of Northampton Community College. This year's celebration will begin at 10 am and end at 3 pm. The Conservation District is happy to announce that everything that happened in 2016 will happen again, Close the Loop's - give and take; the Waste Management Authority's - tire amnesty and e-cycling are all set. We also anticipate that we will have even more exhibitors, wonderful entertainment and fabulous speakers. So don't forget to mark your calendars now to attend the Monroe County Earth Day April, 22, 2017.\*

## Farmer's Appreciation Banquet



The Monroe County Conservation District is teaming up with Penn State Extension to co-host the Annual Farmers Appreciation Banquet on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at the Polk Township Fire Hall in Kresgeville. The Polk Township Ladies Auxiliary will be serving a family style meal and musical entertainment will be provided by the McWilliams's Brothers. There will also be other fun activities like games, door prizes, information booths and giveaways. Doors will open at 5:30pm and dinner will be served promptly at 6:00pm. Admission costs for adults is \$20, children \$15 and children under 5 years of age are free! For ticket information contact Resource Conservation Specialist, Matt Giambra, and be sure to check out our website for details! \*

# 2017 MAPLE SUGARING SEASON

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



The 2016 Maple Season started off much warmer than the past two years and we had good sap flows into early March. The weather warmed even more and we produced our last syrup on March 11, three weeks earlier than 2015. We still managed to make 29 gallons of syrup in the shorter season. On our public day we had 318 people visit us in the Sugarbush and enjoy the pancakes and fresh maple syrup.

We hope you can make plans to join us this season! Our 40th Public Maple Sugaring Day will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. 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.**

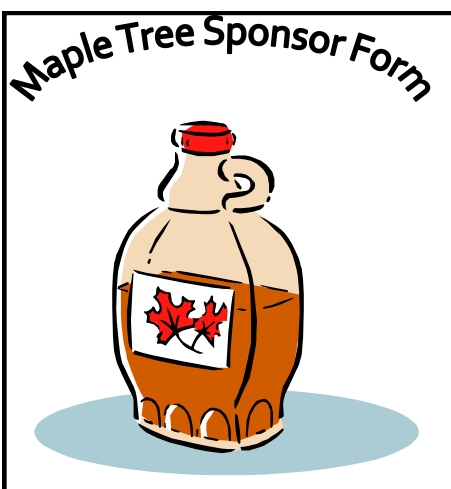
We'll be sponsoring a **special day for scout groups on Saturday, March 11, 2017.** Programs can be scheduled between 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. and are open to any level of scouts and their families. Cost: \$6/adult, \$4/scouts and children under 12 and includes our syrup on freshly made pancakes. **Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 8, 2017.**

Dates set for group programs in the Sugarbush are Monday, February 27 through Friday, March 10. All groups interested in scheduling a tour should call the Center to set aside a time block. Each program takes 1 ½ 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 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Sponsor a Maple Tree

In 2016 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 2017 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 1 pint of our fresh maple syrup, a handsome certificate, free admission to our Public Day Program on Saturday, March 4, 2017, 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 24, 2017 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!*

## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

### JANUARY

#### Building Closed - 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monday

**Winter Scavenger Hunt - 7th - Saturday** – Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am for a family fun scavenger hunt.

**KC "Disco" Hike – 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - From 10:00 – 11:30 am, we'll search on-trail and off for anything and everything the natural world has to offer in the so-called 'dead of winter.'

**NPDES Workshop - 20th - Friday** - See page 3 for details.

**DIY Moss Terrarium Workshop - 21st - Saturday** – Please bring a clear glass container with a lid, preferably with a wide opening (big enough for your hand). Feel free to bring your own moss (we will also have several types on hand to choose from), natural objects, and a miniature figurine if you'd like to add some unique character to your take-home terrarium. Program begins at 10am. **Pre-register by Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**. Cost: \$15/non-members, \$12 EE Center members. (Glass containers can be provided at an additional cost of \$8, please let us know if you'll need one.)

**Eagle Watch – 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Join an Environmental Educator on this field trip to the upper Delaware River in search of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. 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 is required by Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> and seats are limited.\*

**Building Closed - 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

### FEBRUARY

**Art Opening: Darryl Speicher "Life in the Poconos" – 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – Opening reception: 11am-1pm. Exhibit runs February 1st through February 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Farmer's Appreciation Banquet - 4th - Saturday** - See page 3 for details.

