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MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Spring 2026 Newsletter

Volume 49 No. 1

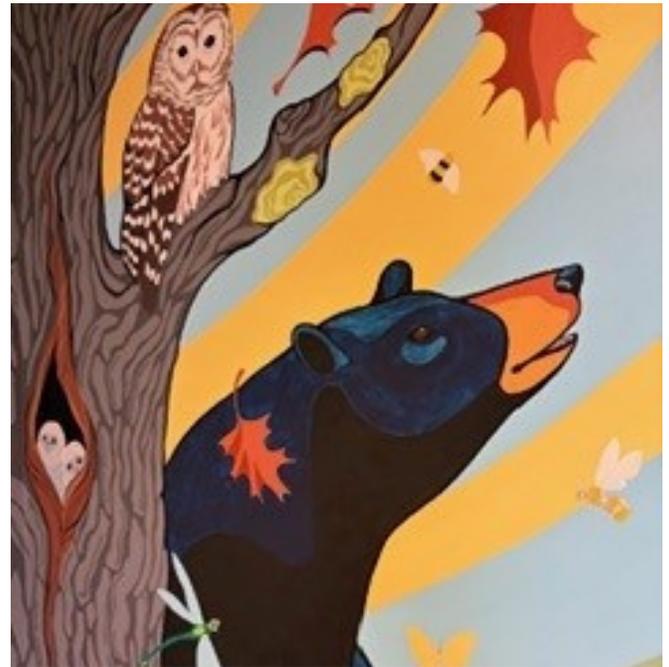


# Exciting News from the Critter Room!

We're thrilled to unveil our brand-new nature mural in the Critter Room! This vibrant, immersive artwork transforms our space into a living landscape, bringing local ecosystems to life in a whole new way. From towering trees to hidden woodland creatures, the mural invites children and families to explore, imagine, and connect with the natural world around them.

Designed to spark curiosity and inspire environmental stewardship, our new mural creates an interactive backdrop for learning, discovery, and hands-on experiences. Be sure to stop by, look closely, and see what wildlife you can spot!

Come explore nature right on our walls!



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## Meet the Artist: Katherine Rosenberger

I have lived in the Pocono Mountains for over 30 years, working on its rivers and mountains as a river guide and snowboard instructor; mountain biking and hiking in its forests. When not on the road traveling in my van, I spend time creating in a studio space on my family's property near Lackawanna State Park. I work primarily in pen and ink, watercolors and color pencil - combining all three mediums. I start with sketches and reference studies, from photos or field drawings. How people interact and live with nature, how we are a PART of nature, are the underpinnings of all my work; therefore nature, mythology, folklore, symbolism and fantasy mixed with careful observation of the natural world find their way into much of my artwork. In addition to my personal work, I have done a large amount of commission work for individuals and organizations. One of my most rewarding collaborations has been over 30 years of providing custom nature illustrations for many of The Nature Conservancy's preserves on the Eastern seaboard, especially my home state of Pennsylvania.



Find us on Social Media!





## Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The Board of Directors for the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) welcomes our newest board member, Ms. Lauren Butler.

Lauren’s educational background is in Environmental Studies and Geographic Information Systems with degrees from Temple University (PA) and Ulster University, Northern Ireland. She “grew up” at Kettle Creek, having been through a number of EE programs during her school days. By the way, she shares this part of her background with another board member, Brianna Strunk, who also “grew up” in Kettle Creek EE programs. What a satisfying “coming full circle” for both of these board members. We look forward to their heartfelt and dedicated work as members of the board!

If you have not yet picked up a copy of the EE Center’s 2026 Events Calendar, I encourage you to do so. Carol Luthar, the EE Coordinator, and all of the EE staff spent a lot of time in the fall planning out the EE programs for the entire calendar year. The brochure is available online at [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org). As a final note, I want to remind all of our supporters, donors, sponsors and annual fundraising dinner attendees how much we appreciate your support of the EE Center and the Conservation District. The work of all the District staff is greatly enhanced by the supplemental funds provided through the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. Your tax-deductible donations have improved the lives of children, families and adults living in Monroe County. To this end, your KCEF Board of Directors look forward to your continued support in 2026. Together, we will all continue to make a difference!

