



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Conservation Through Education

Fall 2018 Newsletter ~~~~~ Volume 42 No. 3



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Feeding Our Feathered Friends



Winter bird feeding is a favorite pastime of many here in the Poconos. We

are fortunate to have a variety of birds residing here that also like to eat birdseed. Feeding the birds is a great way to while the winter hours away, hone in on your observation skills and simply be entertained by the birds. Also, during those really cold and snowy times of the winter it helps the birds out too.

However, there's more to it than just putting birdseed out on your deck or in the back yard. There are many different types of birdseed available and lots of birdfeeders available to purchase. It's important to know which winter birds are likely to visit your birdfeeder and what their favorite birdseed is.

If you are interested in joining the over 50 million people in the US feeding the birds this winter join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle for a program on Saturday, October 6 at 10am. Cost is \$6/non-member, \$4/children under 12 and E. E. Center members are Free, pre-registration is suggested. You will learn about the resident winter birds and all there is to know about feeding them. There will be demonstration bird feeders, samples of bird seed and a power point with all the information you'll need to start feeding the birds this winter.

This program is scheduled just in time for you to pre-order birdseed for the winter during our truckload birdseed sale scheduled for Saturday, November 3. The deadline to order birdseed is Thursday, October 25. Visit www.mcconservation.org for an order form. 🍁



Black-capped Chickadee



Dark-eyed Junco



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Conservation District
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Environmental Education Coordinator

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Brian Hardiman, Alexandra Machrone
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras
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Office Assistant Senior

Becky Hippler
Groundskeeper

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

A Note from the District Manager...

As another summer season comes to a close, I think it's appropriate that we all take some time to reflect on the ever present treasures that we sometimes take for granted. The summer months tend to highlight what makes Monroe County so very special, things that we might overlook in our daily travels. Visitors from far and wide come to experience the natural beauty and serenity that we get to experience on a daily basis. Scenic overlooks, quiet hiking trails, world-class trout fishing, and kayaking are only a few of the adventures available in Monroe County. I think it is more important than ever that we stop and remind ourselves of the importance of staying involved and working to protect the natural beauty that we have.

We may be a bit biased here at the District, but of all the things we have in abundance here in Monroe County to be grateful for, I believe it is the water that makes this place truly special. No other element is as essential to our very existence as clean water, something we have in great abundance in this area. As a relative newcomer to Monroe County, I have had many experiences working in areas that are struggling to maintain their water quality and are investing vast resources to make relatively miniscule improvements to their waterways. In seeing other's desperate search for clean water, it is a clear reminder that we should celebrate and protect our cherished resources and do all that we can to protect them. It is time to celebrate our streams, our rivers, and our lakes. It is truly a challenging time for conservation and environmental initiatives, and it is all the more imperative that we work together to preserve our right to the pristine natural landscape and resources that define Monroe County. 🍁

Sincerely,
Adam Schellhammer
District Manager, MCCD

Welcome New Members!

Anna Dacko – Red Bank, NJ
Mary Cooper and Family – Stroudsburg, PA
Roseanne Walters – Buck Hill, PA
Robert A. Reiss and Family – Saylorsburg, PA
James E. Kintzel MD and Family – Allentown, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

Soon we'll be in the classrooms of all four public school districts. These programs will prepare students of different grade levels for their fun educational field experiences at the Tannersville Bog, Meesing Outdoor site or our very own Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary.

The Environmental Education staff has scheduled some exciting fall field trips. If you have never been to the Ned Smith Center it is an amazing place to spend the day. Our fall birdseed truck load sale is scheduled for November so don't forget to get your winter birdseed supply. If you aren't sure what kinds of birds will come to your feeder or which birdseed to purchase be sure to attend the bird feeding program scheduled for Saturday, October 6th.

If you haven't come by to visit the only nature discovery area in Monroe County, Lillian's Nature Discovery Area, there is a special "open house" scheduled for Saturday, November 17. Join us and the Denniston family as we add a color activity component to all of the other cool things already in the discovery area including a canoe, a fossil pit, a life size xylophone and much more!

