



Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

Conservation Through Education

Fall 2015 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 39 No. 3

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

Admin/Technical 570-629-3060  
Environmental Education 570-629-3061  
Website: mcconservation.org

## Monroe County Farm Tour 2015



The Monroe County Conservation District and the Penn State Cooperative Extension are proudly hosting the 2015 Farm Tour to connect consumers with local producers. Participants will have the opportunity to visit local farms to learn about their available products and farm management. The 2015 Monroe County Farm Tour will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 am to 3 pm. Brochures and maps for this self-guided tour will be available at the farms, our office, and on our website, mcconservation.org. For more information, please call our office at 570-629-3060.

### Pohopoco Creek Alpacas 216 Merwinsburg Road Effort, PA 18330

This farm breeds and sells alpacas and offers wonderful products made from alpaca fleece. *Educational Activity:* Visitors will be able to meet the alpacas up close and personal. They will learn about the history, care, and use of the animals and see carding and spinning demonstrations.

### Blue Ridge Winery 239 Blue Ridge Road Saylorsburg, PA 18353

Their location provides the ideal environment for grape growing, creating unique and elegant wines full of character. The tasting room overlooks the beautiful sprawling vineyards. *Educational Activity:* Learn how to grow grapes and make wine!

### Borger Farms 540 Silver Springs Boulevard Kunkletown, PA 18058

This multigenerational farm grows sweet and field corn, pumpkins, and other produce, and also raises beef cattle. Most of the row crops are planted with the use of a no-till planter. *Educational Activity:* The farm owner will discuss management of the farm for raising beef and veggies.

### Apple Ridge Farm 1198 Pennel Road Saylorsburg, PA 18353

Apple Ridge is a sustainable family farm, which includes certified naturally grown produce, hydroponically grown produce, pasture-raised chicken and eggs, bee hives, and a wood-fired brick oven for sourdough bread baking. *Educational Activity:* Tour the farm property to see the various components of the farm and how they all fit together to create a sustainable system.

### The Garden of Giving 2556 Rising Hill Drive Saylorsburg, PA 18353

The Garden of Giving provides fresh produce and eggs to Monroe County food banks. *Educational Activity:* Participants will learn about the mission of The Garden of Giving and have the opportunity to plant garlic for harvesting next year.

### Josie Porter Farm 6514 Cherry Valley Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Josie Porter Farm is a biodynamically managed vegetable farm. The farm has a diversified operation including the Cherry Valley CSA and Buying Club, Winter Markets, Restaurant sales, and garlic products sold at Garlic Festivals throughout the Northeast. The farm's mission is to provide a connection to the land and food through education, farming and community. *Educational Activity:* There will be farm tours, the market will be open, and Pocono Herb Club will be available to answer questions at an interactive display along with herbal activities.

### Stryker Farm 3045 Mountain Road Saylorsburg, PA 18353

A 47-acre diverse livestock farm featuring pigs, goats, sheep, poultry and more! All livestock raised humanely with fresh air, sunshine, and room to roam. They never administer antibiotics or hormones and are only fed with non-GMO feeds. *Educational Activity:* Self-guided farm tours to see the animals.

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### **Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors**

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Theresa Merli, Edith Stevens,  
Janet Weidensaul

### **District Staff**

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Head Resource Conservationist

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Michael J. Wilk, P.E.  
Hydraulic Engineers

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Resource Conservation Specialists

Steven Baade  
Resource Conservationist

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Education Coordinator

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Brian Hardiman, Darryl Speicher  
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras  
Administrative Coordinator

Alesia Gallo, Debra Martin  
Office Assistant Senior

Robert Gubitosi, Groundskeeper

The Board of Directors' monthly  
meeting is held at 8 am on the third  
Thursday of each month in the  
District office.

### **Don't Forget about the Detour!**

The Rimrock Drive bridge over Pocono Creek is now officially closed for replacement. The road closure is just south of the intersection of Rimrock Drive and Route 611, so please plan another route to get to Kettle Creek!

Coming from areas North & West:

Take Rt. 611 South and turn Right on Rt. 715 South (OR take I-80 East and get off at the Tannersville exit [Exit 299], and make a Left at end of ramp onto Rt. 715 South). Follow Rt. 715 South for 4 miles, and make a Left on Neola Rd. Continue on Neola Rd. for 2 miles, and turn Left on Running Valley Rd. Follow Running Valley Road for 3.1 miles. Pass the intersection of Mutton Hollow Road, and Kettle Creek will be .5 miles on the Right.

Coming from areas East:

Take I-80 West and get off at Exit 304 (Snydersville) to follow Rt. 209 South towards Snydersville. Travel 3.8 miles on Rt. 209 South, and make a Right onto Beaver Valley Rd. At the stop sign make a Left onto Business Rt. 209 South. Go almost 1 mile and make a Right onto Rimrock Dr. Go 0.3 miles and make a slight Left onto Mutton Hollow Rd. Follow Mutton Hollow Road for 1.8 miles and make a Right at the T onto Running Valley Rd. Travel .5 miles and Kettle Creek will be on the Right. ☆



