

8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Admin/Technical: 570-629-3060
Env. Education: 570-629-3061
www.mcconservation.org



MONROE COUNTY
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Fall 2024 Newsletter

Volume 47 No. 3

Gearing up for a Happy Owl-O-Ween!

September is here and we are starting to feel a chill in the air! Maybe you've noticed a slight change in the color of the leaves, or maybe you can actually smell the musky-sweet aroma of fall leaves starting to decay.

Fall is a favorite season for many—not only do we get to witness colorful seasonal changes in our forests, but we get to enjoy the fruits of our summer harvests, the comfort of warm beverages on cool dark nights, and the opportunity to scare our friends and neighbors during spooky season!

There are many captivating animals that we associate with spooky fall nights. Spiders, bats, and of course, owls!

Here at Kettle Creek EE Center, we've got some fun programs planned to give you a glimpse into the mysterious life of owls!



Inside This Issue

KCEF Update
Page 2

Around Kettle Creek
Page 3

Calendar of Events
Page 4-6

Bird Seed Sale Day Order Form
Page 7

Another Great BugFest
Page 8

District News
Page 8

MCCD Welcomes New Staff
Page 9

Finger Lakes Waterfall Trip Report
Page 9

The Gallery at Kettle Creek & Photo Contest
Page 10

Kettle Creek for Kids
Page 10

In addition to our usual recurring **Project OwlNet** programs on select Friday nights, we will also be hosting **The Wilderz at Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center** for a presentation on **"Owls of PA"** on Saturday, November 2nd with live owl ambassadors! Check out our fall calendar for more details.

Kids will also enjoy Kettle Creek's **Friday Night Fall Festival** from 6-8pm on October 4th. Dive into the festive fall spirit with creative crafts, exciting games, and nighttime adventures. We will embark into the dark with a thrilling night-hike where you'll discover the secrets of nocturnal animals and their unique adaptations. Finally, we'll cap off the night with s'mores and stories around the campfire. It's a perfect blend of fun and education for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to dress in a Fall theme or wear a Halloween costume. Don't miss out on this eerie & enlightening adventure!

Whatever you find yourself doing for this spooky season—don't be afraid of the natural environment after dark. Half of our lives happen when the world is dark. And memories aren't made just sitting on the couch every night. We owe it to ourselves not to miss out on being present in the world despite the sun dipping below the horizon. There's a whole other fascinating world that comes alive at night, just waiting to be (safely) experienced by YOU! ✨

Find us on Social Media!





Monroe County Conservation District Board of Directors

Robert Armstrong, *Chairperson*
Brian Winot, *Vice-Chairperson*
Roger McFadden, *Treasurer*
Craig Todd, *Secretary*
Sharon Laverdure, *Commissioner*
Donna Foulk
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Kristina Heaney
District Manager

Drew K. Wagner, P.E.,
Michael J. Wilk, P.E.
Hydraulic Engineers

Charlie Kelshaw, Jonathan Knauff,
David Lucykanish, John Motz
Resource Conservation Specialists

Roger Spotts
Environmental Education Coordinator

Brittney Coleman, Barrett Donna,
Derek Lederer, Colleen Lidon
Environmental Educators

Iwona O'Connor
Finance Manager

Diana Flint, Lisa Kershaw
Office Assistant Seniors

Delaney Henasey
Groundskeeper/Assistant

The Board of Directors' monthly meeting is held at 10am on the third Thursday of each month at the District office. Work sessions are at 9am preceding the meeting. ❁

Kettle Creek Environmental Fund Update

The Kettle Creek Environmental Fund (KCEF) Annual Fundraising Dinner will be held on Thursday, September 19th; once again at Trout Lake. What a beautiful venue for our annual dinner! First, I want to recognize and express appreciation to Kara-Klaus Major and the wonderful Trout Lake staff that make our venue and dinner so enjoyable each year. Thank you!

