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MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2019 Newsletter

Volume 43 No. 2

Pleasant Valley High School Wins Monroe County Envirothon

On Friday, May 3, 2019 at the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center 20 teams from seven local high schools participated in a competition to test their knowledge of the environment. The testing stations were Aquatics, Soils, Forestry, and Wildlife plus this year's Current Issue; *Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World*. Participating schools were: East Stroudsburg Area High School - South, Evergreen Community Charter School, Monroe Career and Technical Institute, Pleasant Valley High School, Pocono Mountain East High School, and Pocono Mountain West High School and Stroudsburg High School. Tests were given by cooperating agencies including the PA Game Commission, PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Monroe County Conservation District Staff (MCCD).

2019 Envirothon Winner: "Sassyfras" of Pleasant Valley High School

Second Place: "Prickly Pears" of Pleasant Valley High School

Third Place: "Out of the Box Turtles" of Pocono Mountain West High School

Highest Score for Aquatics and Forestry - "Sassyfras" of Pleasant Valley High School

Highest Score for Current Issue (Agriculture and the Environment: Knowledge and Technology to Feed the World) "Prickly Pears" of Pleasant Valley High School

Highest Score for Soils - "Backstreet Buds" of Pocono Mountain East High School

Highest Score for Wildlife - "Out of the Box Turtles" of Pocono Mountain West High School



Sassyfras Team of Pleasant Valley High School

The Envirothon is sponsored by the Monroe County Conservation District, PA Envirothon Inc. and generously funded by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. The overall winning team received the coveted traveling trophy, the "Enviro-Owl" and an all-expense paid trip (sponsored by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund) to the 2019 PA State Envirothon on May 21 and 22 at University of Pittsburgh Johnstown where they placed 14th out of 66 participating counties.

Junior Envirothon Results

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center hosted the Junior Envirothon competition on Monday, May 13th, for fifth and sixth graders, and Tuesday, May 14th, 2019, for seventh and eighth graders. Competing teams from area schools were tested on their knowledge of the Pocono environment at four stations—Animals, Trees, Ponds, and this year's Learning Station, Wetlands.

5th & 6th Grade

First Place: "Gecko Gang" team from Clear Run Intermediate School

Second Place: "Fantastic Falcons" team from Clear Run Intermediate School.

7th & 8th Grade

First Place: "Fierce Falcons" team of Pocono Mountain West Junior High School

Second Place: "Teenage Mutant Painted Turtles" team from Pocono Mountain West Junior High School

The Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center would like to congratulate and thank all of the participating students, teachers and advisors at this year's Junior Envirothon – Blue Ridge Home School, Evergreen Community Charter School, Pleasant Valley Middle and Intermediate Schools, Clear Run Intermediate School, Swiftwater Intermediate School, Pocono Mountain East Junior High, Pocono Mountain West Junior High, Tobyhanna Elementary Center and Stroudsburg Middle and Junior High Schools.



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Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The KCEF Board is hard at work on the 28th annual fundraising event set for September 20th at Trout Lake. This year's event will be a combination of the Kettle Creek membership dinner and the annual fundraising dinner for KCEF.

A number of games with appropriate prizes will be featured, along with the winners of the 2nd Annual Film Competition. You don't want to miss this exciting and entertaining evening!

The Board has recently welcomed new members Leslie J. Berger, Ed Cramer and Stephanie Spotts and has also reluctantly accepted the resignation of Tim Brooks, who will be leaving the area. We look forward to the new and exciting things that our recently acquired members will bring

to the table and we would like to wish Tim the best of luck in all of his future endeavors!

-John Woodling, KCEF President

Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

Patrick Ross, Chairperson
Robert Armstrong, Vice-Chairperson
Chuck Gould, Secretary
Roger McFadden, Treasurer
David W. Moyer
Randy Rice
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Resource Conservation Specialists

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Resource Conservationist

Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

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Matthew Giambra,
Alexandra Machrone
Environmental Educators

Barbara Bistras
Administrative Coordinator

Alesia Gallo
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.

28th Annual Dinner September 20, 2019



KCEF Board Members

John Woodling, Pres.
Alan Price Young, Vice-Pres.
Joseph Bedrick
Leslie J. Berger
Patrick Calpin
Ed Cramer
Tim Fisher, II
Kara Klaus-Major
John Reilly
Stephanie Spotts

Welcome New Members!