### **Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update**

The 24th Annual KCEF Dinner/Auction was held on May 29, 2015 and the amount raised was one of the highest ever. The Board extends its sincere thanks to our sponsors, donors, and all who attended. Special thanks to auctioneer Bob Teel and The Crop Circle Agents for entertainment and the KCEEC staff for all their hard work in making the evening a success. This year's sponsors included "Baumgartner Family Farm, Joseph and Sara Bedrick, Bushkill Falls "The Niagara of Pennsylvania," Camelback Mountain Resort, Cherry Lane Foundation, Chestnuthill Township, Carol A. Dorshimer and Ralph C. Bond, Ann and Joseph Farda Foundation, Tim and Jill Fisher, Hamilton Township, International Sports Training Camp, Jackson Township, Lake Naomi Club, Mount Airy Casino Resort, Northeast Site Contractors, Paradise Township, Pocono Raceway/Mattioli Foundation, Pocono Township, PPL Electric Utilities Corp., John and Phyllis Riley, Sanofi Pasteur, S.I.D.E. Corporation, Rose Schoch, The Loft, Weiler Corporation, and Art Zulick and Paula Heesch.

KCEEC's Environmental Education Coordinator Roger Spotts presented the 2014 Rose Schoch Award to Rita Lacey of Kunkletown for outstanding contributions to environmental education. This award is presented to someone who KCEF members feel has contributed to environmental education either through their work or financial support. Rita has been active in the business of recycling and reusing in the Pocono region for many years.



**Rita Lacey, CEO of "Close the Loop,"  
received the 2014 Rose Schoch Award**

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## News 'N Notes

### Water, Water Everywhere... And Not a Drop to Drink

Our water supply is struggling, according to the NASA study reported in the Washington Post on June 16, 2015. Over a decade of statistics indicates twenty-seven of the world's largest aquifers are hard pressed to keep up with water supply demands from agriculture, growing populations, and industries.

Aquifers in India and China, the United States, and France have "passed their sustainability tipping points." This means that more water was consumed than replaced during this decade-long study period between 2003 through 2013. The researchers fear that this is a long-term problem that will likely get worse with water demands.

According to *American Rivers*, a family of four in the United States uses 400 gallons of water every day.

What can you do?

- ♦ Turn off the tap
- ♦ Use rain barrels to water the garden
- ♦ Limit use of sprinklers to water lawns
- ♦ Install low flow faucets and showerheads
- ♦ Check for leaks!
- ♦ Drop a "brick" in your toilet tank



A combination of these ideas can reduce your in-home water use by 35%.

See more at: <http://www.americanrivers.org/take-action> ☆

### "I Never Promised You a Rain Garden"

Rain gardens are a type of "Green Infrastructure" method used as a "bioretention system" in the management of stormwater. They are essentially vegetated depressions, designed to capture and filter the water running off of roofs, driveways, and other impervious surfaces, such as concrete and black-top.

Not only are rain gardens functional, but these "constructed, wetland depressions" can provide a beautiful flare of colorful, flowering, native plants to your yard that will attract birds and butterflies and provide valuable habitat.

The idea behind these rain gardens mimics that of a natural wetland ecosystem. The landscaped depression, soils, and plants allow rain to slowly soak into the ground, and can actually reduce the potential for erosion and minimize the amount of pollutants (i.e., fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) that can come from your lawn into a storm drain, and eventually into our lakes, rivers, and streams.

There are a number of very good rain garden manuals available online. The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) has information on where to buy and choose the right plant for your native plants for you garden conditions at <http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants/index.htm> ☆

### "ROCK SNOT" in the Delaware River

*Didymosphenia geminata* is an invasive aquatic algae, commonly

referred to as "Didymo" or "Rock Snot." These algae are native to northern North America and Europe and, unlike other forms of aquatic algae, prefer clean, cold waterways for their home. Didymo's long white stalks attach to the streambed in dense mats that resemble strands of tannish colored toilet paper. The cells of the algae contain silica that give it a rough, wool-like texture.

According to the Delaware River Basin Commission, large, stalked Didymo blooms were found in the Delaware River Basin since 2007 in both New York and Pennsylvania. According to the National Park Service, there was over 100 miles of the river infested with this algae in 2012.

These thick mats of Didymo crowd out the native algae in the stream and severely alter the habitat of the stream and fishery alike. The algae can easily "hitch-hike" on felt-soled wading boots or on boats and gear and infest nearby streams and cold water fisheries, wreaking havoc on the native ecosystem.

There is no known method for controlling or eradicating Didymo once a water body becomes infested, so containment is critical.

What can you do?

- ♦ Wash all gear and boats in hot, soapy water before portaging to another waterbody to avoid transporting aquatic invasive species
- ♦ Avoid moving water and live bait from one waterbody to another
- ♦ And most of all spread the word, not the Rock Snot! ☆

**STOP ROCK SNOT**





# Kid's Niche: The Three Sisters



What better way to celebrate autumn than to tap into the true spirit of the season! Native Americans, the first known humans to civilize our part of the world, were stewards of the land and masters of the environment. With no concept of “calories” or ways to measure energy content in foods, they understood that corn provided more energy to the body per acre than any other crop. Corn was the primary crop among most Native American tribes. They believed that, like humans, corn cannot grow to its full potential without the help of others. They discovered that corn grew much fuller and bigger when grown in the company of other crops. Thus, the “Three Sisters” tradition was passed on throughout the generations.