**Eagle Watch – 10<sup>th</sup> - Friday** – See January 27<sup>th</sup> description. **Pre-registration is required by Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>.**\*

**Building for the Birds – 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join EE coordinator Roger Spotts for a program on bird houses at 10am.

**Building Closed - 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

**Building Closed - 20<sup>th</sup> - Monday**

**Who Lives Where? – 25th - Saturday** –Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am to learn where animals spend their time in the winter months and search for some of them.

### MARCH

**Public Maple Sugaring Day – 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – See page 4 for details.

**Art Opening: Penny Ross - 4<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – Opening reception: 11am-1pm. Exhibit runs March 1st through 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Middle Creek Birding Field Trip - 7th - Tuesday** - Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return 6pm. Cost: \$30/non-member, \$24/EE Center member, and includes. **Pre-registration and payment due by February 28th**. \*

**Maple Sugaring Scout Day - 11<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – Please see page 4 for information. Pre-registration is required by Wednesday, March 8, 2017.

**Introduction to Fly Fishing - 18<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** – The workshop will run from 9 am to 12 Noon. Equipment,

casting, strategy, fly-tying, basic trout stream macro-invertebrate entomology, and local fishing areas will be covered and demonstrated. Cost: \$8/non-members, \$5/EE Center members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required by Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Mystery Birding Field Trip - 24th - Friday** - Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return 5:30pm. Cost: \$28/non-member, \$22/EE Center member. Pre-registration required by March 17th.

**Building Closed - 25<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

**Annual Members and Friends Dinner at Trout Lake – 31<sup>st</sup> - Friday** – Invitations will be mailed to all members in February, or you can call us at 570-629-3061 to receive more information.

### APRIL

**Art Opening: Andrea Henley - 1<sup>st</sup> - Saturday** – Opening reception: 11am-1pm. Exhibit runs March 31st through May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Building Closed - 8<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

**Building Closed - 15<sup>th</sup> - Saturday**

**Monroe County Earth Day - 22<sup>nd</sup> - Saturday**– See page 3 for details.

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

**All programs are \$6 for non-members, \$4 children under 12, EE Center Members are FREE, unless otherwise listed.**

**More information on these programs can be found on our website: [mconconservation.org](http://mconconservation.org)**

\*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 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and some Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. or visit our website [www.mconconservation.org](http://www.mconconservation.org).

# Water Ways

## Mirror, Mirror



*Brady's lake - Photo by Brittney Coleman*

Looking into a still clear lake, the overhanging trees, sky and the surrounding mountains are mirrored on the glassy surface. The picturesque profile reflected on the lake only broken, when the gentle breeze touches the water's surface. While the image is a trick of light, it serves as a reminder that the water body is truly a reflection of the surrounding landscape.

Water quality is driven by the composition of the surrounding vegetation, geology, land-uses and structures within a watershed. While the picturesque unmodified surroundings reflect an image of clarity, the mismanagement of a watershed results in impaired muddy waters. Rainfall picks up exposed sediment and chemicals such as fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides; carrying those pollutants downstream. The landscape, regulating the flow of runoff, then determines the fate of those contaminants. How we modify the landscape therefore impacts the overall water quality and stream health.

A healthy landscape acts as a sponge; soaking up, slowing, and filtering rainfall through plant litter, root masses, and the soil profile before being slowly released into the nearest water body. Increasing roads, buildings, parking lots, and converting forest or meadow to expansive lawns significantly decreases the capacity for the land to perform this function. More impervious surface coverage within a watershed therefore increases the volume of surface runoff to a stream, meaning higher peak flows, higher stream velocities, and more potential for stream bank erosion. This also decreases infiltration into the groundwater table, the source for dry weather flow, significantly impacting aquatic communities such as macroinvertebrates (a.k.a. stream bugs) and native trout. Essentially these modifications reduce a watershed's capacity to tolerate extremes in precipitation, overwhelming our streams during intense precipitation events, and causing them to potentially run dry in during drought.

