

8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Fall 2025 Newsletter

Volume 48 No. 3



Inside This Issue

KCEF Update
Page 2

Around Kettle Creek
Page 3

Conservation Camp Recap
Page 3

Calendar of Events
Page 4-6

Bird Seed Sale Day Order Form
Page 7

Dirt & Gravel Minute
Page 8

District News
Page 8

Tom Turtle's Tale
Page 9

The Gallery at Kettle Creek & Photo Contest
Page 10

Kettle Creek for Kids
Page 10

Scenes from Summer 2025

Conservation Camp, Adventure Camp,
Get in Touch with Nature Camp & BugFest!

Find us!





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

District Staff

Kristina Heaney
District Manager

Jonathan Knauff
Head Resource Conservationist

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

Lena Campisi, Geoffrey Ioannidis,
Charlie Kelshaw, John Motz
Resource Conservation Specialists

Carol Luthar
Environmental Education Coordinator

Brittney Coleman, Barrett Donna,
Derek Lederer, Colleen Lidon
Environmental Educators

Samantha Benway
Finance Manager

Diana Flint
Administrative Specialist

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 at 9am preceding the meeting.

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

Each year the board members of the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund, Inc. (KCEF) join with the sponsors, donors, and supporters of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center (KCEEC) to celebrate their joint accomplishments. Environmental education programs and facility projects for the previous year are highlighted at the annual fundraising dinner. At this year's dinner we highlight the summer **Conservation Camp** for area youth. As a former high school biology teacher and

university professor, I can attest to the importance and impact of first-hand outdoor environmental education experiences, having taken high schoolers and college students on many field trips and weekend camping trips. These experiences help to mold the environmental perspective we so desperately need in our society with each succeeding generation of young people.

As donors to the fund and/or attendees at our dinner, your support *makes a difference* in the lives of these campers and other young people served by the KCEEC staff. Your support also *makes a difference* in our community as some of these young people grow up to become themselves environmental educators, board members, elected officials, and community leaders who pass on what they have learned at KCEEC programs and events. Many of you who read this know this is true because you are among those to whom I am referring.

Thank you for your continuing support for the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and this mission of the Environmental Education Center as part of the Monroe County Conservation District. Together we will continue to *make a difference!* ❁

- **Dr. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President**



KCEF Board Members



Dr. Elaine Rogers, *President*
Leslie J. Berger, *Vice-President*
Joseph Bedrick, *Secretary*
Ed Cramer, *Treasurer*
Dr. Ian Foster
Kara Klaus-Major
Brianna Strunk
Christine Wilkins
Pat Calpin, *Honorary Board Member*



Thank you Summer Work Crew! ☀

This year's summer work crew helped with our larger mission of renovating our visitor center, and took it to the trails. In addition to the clearing and cutting they are normally tasked with, they blazed nearly three miles of our trail system with new metal trail markers to improve visibility and navigation. They also spent days repainting the metal railings on our Black Bear trail, as well as the ADA accessible ramp that has served as the primary entrance to the education center while the new main entrance has been under construction.

Monroe County Conservation District is incredibly thankful for all the hard work they put in this summer. ❁

Around Kettle Creek

As temperatures begin to drop and the leaves start to change color, fall is quickly approaching here at Kettle Creek. After a summer filled with memorable experiences for all ages, we're excited for the season ahead. Our fall schedule is full of exciting opportunities to explore the natural world. Join us on a walk at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog, bring your family and friends to our Fall Fest and other public events, and take part in our annual bird seed fundraiser to stock up on food for our feathered friends this winter.

We are incredibly grateful to the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund for their ongoing support, which makes it possible for us to offer the wide range of programs and events we host each year. Their annual dinner fundraiser at Trout Lake this September directly benefits our educational outreach, including in-school programs, summer camps, and community events. This generous support plays a vital role in helping us provide meaningful, hands-on environmental learning experiences for students of all ages throughout the county.

We look forward to being a part of your autumn adventures! ❁

-Carol Luthar, Environmental Education Coordinator

Calling All Birders!