- Dr. S. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President

### Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

Robert Armstrong, Chairperson  
Brian Winot, Vice-Chairperson  
Roger McFadden, Treasurer  
Craig Todd, Secretary  
Sharon Laverdure, Commissioner  
Donna Foulk  
Jason Smith

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Drew K. Wagner, P.E.  
Michael J. Wilk, P.E.  
*Hydraulic Engineers*

Lena Campisi, Geoff Ioannidis,  
Johnny Knauff, John Motz, Charles  
Kelshaw, Adrian Kalinowski  
*Resource Conservation Specialists*

Carol Luthar, *Environmental Education Coordinator*

Brittney Coleman, Barret Donna,  
Derek Lederer, Colleen Lindon  
*Environmental Educators*

Samantha Benway, *Finance Manager*

Julia Corr and Diana Flint  
*Administrative Specialists*

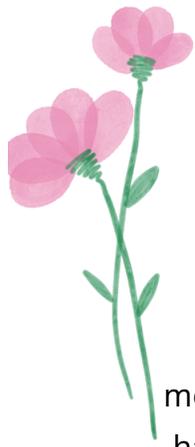
Aaron Miller, *Groundskeeper*

Delaney Henasey  
*Groundskeeper/Assistant*

The Board of Directors’ monthly meeting is held at 10am on the third Thursday of each month at the district office. Work sessions are held at 9am preceding the meeting.

<b>KCEF Board Members</b>	
<p>Dr. Elaine Rogers, President Leslie J. Berger, Vice-President Joseph Bedrick, Secretary Ed Cramer, Treasurer Lauren Butler Dr. Ian Foster Brianna Strunk Christine Wilkins Pat Calpin, Honorary Board Member</p>	





# Around Kettle Creek



Our Education Team has been busy connecting people with nature in fun and meaningful ways! We wrapped up our winter-themed Kettle Creek for Kids series, our hands-on program designed especially for curious learners ages 3–6. Our educators also visited schools across all 4 districts in the county, helping students discover why some birds need to leave Pennsylvania during the winter, and how we can support the ones that stay when food becomes scarce!

In February, we returned to the Meesing Sugarbush to tap maple trees to collect sap to turn into delicious maple syrup! Members of the team also attended the 2026 Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Educators Conference, connecting with fellow educators from across the state and getting inspired to bring new opportunities to YOU- our community! **-Carol Luthar, Environmental Education Coordinator**



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## Eagle Watch Trips



This winter we held two trips that took passengers on our bus for scenic tours along the Delaware and Lackawaxen rivers. When cold temperatures cause the rivers to freeze up, bald eagles will gather in areas with flowing water to hunt for fish. Our January bus trip had the exciting experience of watching a nearby eagle eat a fish! With the leaves fallen off of deciduous trees, winter is a great time to be able to spot eagles as they sit on branches or rest upon their large nests. Our eagle watch trips fall within the mating season, where courtship behaviors such as locking talons can sometimes be observed. We feel lucky to have healthy rivers with thriving eagle populations at this time of year. Our January trip observed 34 bald eagles and guests on our February trip spotted a total of 21. These trips also offer the chance to see many other birds and mammals that depend on our rivers for food and habitat. We look forward to hosting these trips every year and hope you'll join us for this majestic experience in the future!