Corn, beans, and squash were known to the Iroquois as precious gifts given by the Great Spirit, where three sister spirits watched over each plant. The plants were grown together as the Three Sisters because each one provides essentials that the others need. Corn acts as a natural pole for the bean vines to climb. In return, the beans fix the soil with nitrogen from their roots, ultimately increasing the fertility of the soil for the following years’ corn. Shallow-rooted squash grows over the ground providing a cover from weeds while offering shade to slow water evaporation from the soil. Native Americans may have also used spiny squash plants to discourage animals from feeding on the crops. After harvest, the leftover plant materials add organic matter to the soil for next year.

The Three Sisters also complement each other nutritionally. Corn provides carbohydrates, beans provide proteins that the corn lacks, and the squash gives us necessary vitamins from the fruit and beneficial oil from the seeds. Success with a Three Sisters garden involves careful attention to timing, seed spacing, and varieties. In many areas, if you simply plant all three in the same hole at the same time, the result will be a snarl of vines in which the corn gets overwhelmed!



Created by: **Ryan Brancato**  
ESU Intern

## *Instructions for Planting Your Own Three Sisters Garden in a 10' x 10' square*

### **When to plant:**

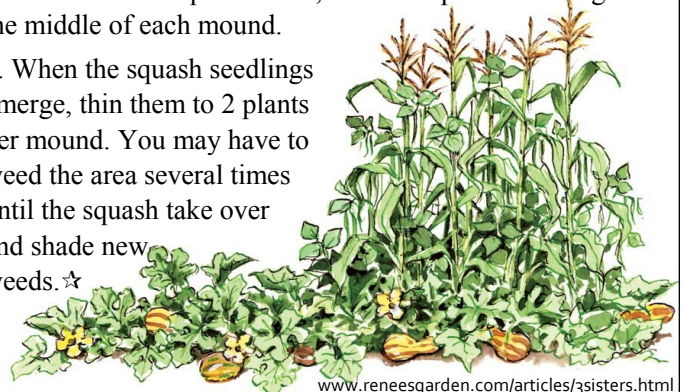
Sow seeds any time after spring night temperatures are in the 50 degree range, up through June.

### **What to plant:**

Corn must be planted in several rows rather than one long row to ensure adequate pollination. Choose pole beans or runner beans and a squash or pumpkin variety with trailing vines, rather than a compact bush.

### **How to plant:**

1. Choose a site in full sun (minimum 6-8 hours/day of direct sunlight throughout the growing season). Amend the soil with plenty of compost or aged manure, since corn is a heavy feeder and the nitrogen from your beans will not be available to the corn during the first year. With string, mark off three ten-foot rows, five feet apart.
2. In each row, make your corn/bean mounds. These raised mounds help improve drainage and soil warmth. The center of each mound should be 5 feet apart from the center of the next. Each mound should be 18 inches across with flattened tops. The mounds should be staggered in adjacent rows. To help conserve water, you can make a small crater at the top of your mounds so the water doesn't drain off the plants quickly.
3. Plant 4 corn seeds in each mound in a 6-inch square.
4. When the corn is 4 inches tall, it's time to plant the beans and squash. First, weed the entire patch. Then plant 4 bean seeds in each corn mound. They should be 3 inches apart from the corn plants, completing the square.
5. Build your squash mounds in each row between each corn/bean mound. Make them the same size as the corn/bean mounds. Plant 3 squash seeds, 4 inches apart in a triangle in the middle of each mound.
6. When the squash seedlings emerge, thin them to 2 plants per mound. You may have to weed the area several times until the squash take over and shade new weeds. ☆



[www.reneegarden.com/articles/3sisters.html](http://www.reneegarden.com/articles/3sisters.html)



## 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Conservation Camp

On Saturday, July 25, 2015, twenty-five teenagers from Monroe County and the surrounding area completed the Monroe County Conservation Camp. This was the 41<sup>st</sup> camp sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District and the Monroe County Federation of Sportsman Clubs and generously supported by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund as well as other local businesses and organizations. This year's camp was a great success with students taking part in numerous hands-on activities provided by various agencies and clubs including archery, fly-fishing, wildlife and fisheries management, forest management, and a two-day canoe trip on the Delaware River. They also visited a sewage treatment facility, a local gun club, and the Josie Porter Farm. At the end of the week-long camp, students were asked to write down their thoughts about the camp. One student wrote, "I am so glad that there exists an opportunity for young people like us to learn how to be in harmony with the earth and actually focus on that. Every time someone spoke about our responsibilities as members of the human race so effortlessly, I wished that every single person in the world could hear."

At the end of the week, Brittany Webster of Stroudsburg was named 2015 Outstanding Camper. Certificates and patches were awarded to all the students from various county and state agencies. Plans are underway for the 2016 camp to be held on July 16 - 23, 2016 at East Stroudsburg University's Stony Acres facility near Marshall's Creek. For more information and to receive an application, please contact the EE Center. ☆



*Above: 41st Conservation Camp Staff and Campers. Below left: Conservation Campers and Staff on their two-day canoe trip on the Delaware River. Below right: Two campers celebrate after climbing to the top of the "Giant's Ladder" at Stony Acres.*



### Don't Forget—MCCD's First 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 2016 MCCD calendar! Submissions due September 30th. For details and entry form, please see the link on our website, [mcconservation.org](http://mcconservation.org).