Do you have a passion for bird watching or an interest in participating in a citizen's science project? Kettle Creek is currently seeking volunteers to participate in **Project FeederWatch** for the 2025-2026 season! Count dates will be Tuesdays & Wednesdays every other week beginning in November and ending in mid-April. Volunteers will receive detailed instructions on how to conduct bird counts right here inside our building. It's a great opportunity to learn! For more info or to sign up as a volunteer, contact environmental educator Derek Lederer at dlederer@monroecountypa.gov or call 570-629-3061. ❁

Project FeederWatch
Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 

CONSERVATION CAMP RECAP:

A WEEK OF LEARNING, LEADERSHIP, AND LASTING MEMORIES

From July 19th–26th, 19 enthusiastic and energetic teenagers gathered at East Stroudsburg University's Stony Acres for our annual Conservation Camp. The week was packed with immersive environmental education programs led by experts in the field. Campers explored the natural world around them, discovered the crucial roles they play in protecting it, and formed strong connections with both nature and each other.

We're proud to announce **Autumn Hessek** as this year's Outstanding Camper! Autumn's team leadership and passion for the environment truly set her apart. Congratulations, Autumn!

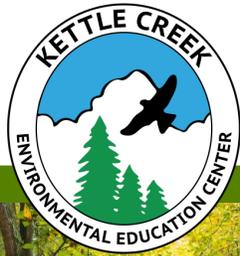
This year also marked a special moment for us—Derek's first year as Camp Director, and we're happy to report it was a great success! A huge thank you goes out to the dedicated staff who helped make this week unforgettable. Your energy, guidance, and commitment to environmental education are what make this camp possible.



This year's Outstanding Conservation Camper, Autumn Hessek & Camp Director Derek Lederer

We are incredibly grateful for the continued support from local businesses, clubs, and volunteers who help bring our mission to life through generous donations and scholarships. This keeps the weeklong Conservation Camp experience accessible and affordable for students in Monroe County and beyond. Special thanks to Roger Spotts who led the two-day, 26-mile canoe trip down the Delaware River.

Looking ahead, we're already gearing up for next year's Conservation Camp, scheduled for July 18th–25th, 2026. It is open to teens aged 14 through high school graduates of 2026. Stay tuned for details and applications which will be available on our website starting in January. ❁



Program Guidelines

Pre-registration 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.

Building hours are Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm, and some Saturdays 9am-1pm.

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

2025 Fall Public Programs



Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 17th – 1pm

Join us 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. **Pre-registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.**

KCEF Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, September 18th – 5:30pm

The dinner event, hosted by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and Kettle Creek EE Center, will feature games, raffles, and excellent prizes all in an effort to raise funds for the EE Center! Located at the beautiful Trout Lake Retreat near Stroudsburg. The Rose Schoch Award will also be presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to environmental education.

Advance tickets were required. Call 570-629-3061 for details.



Meet the Artist: Derek Lederer "Moments in Nature"

Saturday, September 20th – 11am - 1pm

Through his artwork, Derek strives to capture the beauty of birds, wildlife and serene landscapes. His love for wildlife and photography converge to create a visual narrative of our natural world. His show will be on display all month long.

There is no charge.

Fungi at the Bog

Sunday, September 21st – 1pm

The bog is home to some fascinating species of fungi that are both colorful and interesting. Join us at 1pm at the Bog parking lot for an introductory Fall Foliage Fungus Foray! Bring your camera or smartphone to capture a fun fungi photo collection. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.**



Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 24th – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.



Hawk Mountain Bus Trip

Friday, September 26th – 8am - 3pm

Join us for an unforgettable day at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, the first birds-of-prey sanctuary in the United States! This guided bus trip is perfect for bird lovers and nature enthusiasts of all ages. Activities include birdwatching, hiking, exploring the scenic mountain trails, and learning about raptors in their natural habitat. Experience the thrill of spotting hawks, eagles, falcons, and other birds of prey soaring above the mountains. Our full day together combines adventure, education, and breathtaking fall scenery. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Bus leaves promptly at 8am so please arrive early. Bring a packed lunch. Cost: \$40 per person.**

Saturday, September 27th—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 1st – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.



Saturday, October 4th—Building Closed



Full Moon Bog Walk
Saturday, October 4th – 6:30pm

Explore the bog under the light of a full moon during spooky season! The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a headlamp/flashlight. Exact cash or check preferred (no credit cards). Please wear appropriate footwear.

Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 8th – 1pm
See September 17th listing for details.



Friday Night Fall Festival

Friday, October 10th – 6:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for a spook-tacular evening at Kettle Creek’s Friday Night Fall Festival! On Friday October 10th from 6:30 to 8:30pm, dive into the festive spirit with creative crafts, exciting games and nighttime adventures. We will embark into the dark with a thrilling night hike where you'll discover the secrets of nocturnal animals and their unique adaptations. Finally, we'll cap off the night with s'mores and stories around the campfire. It's a perfect blend of fun and education for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to dress in a Fall theme or wear a Halloween costume.