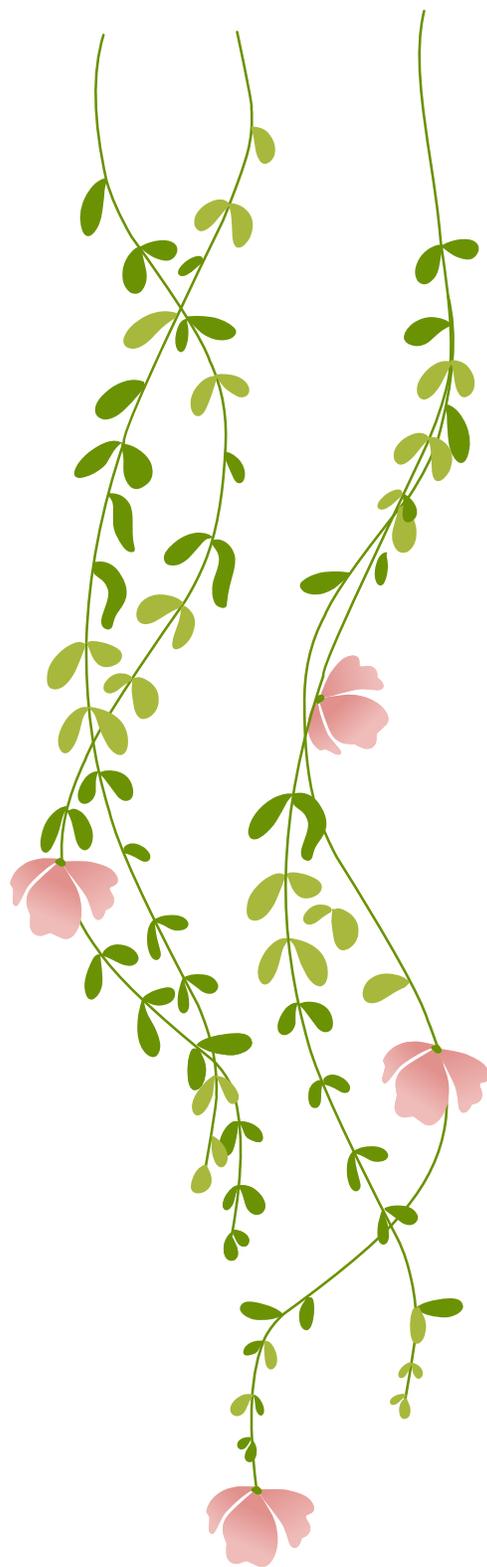


# New Online Registration Now Available!

Register for programs quickly and conveniently through our new online system!

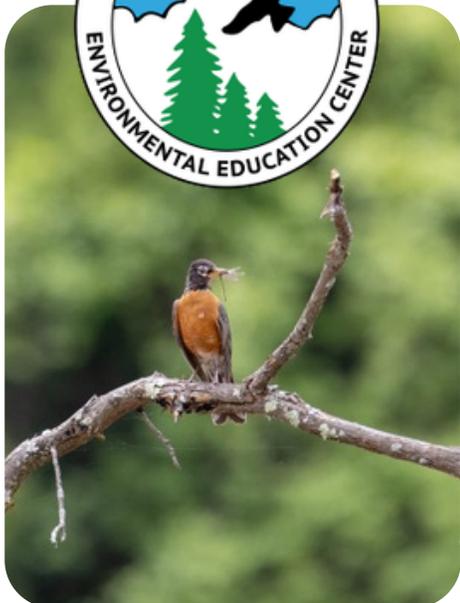
Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is excited to announce the launch of our new online program registration system! Participants can now easily browse upcoming programs, register, and securely pay online, all in one convenient place. This new feature makes it simpler than ever for participants to reserve their spot in our popular environmental education programs. As we prepare for a full rollout of online registration this summer, we are beginning with registrations for our summer day camps. From bog walks and eagle watch programs to hands-on learning experiences for all ages, Kettle Creek offers opportunities to connect with and learn about the natural world year-round. Our new online system helps streamline the process so you can spend less time registering and more time exploring. Visit our website today to view upcoming programs and sign up for your next outdoor adventure:

[mcconservation.org!](http://mcconservation.org)





MONROE COUNTY  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



## Registration Guidelines

- Registration opens at the start of the month prior to each program, unless otherwise stated.
- Pre-registration and Pre-payment is required for all programs.
- Register online at [mcconservation.org](http://mcconservation.org) or call us at (570) 629-3061 for more information or to register.
- Dates, times, and pricing are subject to change. Contact us for the most current details.
- In case of low-attendance or weather-related cancellations, we will notify participants and refund payment as soon as possible.

# SPRING EVENTS



## MEET THE ARTIST: "Waterways and Byways" by Jeff Koopman

Saturday, April 11th 11 AM - 1 PM

No Charge ♿

Nature-oriented oil paintings with an emphasis on waterways. The subjects will be mostly, but not all local.

## Fairy Garden Workshop

Saturday, April 18 10 AM - 12 PM

\$20 Ages 12+ ♿

Join us for a relaxing morning of creativity where we will let the magic of nature inspire our very own miniature enchanted gardens. Use a variety of small props and natural materials to bring your creation to life. All materials will be provided, but participants may bring a basket or jar to build their garden in.

## MEET THE ARTIST: "Connecting to Nature" by Sherry Acevedo

Saturday, May 2

11 AM - 1 PM

No Charge ♿

Capturing the aesthetic beauty of natural landscapes and wildlife through photography. Through her camera lens she "chases the moon" and connects us to nature through the seasons.

## POND PEEKING

Saturday, May 2

10 AM - 11:30 AM

\$5

Bring your boots and your curiosity as we head to the pond to explore! Use a net to scoop into the water and discover the plants and animals that live there. Collect samples, look closely at what you find, and work together as we peek into the pond!