## Another Bug Fest Success!

Thanks once again to the efforts of the 4-H Insects Are Us club, the ninth annual Bug Fest at Kettle Creek was a huge success. Bug Fest started eight years ago as a fun and educational way to tap into the natural curiosity of children for all things creepy and crawly. On July 11, nearly 250 people attended the day's festivities. Children competed in the Insect Olympics, went on a safari, experienced a live puppet show, created their own insects, designed and wore their own antennae, fished for macroinvertebrates, spun the wheel of insect knowledge, made a beeswax candle and visited a live butterfly tent. For the second year in a row the day's highlight was the children who came dressed as their favorite bug and participated in the Insect Fashion Show. Bug Fest is the social event of the summer for children and bugs of all ages. Planning is already underway on Bug Fest 2016. We hope to see you all there. ☆

## The Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt

It's that time of year to get your team together and compete in the Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt. The teams are trying not just to find more birds than the competition, but the rarest birds in Monroe County over a 24 hour period.

This year's snipe hunt will begin at 5 pm on Friday, October 2nd and end at the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary at 5 pm on Saturday, October 3rd. Following the hunt all the teams will be treated to dinner and the presentation of the coveted GMC Snipe Hunt trophy. Will the Long-tailed Jaegermeisters three-peat as champions or will another team of snipe hunters capture the trophy this year? For a copy of the official Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt rules and registration information contact the EE Center at (570) 629-3061. Cost: \$15/team member. All participating team members will receive an official Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt license. Registration deadline is Wednesday, September 30. **Pre-registration and payment are required. Refunds will be given only if notification is given at least one week in advance.** ☆

## Butterfly Count Results

The 17<sup>th</sup> North American Butterfly Association Annual Butterfly Count attracted 15 participants, most of whom joined us at Kettle Creek, while others searched the Tannersville Cranberry Bog and the Blakeslee Farm in the Cherry Valley. This year we counted 458 individual butterflies representing 31 different species. We are happy to say that there were once again Monarch butterflies counted; two of them were seen at the Blakeslee farm. That was also the location of the common ringlet which was documented for the first time. The data we collected will be shared with NABA. All of MCCD's contributions to efforts such as this are contributing to our growing understanding of the incredible diversity of life on earth and how our actions influence the population dynamics of other living things. ☆

### KCEF Board Members

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Tim Brooks  
Patrick Calpin  
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Trudi Quinn Denlinger  
Tim Fisher, II  
Kara Klaus-Major  
John Reilly  
John J. Riley



## Kettle Creek Update

### Cont'd from page 2

Rita Lacey is the President and CEO of "Close the Loop," a business based in Kunkletown which she started in 2000. Their mission is to help preserve our environment by viewing our waste as a valuable resource, and to assist in the development and marketing of consumer recycled products made in the USA. Their products range from recycled glass mulch, rubber playground mulch, tire swings from repurposed tires, to recycled plastic fencing. Rita also operates a business that provides environmentally conscious small businesses with free websites to promote their products. Rita takes the "Magic of Recycling" to our schools as well. She offers a program that educates the next generation on ways to protect our environment. Her classroom programs reach thousands of school children each year. In 2011, Close the Loop was awarded the Take Pride in America National Award by the U.S. Department of the Interior for its commitment of stewardship of our public lands and our cultural and natural resources.

The KCEF Board and KCEEC staff is working to prepare the 2016 Wish List for the coming year. Included on the list is to continue funding Conservation Camp, the Environments, Bug Fest, and the 2016 Bio-Blitz. Along with that we have committed to continue cost-sharing Stroudsburg 1st grade programs, Pocono Mountain and East Stroudsburg 3rd grade "Pocono Habitats" units and funding all four school district 4th Grade "Wetland" units at the Bog and classroom visits. These activities are only possible because of the continued generosity of our many longtime supporters.

The KCEF Board wishes all a safe and healthy fall. ☆

-John Woodling, KCEF President

# KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

## SEPTEMBER

**Public Bog Walk - 9<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - Join an Environmental Educator at 10 am 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. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. **Pre-registration is required.** **Directions:** Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right.

**Hike to the Top - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join Environmental Educator Brittney Coleman at 10 am for a discovery hike to the top of the unnamed ridge across the road from the EE Center building. These seldom used trails offer opportunities to see undisturbed wildlife, a huge glacial erratic boulder, and do some off-trail exploring in search of a scenic vista at the top. The hike is not strenuous, but it is steep in spots. Wear hiking shoes or boots, and bring water and a snack. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Art Opening: Nancy Pitcher - "The Beauty of Nature" - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am- 1pm.**

**Public Bog Walk - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join an Environmental Educator at 2 pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour journey into the Bog environment. Please wear appropriate footwear. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Public Bog Walk - 16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Josie Porter Farm Meandering - "A Late Summer's Eve" - 16<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - As summer ends there are still many interesting natural things to discover at the Josie Porter Farm. The walk is from 4-6 pm and meets in the farm parking lot on Cherry Valley Rd. Please wear walking shoes and dress to be outside. Pre-registration is suggested. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/EE Center or CSA members, children under 12 free.

