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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Winter 2024 Newsletter

Volume 47 No. 4

A Chapter Closes: EE Coordinator Roger Spotts Retiring

We are thrilled to celebrate Roger Spotts' incredible milestone of 41 years with Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center! Roger has been a cornerstone of our center, dedicating his time, passion, and expertise to building and nurturing the Kettle Creek programming that has enriched our community for decades. From guiding school field trips to organizing nature camps, Roger has touched countless lives of all ages and backgrounds, instilling a deep love and respect for nature in all those who had the privilege of learning from him.

As Roger embarks on his well-deserved retirement, we want to acknowledge the immense legacy he leaves behind. His dedication to providing high-quality educational programs has earned Kettle Creek/MCCD several state, regional and even national awards! Roger was also the recipient of the PA Association of Environmental Educator's prestigious *Keystone Award* for displaying "uncommon and exceptional understanding, passion and commitment to environmental education" and serving as an inspiration to other educators.



Whether you've paddled, tapped a tree, or took a bus trip with Roger, you know just how naturally and effortlessly Roger can command a group and shape an unforgettable experience in nature.

Roger's work has not only educated individuals but has also built a foundation for future generations to continue exploring and preserving our natural world. His passion for teaching and his unwavering commitment to Kettle Creek's mission will forever remain a vital part of our community's story. We will absolutely miss him, his knowledge, his dependability, and his guidance – but we know this isn't a true goodbye. We look forward to welcoming Roger back for occasional program help and hearing all about his post-retirement fishing stories!

 **We will be celebrating Roger and his lasting legacy with a public reception in the Kettle Creek Art Gallery on Wednesday, January 8th from 3:30-6pm.** Please stop by, share some stories, and say congratulations! Light refreshments will be served.

Roger, on behalf of the Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff, we would like to congratulate you on your retirement, and **thank you for an extraordinary 41 years of service!** ❄️

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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

The Kettle Creek Environmental Fund **Annual Fundraising Dinner** in September was, once again, a big success! Over 200 people joined together to celebrate the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center. Approximately **\$25,000 was raised** through dinner sponsorships, dinner tickets, and additional donations. These monies will be used to help provide environmental education for school children throughout Monroe County and to help provide public programs of interest to families, adults, and other groups throughout the year.

The **Rose Schoch Award** was presented posthumously to John Woodling for his 30 years of service to the Fund and his contributions to environmental education throughout his career and during his retirement.

The 2024 dinner was the last dinner for **Roger Spotts** as the Environmental Education Coordinator for the center and the EE Staff provided a special presentation for Roger to honor him.

The board has already confirmed the date for the 2025 dinner – *Thursday, September 18, 2025* – so mark your calendars!

Looking for a holiday gift idea? Donations to the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund may be made this holiday season as gifts in honor of family and friends. Suggested wording on your holiday card: "In your honor a [holiday named] gift donation has been made to the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund to provide environmental education for residents of Monroe County." Happy Holidays to all! ❄️

- Dr. S. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President

Donations should be made out to "Kettle Creek Environmental Fund"
Mailing address:
8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

KCEF Board Members



Dr. Elaine Rogers, *President*
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Dr. Ian Foster
Kara Klaus-Major
Jim Lambert
Brianna Strunk
Christine Wilkins

Wildly Wintertime

Looking to provide your child with a reprieve from electronic toys and indoor activities during holiday break? Dive into the magic of the season with "Wildly Wintertime Day Camp: A Full Day Experience at Kettle Creek" on Friday, December 27th. Designed for kids ages 7-12, this engaging camp invites young adventurers to explore the wonders of winter through a series

Continued on next page

Around Kettle Creek

October 11th, 1983 I showed up to work excited to be part of the staff at the Meesing Nature Center (previous name for Kettle Creek) working with Don Miller and Craig Todd. Little did I know that 41 years later I would be writing my final article as Environmental Education Coordinator at Kettle Creek (KC) as I look to retire on January 17th, 2025. Wow! How time flies when you are having fun and I truly have had a great experience working at Kettle Creek. Over the years I have had the good fortune to be part of a team of highly skilled environmental educators who have helped KC establish itself as a successful county-wide EE Center. I have watched as countless students have walked through the doors and traveled the trails involved in a hands-on learning experience about their local environment. My job as EE Coordinator truly is a dream job which has provided me the opportunity to work with people of all ages and share with them my passion and knowledge on our natural environment and the plants and animals we share it with.