Lastly, for the fourth year in a row the Pocono Avian Research Center (PARC) will be hosting Project OwlNet here at Kettle Creek. Every Friday, from October 12 through November 2 you are invited to come learn about these amazing nocturnal creatures and be part of an important research program that PARC and Monroe County Conservation District are part of. 🍁

Happy Trails!
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

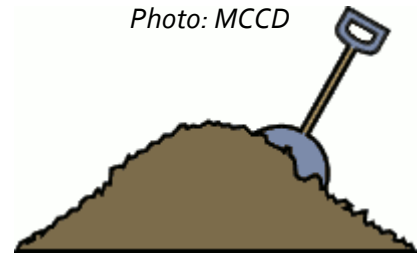
News 'N Notes



Dirt and Gravel Low-Volume Road Project Update

Middle Smithfield Township installed this trench drain along Zion Church Road as part of an Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance project funded through the District's Dirt Gravel & Low Volume Road Program. The drain will help to keep off-site runoff from saturating the road base, improving road stability and minimizing erosion of road surface material. 🍁

Photo: MCCD



Spotted Lantern Fly Update

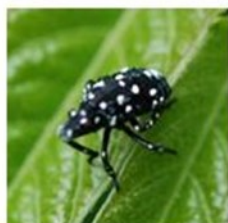
As the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF) continues to wreak havoc on the southern portion of our state, scientists and government agencies are doing all that they can to help prevent the spread of this invasive pest that threatens our \$18 billion dollar agricultural industry... and so far the answer still remains, education.

Even though PA is doing an excellent job slowing the spread of the SLF, recent findings in New Jersey and Virginia are telling us that SLF is still finding a way to get around. Researchers say the number one thing we can do is educate ourselves on their life cycle and behaviors so that we know what exactly look for and what steps to take to prevent its spread.

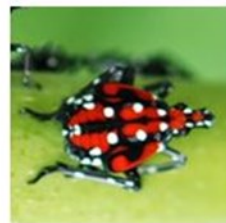
Right now we are in the middle of its final life stage (Jul-Dec). This is the stage the SLF develops wings and gains the incredible ability to "fly with style" as they glide through the air enabling them to travel further distances. However, the most common way that they travel over large expanses is by hitching rides from humans.



Eggs: October - June



**Hatch, 1st, 2nd, 3rd Instar:
May - July**



**Fourth Instar:
July - September**



Adults: July - December

Towards its final stage of life, the female begins turning yellow, and no longer has the ability to "fly". She then begins laying approximately 30-50 eggs, per mass, on smooth, flat surfaces which lay dormant over winter. It's here when the SLF could cause the biggest threat. It's believed that the start of the SLF infestation in PA began when egg masses, attached to shipping cargo, hatched in early 2014 at a stone quarry in Berks County. From there, the SLF continued to reproduce which has led to the infestation we are experiencing today.

If you believe you have the SLF in your area, please call 1-888-4BADFLY and check out <https://extension.psu.edu/have-you-seen-a-spotted-lanternfly> for more information. 🍁

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER

15th – Saturday – Pocono Black Bears - Join Environmental Education Coordinator, Roger Spotts at 10am, as he discusses the life history of our black bear neighbors. This 1 ½ program will look at food habits, biology, territory and human/ bear conflicts in the Poconos. Don't miss out on the opportunity to learn more about these fascinating creatures.

16th – Sunday – Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at 1pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour 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 and limited.**

19th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator 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. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/EE and Nature Conservancy members and children under 12. Pre-registration is required and limited.**

22nd – Saturday – Autumn Splendor - Join us at 10am to say hello to fall and enjoy a brisk walk discovering and discussing seasonal changes taking place during this splendorous time of year!