**Dragonflies and Their Allies - 19<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Birds and butterflies fill our minds with flights of fancy, but there is another group of winged beasts out there that dominate the air above ponds and meadows and late summer is the best time to find them – Dragonflies. Join Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher for a journey through Kettle Creek in search of dragonflies and damselflies, learning about their amazing lives as we go. This 2-hour walk will begin at 10 am. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Public Bog Walk - 20<sup>th</sup> - Sunday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Public Bog Walk - 23<sup>rd</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Hawk Mountain Field Trip - 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman on this trip where you will learn about the history of this storied hawk watch while also having the opportunity to witness firsthand the autumn raptor migration. Meet at the EE Center at 8:30 am and we'll return at 5:30 pm. Cost: \$29/non-members, \$23/EE Center members, and includes bus transportation and entrance fees to HMS. Binoculars, food and drink, and hiking footwear are suggested. Dress for the weather and be prepared for a moderately strenuous one-mile hike to the lookout. **Pre-registration and payment is required. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week in advance.**

**Building Open - 26<sup>th</sup> - Sat. 9 am - 1 pm**

**3rd Annual Membership Picnic - 27<sup>th</sup> - Sunday** - see page 11 for information.

**Full Moon Hike at Tannersville Bog - 28<sup>th</sup> - Monday** - Explore the Bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30 pm and participants should bring a flashlight. For more information, please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration is required.**

**Public Bog Walk - 30<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

## OCTOBER

**Home School Program "Decomposers" - 1<sup>st</sup> - Thursday** - see last page for details.

**The Great Monroe County Snipe Hunt - 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> - Friday & Saturday** - Please see page 6 for more information.

**Monroe County Farm Tour - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday** - For information, time, and a list of the farms, please see cover page.

**It Could Happen to Anyone (Hug-a-Tree Program) - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday** - Anyone can get lost in the woods. This program with Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle from 10 – 11:30 am is for children ages 5 – 12 and their parents. It will teach children what to do so they don't get lost in the first place, plus what to do if they do get lost. Cost: \$3/child non-member. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Art Opening: Karen Zingerman/Culleen Doolittle - "Walk with Us" - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am- 1pm.**

**Public Bog Walk - 7<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Rattlesnake Swamp Hike - 9<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman on this 5-mile hike in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. The trail explores wetland and ridge-top and is one of Brian's favorites in the DWGNRA. We will meet at the EE Center at 8:30 am and return 5 pm. Participants should pack a lunch and plenty of water, and need to be physically fit for hiking distances over rocky, uneven terrain. Cost: \$24/non-members, \$18/EE Center members. **Pre-registration and payment required. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip.**

**Building Open - 10<sup>th</sup> - Sat. 9 am - 1 pm**

Building closed - 12<sup>th</sup> - Monday - Holiday

**Public Bog Walk - 14<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Bus Trip to Longwood Gardens to see Nightscape: A Light and Sound Experience - 16<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Please see page 9 for information about this unique opportunity to see the spectacle of Longwood Gardens after dark! **Pre-registration and payment are required and limited. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip. Pre-payment must be received by Friday, October 9th.**

*Continued on next page*

\*Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, and most Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm or visit our website [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).

## KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**Costa Rica Dreaming - 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - The Central American country of Costa Rica is a true paradise for the birdwatcher and naturalist, boasting a bird list of over 800 species, as well as a diverse array of mammals and amphibians and reptiles. Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman at 10 am for a presentation highlighting his three visits to this biologically rich country. Brian will also tell you about his plans for a Kettle Creek-sponsored trip to Costa Rica in the near future. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Bog Day - 18<sup>th</sup> - Sunday** - The Tannersville Cranberry Bog is a very special place which contains many unique plants and animals. Please join us for a whole day of events starting at 10 am. **FREE** walks will be offered throughout the day onto the boardwalk, as well as into other areas of the 1,000-acre preserve. Information on the bog preserve history and the Nature Conservancy will be available. **Pre-registration is required. Directions:** Route 611, at the light at the Tannersville Inn turn onto Cherry Lane Rd. The bog parking lot is 1.9 miles from 611 on the right hand side. Please call for details.

**Public Bog Walk - 21<sup>st</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Autumn Splendor - 24<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join us at 10 am and enjoy a brisk walk discussing seasonal changes taking place during this splendorous time of year! Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Public Bog Walk - 28<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Birding at Brig - 29<sup>th</sup> - Thursday** - Forsythe (formerly Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge in southern NJ is a migratory hotspot for a diversity of birds. Join Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman for a full day of birds and fun—we will meet at the EE Center at 7 am and return 8:30 pm. Cost: \$24/non-members, \$18/EE Center members and includes bus transportation. Participants should pack a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather (it can be cold and windy on the refuge). A dinner stop will be made. **Pre-registration and payment required. Refunds will be given only if notification is given at least one week in advance.**

**Halloween Fun at Kettle Creek - 31<sup>st</sup> -**

**Saturday** - After the trick-or-treating is done, drive over to Kettle Creek and join Environmental Educator Darryl Speicher at 8 pm for Halloween fun around the campfire. He'll tell folk tales, myths, and legends from the Native Americans, Greeks, and early Americana. Also going on that night will be Project OwlNet with the Pocono Avian Research Center so the opportunity to visit with live saw-whet owls is a possibility. This program will be appropriate for ghouls and goblins of all ages, and naturally there will be refreshments around the campfire. Did someone say "I'll have 'smore'?" Cost: \$5/members, \$8/non-members, and \$3/children under 12. **Pre-registration is required.**

## NOVEMBER

**Public Bog Walk - 4<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday** - This guided walk begins at 1 pm. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Home School Program "Bobcats" - 5<sup>th</sup> - Thursday** - see last page for details.