Deanna Hoffner – Stroudsburg, PA
Ronnie and Coyer Augustino – Bethlehem, PA
Marc and Christina Kurtz – East Stroudsburg, PA
Marinelli Family – East Stroudsburg, PA
Weeks Family – Stroudsburg, PA

Dear Members and Friends,

Well it finally seems that summer has arrived after a very wet spring. We had over 1,400 fourth graders visit the Bog in May and they experienced a true wetland with lots of water and wet feet but they loved the experience. Many thanks to the Nature Conservancy for their cooperation in allowing the field trips to the bog and supporting them since 1982.

We will be offering two camps this summer. The Monroe County Conservation Camp July 20th-27th for students ages 14 through this year's high school graduate and our summer day camp for 7-13 year olds, August 5th-16th. We still have spaces available in both camps and look forward to offering a great experience for all campers.

We have hired a new Environmental Educator to fill the opening created when Brian Hardiman retired. Matt Giambra started June 1st as a full time educator. Matt previously was a Resource Conservationist in our technical section but his love for the outdoors and teaching has led him to the educator position. Matt has already done numerous school programs and looks forward to offering an assortment of public programs in the future. Welcome aboard Matt!

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming program and are always looking for suggestions to make our programs meet the needs of our members and friends.

Sincerely,
MCCD Board of Directors and Staff

News 'N Notes

Congrats to our 2019 Class of Master Watershed Stewards!



This May wrapped up our second class of Penn State Master Watershed Stewards. The program educates volunteers on watershed protection and management through 12 weeks of hands on training after which volunteers commit to 50 hours of volunteer service. This year's class finished up their training with a riparian buffer planting of 35 trees on The Wildlands Conservancy's Maple Tract Preserve along the Tunkhannock Creek. Stewards learn about the importance of things like riparian buffers, rain gardens, and best management practices (BMPs) for filtering stormwater runoff, protecting streams from excessive erosion, and providing habitats for aquatic organisms. This year's class graduated nine stewards enthusiastic about protecting our local streams. **Congrats Stewards!**

Homeowner Stormwater Management- Soak it Up!

2018 saw record-breaking rainfall across much of Pennsylvania and with the ground already saturated, this soggy spring has left many homeowners asking the question of what can I do to deal with stormwater on my property. While many are tempted to get water off their property as soon as possible by digging swales and ditches or by filling in the "wet-spot" on their property, these "solutions" can exacerbate issues to downstream neighbors and cause environmental harm. So what can you do instead? Below is a list of a couple easy to implement solutions to help **soak up** the rainfall rather than letting the rainfall runoff your property.

Rain Barrels: While rain barrels are seen as a water conservation tool to help cut down on your water bill, rain barrels can also catch and store rain water for short periods of time allowing homeowners to use rainwater on gardens and their lawn after the storm has passed. Rain barrels can be easily installed under rain gutters and are available at most home and garden centers or can even be made yourself!

Leave the Trees: Or plant more! Many people make the assumption that trees shade the lawn and prevent it from drying out after a storm. However, according to North Carolina State University, fully grown trees can soak up as much as 100 gallons of rainwater per day. Additionally, leaves will intercept lots of rainwater which is then evaporated back into the atmosphere before it ever hits the ground. If planting in a persistently wet area pick trees that are adapted to living in wet conditions.

Install a Native Rain Garden: Rain Gardens can be a great tool for managing stormwater on your property. There are a number of online resources and guides for selecting the location, sizing the garden, and picking out plants for a raingarden. A rain garden is designed like a shallow bowl where rainwater runoff can collect such as below a downspout or at a low spot in your property, and then filter through the soil or be soaked up by native plants. Native plants often have a much deeper root structure than turf grass and can therefore help to better soak up stormwater. Additionally, this can provide a beautiful and much needed habitat for pollinators.

Check and Report Clogged Stormwater Inlets: If you live on a street that has a stormwater catchment system, check on any inlets you may suspect are clogged and report to your local municipality, Penn Dot, or HOA dependent on who is responsible for your roadway. Try and clear fallen leaves, grass clippings or other debris from the surface of the inlet that could prevent it from capturing rainwater.