The year 2024 marks 33 years since the Fund was established. As I look over the list of invitees and attendees for our dinner, I note many government, business, professional, and civic leaders that I have known for decades in our area—some of whom have served at some point on the Board of Directors for KCEF. Thank you to all of you who have served on the Board and especially to those who currently serve. They are listed at the top of this page. At the dinner each current board member will be wearing a name tag indicating them as a board member. Please introduce yourself and get to know us at the dinner!

Have YOU ever thought about serving on the Board? Please let us know of your interest. The Board meets once a month to conduct business, discuss upcoming EE programs and projects for funding, and plan for the next fundraising dinner.

Again, as I look over the list of donors and supporters of the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund I want to thank each and every one of you for supporting the Fund's mission, i.e. to raise funds in support of environmental education at the Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD). As many of you know, my entire career involved environmental education at the public school and university level. I understand and believe in the importance of teaching and learning in, about, and for the sake of our environment. To this end, I want to recognize the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center environmental educators. All of them are dedicated and hardworking and believe in what they do. Please continue your support of them in your school district, in your attendance at public programs, and through your donations to support their work.

See you at the dinner! ❁

- Dr. Elaine Rogers, KCEF President

KCEF Board Members



Dr. Elaine Rogers, *President*
Leslie J. Berger, *Vice-President*
Joseph Bedrick, *Secretary*
Ed Cramer, *Treasurer*
Patrick Calpin
Dr. Ian Foster
Kara Klaus-Major
Jim Lambert
Brianna Strunk
Christine Wilkins

Big thanks to our Summer Staff!



We are grateful for all of the young adults that help pull off our busy summer season and help us prepare program supplies and maintain our "outdoor classrooms" for the rest of the year. Our 2024 summer work crew was comprised of Santiago Churion, Logan Impellizeri, and Nate Leiser.

And many thanks to our summer interns, Deirdre Moran, Taylor Rinehimer, and Madeline Grebb, for helping with our camps and program duties. We wish you well with all your future endeavors!

Around Kettle Creek

The temperatures are cooling, the leaves are changing and fall is fast approaching here at Kettle Creek. After a summer of great experiences with people of all ages we are looking forward to the upcoming months with anticipation as our fall schedule is jam packed with opportunities to learn more about our environment.

Fall brings our annual bird seed sale and this year’s sale offers prices much lower than last year, the birds should eat well this winter. Speaking of birds, Darryl & Jackie Speicher will be banding Saw-whet owls at Kettle Creek in October. You won’t want to miss your chance to see one of these small and amazing owls on one of our Friday owl banding programs. We will also be welcoming staff and animals from Pocono Wildlife for an up-close look at our PA owls. Both of these exciting events offer participants the opportunity to learn more about these fascinating birds of prey.

Our Bog walks are continuing into November and whether it is a Wednesday walk, a weekend hike, or an evening stroll the bog is beautiful as the full colors of the Bog show up in September and October.

We could not provide all of the programs and events we hold each year without the support of the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund. Each year they hold their annual fundraiser and all the proceeds go directly to assist us with our programs in schools, our summer camps, and other events. This support is invaluable as we continue to focus on our county schools and providing hands-on learning opportunities on their local environment for students of all ages. A big thank you for all the dedicated members of the Fund and the work they do.

Enjoy the Fall. ❁

-Roger Spotts, Environmental Education Coordinator

CONSERVATION CAMP WRAP-UP

During the week of July 20th-27th, 26 enthusiastic and energetic teenagers gathered for our annual Conservation Camp at East Stroudsburg University’s Stony Acres. The camp was a whirlwind of activity, with participants diving deep into environmental education through engaging programs led by experts in various fields. The busy schedule allowed campers to explore and understand their environment, its natural inhabitants, and their personal roles within these systems. At the end of the week, campers had the opportunity to reflect on their experiences, and we are delighted to recognize **Matthew Schuster** as our outstanding camper of the year! His dedication and enthusiasm truly stood out. Our camp’s success is made possible thanks to the generous donations and scholarships from local businesses and clubs, as well as the dedication of countless volunteers who help bring our programming to life. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed and participated.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that next year’s Conservation Camp will be held from July 19th-26th, 2025. It is open to teenagers aged 14 through high school graduates of 2025. Stay tuned for more information and application details, which will be available on our website starting in January.