Over the years I have been asked many times what my favorite program is at KC, and I have to say that I can't pick just one. My job gives me the opportunity to create experiences for a wide ranging audience and at the same time further the conservation goals of the Conservation District. I have spent countless hours in a canoe on the Delaware River with Conservation Campers and other groups; when I think about it, I can safely say that I have traveled over 1200 miles down the river leading these groups. I have literally tapped and collected sap from hundreds of maple trees in the sugar bush. I have walked through the doors of countless Monroe County schools to deliver educational programs to thousands of students. I have traveled the Tannersville Cranberry Bog boardwalk hundreds of times with groups in tow to share the bog and all its wonders. Yes it has been a great job and I feel lucky to have the opportunity to have it for all these years.

I will leave KC with many great memories, like the day we opened the doors of the brand new EE Center in June of 1991, when we started using the new Singing Hemlock sugar shack in February of 2003, and when I conducted my last Sun Ceremony program for campers at the Monroe County Conservation Camp. I have had the privilege of working with so many good people over the years from Conservation District staff and directors, teachers and school administrators, members of the Kettle Creek Fund and finally the many talented Environmental Educators who were and are part of the KC team. Each one of them in their own way have made KC what it is today. I also cannot forget the people who came to our programs. I have met so many interesting people over the years and consider many of them my friends as we shared an outdoor experience on one or more of our programs.

I am not 100% sure what retirement holds for me but I do know that I will be making appearances at future KC programs as a volunteer or a helper when the program load gets busy. Once an Environmental Educator always an Environmental Educator. Thank you to everyone who shared my 41 year journey in some way. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to be here all these years and I feel good that KC and its mission to promote *Conservation through Education* will continue long after I have gone. ❄️

- Roger Spotts, Environmental Education Coordinator

Continued from previous page

of fun, nature-themed activities. From exhilarating outdoor games and hands-on crafts to interactive lessons about how wildlife and plants adapt to the colder months, every moment is crafted to captivate and educate.

Join us from 9am-3:30pm for a day packed with frosty fun! Campers should come prepared for adventure by wearing hiking shoes or boots and bringing a water bottle, lunch, backpack and a full change of clothing, as we'll be getting outdoors into the elements and embracing the full winter experience. Our program offers a blend of play and learning, ensuring kids enjoy memorable wintertime activities while gaining a deeper appreciation for the natural world. Don't miss out on this exciting winter opportunity at Kettle Creek! Register early! Cost: \$30 per child. ❄️





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

2024/25 Winter Programming



Meet the Artists: Calendar Photo Contest Winners Display

Saturday, December 7th – 11am

Join us as we present the winners of our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest (and learn a little bit about photography too)!

The top 12 photos will be available on our 2025 Calendar, available to purchase at the gift shop. Don't forget—our Kettle Creek Calendars make great Christmas gifts!

There is no charge.

Tuesday, December 24th—Building Closes at Noon—Holiday

Wednesday, December 25th—Building Closed—Holiday



Wildly Wintertime: A Full Day Winter Experience



Friday, December 27th – 9am - 3:30pm

Looking to provide your child with a reprieve from electronic toys and indoor activities during holiday break? This winter day camp is an immersive, educational, and fun full-day winter experience at Kettle Creek for ages 7-12. Campers must bring lunch, snack, reusable water bottle, backpacks, extra clothing, hiking shoes or boots. See pages 2-3 for more information. **Cost: \$30 per child, payment due at time of registration. Registration deadline is Friday, December 20th.**

Tuesday, December 31st—Building Closes at Noon—Holiday

Wednesday, January 1st—Building Closed—Holiday

Saturday, January 4th—Building Closed



Let's Make Fire Cider! DIY Workshop

Saturday, January 11th – 10am

Fire cider is a traditional and beloved herbal tonic made with apple cider vinegar, honey, and other ingredients to support digestion, circulation, and immunity. It's fun and simple to prepare once you know how. Join us to learn about its history and benefits and make your own custom blend with the help of a local herbalist.