Don't Touch the Wetland!: If you have a persistently soggy spot in your yard it may be a wetland. Because of our local geology there are many small wetlands in Monroe County which are protected by both state and federal regulations. While you may think of it as a nuisance, wetlands do a lot to protect our water quality and protect us from larger flooding issues by slowing down stormwater. Allow for native wetland plants to grow in the area which are adapted to growing in wet conditions. If you suspect you have a wetland on your property, contact the Conservation District prior to trying to fill, excavate, or drain the area as these activities in these potential wetlands may require permits.

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER PUBLIC PROGRAMS

JUNE

18th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Pollinators” - Learn about many of our different insect pollinators by catching them in insect nets and observing one of the best pollinators: Honeybees! This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

23rd – Sunday – Kettle Creek Picnic – Join the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center staff for an afternoon filled with hands on activities, refreshments and fun! There will be live snakes, bird-banding and an award presentation for the Volunteer of the Year. **This event is FREE and runs from 12pm-3pm!**

25th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Fantastic Frogs” - Learn all about these amphibians who are known for their superb jumping abilities! This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

26th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - Join an Environmental Educator at 10am 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. Preregistration is required and limited.**

29th – Saturday - Herp Walk - Join environmental educator Alexandra Machrone at 10am for a walk around Kettle Creek looking for reptiles and amphibians. We will be searching under rocks and logs and looking in ponds to see how many cool critters we can dis-

cover. Please dress to be outside. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

JULY

2nd – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Amazing Reptiles and Amphibians” - Join us for a hands on program to learn about the reptiles and amphibians in our area. This program will include live reptiles and amphibians. This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

3rd - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

4th – Thursday - Building Closed - Holiday

6th – Saturday – Building Closed

9th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Forest Findings” - Join us as we use our senses along the trails to experience and discover what's in the forest at Kettle Creek! This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

10th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

13th – Saturday – Bug Fest - Displays, activities, games, crafts, live insects, insect safaris, and presentations all day, all about insects! **Festival runs from 10am - 3pm. Cost: \$5/child ages 4 - 12.** Featuring a photography exhibit by Maya Shikhman with information provided by the Monroe County 4H Club's Insects Are Us members! Come dressed as your favorite bug and participate in the Insect Parade and receive a discount on admission price! **Parents can attend for FREE. Refreshments will be available.**

14th – Sunday– Public Bog Walk - Sunday walks begin at 1pm. See June 26th listing.

16th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Hiding in Plain Sight” - Learn about the adaptations of Pocono wildlife! This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

17th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

20th – Saturday – Building Closed

23rd – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Beautiful Birds” - Learn about the different types of birds in our area by watching live birds, examining feathers, and doing fun bird crafts. This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$6/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

24th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

27th – Saturday – Building Closed

30th – Tuesday – Kettle Creek for Kids “Solar Art” - Join us for a walk to find beautiful objects in nature, then make an art project out of them using the power of the sun. This program for young children ages 4-6 will be held from 10—11am. **Cost: \$6/non-member, \$4/EE Center member. (Parents must attend with their child.) Preregistration is required and limited to 25 participants.**

31st – Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

AUGUST

3rd – Saturday – Building Open- 9am-1pm

7th – Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

10th – Saturday – Simple Tree ID – As we hike through the forest we are focused on the great variety of plants and animals we may see, but do we ever look

***Preregistration 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

closely at the trees? Trees are the largest living things in the forest and are fascinating to study! Join Roger Spotts at 10am for this two hour hike at Kettle Creek to discuss simple tree identification techniques and the important role they play in the forest ecosystem. **Cost: \$6/non-members, \$4/children under 12. EE Center members are free.**

11th - Sunday— Public Bog Walk - Sunday walks begin at **1pm**. See June 26th listing.

14th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

17th – Saturday – Art Opening: Mariana Russo “Abstraction of Nature” - Mariana primarily works with wood, old kitchen cabinet doors, old windows, acrylics, a wood burner, real leaves and real flowers. She also likes to explore all kinds of materials such as flower pots, wood stains and mirrors to create her paintings’ rich texture and color. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run through August 30th*

21st - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

24th – Saturday – Building Open- 9am-1pm

28th – Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

31st – Saturday – Building Closed

SEPTEMBER

2nd – Building Closed - Holiday

4th - Wednesday - Public Bog Walk - See June 26th listing.

