

8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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www.mcconservation.org



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



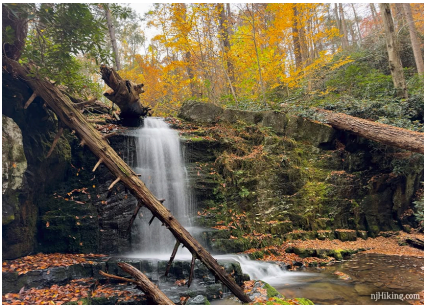
Fall 2026 Newsletter

Volume 49 No. 3

New Ways to Explore the Outdoors!



The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is excited to announce two new bus trips this Fall! We can't wait to transport participants for educational adventures on our new 13 passenger bus! For just \$35 per trip, you can join us from 8:30am-4:00pm for local excursions around Monroe County and surrounding areas.



Adventure awaits on Friday, September 25th for a day of exploration, discovery, and unexpected adventures on our Adventure Surprise bus trip! Participants will enjoy moderate hiking, physical activity, and surprise stops along the way. Whether you're an outdoor enthusiast, thrill-seeker, or simply looking for a fun day of touring the area, this unique excursion is sure to be one you won't want to miss. Lace up your hiking shoes, bring your binoculars, lunch, and a sense of adventure and come see where the day takes you!

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History lovers won't want to miss our Mystery History bus trip on Friday, November 6th! We will set out for a full day journey to various locations of historical significance and natural beauty. This bus trip is ideal for anyone who would love to learn more about our area's rich history while also getting outdoors and enjoying the natural beauty of present day. We have multiple fascinating stops along our way, with each upcoming location being a mystery to participants. Participants should dress for the weather, wear comfortable walking shoes, and pack a lunch.



Find us on Social Media!





Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

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Brian Winot, Vice-Chairperson
Roger McFadden, Treasurer
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Sharon Laverdure, Commissioner
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Diana Flint, Carolina Quiceno-Botero
Administrative Specialists

Aaron Miller
Maintenance Technician

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.

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

This year marks the 35th year of the KCEF Annual Fundraising Dinner to be held on Thursday September 17th at Trout Lake. This year's program will highlight the projects and programs of the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center which have been made possible, in part or in whole, through the donations of our sponsors and supporters this year. The annual Rose Schoch Award will be given to a local teacher, **Mary Catherine Garr**, for her outstanding work with the Envirothon over the years. Congratulations!

As we celebrate these accomplishments I wish to thank ALL who attend and participate in our dinner and/or make donations to the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) throughout the year. I also want to thank the members of the KCEF Board of Directors for all that they do throughout the year and in preparation for our fundraising dinner. Finally, I also want to thank the MCCD staff who work with the fundraising board to carry out our work and prepare our venue for the annual dinner. What a great group of people who are all dedicated to the purpose of doing environmental education for the youth and adults of Monroe County!

Together we will continue to make a difference!

- Dr. S. Elaine Rogers,
KCEF President

KCEF Board Members



Dr. Elaine Rogers, President
Leslie J. Berger, Vice-President
Joseph Bedrick, Secretary
Ed Cramer, Treasurer
Lauren Butler
Brianna Strunk
Christine Wilkins
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Member



Follow our new MCCD account on
Facebook!



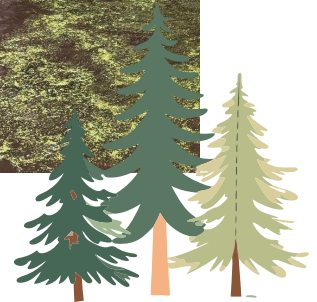
Summer Camp Recap!

Get in Touch with Nature Camp



Our campers had an amazing summer getting outdoors and getting in touch with nature! During Get in Touch with Nature Camp, campers ages 7–10 explored the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, discovered the plants and animals that live here, and enjoyed a new adventure each day.

From hiking the trails and exploring the pond to building shelters and participating in a variety of hands-on activities, campers had plenty of opportunities to learn, explore, and have fun outdoors. Through these hands-on experiences, they developed new skills, worked together, made new friends, and gained a deeper appreciation for nature. It was a summer filled with exploration, discovery, and wonderful memories!



Adventure Camp

This year we offered four weeks of Adventure Camp for children ages 11-13. Each week campers learned about camping and outdoor survival skills and enjoyed fun field trips in our new bus! They had opportunities to hike through different Poconos habitats and paddle both a lake and the Delaware River, swimming and snorkeling along the way.