**BOG BIRDING \*****Wednesday, May 6****7 AM - 9:00 AM****\$6**

Spend the morning with us on a guided bird walk at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Learn the basics of birding while discovering the unique and fascinating bird species that visit this rare habitat. Perfect for beginners and anyone looking to enjoy birds in a truly special place. Limited binoculars available upon request.

**BOG BIRDING \*****Wednesday, May 13****7 AM - 9:00 AM****\$6**

Spend the morning with us on a guided bird walk at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Learn the basics of birding while discovering the unique and fascinating bird species that visit this rare habitat. Perfect for beginners and anyone looking to enjoy birds in a truly special place. Limited binoculars available upon request.

**BIRDING BY BOAT****Thursday, May 14****7:45 AM - 12 PM****\$15**

Grab your binoculars and meet us at the lake at Tobyhanna State Park for a unique birding experience on the water. Limited kayaks and equipment available upon request.

**CENTURY DAY BUS TRIP****Saturday, May 16****8 AM - 3:30 PM****\$35**

Spend a full day birding across Monroe County during this special bus trip. The goal of Century Day is to find 100 species throughout the day! We will explore forests, wetlands, fields and bogs to see which birds live in which environment and learn how to identify birds based off sight and call. All levels are welcome. Participants should pack a lunch. Limited binoculars available upon request.

**APRIL SHOWERS TO MAY FLOWERS****Saturday, May 16****10 AM - 11:30 AM****\$5**

Come explore the colorful world of flowers and enjoy the beauty blooming all around us! Walk the trails to find flowers and learn what makes each one special.

**WEEKEND BOG WALK \*****Saturday, May 16****2 PM - 4 PM****\$6**

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center invites you to attend a guided public walk into the Tannersville Cranberry Bog! Learn about its formation, interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and The Nature Conservancy play in its protection.

**BOG KAYAK TRIP \*****Thursday, May 28****Saturday, May 30****10 AM - 1:30 PM****\$15**

Come explore where the river otters play and the pitcher plants grow! Take an adventurous two-mile paddle on the Cranberry Creek where we will get a unique perspective of the bog habitat in kayaks. Please note that trips are water level dependent and can be strenuous and challenging. Limited kayaks and equipment available upon request.

**FULL MOON BOG WALK \*****Saturday, May 30****6:30 PM - 9:00 PM****\$6**

Explore the Bog under the light of a full moon! Participants should bring a flashlight.

**MEET THE ARTIST: "Garden Art" by Eric Goins****Saturday, June 6****11 AM - 1 PM****No Charge** ♿

Eric's digital photography show focuses on nature.

### WEEKEND BOG WALK \*

Saturday, June 13

2 PM - 4 PM

\$6

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center invites you to attend a guided public walk into the Tannersville Cranberry Bog!

### SUNSET BOG WALK \*

Thursday, June 18

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

\$6

Spend an evening journeying through the bog at golden hour. Learn about the unique plant life and crepuscular critters who call this habitat home.

## WEDNESDAY BOG WALKS \*

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center invites you to attend a guided public walk into the Tannersville Cranberry Bog each Wednesday between June 3 and November 4! Learn about its formation, interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and The Nature Conservancy play in its protection.

June 3 - September 9 | 10 AM - 12 PM

September 16 - November 4 | 1 PM - 3 PM

\$6/person

## OPEN SELECT SATURDAYS

April 11, April 18, May 2, May 16, June 6, June 13

9 AM - 1 PM

### SYMBOL KEY



This program takes place in our ADA accessible building and/or on our accessible outdoor trail. Call us for more information or to let us know how we can best accommodate you!



This program takes place at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog location.



**Hours of Operation:** M-F 8 AM - 4:30 PM

Closed On All Federal Holidays.

Open Select Saturdays, Check Schedule

**Phone:** 570-629-3061

**Website:** [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org)

## The Gallery at

*Kettle Creek*

Visit our Gallery to explore a rotating showcase of creativity and local artistry!

April

Waterways and Byways by Jeff Koopman

May

Connecting to Nature by Sherry Acevedo

June

Garden Art by Eric Goins



## Our District wins 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Conservation Video Awards!

We are proud to announce that the Monroe County Conservation District recently earned 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Conservation District Video Awards, competing against 11 other districts across the state. This recognition highlights our team's dedication to promoting conservation, environmental education, and community outreach through engaging and informative media. We are honored to receive this award and grateful for the opportunity to share the important work being done to protect our natural resources.