Don't miss out on this enlightening evening! **Please call to register. Cost: \$5/person.**

Meet the Artist: Claudia Hill & Joan Lech “From Nature to Art”

Saturday, October 11th – 11am - 1pm

Claudia and Joan use an arsenal of mediums to create their unique artwork. Their show will be on display all month long. **There is no charge.**

Saturday Bog Walk

Saturday, October 11th – 2pm

Come enjoy fall colors at the bog! This is our last weekend public bog walk of the year, and begins at 2pm.

See September 17th listing for details. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot by 2pm. Cost: \$6 per person.



Monday, October 13th—Building Closed—Holiday

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 15th – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.



Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 17th – 8-10pm

Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the sixth season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to the public October 17th, 24th, and November 7th. Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project OwlNet, and may have the unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US.

Pre-registration is required and limited. Donations welcome.



Saturday, October 18th—Building Closed

Bog Day!

Sunday, October 19th – 10am



The Tannersville Bog stewardship committee along with The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring their annual “Bog Day” on Sunday, October 19th. This day features a guided walk on the boardwalk as well as information on the bog and light refreshments. It also gives participants the opportunity to meet some of the volunteers who help to maintain and protect this unique natural area. **The FREE walk will be held at 10am and registration is required.**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 22nd – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.

KC for Kids: Acorn Adventure

Thursday, October 23rd – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**



Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 24th – 8-10pm

See October 17th listing for details.



Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, October 25th – 9am - 1pm

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, see next page or visit mconconservation.org**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 29th – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.

KC for Kids: Art in Nature

Thursday, October 30th – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, November 5th – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.



KC for Kids: Create an Autumn Sensory Jar

Thursday, November 6th – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**

Mystery Bus Trip

Friday, November 7th – 8:30am-4pm

Hop on board Kettle Creek's bus and join the mystery tour! Where are we going? Somewhere in and around Monroe County, we're not even sure ourselves. The bus will leave Kettle Creek at 8:30am and return by 4pm. Pack a lunch, something to drink, and dress appropriately for some outdoor walking. Binoculars may be helpful. **Register early—space is limited. Cost: \$30 per person.**

Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, November 7th – 8-10pm

See October 17th listing for details.



Meet the Artist: Ann Shinkovich "Scenes of Nature in Watercolor and Acrylics"

Saturday, November 8th – 11am - 1pm

Ann has been painting her entire life, and her preferred mediums are watercolor, acrylic and oil pastel. Ann hopes that those who look at her art envision themselves in the scene and experience a sensory response to nature. Her artwork will be on display for the month of November. **There is no charge.**



LAST Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, November 12th – 1pm

See September 17th listing for details.

KC for Kids: Little Leaves, Big Trees

Thursday, November 13th – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



570-629-3061

Bird Seed Savings Day®

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE DAY, Oct. 25, 2025

For Office Use Only

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

****ORDER DEADLINE****
Friday, October 17, 2025

PRICES NOW INCLUDE TAX!

QUANTITY ORDERED	DESCRIPTION OF WILD BIRD SEED	DAY OF SALE PRICE-with Tax	TOTAL
* 25 lb. Bag	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$15.32	
*50 lb. Bag	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$27.02	
* 30 lb. Bag	Value Blend	\$18.91	
* 20 lb. Bag	Choice Blend	\$20.71	
* 40 lb. Bag	Choice Blend	\$38.73	
* 20 lb. Bag	Premium Blend	\$24.32	
* 40 lb. Bag	Premium Blend	\$45.95	
* 4 lb. Bag	Sunflower Kernels	\$7.72	
* 4 lb. Bag	Safflower Seed	\$7.72	
* 4 lb. Bag	Fruit & Nut Woodpecker Blend	\$11.70	
* 4 lb. Bag	Finch Blend	\$7.72	
* 10 lb. Bag	Nyjer (Thistle) Seed	\$22.52	
* 12 oz.	Hi-Energy Suet	\$1.57	
* 12- 12oz.	Hi-Energy Suet	\$16.21	

MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM AND CHECK TO:

Monroe County Conservation District
8050 Running Valley Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360

SUB-TOTAL DUE: _____

Donation to EE Center _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

This year we are accepting credit card payments over the phone or in person

Tax is now included in all prices for the bird seed sale!

