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Fall 2019 Newsletter

Volume 43 No. 3

INVASION **.ANTERFLY**

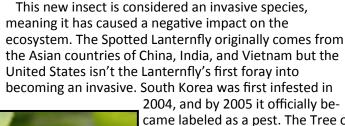
In the middle of August, two district staff members went searching for the Spotted Lanternfly throughout Monroe County and what they found is troubling, to say the least. Conservation district staff have been reporting sightings and visiting those sites to confirm the presence of the Spotted Lanternfly. A few of these areas proved to be

teeming with adult Lanternflies as well as the Tree of Heaven (Ailanthus altissima).

The Spotted Lanternfly came to Pennsylvania, specifically Berks County, in 2014. Since then, the Lanternfly has spread to 14 counties in PA spanning from Lancaster to Monroe. These counties are in a "Quarantine Zone" requiring businesses to monitor anything being exported from or within these counties. These insects do not present any issue to humans, as the

don't bite or sting, but they can be very damaging to the agriculture industry.

Spotted Lanternflies are part of a group of insects known as the "piercing-sucking insects" and this means they feed by inserting their mouthpart into the plants, and like a straw, they suck out sap. They excrete a honeydew (sugary water) which attracts wasps and also encourages Black Sooty Mold to grow in those areas coated with honeydew.



came labeled as a pest. The Tree of Heaven, another invasive species, also originates from Asia and is the native habitat of the Spotted Lanternfly. If the Lanternfly would only pick this species of plant to infest we might not be so worried, but these invasive insects also like to feed on the following crops: grapes, apples, hops, walnuts, and other hardwoods.

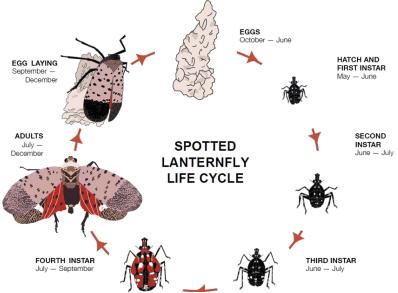
The Lanternfly has only one life cycle per year, so they hatch from

eggs starting in April and continue to grow until they have reached adulthood sometime around August. These new adults lay their eggs starting in September and continue laying until they die in December. Each female can lay 30-50 eggs per egg mass, which she covers with a puttylike material. The Lanternflies are not selective when choosing a spot to lay their eggs...they'll pick trees, grape vines, deck steps, house siding, or even your car! This can make it tricky to find the egg masses.

> So, what are we doing and what can you do to help? Continued on Page 3



https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly-what-to-look-for



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Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

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> 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 continuing with preparations for the September 20th fundraising event at Trout Lake. Games and prizes have been finalized, entries for the film competition are being judged and final details are being completed. The evening promises to be fun and entertaining and we look forward to seeing you there.

This is the 28th annual event and KCEF has risen over \$965,000 since its inception in 1991. Join us as we approach \$1 million raised for programs and activities at KCEEC!
-John Woodling, KCEF President

28th Annual Dinner

September 20, 2019



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



Welcome New Members!

Daniel and Marisa Hudson – East Stroudsburg Nick and Janet Ullo – East Stroudsburg Dana Storm and Family – Nazareth, PA Rosanna Moquete and Family – Kunkletown, PA Bob and Mary Gettis – Karen Croteau – Swiftwater, PA Regina Urban and Family – Tannersville, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

We have just gotten through the hottest July on record and the fall temperatures will hopefully bring some relief. There is a lot of pressure are being exerted on our natural environment by a variety of forces yet it still continues to provide countless opportunities for us to enjoy the outdoors. As we seem to make little headway on notable reform to protect our environment as a nation, it is up to all of us to lead the way. There are so many reasons to care about our environment, not the least of which is our own health. Make an effort to get outside this fall to enjoy the outdoors and bring some friends! The more we can get people outdoors no matter what their ages or interests, the more we can spread the word about protecting the natural world. Please join us on one of our upcoming programs; there is still lots to do and see outdoors!