It's always so rewarding to see campers new and old step outside their comfort zones and try new experiences with us, while also forging new friendships at the same time. We hope once they reach age 14 they will feel prepared to consider signing up for our exciting, long-standing overnight camp – Conservation Camp!



51st Conservation Camp: Reflections from the Summer

July 18-July 25, 2026



The 51st Anniversary of Conservation Camp welcomed 21 enthusiastic campers for a week of outdoor adventure, hands-on learning, and environmental education. From July 18–25, campers explored Pennsylvania's natural resources while building outdoor skills, teamwork, and a deeper appreciation for conservation.

A highlight of the week was the two-day, 26-mile canoe trip down the Delaware River, where campers spotted an impressive 27 Bald Eagles and experienced wildlife in its natural habitat. Campers also participated in fly fishing, electrofishing, beekeeping, ropes course activities, and team-building challenges throughout the week.

For more than 50 years, Conservation Camp has connected young people with the outdoors through meaningful, hands-on experiences. We are proud to continue inspiring the next generation of conservationists and environmental stewards.

We extend our sincere thanks to KCEF, our sponsors, local businesses, clubs, and supporters for helping make Conservation Camp possible and providing this valuable experience to the next generation. Want to join us next year? Mark your calendars for July 17–24, 2027, and keep an eye out for registration information for the 52nd Conservation Camp!





MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



2026 Fall Public Programs



Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 16th – 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.**

Sunday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 20th – 11am

See September 16th listing for details

Fungi at the Bog

Sunday, September 20th – 2pm

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 23rd - 1pm

See September 16th listing for details

Adventure Surprise Bus Trip

Friday, September 25th 8:30am–4pm

Adventure awaits! Join us for a day of hiking, exploration, surprise stops, and fun. Bring your hiking shoes, binoculars, lunch, and sense of adventure—we'll take care of the surprises! **\$35 Registration is limited, so please register by calling 570-629-3061.**

Bog Day

Sunday, October 18th – 10am

The Tannersville Bog stewardship committee along, with The Nature Conservancy and the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center, will be holding their annual "Bog Day" at the Tannersville Cranberry Bog on Sunday, October 18th. This day features 3 unique guided walks led by committee members and KC environmental educators, as well as 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 walks will be held at 10am and 1pm and prior registration is required.**

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 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.

Friday Night Fall Festival October 9th – 6:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for a spook-tacular evening at Kettle Creek's Friday Night Fall Festival! On Friday October 9th 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! Register at mcconservation.org. **Cost: \$5/person.**

Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding Friday, October 16th & November 6th - 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.

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

OPEN SELECT SATURDAYS
September 26th, October
10th, October 25th,
November 7th,
9 AM - 1 PM

Kettle Creek For Kids Fall Sessions



Thursdays, 10/8, 10/15,
10/22 and 10/29



10am or 1pm



Enjoy a different activity
each week!

Programs are one hour long.



Ages 3-6, Adults must
stay with children.



\$7 per child—Register
at mcconservation.org



www.mcccconservation.org



570-629-3061



8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Turn your Morning View into Scientific Discovery!

Project FeederWatch is a citizen science program that brings people together to observe and record birds visiting feeding stations during the winter months. The information collected by volunteers helps scientists track changes in bird populations, distribution, and abundance across North America.



Project FeederWatch

We participated in Project FeederWatch from November 1st through April 30th, counting and recording the birds that visited. During those months, we saw 22 different species of birds come to our feeder!

Want to help us discover who visits our feeders? Volunteer with us! Whether you're an experienced birder or just beginning to learn about local birds, your observations can contribute to important scientific research while giving you a chance to enjoy and learn more about the birds in our area.

Interested in volunteering? For more information about how you can get involved, feel free to reach out to dlederer@monroecountypa.gov.



Come volunteer with us and help us count the birds!

Annual Bird Seed Sale!



Saturday, October 24

9 AM - 1 PM

Help feed the birds in your backyard while supporting Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center! Pre-order required. Use the order form on the next page or call us at 570-629-3061.

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



BirdSeed Savings Day®

570-629-3061

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE DAY, Oct. 24, 2026

For Office Use Only

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

****ORDER DEADLINE****

Friday, October 16, 2026

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!

Meet Our New Staff!

Agricultural Resource Conservationist

Hello everyone!

I am **Julianna Mariano** and I am excited to be starting my new role as the county's Agricultural Technician. I have previously worked with both agriculture and water quality sciences across the Chesapeake Bay Watershed and Mississippi River Basin, and I am excited to see what I can do to help the agricultural community of Monroe County. In my free time, I enjoy reading, hiking, and learning about ancient history. I hope to bring my best to the County, and I am looking forward to meeting everyone!



