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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2020 Newsletter

Volume 44 No. 2

Kettle Creek Gets Digi(-tal) with It

Na na na na na na na, na na na na na na

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our lifestyles in many ways and the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is certainly no exception. From the beginning of the lock-down our staff has been working hard to provide alternate programs for schools and the general public in this new normal. If you haven't already, I hope you get the chance to check out some of the educational videos and virtual field trips we have produced and shared on social media. These short videos were a substitute for the programs we usually do in classrooms all across Monroe County each spring and were sent to teachers throughout the county to share with their students. We received positive feedback from teachers and administrators and we are happy we could help students have a positive learning experience. The Staff at KC learned a lot about video production and online programming and we will continue to expand our offerings to people of all ages. We try to keep everyone informed of the things we are doing and hopefully you have followed the Center on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram as we update the programs we are offering.

Like everyone else we have had to cancel a number of programs and events and we appreciate your understanding. We are confident that these events will be back again next year and we hope to see all of you in attendance. We also hope to open the EE Center building up soon for visitors and once again offer artists the opportunity to display their work. We look forward to offering visits to the Tannersville Bog in the future.

One thing we know for sure is that the outdoors has become a safe refuge for people during this trying time. Use of the trails at Kettle Creek, which have been open throughout the pandemic, has been at an all-time high and our curbside EE programs for kids and families as well as curbside bird seed sales have proven to be very popular. As Monroe County relaxes the COVID-19 restrictions we are offering more programs including "Summer Sessions for Kids", a series of hands-on programs led by one of our staff while following a set of COVID-19 protocols we have established along CDC guidelines. Although we have had to cancel our annual Monroe County Conservation Camp, we still plan to move forward with our day camp that is scheduled for August while following recommendations from the CDC. The Conservation Camp has been a staple for over 40 years so it is with heavy hearts that we came to this decision but we look forward to continuing the tradition in 2021. While the program calendar may be limited, we encourage you to keep checking our website and social media, where we will be providing to date information and new additions to our programming schedule that we don't want you to miss. Also, be sure to sign up to receive email notifications from us by sharing your email using the link located at the bottom of our website. The outdoors has so much to offer and we are prepared to make many experiences available through our programs in a safe and educational format.



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Find Us Online!

FaceBook: @KettleCreekEnvironmentalEducationCenter
Instagram : @Kettlecreekeecenter
Twitter: @KettleCreekEEC
YouTube: Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center
www.mcconservation.org



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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

We hope that this finds you and your family safe and healthy during this difficult time. Due to the uncertainty of what the coming months will bring, we have made the difficult decision to cancel this year's fundraising dinner which was scheduled for September 17th at Trout Lake.

Although KCEEC has had to make significant changes to the programs that are being provided, we are hopeful that we will be able to resume some semblance of our traditional programming later this year. With this in mind and fully recognizing the economic impact the COVID-19 pandemic has caused, we respectfully ask that you consider a monetary donation to KCEF this year if you are able to do so. Any support you can provide will be greatly appreciated as we continue to adapt our programs to whatever the "new normal" will be.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, and please stay safe.

-John Woodling, KCEF President

*For donation inquiries please contact
Kettle Creek at 570-629-3061*

KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
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Welcome New Members!

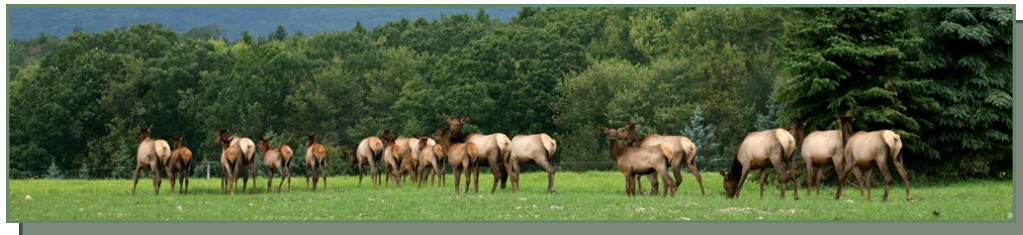
Jennifer Rufo – Saylorsburg, PA
Susan VanPelt and Family – Tannersville, PA



Get in Touch with Nature!

Our Get in Touch with Nature summer day camp is still slotted to take place August 3rd through 7th August 10th through 14th for ages 7-13. Children will have fun exploring the trails of Kettle Creek and learning about wildlife, ecosystems and more all while having fun and enjoying the outdoors. For more information and a downloadable application, visit our website.

Elk Viewing Trip Still Planned for Fall 2020



Our three day bus trip "Elk Viewing in the Pennsylvania Wilds" is still set to take place this September 14-16. Our past trips were a big success, numerous elk were observed during each trip and participants heard the bulls' bugling calls. This year's trip will not only feature Elk viewing opportunities, but also stops at several state parks, including the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. A complete schedule and cost is on our website, or you can call us and we will send you the information. Space is limited to 13 people for each trip and will fill up fast. *Full refunds will be issued in the event of COVID-19 related cancellations.*

Bear With Us



In our usual newsletters, many look forward to our calendar of events. Due to the current unprecedented situation and ever changing guidelines, our calendar and the most up to date information can be found on our website. Once things become more solid, we hope to resume our normal programming. For now, we ask that you *bear with us* and keep checking our website and social media for the latest events and information.