**Sign, Sign, Everywhere There's Signs - 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle to discover the many different clues that animals leave behind. This program beginning at 10 am will be followed by a hike at Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary to look for clues. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Art Opening: Terry Platt - "Scenic Beauty Around the World" - 7<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

Building closed - 11<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday - Holiday

**Build an Ecosystem in a Jar - 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - The Earth is one giant ecosystem in which nutrients cycle through plants, animals, the atmosphere, land, and water. Beginning at 10 am, we will condense an ecosystem down to the size of a glass jar. If we balance our ecosystem right, it can stay healthy without interference. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Public Bog Walk - 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Join an Environmental Educator at 2 pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Full description please see listing for September 9th. **Pre-registration required.**

**Mystery Birding Trip - 20<sup>th</sup> - Friday** - Join Environmental Educator Brian Har-

diman on this field trip where the destinations and target birds will not be revealed until the day of the trip. Meet at the EE Center at 8:30 am and return 5:30 pm. Cost is \$24/non-members, \$18/EE Center members, and includes bus transportation, plenty of birds, and a good time! Participants should pack a lunch, binoculars, and dress appropriately for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks. **Pre-registration and payment is required. Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip.**

**Annual Bird Seed Sale - 21<sup>st</sup> - Saturday** - We will again be offering the Aspen Song line of top quality bird seed at reasonable prices. All members and past buyers will receive Bird Seed flyers in the mail in mid-September. This year's sale will be from 9 am to 1 pm at the EE Center. For more information or to get an order blank, please call us at 570-629-3061 or check out our website at [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).

Building closed - 26<sup>th</sup> - Thursday - Holiday

Building closed - 27<sup>th</sup> - Friday

Building closed - 28<sup>th</sup> - Saturday

## DECEMBER

**Home School Program "Owls" - 3<sup>rd</sup> - Thursday** - see last page for details.

**Herbal Teas with the Speichers - 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - The forests and fields of Kettle Creek are full of exciting options for herbal teas. Join Darryl and Jackie Speicher for an enjoyable walk around Kettle Creek discussing the various plants you can use to make teas that not only taste good, but are good for you! Following our brisk December walk, we'll take time to warm up with a hot cup of tea. This 2 hour program begins at 10 am. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

**Art Opening: Photo Contest Display - 5<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Please see last page for details. **Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm.**

**KC "Disco" Hike - 12<sup>th</sup> - Saturday** - Environmental Educator Brian Hardiman continues his series of seasonal Discovery Hikes with this exploration of Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary. From 10 — 11:30 am, we'll search for anything and everything the natural world has to offer in the early winter. Cost: \$5/non-members, \$3/children under 12. **EE Center members FREE.**

\*Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered. For more information, or to register, please call the Center at 570-629-3061, Monday - Friday 8 am to 4:30 pm, and most Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm or visit our website [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).





*Left to right, front to back: Brittney Coleman, Alesia Gallo, Lori Kerrigan, Honor Carpenter, Bob Gubitosi, Michael Wilk, Steven Baade, and Matthew Giambra*

### Project OwlNet at Kettle Creek

The Pocono Avian Research Center (PARC) is bringing Project OwlNet to the Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary beginning this October. The banding station will be open to visitors every Friday night from October 9 through October 30, from 8—10 pm. Project OwlNet is a continent wide effort to gain a greater understanding of the population dynamics and migratory ecology of the Northern Saw-whet Owl. PARC has been participating in Project OwlNet for 15 years in the Canadensis area but is excited about finding out if these diminutive nocturnal predators are migrating through Kettle Creek too. ☆

### MCCD Welcomes New Staff!

2015 has brought many changes to the Conservation District. Perhaps the most important change is within our staff. As our seasoned employees retire, fresh faces take their place. **Brittney Coleman**, Environmental Educator, studied Political Science, Geography, and Environmental Studies at East Stroudsburg University. She also works as a whitewater river guide, ropes course instructor, and a professional pet-sitter. Her interests include animals, vegetarian cooking, live music, and all sorts of outdoor recreation, often with her two Belgian Malinois pups. **Alesia Gallo**, Office Assistant Senior, has a degree in Computer Networking Systems and currently resides in Tobyhanna with her husband of a little over a year. She loves reading, fun adventures, and spending time with her family. **Lori Kerrigan**, Head Resource Conservationist, is a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control and has over 15 years' experience with environmental assessment, land use planning, permitting, and regulatory compliance. Her background includes providing service to both the public and private-sector. Her hobbies include hiking, biking, skiing, and kayaking. **Honor Carpenter**, Watershed Specialist, recently returned to the area after spending a decade in Alaska working as an environmental regulator. She also worked as a marine mammal biologist in the Gulf of Mexico, and as a fisheries biologist in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska. Honor enjoys sunsets and training her pygmy American Pitbull Terrier, Grayland, for his career as a therapy dog. **Bob Gubitosi**, Groundskeeper, has lived in the Poconos for 26 years. He has been retired just short of five years from working for the NJDEP in enforcement, management, and education. He is celebrating 30 years of marriage this year and has two wonderful sons in their twenties. **Michael Wilk** P.E. is our new Hydraulic Engineer, who has 27 years of experience primarily working in the private engineering consulting business. Mike currently lives in Bartonsville and enjoys skiing, golfing, and whitewater kayaking. **Steven Baade**, Resource Conservationist, is from Weatherly, PA. He graduated from Bloomsburg University with a B.S. in Environmental Biology and a minor in Geography. He enjoys fishing and hiking with his fiancé Kayla and his Labrador Retriever Ally. **Matthew Giambra**, Resource Conservation Specialist, graduated from Keystone College with a B.S. in Environmental Biology. Before that he worked in an environmental lab measuring water quality, which sparked his interest in conservation. Matt enjoys mountain biking, kayaking, hiking, playing music, and being with his wife Rita and 11 month old daughter Mia. ☆