Cost: \$20/person. Pre-registration required by Wednesday, January 8th.

KC for Kids: Super Snazzy Snow

Tuesday, January 14th – 10am

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

Saturday & Monday, January 18th & 20th—Building Closed—Holiday

Eagle Watch Bus Trips



January 24th & February 7th – 8:30am - 5pm

Join an Environmental Educator on this field trip to the Upper Delaware River in search of our national symbol, the Bald Eagle. Once a rare sight, many wintering and resident eagles now inhabit this region and the probability for sightings is high. **Meet at the EE Center at 8:30am and return by 5pm.** Participants should pack a lunch and binoculars and dress for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks. **Pre-registration and payment required for all trips. Seating is limited. Cost: \$35 and includes bus transportation.**

Reading the Winter Landscape

Saturday, January 25th – 10 - 11:30am

Come hike the trails at Kettle Creek and see what is revealed when the forest takes its long winter's nap. Weather permitting, we will look for animal tracks in the snow.

Please dress for the weather. Cost: \$5/person



KC for Kids: Freezing Frozen Fun

Tuesday, January 28th – 10am

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

Meet the Artist: Colleen Lidon “The Magic of Nature”

Saturday, February 1st – 11am - 1pm

From capturing little moments in photographs to creating little worlds with lichen and moss, Colleen’s work is inspired by the beauty and magic of the natural world. Art pieces include a mix of photography, paintings, fairy gardens, stained glass and more. Her show will be on display all month long. **There is no charge.**

Winter Bog Walk

Saturday, February 1st – 2pm

Weather permitting, we will be venturing into the Bog to view this unique habitat at a different time of the year. 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. Pre-registration is required. **Participants should dress for the weather and wear proper footwear.**

Cost: \$6/person. Meet in the Bog parking lot located at 552 Cherry Lane Road, East Stroudsburg, PA.

Saturday, February 8th—Building Closed

KC for Kids: Cozy Critters: Exploring Winter Wildlife and Hibernation

Tuesday, February 11th – 10am

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



Full Moon Walk at Kettle Creek

Tuesday, February 11th – 6:30 - 8:30pm

Join us for the opportunity to take a walk under the light of a full moon on a clear winter night. Even though it is the middle of winter there are many things going on outside at Kettle Creek. This is a walk for the whole family to enjoy. Please dress for the weather and possibly snow covered trails. Hot chocolate will be served at the end of the walk.

Cost: \$5/person and registration is required and limited.

Saturday & Monday, February 15th & 17th—Building Closed—Holiday

The Fascinating World of Owls: Pellets and Beyond

Saturday, February 22nd – 11am

This hands-on program allows participants of all ages to learn about the incredible world of owls, from their unique behaviors to their essential role in nature. Dive deeper into owl anatomy by dissecting real owl pellets and uncovering the mysteries of their diet. This exciting and educational experience is perfect for curious minds of all ages!

Cost: \$5/person



KC for Kids: Evergreens Everywhere

Tuesday, February 25th – 10am

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



Maple Sugaring Public Day

Saturday, March 1st or Saturday, March 8th

Take a 90-minute tour of our Meesing sugarbush focusing on the history of maple syrup from the Native Americans to the early settlers in this region. Learn how to “tap” a maple tree to obtain sap, and watch as we demonstrate how to cook the sap until it is sweet maple syrup. You’ll complete the tour at our pancake station where the finished product is served over freshly made pancakes. **Pre-registration is required by calling 570-629-3061.**

Participants may choose a time from 10am-2pm for their 90-minute tour.

Cost: \$6/adults, \$4/children under 12. Tree sponsors attend FREE of charge.

PLEASE DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER INCLUDING SHOES APPROPRIATE FOR TRAIL WALKING.



KC for Kids: To Be Announced...

Tuesday, March 11th – 10am

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

Understanding Road Salt: How It Works, Its Benefits, and its Impacts on Humans and the Environment

Road salt, made up of Sodium Chloride, Calcium Chloride, and Magnesium Chloride, lowers the freezing point of water to keep roads, walkways, driveways, and parking lots safe during cold weather. Road salt melts ice, but also plays a crucial role in preventing snow and ice from bonding to pavement. For example, freshwater freezes at 32°F, but saltwater freezes at 28°F. The current salt solutions used for treating roads can decrease the freezing temperature of water to ~ 15°F.