23rd - Sunday - Harvest Moon Paddle at Brady's Lake - Enjoy a unique and leisurely paddle around Brady's Lake under the calming light of the full moon. We'll listen and look for animals that become active when the light fades into night. Participants must supply their own kayak or canoe with valid launch permit (can be purchased online), paddle, life jacket, and flashlight or headlamp. Meet at Brady's Lake parking lot in SGL#127 at 6:30pm. This event may be cancelled if inclement weather. **Suggested donation: \$10/non-members, \$8/EE Center members. Pre-registration required and limited.**

26th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

29th – Saturday – PARS at KC - PARS at KC translates to the Pennsylvania Amphibian

and Reptile Survey at the Kettle Creek EE Center. Join Brian Hardiman in this continuing effort to find and document the frogs, toads, salamanders, turtles, and snakes that live at KC. Our findings will be submitted to PARS and become part of the permanent record that will help to determine the status and distribution of the state's amphibians and reptiles. This two-hour program will begin at 10am.

OCTOBER

3rd - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

6th – Saturday - Bird Feeding Basics - Are you interested in feeding the birds? Join Environmental Educator Karen N. Boyle at 10am to learn about winter bird identification, types of birdfeeders and the different birdseed available at Kettle Creek.

6th – Saturday - Art Opening: Claudia Hill & Susan Pekala "Working with Nature's Canvas" - The gourds on display here show how versatile this natural canvas can be. Gourds can be painted, carved, wood-burned, woven, beaded and sculpted. Regardless of how the artist works with a gourd, its' natural beauty always shines through. Meet the artists from 11am-1pm! *Exhibit runs October 2nd through 31st, 2018.*

8th – Monday – Building Closed - Holiday

10th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

12th - Friday – Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding - Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the fourth season of Project Owl-net. The station will be open to the public October 12th, 19th, 26th and November 2nd, from 8 to 10pm (donations welcome). Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project Owl-net, and have a unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US. Preregistration suggested.

13th – Saturday – Building Open until 1pm

14th - Sunday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

17th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

17th – Wednesday - Ned Smith Center Field Trip - The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art promotes the study of nature through education, the arts, and research. Located in Millersburg, PA, the Center is named for Ned Smith, a self-trained artist, naturalist, and writer who produced thousands of wildlife drawings and paintings over his famed career. Brian Hardiman will

lead this trip where we will learn more about the life of Ned Smith and see his stunning art work. Meet at KC at 8:30 am and return 5:30 pm. **Cost is \$32/non-member, \$26/EE Center member and includes bus transportation and admission to three galleries. Pack a lunch and dress for a short stroll on the Center's trails. Pre-registration & payment required.**

19th - Friday – Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding - See October 12th listing.

20th – Saturday – WaterWaze Program - Come celebrate water at Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center! From 10am to 1pm we will be hosting a free family-friendly event full of educational, hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Explore Kettle Creek and learn about aquatic critters, the water cycle, and good stewardship of our most precious resource! Lunch will be provided. **This program is FREE for all ages! Please call to register.**

24th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

25th – Thursday - Brig Birding Field Trip - Forsythe (formerly Brigantine) National Wildlife Refuge in southern NJ is a migratory hotspot for a diversity of birds. Join Brian Hardiman for a full day of birds and fun. Meet at KC at 7am and return approximately 8:30pm. Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. A dinner stop will be made. **Cost: \$28/non-member, \$22/EE Center member and includes bus transportation. Pre-registration & payment required.**

26th - Friday – Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding - See October 12th listing.

27th – Saturday - Building Open until 1pm

31st - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

NOVEMBER

2nd - Friday – Project Owl-net Saw-whet Owl Banding - See October 12th listing.

3rd – Saturday - Annual Bird Seed Sale - Pick Up Day (9am-1pm) - To get an order form, visit mcconservation.org.

3rd – Saturday – Art Opening: Don Baylor "Joy in Nature" - This show will contain oil and acrylic paintings of landscapes and fishing scenes from the Poconos and Rockies - places where Don has been inspired by nature while hiking, fishing and paddling. Meet the artists from 11am-1pm! *Exhibit runs November 1st through 29th, 2018.*

7th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See September 19th listing.