Tannersville Cranberry Bog Created and Submitted by: Derek Lederer, Monroe County Conservation District

Our video can be found at:

<https://www.paleadership.org/congratulations-to-conservation-district-video-award-winners/>



## A Warm Welcome to our new Agricultural Resource Conservationist, Adrian Kalinowski

We are excited to welcome our new Agricultural Resource Conservationist to the team! This newly created position reflects our continued commitment to supporting local agriculture and strengthening conservation efforts throughout our community. We are thrilled to expand our team and look forward to the positive impact this role will have on our local agricultural and conservation initiatives.

“Hello everyone. I’m Adrian Kalinowski and I’m excited to be starting my role as the new Agricultural Conservation Specialist. I’ve had the privilege of working in public service for the last 10 years in various positions and am looking forward to joining Monroe county to work with the agricultural community on many different conservation efforts and projects. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my kids outdoors, whenever I get the chance.”

**-Adrian Kalinowski, Agricultural Resource Conservationist**



## Hay Event

Our 2026 Hay program was held at the Murphy Farm in Kunkletown, PA, and was supported through funding from two sources: the Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP) and a Keystone Soil and Water Health Program Grant. A total of 87 attendees participated, including local farmers and their family members. When the Murphy family, our presenters and partners were included, total participation reached 99—just shy of a nice round 100! The program featured a range of timely agricultural topics, including managing tough weeds, getting the most out of nitrogen fertilizer, producing hay for horse customers, and the benefits of mixing forage species in a hayfield. Attendees also learned about agricultural project funding opportunities available through the Monroe County Conservation District and had the chance to see drone technology in action during a live flight demonstration highlighting its applications in agriculture. We would like to give a special thanks to those in the ag community who brought food for the meeting!



# 2026 SUMMER DAY CAMP

**Join us for an unforgettable adventure!**



## Get In Touch With Nature

**6/22-6/26, 7/6-7/10, 8/3-8/7**  
**\$180 | Ages 7-10**

Get ready for a week of outdoor fun! Explore the trails at Kettle Creek and get comfortable in nature as you discover the plants and animals that live there. Learn new skills with new friends as you enjoy a different adventure each day!

## Adventure Camp

**7/6-7/10, 8/3-8/7, 8/17-8/21**  
**\$220 | Ages 11-13**

Grab your gear and join us for an outdoor adventure! Paddle a kayak on the Delaware River and hike to beautiful views. Explore the Poconos and try something new as you make lasting memories with new friends!



**SCAN ME**

**Hours: 9 AM - 3 PM \***

**Drop-Off Begins at 8:45 AM**

**Early Care Available: 8 AM - 8:45 AM | \$10/day**

**Late Pick Up Available: 3 PM- 5 PM | \$10/day**

Call us or scan the QR code to register!

\*Adventure Camp has a late pick-up Thursday.

More details available after registration.

Please register for one week only.



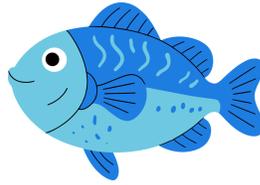
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WEBSITE: mcconservation.org



# Maple Sugaring

## Water Quality Preparation

With the 2026 water quality surveying season approaching quickly, MCCD staff are focusing on honing their skills and holding planning meetings to ensure they are fully prepared to test waterways throughout the county. With state audits, certifications, and permits underway, the team is anticipating its busiest survey season yet. This year's efforts will include electrofishing surveys, the countywide water quality study, and a recently funded project through the Brodhead Water Association that will allow for a more in depth look at the long-impaired Sambo Creek.

As this season's Maple Sugaring programs come to a close, we are grateful for another successful year in the sugar bush. Despite a few rainy days we welcomed many visitors and school groups who came out to learn about the maple sugaring process and enjoy this long-standing tradition.

Maple Sugaring has been one of our longest running programs since 1978, and it continues to be something we look forward to each year. We would also like to extend a big thank you to the many volunteers who helped make the season possible by assisting during public days, directing parking, cooking pancakes and collecting sap. Their support plays a vital role in making this program such a special experience for our community.



The Monroe County Conservation District and Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center have recently installed a Chronolog at Swink Pond. This interactive station allows all kinds of visitors to not only view the landscape but also participate in a long term visual study of the pond and its naturally changing environment. By placing a phone in the mounted holder and taking a photo from the same fixed point, participants contribute to an ongoing photographic record that documents seasonal changes and long-term ecological shifts at this unique natural site.