However, too much salt on our roads can be harmful. Overuse can alter soil and water quality. Road salt leaches into the soil and can damage or kill nearby plants. And salt easily pollutes water—harming streams and wildlife and potentially contaminating drinking water, which can lead to health issues like high blood pressure, migraines, and heart problems. In fact, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says just 12 ounces of salt is enough to treat a 20-foot driveway!

What can you do?

Join **Saltwatch!** Monroe County Conservation District is monitoring salt levels in local streams, rivers, ponds, and tap water. **You can pick up a free testing kit at the district, and we'll add your results to our growing citizen driven database.** By tracking trends as a community, we help ensure that both our drinking water and the environment stay safe for generations to come.

Questions?

Contact Watershed Specialist Charles Kelshaw at Ckmccd@ptd.net

In other news....

Over the past few months our technical team has participated in a variety of events, including expos, conservation partner board meetings, specialized training sessions, and Environmental Education initiatives for Monroe County residents and beyond. These efforts are aimed at refining our skills and raising awareness about the vital work we do at the conservation district. ❄️



Project Feederwatch



Project FeederWatch is off to a fantastic start this season with our dedicated volunteers spending roughly 15 hours biweekly observing our feeders. Project FeederWatch is a citizen science project that provides valuable information to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology about bird populations and distribution. So far this season we have observed 19 bird species at our feeders, including an unusual appearance of a Red-Winged Blackbird, a migrant that usually flies south by early October. This rare sighting highlights the diversity of species that can appear throughout the season, reminding us of the dynamic nature of bird migration.



For more information or to get involved as a volunteer, call us or email dldmccd@ptd.net. ❄️

KETTLE CREEK FOR KIDS



KCK is back this winter! Programs are at 10am every other Tuesday for ages 3-6. Parent or 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, please call to sign up!

January 14	Super Snazzy Snow - The most special thing about wintertime is the beautiful and fluffy snow! Even if there's no snow outside, we can make our own version of snow to play with — snow slime!
January 28	Freezing Frozen Fun - In this program will be doing experiments and activities to spark our curiosities about the cold. Join us for a fun adventure to learn all about the science of freezing, melting and more!
February 11	Cozy Critters: Exploring Winter Wildlife and Hibernation - We'll head out to explore the trails and discover where animals hibernate during the winter, all while learning about what hibernation means and why it's so important! Then we'll get creative and build our own cozy animal nests using natural materials, just like the animals do.
February 25	Evergreens Everywhere - Evergreen trees are here year-round, but they're especially noticeable during the winter. Join us at Kettle Creek to explore what makes these trees, and other plants, unique. Weather permitting, we will venture out into the snow to see some of our resident evergreens, so please dress accordingly.
March 11	Mystery KCK —TBA

A Season of Saw-Whet Owls

By Darryl and Jackie Speicher, Pocono Avian Research Center



2024 was a banner year for saw-whet owl migration through the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. From early October through the middle of November we logged 10 nights of banding effort and encountered a total of 43 saw-whet owls. Of these 40 of them were new birds and 3 were recaptured birds banded somewhere else. As of the writing of this article we have yet to find out where they were originally banded.

The demographic breakdown by sex was 1 definite male, 32 females and 10 of unknown sex. Project OwlNet protocols allow us to use a peer-reviewed ratio of wing cord to mass to determine the sex of an individual owl. As is true for all raptors, diurnal and nocturnal, there is sexual dimorphism between males and females in size. The females are larger than the males, thus the wing cord to mass ratio can tell us the largest owls are females, the smallest owls are males but there is a large area of overlap where the ratio cannot help us. There are several various thoughts on the subject of why more females get banded each year but they are merely speculation. Perhaps the use of a male territorial call attracts the females and is avoided by other males or perhaps males tend to stay closer to their established breeding locations making them easier to defend when the time to raise a family arrives.