10th – Saturday – Building Closed

***Pre-registration is suggested for all programs offered and required for those where noted.

All programs are \$6 for non-members, \$4 children under 12, EE Center Members are FREE, unless otherwise listed.

Refunds will be given only if notification is made at least one week prior to the trip/program.

More information on these programs can be found on our website: mcconservation.org

12th – Monday – Building Closed – Holiday

16th – Friday - Mystery Birding Field Trip – Join Brian Hardiman on this field trip where the destinations and target birds will not be revealed until the day of the trip. Meet at KC at 8:30 am and return 5:30 pm. **Cost: \$24/ non-member, \$18/EE Center member and includes bus transportation, plenty of birds, and a good time!** Bring a lunch, binoculars, and dress for the weather. Stops will be made for coffee and snacks. **Pre-registration & payment required.**

17th - Saturday – Lilliana's Nature Discovery Area Exploration – A Nature Discovery Area is a designated outdoor area designed to allow children of all ages to have a safe, fun and natural area to explore. Our Nature Discovery Area is the first of its kind in Monroe County. Join us between the hours of 9am – 12pm where we will feature special activities in addition to the elements already in the area including a canoe, tunnel, xylophone, talking tubes and much more! **This program is free.**

22nd – Thursday – Building Closed – Holiday

23rd – Friday – Building Closed

24th – Saturday – Building Closed

DECEMBER

1st - Saturday – Art Opening: Photo Contest – Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest. Winners will be revealed and the top 12 photos will be available on a 2019 calendar. Proceeds from calendar sales will benefit Environmental Education programs at Kettle Creek. *Opening Reception: 11am - 1pm. Exhibit runs through January 31st, 2019.*

8th – Saturday – Building Closed

15th – Saturday – Building Closed

22nd – Saturday – Building Closed

24th – Monday – Building Closes at Noon

25th – Tuesday – Building Closed - Holiday

29th – Saturday – Building Closed

31st – Monday – Building Closes at Noon - Holiday



21 Campers Complete 44th Monroe County Conservation Camp

Twenty-one energetic teenagers spent a week at the 44th Monroe County Conservation Camp, July 21-28. These kids from a variety of backgrounds shared an experience they will never forget. First off it was wet!!! The week found us dodging rain storms and elevated water levels on the Delaware River but the students persevered and had a great time. They were treated to 34 different bald eagle sightings on the two day river trip, they got a fantastic look at the moon and its craters during stargazing. They picked garlic at an organic farm and they got a close-up look at a 350 pound black bear during a program by the PA Game Commission.

Conservation Camp is held every year at ESU's Stony Acres facility and is sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District and the Monroe Co. Federation of Sportsman's Clubs with additional funding provided by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. Numerous other businesses, civic groups and individuals provide scholarships to needy students. This program is open to students ages 14- through this year's high school graduate. Each year the many programs are provided by different resource people from various groups and organizations and it leads to a wonderful experience for all involved. At the end of camp this year Elijah Quintana from Stroudsburg was recognized as the outstanding camper for the week. Elijah's enthusiasm and positive attitude made the entire camp experience better for everyone involved. Next year's camp will be held July 20-27, 2019 and applications will be available on our website later this year. 🍁



A big thank you to our amazing work crew for all of their hard work this summer!



PUBLISHED BY:
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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." -Albert Camus

2018 Get in Touch with Nature Day Camp



2018 Artist Line Up

October - Claudia Hill and Susan Pekala

October 2nd through 31st

Opening Reception: October 6th, 11am-1pm

November - Don Baylor

November 1st through 29th

Opening Reception: November 3rd, 11am-1pm

December - Photo Contest Display

December 1st through January 31st

Opening Reception: December 1st, 11am-1pm

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Kettle Creek by finding us on
social media!

Let's *get* Social