DISTRICT NEWS

RIVER OF THE YEAR

With over 500 attendees, this year’s festival was a vibrant celebration of our community! Guests enjoyed delicious eats from local food trucks, shopped from unique storefront vendors, and were entertained by talented performers from right here in Monroe County. Despite a little rain at the end, the fun never stopped! From archery lessons and fly-fishing demos to a special visit from Smokey Bear and giveaways for all ages, there was something for everyone to enjoy.

We’d also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to our Conservation District engineer, Mike Wilk, on being awarded the title of Rear High Admiral by the Delaware River Sojourn Commission—what an honor!



A lively Delaware River of the Year Festival crowd, including the winner of this year’s poster contest, Sadie Duryea, and our own Mike Wilk, the newest Rear High Admiral of the Delaware River

MONROE COUNTY WATERSHED COALITION

Our Watershed Specialist, in partnership with all of our local watershed organizations, is excited to announce the creation of the **Monroe County Watershed Coalition**.

The goal of this collaborative group is to expand volunteer opportunities throughout the county and keep the community informed about upcoming events and initiatives that benefit not only residents—but also the health of our local watersheds.

To support this effort, the Coalition will launch a **monthly newsletter**, delivered on the **first of each month**, featuring volunteer openings, educational events, project updates, and ways to get involved in protecting our natural resources.

TREES AND MORE TREES!

We’re proud to share that our technical staff, alongside the incredible support of numerous volunteer groups, has officially reached a major milestone: **500 trees planted in 2025!**

These plantings have taken root across municipal parks, public game lands, and even wildlife refuges, helping to restore habitats, improve water quality, and support a healthier environment for all who live within and around Monroe County!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this achievement possible!

FARMERS BREAKFAST

Our team has been hard at work ensuring the farms that exist within Monroe County have the help needed to continue producing fresh food and protecting our environment. That includes not only finding and securing funding for local operations, but also keeping the community informed. We are starting that by planning a Farmers Breakfast on November 15th.



PUBLIC OUTREACH

MCCD has been busy working on boosting our public presence throughout Monroe County! From "Tap Talks" hosted by our Watershed Specialists to informative presentations by our Head Resource Conservationist and Engineers, we've been active and visible across the region. We wrapped up a busy summer by spending a week at the West End Fair complete with giveaways, crayfish, and even live fish on display! ✨



MCCD’s Watershed Specialist, Charles Kelshaw, using a rain simulator to demonstrate the differences in runoff and soil infiltration of various land use types

Tom Turtle's Tale

By Darryl Speicher



For 25 years Jackie and I have been banding birds here in the Poconos as part of a continent wide effort known as **MAPS**, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. All of the information we gather on the breeding birds here is shared with the Institute for Bird Populations. The station is laid out in a big loop that goes out along Black Bear Trail, past Swink Pond and Turkey Path up past the far end of Deer Trail then comes back to the banding station along Songbird Trail.

In all there are 10 nets and we usually split up into two groups to check the nets. One group goes in numeric order 1, 2, 3 etc., while the other goes backwards 10, 9, 8 . . . until we meet somewhere in the middle. I had just come from net 7 heading toward 6 when I saw our friend Dan standing in the trail with a bird in one hand and a Box Turtle in the other. He was thrilled and even more excited when I told him about the turtle tracking book. We brought the bird and the turtle back to the station with us. The bird turned out to be a wood thrush which is exciting for other reasons but we were anxious to learn more about the turtle Dan found.

When the EE Center opened at Kettle Creek the staff started a turtle tracking book. This particular turtle had very distinctive yellow and orange markings on the fore limbs and head with a big chunk missing from the scutes just above its neck and obvious file marks on scutes L2 and R2. It's bright red eye and flat plastron (bottom shell) told us it was a male and the high domed carapace (top shell) and hinged plastron told us it was a box turtle. We started searching the book and eventually found him. His name is Tom and he was originally found and added to the log book on August 2, 1993!

Tom was the second turtle ever documented at Kettle Creek and the first box turtle. Since then he has been found 5 more times, September 14, 1998, June 28, 2007, September 8, 2008, September 22, 2011 and our finding on July 17, 2025. The folks that found him in 1998 mentioned that the 2 was severely faded and notches were used as identifying marks. He was once found by a third grade class during a field trip and he was once discovered by the bird banding crew which included our sons at the time when they were children.