Also, a friendly reminder that memberships in the EE Center are due for renewal before the end of the year. Your membership helps to support all our programs including school groups who visit us annually. Thank you for your continuing support!

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

INVASION OF THE LANTERNFLY - Continued from Cover

Currently, district staff has been working with the USDA to monitor areas of Lanternfly sightings as well as identify potential areas of interest. Monroe County Conservation District has also been participating in larger Spotted Lanternfly meetings, which include all affected counties, to stay aware of new problems as well as learn techniques for managing this invasive pest. However, we can't do it alone! We need the community's help in identifying new locations, and spreading the word about this invasive bug.

If you see an adult or eggs, please call the Monroe County Conservation District to report a sighting! Remember to take a picture and then please; **SQUASH**, **STAMP**, **or SCRAPE** the insect/eggs away! If you are traveling anywhere outside of the county or within the quarantine zone remember to check your vehicle and always **Look Before You Leave**. As a business owner you can get a Toolkit or Lanternfly training from Penn State Extension depending on your needs (see link below).

If you would like more about this insect check out the following websites:

https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx

https://extension.psu.edu/spotted-lanternfly

https://www.mcconservation.org/spotted-lanternfly.html *



Another Conservation Camp in the Books!



During the week of July 20th through the 27th, a group of 28 teenagers attended the 45th Monroe County Conservation Camp. This is the EE Center's longest running program and it provides students the opportunity to experience many aspects of their local environment. This year campers were a diverse group from all over Monroe County and the surrounding area. They followed a busy schedule as presenters and experts from a wide assortment of outdoor topics volunteered their time to work with the group. Whether they were sitting down listening to a presentation on climate change or climbing on the ropes course at Stony Acres, these students were treated to something they will remember for the rest of their lives. One of the highlights of the week is a two-day canoe trip on the Delaware River. Even though it was a little rainy the first day, the students thoroughly enjoyed their trip. They had the opportunity to swim in the river, camp overnight along its shore and see over 40 different Bald Eagles along the way! The entire week is electronics free and even the students will admit that going one week without their cell phones is a great experience.

At the end of the week the camp staff, which is comprised of past campers, selected Ramraj Jitlall as the outstanding camper for 2019. Ramraj is from Stroudsburg and is interested in pursuing an environmental career in the future. He immersed himself in the entire camp experience and summed up his two day river trip with the following quote, "The moment I was in the boat, in the water, it was unbelievable. I couldn't believe I was really doing something like this." Conservation Camp provides teenagers ages 14 through 18 the opportunity to learn about the many aspects of our natural environment from professionals while also giving them the opportunity to learn more about themselves. The Monroe County Conservation Camp is made possible by many local sponsors who donate scholarships for the students and is also funded in part by the Kettle Creek Environment Fund. If you know of anyone interested in attending next year's camp the dates will be July 18th -25th, 2020. Keep an eye on our website for application information.

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER

- 11th Wednesday Public Bog Walk Join an Environmental Educator at 10am at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Along the way, our environmental educators will explain the Bog's formation, its interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Please wear appropriate footwear. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.
- 14th Saturday Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area Exploration Join us between 10am-12pm in Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area to create some land art. Natural materials will be used in this unique expression of creativity. Please dress appropriately and wear appropriate footwear because this activity will take place outside. This program is FREE.
- 14th Thursday Full Moon Hike at Tannersville Bog Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a flashlight. Please wear appropriate footwear. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration required and limited.
- 15th Sunday Bog Day The Tanners-ville Cranberry Bog is a very special place which contains many unique plants and animals. Please join us for a FREE walk at 10am. Information on the bog preserve history and the Nature Conservancy will be available. **Preregistration required.**
- 18th Wednesday Public Bog Walk Join an Environmental Educator at 1pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Along the way, our environmental educators will explain the Bog's formation, its interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Please wear appropriate footwear. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/

- EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.
- 18th Wednesday Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series – Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm to learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at identifying confusing fall warblers. All ages welcome. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.
- 20th Friday 28th Annual Fundraising
 Dinner The dinner, hosted by The
 Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and
 the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, will feature the winners of a
 film competition, carnival style games,
 raffles and excellent prizes all in an
 effort to raise funds for the EE Center! The Rose Schoch Award will also be
 presented to an individual who has
 made outstanding contributions to environmental education.