The age demographics break down as 17 After Hatch Year (AHY) birds (known adults) and 24 Hatch Year (HY) birds. We can determine the age of the birds or at least separate the HY birds from AHY birds by comparing the molt in their flight feathers of the wings. They produce a pigment called porphyrin which fluoresces under UV light. New feathers will glow with a deep magenta color when exposed to a blacklight; as the feathers age the pigment wears and the color fades. Saw-whet owls will only show uniform bright magenta feathers when they are HY birds because all of the feathers were developed at the same time. In subsequent years saw-whet owls undergo incomplete molt meaning that they retain some of their flight feathers and molt others. This will be visible under the blacklight as there will be varying degrees of magenta among the feathers.

We have been conducting Project OwlNet here in Monroe County for the last 24 years beginning in the fall of 2000. Even with all those years of effort we did experience some firsts in 2024. The night we opened the nets for the very first time coincided with the spectacular Northern Light display. Another astronomical delight was searching the heavens for comet Tsuchinshan-ATLAS. As memorable as those experiences are, there were two other firsts that will stay with us for a long time.

We held three open houses at the banding station to invite the public to share our passion for learning about Saw-whet Owls. For the first time since we moved OwlNet to Kettle Creek, everyone that participated in an open house got to see a saw-whet owl. In fact, there was not one night without owls at the banding station this year. One of those owls had a colombola, a genetic disorder that results in a deformity in the eye. We had seen pictures of saw-whets with this affliction but had never seen one at our banding station before.

One last tale from the banding station occurred the night after the first open house, which was a huge success. We banded a total of 10 owls that night and everyone in attendance had a wonderful time. When there is an open house the place is hopping, there is a lot of activity and conversation. These are wonderful experiences and we love to see everyone that comes out. We also love a nice quiet night when we're all alone. Such was the Saturday after the first open house. We arrived as it was getting dark and made our way up to open the nets. As we turned onto the net lane we saw eye shine down at the end of net 4. This is not uncommon—we often see the eye shine in our head lamps and thought it was just another large deer. With all our activity the critter's gaze never diverted—it stayed fixed upon us as we went about our business. As I was stringing net 3 I was walking directly toward it and when I had reached the end my lamp could now fully illuminate the animal behind the eye shine. An adult black bear laying down in the leaf litter only 12 meters away. Loudly I said, "go on get out of here." It stood up and with its back to me looked back at us and let out a loud guttural "huff." So I doubled down and once again called out in a firm voice, "you heard me get out of here." At this point the bear turned to face us, took two steps toward us and this time let out two very forceful "huffs." That was all we needed to see and decided to leave the banding station to the bear. We went back a half hour later and the bear was gone, but not knowing where the very large bear was left us unsure, and then the coyotes began loudly yapping, barking, baying and howling – all around. This left us completely unnerved and so for the first time ever we decided to leave the nets closed – because the woods can be a scary place at night. ❄️



A Saw-whet Owl with a colombola, a genetic deformity of the eye

DGLVR PROGRAM EXCEEDS ONE TWO MILLION DOLLARS

MCCD's DIRT GRAVEL & LOW VOLUME ROAD PROGRAM PROVIDES GRANTS TO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY BENEFICIAL ROAD MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

Since 1997, when Polk Township first tested a new method for maintaining dirt roads on Hell Hollow, MCCD has been assisting municipalities with improved methods for minimizing erosion and reducing sedimentation to local waterways. Twenty-five years later, the District, with funding provided through the State Conservation Commission (SCC), exceeded \$2,000,000 in grant money allocated to local municipalities.

Originally formed as the Dirt and Gravel Road Program, the program was initiated by Trout Unlimited (TU) with the assistance of PennDOT and the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Funding was provided to DCNR and through the SCC to Conservation Districts that signed on to the program in an effort to reduce sediment pollution to streams at road interfaces. The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies was created at Penn State to figure out best practices, and to train Districts and municipal employees on implementation.

No one knew in 1997 that the Center would become world renowned for its efforts and research into how to build better roads and keep streams cleaner. Today, Center staff travels the globe spreading the information gleaned from this program, and research into dust reduction, nutrient runoff, and aquatic organism passage.

One of the outcomes from the success of the program came in 2013 when the program received a major increase in funding and experienced rapid expansion. Statewide funding jumped from \$5 million per year to \$35 million per year, and the beloved D&G program was expanded to allow for work on low volume paved roads. The now **DGLVR** program has allowed Districts along with partner municipalities to tackle projects that could not be done at prior funding levels. MCCD now receives an annual allocation of nearly \$230,000 for road improvements that benefit local waterways. Over the last five years since we hit the million dollar mark in 2019, we have exceeded our second million dollars in grant monies.