7th – Art Opening: Nancy Pitcher “The Beauty Around Us” - Nancy has hiked, climbed and paddled a great deal in the mountains, deserts and rivers. Through her travels she has always appreciated the beauty of her natural surroundings. She now shares that beauty with her oil and watercolor paintings. *Opening reception 11am-1pm. This exhibit will run through September 30th.*

Reminders

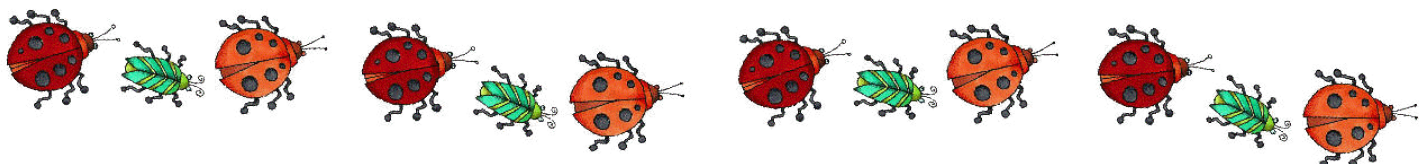


- ◆ The creepy crawlies are back again! Join us on Saturday, July 13th for our annual **Bug Fest** at Kettle Creek! From 10am to 3pm children can enjoy learning about insects, creating crafts, participating in insect Olympics, a butterfly tent and more! Don't miss out on this highly anticipated yearly event!
- ◆ Spaces are still available for **Conservation Camp**, Monroe County Conservation District's week long residential camp for teens, July 20th through 27th. This camp is technology free and offers students the chance to experience an adventure of a lifetime while learning about the outdoors and meeting new friends! This camp is open to ages 14 through this year's high school graduate. Scholarships are available. Applications are available at mcconservation.org.
- ◆ Spaces are also still available for our **Get in Touch with Nature Day Camp** for ages 7 through 13. This camp is held August 5th through 16th and campers can enjoy one week or two learning about the critters, plants and habitats of the Poconos. Campers will even venture to other cool places in Monroe County and even get the opportunity to snorkel and splash in a creek! This camps runs Monday through Friday from 8am-3:30pm. Late pick up is available! Grab an application at mcconservation.org today!
- ◆ Students of all ages are welcome to participate in the **Kettle Creek Environmental Fund's Environmental/Outdoor Short Film Competition**. The best film will receive a cash prize of \$500 and there is no entry fee! Prizes are also available for second and third place and three winners will receive two tickets to the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund's dinner on September 20th, 2019 at Trout Lake. See mcconservation.org for the full set of rules and how to enter.
- ◆ Looking to be a part of our 2020 calendar? Enter your best photo of your favorite Monroe County natural resource into this year's **Annual Photo Competition**. You can win a calendar and a quart of pure maple syrup from our Meesing Sugarbush! Enter online at mcconservation.org.



Thank You!

On our June 1st blood drive at the Conservation District, 14 donors were able to donate a total of 16 units of blood which has the potential to save 48 lives!!!



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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center

STARGAZING TRIP To Cherry Springs Dark Sky Park

September 27 - 29, 2019

A 3-day excursion of camping, stargazing, and exploring the wilderness
of central Pennsylvania

Trip includes:

- * Transportation, Two breakfasts, Two lunches, One dinner
- * One night stay at Cherry Springs State Park Campground
- * One night stay at Lyman Run State Park Campground with beach, boat rental, and hiking trails
- * Tents available if needed
- * Guided Night Sky Tour in conjunction with the Black Forest Star Party (weather-permitting)
- * Bicycle rental and shuttle for a ride on the Pine Creek Trail through the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon
- * Farm-to-Table dinner (not included in price)



\$190 EE Members • \$215 Non-members

This trip is limited to twelve people. Please make all checks payable to MCCD. Payments are non-refundable within four weeks of trip date.

8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 • (570) 629-3061

 KettleCreekEnvironmentalEducationCenter • www.mcconservation.org