Water quality is also a reflection of us. While it is innate in our society to build, grow and modify the earth; we can implement design strategies that mimic the natural landscape and minimize our impact. These strategies can go a long way in ensuring our watershed maintains those essential functions. Considering the vital services the native landscape provides in protecting our water resources, it is imperative that we recognize those benefits and protect them.✱

## Dear Members and Friends,

The Environmental Education Center has depended on its loyal Members since the beginning. The money collected from membership dues has helped to fund Environmental Education programs for people of all ages. Over the years we have offered many benefits to being a member of the EE Center and we have met many interesting and wonderful people. We have tried to keep the annual dues at a reasonable level. The interaction between our members and staff has been very important to the EE Center's growth. In order to better serve all of our members and grow our programs we are making some changes to how we handle memberships. These changes will help managing memberships and renewal dates easier. It will also help us to stay in touch with our base and get information to all of our members in a more timely fashion. We will be able to better address the needs of our membership as we work to bring quality Environmental Education programs to everyone.

### The following membership changes will take effect beginning in January 2017 :

- All memberships will be on an annual basis with renewal fees due in December of each year.
- A membership renewal reminder and membership drive will take place beginning in October each year.
- All current members as of December 1, 2016 will have a renewal date of December 31, 2017.
- If a new member joins during the first 9 months of the year, they will be asked to renew in the annual cycle for the following year.
- If a new member joins in October - December of the year they will automatically receive membership benefits for the entire following year.

All active members will continue to receive all the current membership benefits including;

- ◆ Discounts at programs
- ◆ Discounts in the gift shop and at Bird Seed Sale.
- ◆ Quarterly newsletter,
- ◆ E-mail blasts announcing upcoming events and/or programs.

All proceeds collected through the memberships directly support our Environmental Education programs. We hope you find these new membership procedures helpful in tracking your membership and if you ever have any suggestions, comments or complaints please contact us. Thank you for your continuing support and please spread the word about Kettle Creek!

### Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

## Welcome New Members!

Fink Family – Manchester, NY  
 Patricia Michelin - Stroudsburg, PA  
 Jim Carey – Dingman's Ferry, PA  
 Linda Amendola Dietz – Henryville, PA  
 Brenda Tudor – Tobyhanna, PA  
 Laurinda Faye Rubin – Stroudsburg, PA  
 Melodie Higgins – Kunkletown, PA  
 Ronald & Julie Miller – Tobyhanna, PA  
 Simonik Family – Pocono Lake, PA  
 Laurie Ward – Pocono Lake, PA  
 Patty Butler – Stewartville, NJ  
 Deb & Brian Butler – Hampton, NJ  
 Kathy Kelley – Saylorsburg, PA  
 Golin Family – East Stroudsburg, PA



Become a larger part of our Maple Sugaring Season and volunteer to tap trees, collect sap or cook syrup from February through March. Contact us today!  
 (570)629-3061



**Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to:**

**Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)**  
 8050 Running Valley Road  
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360

__ Student	\$ 10.00
__ Individual	\$ 15.00
__ Family	\$ 30.00
__ Senior (65+)	\$ 10.00
__ Organization	\$ 50.00
__ Lifetime Individual	\$ 500.00
__ 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

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

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

## MCCD Photo Contest Calendars Available!



### 2017 Calendar Cover Photo

*Taken while canoeing on Tobyhanna  
Lake in Coolbaugh Township, by  
Ambrose Cavalier*

We are proud to showcase our Photo Contest winners in our second annual Monroe County Conservation District calendars! The 2017 calendars will be available in the gift shop, at the cost of \$10 (tax included). All proceeds benefit Kettle Creek Environmental Education Programs. Photos will be on display through January 31st, 2017.

## 2017 Artist Line Up

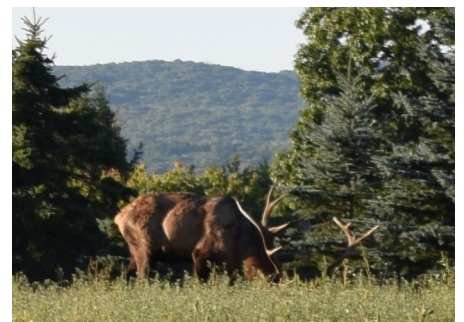
**February - Darryl Speicher** - February 1st through 28th. Opening reception February 4th.

**March - Penny Ross** - March 1st through 30th. Opening reception March 4th, 11am-1pm.

**April - Andrea Henley** - March 31st through May 1st. Opening reception April 1st, 11am-1pm.

**Keep your  
feathered friends happy  
this chilly season!  
Birdseed and Feeders  
are available in  
the Gift Shop!**

“There’s no time to be bored  
in a world as beautiful as  
this.” -Unknown



Check out more photos from our Fall Elk Trips by following the Kettle Creek EE Center on Flickr!

# Let's *get* Social