The District would like to thank all of the municipal and state level partners who have made this program the success that it is today. Currently 10 of the County's 20 municipalities are eligible to receive funding through Center provided training. We are currently accepting application for 2025 and 2026 projects. For more information on the program, contact Resource Conservation Specialist John Motz at 570-629-3060. ❄️

Monroe County Photo Calendar Contest Results



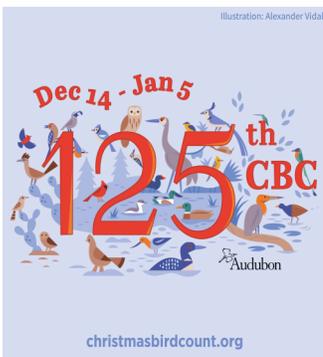
The results are in! As always we were faced with a very tough challenge to pick only 12 out of all the fantastic photos that were submitted. Albert Imperato's beautiful capture of a Barred Owl blending into the forest earned the top spot as the cover winner.

All winners receive a copy of the 2025 calendar and a pint of maple syrup from our very own Meesing Sugarbush. The cover winner receives a calendar and a *quart* of maple syrup.

Kettle Creek is pleased to offer the 2025 calendars for sale in the Gift Shop for \$9.95 plus tax. All winners will have their photographs on display in the Art Gallery at Kettle Creek through January 31st.

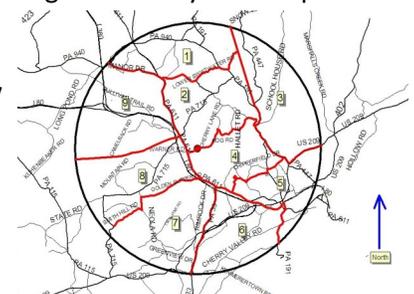
Stop in today to browse the photos and purchase a calendar! ❄️

Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count



Audubon's Christmas Bird Count is a great time to get together with local bird enthusiasts, to count birds, and to participate in one of the longest-running community science programs in the nation. This community effort mobilizing more than 70,000 volunteer bird counters fuels Audubon's work throughout the year. **You can add to a century of community service by joining a count near you!**

This year's Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count will be **Sunday, December 15th**. Anyone interested in participating (see count circle at right) can contact Darryl and Jackie Speicher at poconoavian@gmail.com. ❄️



PUBLISHED BY:

MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

CALL FOR SATURDAY GIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS!

We are seeking reliable individuals who wouldn't mind spending some occasional Saturday mornings (typically 9am to noon) helping out at Kettle Creek!

Volunteers will help staff the gift shop and will be trained to answer phones, check in program participants, and do P.O.S. transactions while our environmental educators lead on-site programs.

If you're interested or have any questions, please contact Brittney at bcmccd@ptd.net. We greatly appreciate the community's help!

The Gallery at *Kettle Creek*

December & January Photo Contest Display

Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest.

The top 12 photos will be available on a 2025 calendar

February

Colleen Lidon "The Magic of Nature"

From capturing little moments in photographs to creating little worlds with lichen and moss, Colleen's work is inspired by the beauty and magic of the natural world. Art pieces include a mix of photography, paintings, fairy gardens, stained glass, and more.

March

Gary Embich "America's Beautiful"

A collection of 50 watercolor paintings that promote the preservation of our country by reminding people that we can do our part in keeping America Beautiful by preventing wildfires that can destroy the beautiful and unique things that each of our states has to offer.

SPONSOR *A Maple Tree*

FOR JUST
\$25/TREE
EACH SPONSOR
RECEIVES

- a pint of our **fresh maple syrup**
- a certificate
- **Free Admission** to one of our Maple Sugaring public day programs on Saturday, March 1st or 8th for up to four people
- a map showing the location of your tree in our Meesing Sugarbush



This year's Maple Sugaring Public Day event will be held on two Saturdays and pre-registration is required.

Download a **Sponsor a Tree** form on our website or give us a call at 570-629-3061 for more information.



MCCONSERVATION.ORG