Every 10 years, the US Census Bureau undertakes a mammoth task: counting all the people residing in the United States. This count affects the allocation of funding for our community's public resources (e.g., roads, hospitals, schools), how we plan for the future, and our voice in government. Learn more about the importance of the 2020 Census and how to participate: 2020census.gov.

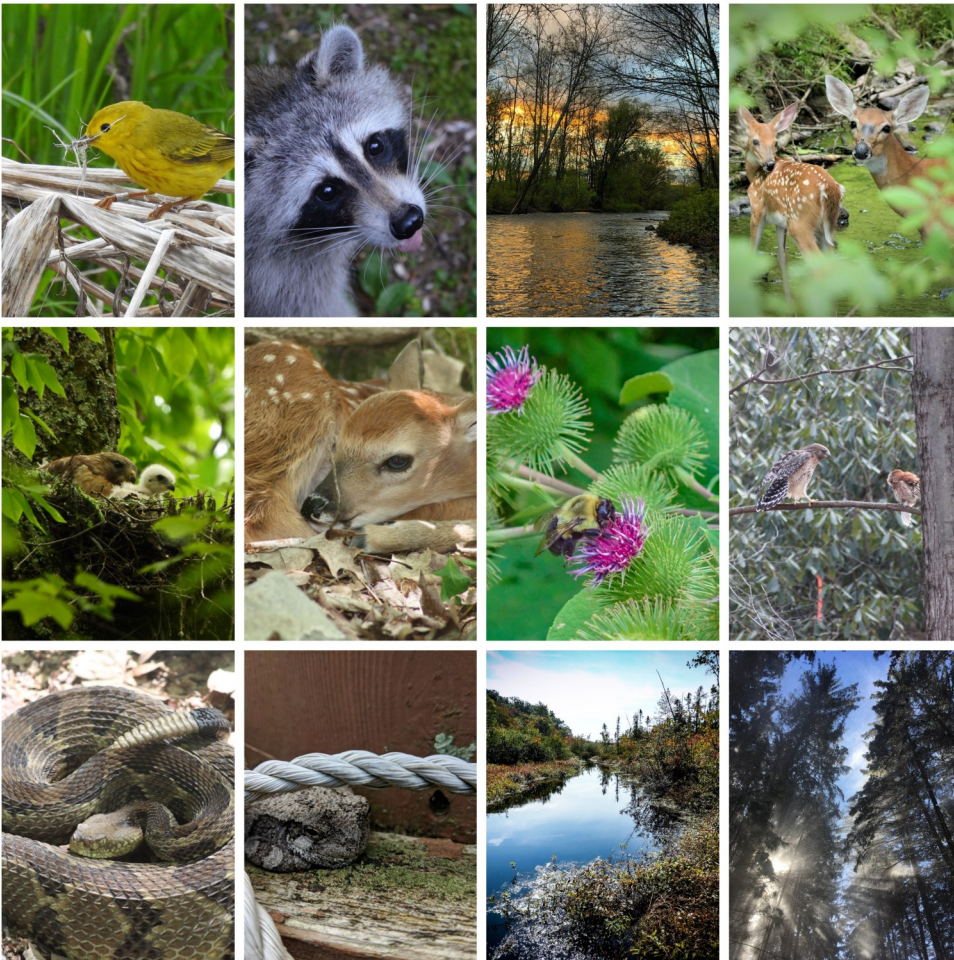


Multifunctional Forested Riparian Buffer Planted



MCCD staff and property owner, Cathy Folio, planted a Multifunctional Forested Riparian Buffer with funding from the Pennsylvania Association of Conservation Districts and Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The buffer will provide important water quality benefits to Sugar Hollow Creek, and help expand Cathy's farming business with Sugar Hollow Natural Berries. The buffer was planted with diverse native trees and fruiting shrubs such as Highbush Blueberry, Serviceberry, American Plum, Hazelnut, Persimmon, and Black Chokeberry. Cathy says she "loves to experiment" and was a big advocate of this project that would allow her to protect the stream that borders her farm as well as try new varieties of berries, plums, and hazelnuts in her business that currently sells primarily blackberries at local farmers markets. Conservation District Staff, with help from Cathy and her brother, planted 46 trees and shrubs which will help provide important water quality benefits such as shade to the stream, filtration of storm-water runoff, and erosion control along the stream bank. To learn more about riparian buffer and potential funding opportunities please contact MCCD Watershed Specialist Annie Polkowski at ammccd@ptd.net.

**Thank you to the
Pocono Garden
Club for continuing
to maintain the
beautiful butterfly
garden here at the
Center!**



**Want to be a part of
our next calendar?
Enter your best photo
of your favorite
Monroe County
natural resource into
this year's Annual
Photo Competition.
You can win a calendar
and a quart of pure
maple syrup from our
Meessing Sugarbush!
Enter online at
mcconservation.org.**

2020 Photo Contest Calendar Winners