### Bus Trip to Longwood Gardens to see Nightscape: A Light and Sound Experience

On Friday, October 16, don't miss this opportunity to see Longwood Gardens—first in all its daytime glory, then watch the Gardens “transform into a living canvas where light dances with shadow, music fills the air, and your imagination soars. Experience a new kind of beauty as you immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and spectacle of Longwood after dark.” Bring a lunch and ride there in style in our 14-passenger bus. Dinner can be purchased from Longwood Gardens café, restaurant, or the new Beer Garden for pub-type fare. Our day will start with a 1-hour guided tour, then participants can roam the Gardens at their leisure. Be sure to wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. Meet at the EE Center at 11 am. Return time approximately 11 pm. Cost: \$45/EE Center member, \$55/non-member which includes admission, guided tour, and bus transportation. See calendar for payment details. ☆



## Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Program Awards Grants

Pennsylvania's Dirt, Gravel, and Low Volume Road Maintenance Program provides grant funding to local municipalities to reduce environmental impacts and long-term maintenance costs associated with public roads. Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD) administers the program in support of local municipalities and other agencies wishing to obtain funding for local projects under the program. Each year the State Conservation Commission approves funding levels for each District administering the program. In the 2014-2015 fiscal year MCCD was allocated \$100,000 for dirt and gravel road projects and \$113,000 for low-volume paved road projects.

So far this year the District Board of Directors has committed funding to three projects: two for the PA Game Commission and one for Middle Smithfield Township.

The Game Commission is proposing to improve a half mile portion of Schock Mill Road along the Dilldown Creek in State Game Land (SGL) 129 near the Carbon County line. The total project value is estimated at almost \$50,000, with a grant of \$25,400 from the dirt and gravel program. Work includes improvements to drainage and reshaping the road to better shed water. Driving Surface Aggregate (DSA) will then be used to surface to road. (More on DSA in a future issue.)



*Entrenched road section on Schock Mill Road (before) to be filled back up to grade with appropriate grading and drainage installed.*

The Game Commission's second grant application is for replacement of two culvert stream crossings with bridges on SGL 127 on the access road to Brady's Lake. This will improve the flow of the stream and eliminate obstacles to aquatic organism passage. Both projects are on unnamed tributaries to Wagner's Run. Stabilization and management of roadside drainage will also be addressed. This project is estimated at \$20,660 with \$15,000 from the grant program.

Middle Smithfield Township is improving almost ¾ of a mile of Zion Church Road including adding culverts, improving drainage swales, and reshaping and surfacing the road. The project will minimize sediment runoff to the Delaware River. With a grant of \$51,683 from the program, the \$94,559 project will be completed this fall. Look for before and after photos in our winter edition.

### Join us for *Bog Day!* Sunday, October 18

The Tannersville Cranberry Bog is a very special place which contains many unique plants and animals. Please join us for a whole day of **FREE** events.

Pre-registration required. Call 570-629-3061 for more information.



The District is currently reviewing applications for low volume road projects in Polk and Chestnuthill Townships. These projects seek to minimize sediment pollution to High Quality streams. Information on the Dirt, Gravel and Low Volume Road grant program is available through our technical section by contacting Resource Conservation Specialist John Motz at 570-629-3060. ☆

## Penn State Extension Pasture Management Workshop

Hosted in cooperation with Monroe County Conservation District & PA Agricultural Ombudsman Program, the Penn State Cooperative Extension is presenting a **FREE** Equine Pasture Management workshop on September 17, 2015 from 6:30 to 9 pm. This workshop, presented here at Monroe County Conservation District, will cover:

- Forage identification & biology
- Benefits and potential risks associated with grazing
- The importance of rotational grazing and sacrifice lots
- Ways to manage and improve the quality of your pastures
- How you can participate in a Penn State project to reduce parasites using a whole farm approach

If your pasture grasses are looking a little poor this year, with weeds taking over your pastures, be sure to attend this **FREE** workshop! Learn how to improve your pastures and enhance the health of your horses and the environment!

Guest speakers are Donna Foulk of Penn State Extension Equine Natural Resources, and Suzette Truax with the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

To register for this **FREE** workshop, please contact Donna Foulk at (610) 746-1970 or email [dlf5@psu.edu](mailto:dlf5@psu.edu). ☆





## Dear Members and Friends,

We recently worked with 25 teenagers during the 41st Annual Monroe County Conservation Camp. This camp is not only our longest running program, but also is one we are quite proud of. The impact the week has on the participants and staff is evident in their comments they make to their parents on Family Day as well as the ones they record in their camp reflections. As educators, we can only hope to provide accurate information to our participants and let them make informed decisions based on what they learned. After a week at camp where many members of the Conservation District Staff were involved in programming, all of us came away recharged with renewed energy and a positive outlook which these teenagers and their enthusiasm helped us achieve.