The first turtle ever recorded was a Wood Turtle named Woody. Since then the log book has grown to include nearly 50 turtles of 5 species: 36 of them are box turtles, 5 are wood turtles, 3 are snapping turtles, 2 are painted turtles and one red-eared slider. When a new turtle is discovered the protocol allows for the finder to name it, and that's how you get a turtle named Woody or Tom. Some take the obligation of naming the turtles seriously and others not so much. Wandering the woods of Kettle Creek you may come across: Speedy, Spunky, Betty Bright or Mighty Duck. I know that last one is silly but when you read the notes recorded on that day, June 28, 2002 you'll understand why. Mighty Duck was found by Jordan and Jacob Speicher during MAPS banding. Jordan was 7 and Jacob was 4 at the time and as they had been the ones to find it, so they got to name it.

For Tom it was quite the day. Not only was he found alive and well after 32 years he was the star of the *Kettle Creek for Kids* program that morning. Once the program was over Tom was returned to the place we found him, on Songbird Trail just west of Turkey Path. Each time he was found he was within a few yards of where Dan found him this year. Although the typical life expectancy of a wild turtle is quite variable it is possible that they can survive well over 100 years. They will spend all of that time in an area no bigger than 10 acres and typically much smaller than that. For this reason, it is not a good idea to relocate box turtles. If you find one and take it with you to show your family and friends, please return it to the exact spot you found it to be released.

Over the years we have documented some really interesting things while banding birds. Finding Tom the Turtle ranks right up there as one of my favorites. Like many experiences that take you by surprise I hadn't been thinking about box turtles in quite some time. I know they exist and are doing well in the forested landscapes of the Pocono Mountains but it isn't often that you come across one. After our encounter with Tom and what we learned leafing through the Turtle Log Book I'll be diligent to keep my eyes open, who knows the next one I find might just be Mighty Duck. ❁



Tom and his distinctive markings

Join the Fun of the 45th Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count!

This year's will be held on Sunday, December 14th.

If you would like to learn more please contact Darryl and Jackie Speicher by email at poconoavian@hotmail.com.



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



2026 Calendars will be available starting at our **Bird Seed Sale** on October 25th in the gift shop.

The **Photo Contest Display Art Opening** will be on Saturday, December 6th at 11am. We will be showcasing and awarding the photos that made it into our **MCCD 2026 Calendar!**

**Don't Forget—
 MCCD's Annual Amateur
 Photo Contest**

Send in photos that showcase Monroe County's finest Natural Resources!
 Earn a spot in both our art gallery and a 2026 MCCD calendar!
**** Submissions due September 30th ****
 For details and entry form, please see the link on our website, mcconservation.org

KETTLE CREEK FOR KIDS

KCK is back this fall! Programs are at 10am on select **Thursdays** for ages 3-6. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Please dress for the weather. Cost: \$7 per child, cash or check only. Payable day of program. Registration is limited, call to sign up!

Oct. 23rd	Acorn Adventure - Fall is here and it's time for an acorn adventure! Let's celebrate the season through imagination. By exploring and "gathering" acorns, children learn how something as tiny as an acorn helps keep the whole forest alive and thriving.
Oct. 30th	Art in Nature - Nature is a perfect canvas for art and can also supply all the things we need to create it! Join us as we explore nature's patterns, colors, and textures and create our own temporary works of art using natural objects as our medium. Don't forget to bring a camera to preserve your artistic accomplishments forever before they go back to nature!
Nov. 6th	Create an Autumn Sensory Jar - Join us for a sensory adventure designed just for young explorers! We'll dig into bins filled with natural materials and practice scooping, sorting, and pouring. Then, we'll take a walk to collect fall treasures and create our own autumn-themed sensory jars to take home!
Nov. 13th	Little Leaves, Big Trees - Join us on an outdoor adventure to discover the importance of the biggest living things at Kettle Creek -trees! Fall is a beautiful time of year to explore these gentle giants of the forest and use our senses to learn about their colorful fallen foliage.

**The Gallery at
 Kettle Creek**

September
 Derek Lederer

"Moments in Nature"

Through his artwork, Derek strives to capture the beauty of birds, wildlife and serene landscapes. His love for wildlife and photography converge to create a visual narrative of our natural world.

October

Claudia Hill and Joan Lech
 "From Nature to Art"

Claudia and Joan use an arsenal of mediums to create their unique artwork.

November

Ann Shinkovich

"Scenes of Nature in Watercolor and Acrylics"

A lifelong painter, Ann hopes that those who look at her art envision themselves in the scene and experience a sensory response to nature.

December

"2026 Calendar Photo Contest Display"
Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest.