A notable highlight of this year’s Conservation Camp was that it marked a significant milestone—Roger’s final year running the camp after an impressive 40 years of dedication. Roger’s legacy and contributions have left a lasting impact on us all, and his presence will be deeply missed.

(But we hope we can convince him to come back to help! 😊) ❁

(But we hope we can convince him to come back to help! 😊) ❁



This year’s Outstanding Conservation Camper, Matthew Schuster, with Roger Spotts and counselor Zane Kromer





Program Guidelines

Pre-registration is required for all programs offered unless noted otherwise by calling 570-629-3061.

Cash or checks made payable to MCCD only.

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

Building hours are Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm, and some Saturdays 9am-1pm.

Kettle Creek
Environmental Education Center
8050 Running Valley Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570)629-3061
www.mcconservation.org

2024 Fall Public Programs



Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 18th – 1pm

Join us at 1pm at the Bog parking lot and take a 2 ½ hour guided journey into the unique Tannersville Cranberry Bog. Along the way, our environmental educators will explain the Bog’s formation, its interesting plant and animal life, and the role the local Preserve Committee and the Nature Conservancy play in its continued protection. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Pre-registration is required. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.**

KCEF Annual Fundraising Dinner

Thursday, September 19th – 5:30pm

The dinner event, hosted by the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund and Kettle Creek EE Center, will feature games, raffles, and excellent prizes all in an effort to raise funds for the EE Center! Located at the beautiful Trout Lake Retreat near Stroudsburg. The Rose Schoch Award will also be presented to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to environmental education.

Advance tickets required. Call 570-629-3061 for details.

Saturday, September 21st — Building Closed

Fungi at the Bog

Sunday, September 22nd – 1pm



The bog is home to some fascinating species of fungi that are both colorful and interesting. Join us at 1pm at the Bog parking lot for an introductory Fall Foliage Fungus Foray! Bring your camera or smartphone to capture a fun fungi photo collection. Please wear appropriate footwear. **Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.**

KC for Kids: Busy Bees

Monday, September 23rd – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, September 25th – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.



Survival Skills for Adults

Saturday, September 28th – 10am

Calling all outdoor enthusiasts! Have you ever wondered if you have what it takes to survive in the wilderness? Are you looking to brush up on your knowledge of wild edibles and important skills such as fire building and shelter building? Join us from 10am-12pm for our “Survival Skills” class at Kettle Creek. We will share stories and experiences and have hands-on lessons in nature, practicing various survival techniques in the forest. ***This workshop is being sponsored by Northampton Community College, made possible by an endowment for the humanities established through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and generous donors. This program is for adults and adolescents aged 14 or older and there will be no charge. Registration is required and limited.***

Red Cross Blood Drive

Saturday, September 28th – 9am-2pm



We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am to 2pm. Call MCCD at 570-629-3060 for more information. To register or learn more about American Red Cross blood drives, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS.



BWA Fall Hike at Glen Run Nature Preserve

Sunday, September 29th – 10am

Join us to explore Glen Run, an 182-acre preserve located just south of Stroudsburg. Participants should dress for the weather, wear sturdy footwear, and bring water. *In cooperation with the Brookhead Watershed Association and a grant through the William Penn Foundation there will be no charge for this walk. Register online at brokheadwatershed.org.*

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 2nd – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.



Friday Night Fall Festival

Friday, October 4th – 6-8pm



Join us for a spook-tacular evening at Kettle Creek’s Friday Night Fall Festival! On Friday October 4th from 6 to 8pm, dive into the festive spirit with creative crafts, exciting games and nighttime adventures. We will embark into the dark with a thrilling night hike where you’ll discover the secrets of nocturnal animals and their unique adaptations. Finally, we’ll cap off the night with s’mores and stories around the campfire. It’s a perfect blend of fun and education for the whole family. Participants are encouraged to dress in a Fall theme or wear a Halloween costume.