As we move in to the fall school schedule of programs we continue to strive to expand these programs with local schools and keep our focus on the local environment and the challenges surrounding it. We look forward to working with these students and thank all of our members for your support which helps continue these programs. ☆



### Monroe County Conservation District Board Members and Staff

#### "Members Only" Picnic

The Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors and Staff invite all of our members to our 3<sup>rd</sup> "Members Only" Picnic on Sunday, September 27. This fun-filled family event is designed to give our members the opportunity to mingle with the District Board and



Staff as well as other like-minded individuals who continue to strongly support the EE Center and its efforts.

From 1 – 5 pm there will be on-going pond studies, bird banding with Pocono Avian Research Center staff, and scavenger hunts. Food, drinks, and raffle tickets with prizes all FREE OF CHARGE! There will be informational displays throughout the pavilion.

We hope you will join us for this lovely fall picnic. Feel free to bring along a friend or family who you think might be interested in becoming a Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center member! ☆

#### Welcome to Our New Members!

Robin Daning and Family, Bartonsville  
Nathan Laubach and Family, Stbg.  
John Caminiti, Brooklyn, PA  
Rachel Todd, Stroudsburg  
George Massi, Stroudsburg  
Dwayne Becker, Stroudsburg  
Gaun Family, Readers  
Teresa M. Jones Wilson Family, Cresco  
Davis Family, Stroudsburg  
Lee & Sobrinski Family, Stroudsburg  
Rosen & Slizofski Family, Henryville  
Christine Kropp Family, White Haven  
Cindy Oetzel, White Haven  
David L. Gomez, Lansdale  
Peter Carey, Stroudsburg  
Katie Achiron, Pocono Summit  
Susan Pekala, Kunkletown  
The Staples Family, Saylorsburg  
Brenda & Jesse Rambo, Stroudsburg  
Christine Klitsch & Family, Jim Thorpe

#### Annual Bird Seed Sale

Due to the bridge closure on Rimrock Drive we have delayed our annual bird seed sale until **November 21, 2015**. All members and past buyers will receive Bird Seed flyers in the mail in mid-September. We will have a supply of bird seed in the gift shop after September 10<sup>th</sup> for purchase to hold you over until November. We will again be offering the Aspen Song line of top quality bird seed at reasonable prices. For more information or to get an order blank, please call us at 570-629-3061 or check out our website at [www.mcconservation.org](http://www.mcconservation.org).

#### Pocono Mountain Christmas Bird Count Sunday, December 20, 2015



Birdwatchers of all skill levels wanted. For more information, please contact Brian Hardiman at [bhmccd@ptd.net](mailto:bhmccd@ptd.net) or (570) 629-3061.



#### Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to:  
**Monroe County Conservation  
District (MCCD)**  
8050 Running Valley Road  
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| __ Student             | \$ 10.00  |
| __ Individual          | \$ 15.00  |
| __ Family              | \$ 30.00  |
| __ Senior (65+)        | \$ 10.00  |
| __ Organization        | \$ 50.00  |
| __ Lifetime Individual | \$ 500.00 |
| __ Lifetime Family     | \$ 750.00 |

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*Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future*

## Fall Home School Programs

This fall, we are continuing to offer hands-on environmental education experience for any interested home school students. Activities include classroom instruction and outdoor learning opportunities for all ages with students divided into three age groups: K - 2<sup>nd</sup> grade (parent accompaniment required), 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade, and 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Each month a different topic will be addressed and all classes will be led by an Environmental Educator from 2 - 4pm. Cost: \$6/non-members, \$3/EE Center members for most programs. **Pre-registration and pre-payment are required and limited by the Monday preceding the program date. Refunds given only if notification is given at least three days prior to the program date.**

**September 3 - Monarch Butterflies**  
The monarch and its migration is one of nature's amazing wonders.

**October 1 - Decomposers** - Meet the underappreciated decomposers and the dirty jobs they do.

**November 5 - Bobcats** - Learn all about this common but secretive and

elusive "wild cat" of the Poconos.

**December 3 - Owls** - The hoots & habits, pellets & prey, and feathers & flight of these winged predators are just some of the "owly" topics to be covered.

## 2015 Kettle Creek Art Gallery Schedule

**September 1 - 30: Nancy Pitcher - "The Beauty of Nature"** - Nancy



has hiked, climbed and paddled in mountains, deserts, and rivers. Through her travels she has always appreciated the beauty of her natural surroundings. She now shares that beauty through her paintings. Opening Reception: Saturday, September 12, 11 am - 1 pm.

**October 1 - 31: Karen Zingerman/Culleen Doolittle - "Walk with Us"** - Put a camera in our hands and join us as we walk and look for images in nature that soothe our soul,

give inspiration and bring us peace. Opening Reception: Saturday, October 3, 11 am - 1 pm.

**November 1 - 30: Terry Flatt - "Scenic Beauty Around the World"**

- The exhibit will include photos emphasizing natural scenic beauty from Africa, New Zealand, Europe, Canada, and the United States. Opening Reception: Saturday, November 7, 11 am - 1 pm.

**December 1 - 31: Photo Contest Display** - Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources photo contest. The top 13 photos will be featured on a 2016 calendar, available at the Opening Reception: December 5, 11 am - 1 pm. ☆



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Facebook!**