21st - Saturday - Building Closed

- **25**th **Wednesday Public Bog Walk** See September 18th listing for more information.
- 28th Saturday Whitetail Deer We share our backyards with a variety of plants and animals but none can cause the damage that whitetail deer do to our landscaping efforts. Join EE Coordinator, Roger Spotts at 10am for this look at the life of Pennsylvania Whitetail Deer. This one hour indoor program will feature information on the deer's biology, food habits and more. Cost: \$6/nonmembers, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members FREE.

OCTOBER

- **2nd Wednesday Public Bog Walk -** See September 18th listing for more information.
- 5th Saturday Art Opening: Joan Lech "Wood's Hidden Treasures" Joan uses reclaimed wood from nature to create usable items and works of art through woodcarving and woodturning. Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run through October 31st.
- 5th Saturday Red Cross Blood Drive -We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-2pm. Call Barba-

- ra 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 Wednesday Public Bog Walk -** See September 18th listing for more information.
- **13**th Sunday Public Bog Walk See September 18th listing for more information.
- 14th Monday Building Closed Holiday
- **16**th **Wednesday Public Bog Walk** See September 18th listing for more information.
- 16th Wednesday Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series — Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm to learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at identifying raptors. All ages welcome. Cost: \$6/nonmembers, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.
- 18th Friday Project Owlnet Saw-whet Owl Banding Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the fourth season of Project Owlnet. The station will be open to the public October 18th, 25th and November 1st; from 8 to 10pm (donations welcome). Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project Owlnet, and may have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. Preregistration suggested.
- 19th Saturday Basic Photo Composition Workshop Whether you are taking photos on your phone or your DSLR camera, this basic composition workshop will give you the tools you need to take your images to the next level. In this class you will learn how to use basic compositional concepts such as the rule of thirds, perspective, leading lines, depth, and framing, to create strong, compelling images. Program begins at 10am. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.
- **23**th **Wednesday Public Bog Walk** See September 18th listing for more in-

formation.

25th - Friday – Project Owlnet Saw-whet Owl Banding - See October 18th listing for more information.

26th – Saturday - Annual Bird Seed Sale - It's time to feed our feathered friends and we are pleased to once again offer some of the best quality bird seed on the market: Aspen Song Wild Bird Seed. We are offering a wide variety of seed mixes and specialties, as well as bulk black oil sunflower seed from 9am to 1pm at the EE Center. We will have extra seed and many new varieties of feeders to meet all your bird feeding needs available on the day of the sale and throughout the bird feeding season. To get an order form, visit mcconservation.org.

30th – Wednesday - Sunrise Photo Walk at the Bog – Join Matt at in the Tannersville Bo at 6:30am for this unique opportunity to experience the Bog in a whole new light---literally! Walk attendees are encouraged to bring a camera to capture the beautiful sunrise at the Tannersville Bog. Please wear appropriate footwear. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.

30th - **Wednesday - Public Bog Walk -**See September 18th listing for more information.

NOVEMBER

1st - Friday - Project Owlnet Saw-whet Owl Banding - See October 18th listing for more information.

2nd – Saturday – Kettle Creek Escape
Room – Escape rooms are trending
these days and Kettle Creek has hopped
on board and designed our own! Come
see if you have what it takes to escape
our sustainability-themed escape room!
Groups/families of 2-6 suggested. The
program will run every half hour from
10am – 12pm. Participants must register for a time slot by calling 570-6293061. Cost: \$10 per group. Please register by Wednesday, October 30th.

2nd – Saturday - Art Opening: Nancy Hopping "Living with Wildlife" - Award winning wildlife photography. Nancy captures the beauty of Pocono wildlife and captures what she sees and feels in her photography. Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run through December 2nd.

6th - **Wednesday** - **Public Bog Walk** - *See* September 18th listing for more information.