Administrative Assistant

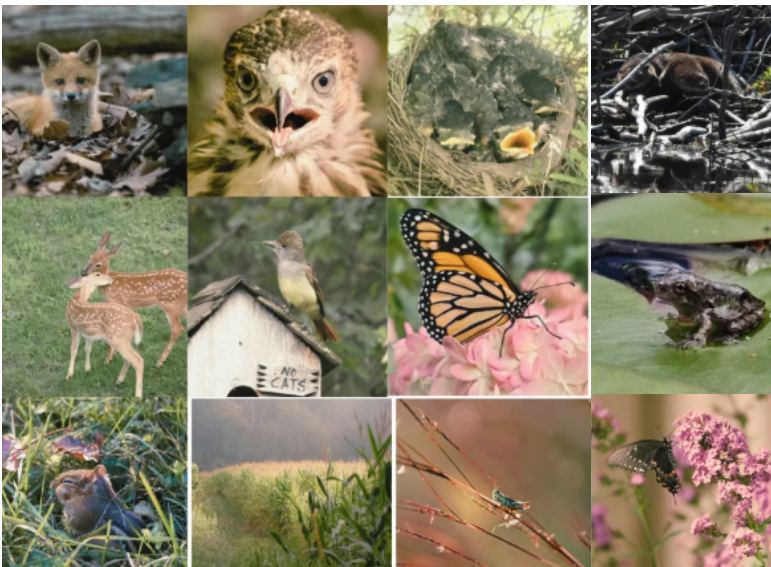
Hi all!

I am **Carolina Quiceno** and I am very excited to introduce myself as the new Administrative Specialist. I am originally from Colombia and have a background in Environmental Engineering, Agroecology, and Digital Media Technologies. My professional and personal experiences have given me a strong appreciation for conservation, sustainability, and connecting people with the environment. I am very excited to bring my experience and passion to the Conservation District, learn from the wonderful team here, and become more involved in the community.



Annual MCCD Photo Contest

Calling all amateur photographers!



2026 Winners

Enter your photo in our Annual Photo Contest to showcase Monroe County's finest natural resources! See full contest rules and submit your photo on our website. **Deadline to enter is 9/30.**

Winning photographs will be on display in our art gallery from December 1, 2026 through January 30, 2027. One grand prize winner will be selected to have their photo on the calendar cover, a free copy of the calendar and a quart of maple syrup. Eleven additional winners will be selected and will each receive a free copy of the calendar and one pint of maple syrup. Additional calendars will be available for purchase beginning November 1, 2026 with all proceeds going to our environmental education programs in Monroe County.

Adventure Surprise!

BUS TRIP

WITH KETTLE CREEK EE CENTER



Adventure awaits around every corner on this unique Kettle Creek day trip experience!

Participants will take part in moderate hiking and physical activity with surprise stops throughout Monroe County & beyond.

The adventurous-at-heart won't want to miss out on this exciting excursion!

\$35

9/25/26

8:30AM-4PM

8050 Running Valley Rd,
Stroudsburg, PA

570-629-3061

mcconservation.org

Project OwlNet



Dates: 10/16/26 and 11/6/26

8:00-10:00 PM

No Charge, Donations Welcome



Project OwlNet is a continent-wide network of owl migration researchers founded in 1994, dedicated to tracking the movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls.

Join us to learn how the program supports a growing network of banding stations across North America through standardized methods, data sharing, and collaboration. Together, these efforts help researchers better understand owl migration patterns and movements.

Participants may have the unique opportunity to see one of these secretive birds up close!



Reserve your spot at www.mcconservation.org

FRIDAY, OCT. 9TH

6:30-8:30PM

FALL fest

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION CENTER



JOIN US FOR ACTIVITIES CENTERED
AROUND THE FALL SEASON AND
NOCTURNAL ANIMAL LIFE.

WE'LL END OUR EVENING BY SETTING OUT
FOR A NIGHT HIKE ON OUR TRAILS AND
MAKING S'MORES AROUND A CAMPFIRE!

**\$5/
PERSON**



MYSTERY HISTORY BUS TRIP with Kettle Creek

Set out on a day long journey with us throughout Monroe County and beyond! We'll learn and explore at various undisclosed locations of historical significance and natural beauty.

**Friday November 6,
2027**

8:30am-4:00pm

\$35 per person



Contact Us

570-629-3061



Registration:

www.mcconservation.org



PUBLISHED BY:
MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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