9th - Saturday - Building Closed

11th - Monday - Building Closed - Holiday

13th - Wednesday - Learn the Birds: Birding Identification Series — Join Pocono Avian Research Center from 7-8:30pm to learn some new tricks or hone some old skills at identifying sparrows. All ages welcome. Cost: \$6/nonmembers, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.

16th – Saturday – Wellness Workshop-Germs and stress have nothin' on you this holiday season! Join us at 10am for a Wellness Workshop to learn how to support your body naturally through the use of essential oils. Make rollers & sprays to incorporate into your daily wellness routine and sail through the season merrily. Cost: \$10 includes materials. Preregistration is required.

23rd - Saturday - Building Closed

28th - Thursday - Building Closed - Holiday

29th - Friday - Building Closed

30th - Saturday - Building Closed

DECEMBER

7th - Saturday - Art Opening: Photo
Contest - Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo
Contest. Winners will be revealed and the top 12 photos will be available on a 2020 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit environmental education programs at Kettle Creek. Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs through January 31st, 2020.

14th - Saturday - Building Closed

15th – Sunday – Christmas Bird Count – On Sunday, December 15th, join the KCEEC and the Pocono Avian research Center for this event. All birders will be assigned segments of the count circle, and you may be teamed up with other birders to cover your area of the county. At the end of the day (5pm), we will meet for the Tally Rally, warm beverages and pizza. Pre-registration is required. Cost: FREE

21st - Saturday - Building Closed
24th - Tuesday - Building Closes at

Noon

<u>25th – Wednesday - Building Closed –</u> Holiday

28th - Saturday - Building Closed

31st - Tuesday - Building Closes at Noon

The deadline for the

Annual Photo Contest is
approaching fast! All
entries must be received by
Friday, September 27th!
Visit mcconservation.org to enter!

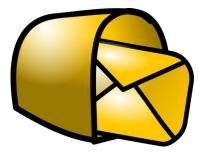




Join us on Sunday, September 15 at 10am for a FREE Bog Walk and help celebrate Bog Day!

Check Your Mailboxes!

Membership renewals are being sent out in the beginning of October.
Please complete your forms and return to them to the Center. Thank you for your continued support!



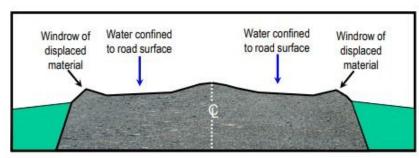
DIRT & GRAVEL MINUTE

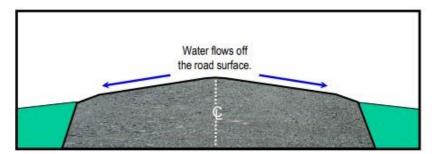
News You Can Use When Maintaining Your Gravel Driveway

Does your driveway or private road resemble a stream channel during rainstorms? Are you tired of 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: No Crown or Cross Slope- Over time, compaction and abrasion from traffic, along with wind and water induced loss of fines cause formation of the famous W shape on road surfaces. Improper maintenance grading and snow plowing can also lead to loss of crown or cross slope.

The illustration to the below shows water being trapped in the wheel ruts, causing further damage and degradation





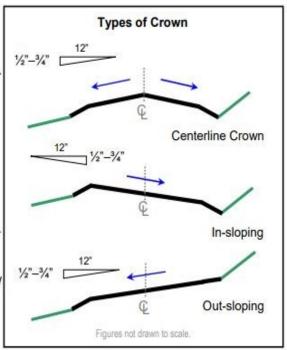
of the treadway. Over time, channelized water on the road will lead to loss of surface material and make for challenging driving condition.

Solution: Restore Proper Cross Section-If your wearing surface material is gone or insufficient-you may need to add aggregate to accomplish this task. Otherwise it is just a matter of bringing the road shape back to the proper crown or cross slope, depending on where the water should be going. Restoring the road shape allows water to drain from the surface, limiting saturation of the surface material, and freeze thaw potential cause by standing water on the driving surface.

For gravel road surfaces, a pitch of 4-6%, or slightly more is desirable. Cross slopes greater than 8% can be disconcerting to drivers. Safety should always be considered when deciding to out-slope a road.

TYPES OF ROAD SURFACE TEMPLATES

- Centerline crown: A surface shape that sheds water to both sides of the road from a highpoint at the road center (Figure 1).
 - In-slope: A surface configuration that drains water from the
 entire width of the road toward the cut-bank or up-slope side.
 Commonly used on steep side-hills for safety. Super-elevation
 of curves (banked curves) is a form of in-sloping that both
 supports traffic and drains the road surface..
 - Out-slope: Out-sloped road surfaces drain water from the
 entire width of the road toward the fill-bank or down-slope side.
 Elimination of road ditches on both sides of the road is
 possible with this surface shape. This shape best mimics
 natural drainage patterns and allows minor overland sheet flow
 is to flow across the road (Figure 2). Out-sloping is useful on
 low volume roads where side-slopes are gentle and concerns
 about winter icing are minimal.



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)

The late August heat and the end of summer has many itching for a dip in the water, but recent headlines in the media about harmful algal blooms has many second guessing about heading out to the lake. Learn more about HABs to keep safe this summer.

What are HABs?

- Harmful Algal Blooms or HABs are cause by blooms of cyanobacteria, otherwise known as "blue-green algae".
 While commonly referred to as algae, this is a misnomer. They are actually a type of bacteria.
- Under certain environmental conditions cyanobacteria can produce various toxins, called cyanotoxins, that can be harmful to your health.
- Blooms appear most commonly as a green or blue-green film on the surface of a pond or a lake, often looking like spilled paint. Individual cells are microscopic and they differ from filamentous algae that form mats, or duckweed or watermeal which are tiny aquatic plants that have visible leaves and feel gritty when rubbed between your fingers.

What causes them?

- Blooms are caused by excess nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus in the water. Just as applying a fertilizer
 to your lawn will promote plant growth, nutrients in the water will increase growth of cyanobacteria, as well as
 algae and aquatic plants. Most of the time, these nutrients come from the surrounding watershed, or the area of
 land that drains to that waterbody. Runoff from farm-fields and lawns with excess fertilizers or manure as well as
 soil erosion can cause excess nutrients to accumulate in a waterbody.
- Blooms only occur when weather and temperature conditions are optimal for growth. This often occurs at the end of summer when water is warm and stagnant or following extreme weather events.

Why is it a concern?

- Not only can HABs be harmful to aquatic life, but can be harmful to humans and their pets or livestock. HABs can
 cause acute health effects including (but not limited to) skin irritation, allergic reactions, gastroenteritis, respiratory inflammation, and neurological symptoms. Additionally, more research is suggesting that there may be concern for long term health effects with repeated exposure.
- For pets, livestock, and small children; extra precautions should be taken in case water is ingested. At high concentrations these toxins can be fatal when ingested.

Are our lakes being monitored and are they safe?

- It is important to know that at this time in Pennsylvania many of our lakes and ponds are not being tested for toxins produced by blooms of blue-green algae and therefore it is important to be precautious when recreating in lakes that have visible signs of a bloom or shortly after a bloom has occurred.
- If there is a bloom in the water avoid contact with water and keep pets and livestock away from the water.



Mystery Birding with Brian

Attention all birders! Brian Hardiman has agreed to come out of retirement and lead his ever popular "Mystery Birding Trip" on Thursday, October 31st. Brian has requested that we use this program income for a fundraiser to support our educational programs in the local schools. This always exciting field trip, where the destinations and target birds will not be revealed until the day of the trip, has been one of our most popular birding adventures. Participants will meet at Kettle Creek at 8:30am and return at 5:30pm. Cost: \$50/non-members, \$40/EE Center members and includes bus transportation, plenty of birds, and a good time! Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks.

All proceeds will benefit our school educational programs. Pre-registration & payment required. This trip will fill up quick; call to reserve your seat today! **PUBLISHED BY:**

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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Get in Touch with Nature Day Camp 2019