Don’t miss out on this eerie and enlightening adventure! **Please call to register. Cost: \$5/person.**

Saturday, October 5th—Building Closed

KC for Kids: Going Batty

Monday, October 7th – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**



Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 9th – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.

Meet the Artist: Claudia Hill & Joan Lech “From Nature to Art”

Saturday, October 12th – 11am

Claudia and Joan use an arsenal of mediums to create their unique artwork. Their show will be on display all month long. **There is no charge.**

Saturday Bog Walk

Saturday, October 12th – 2pm

See September 18th listing for details. Pre-registration is required and limited.

Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot by 2pm. **Cost: \$6 per person.**

Monday, October 14th—Building Closed—Holiday

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 16th – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.



Full Moon Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 16th – 6:30pm

Explore the bog under the light of a full moon. The walk begins at 6:30pm and participants should bring a headlamp/flashlight. Exact cash or check preferred (no credit cards). Please wear appropriate footwear.

Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person



Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 18th – 8-10pm

Kettle Creek along with Pocono Avian Research Center will host the sixth season of Project OwlNet. The station will be open to the public October 18th, 25th, and November 1st. Participants will learn more about the Northern Saw-whet Owl, Project OwlNet, and may have the unique opportunity to see one of the most secretive birds in the eastern US.

Pre-registration is required and limited. Donations welcome.

Saturday, October 19th —Building Closed



Bog Day

Sunday, October 20th – 10am

The Tannersville Bog stewardship committee along with The Nature Conservancy is sponsoring their annual “Bog Day” on Sunday, October 20th. This day features a guided walk on the boardwalk as well as information on the bog and light refreshments. It also gives participants the opportunity to meet some of the volunteers who help to maintain and protect this unique natural area. **The FREE walk will be held at 10am and registration is required.**

KC for Kids: Forest Floor Scavenger Hunt

Monday, October 21st – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 23rd – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.

Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, October 25th – 8-10pm

See October 18th listing for details.



Annual Bird Seed Sale

Saturday, October 26th – 9am-1pm

It’s time to feed our feathered friends and we are pleased to once again offer some of the best quality bird seed on the market: Aspen Song Wild Bird Seed. We are offering a wide variety of seed mixes and specialties, as well as bulk black oil sunflower seed from 9am to 1pm at the EE Center. We will have extra seed and many new varieties of feeders to meet all your bird feeding needs available on the day of the sale and throughout the bird feeding season. **To get an order form, see next page or visit mconconservation.org**

Mystery Bus Trip

Wednesday, October 30th – 8:30am-4pm

Hop on board Kettle Creek’s Bus and join Roger Spotts for this mystery tour. Where are we going? Somewhere in Monroe County, Roger isn’t even sure himself. The bus will leave Kettle Creek at 8:30am and return by 4pm. Pack a lunch, something to drink, and dress appropriately for some outdoor walking. Binoculars may be helpful.

Register early— space is limited. Cost for the trip: \$30 per person.

Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, October 30th – 1pm

See September 18th listing for details.

Project OwlNet: Saw-whet Owl Banding

Friday, November 1st – 8-10pm

See October 18th listing for details.



Owls of PA—with live owls!

Saturday, November 2nd – 11am

Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center will again be at Kettle Creek with their live owl ambassadors for a presentation all about owls! This is a fun event geared for older kids and adults. Get ready to witness live animals up close and learn from the experts themselves! **Please call to register or with any questions.**

Cost: \$5 per person, additional donations to help care for local wildlife welcome!



KC for Kids: Celebrate Trees

Monday, November 4th – 10am

This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. **Cost: \$7/child.**



Meet the Artist: Monica Doshi Weichand “Exploring Nature Through the Art of Quilting”

Saturday, November 16th – 11am

Five quilters will showcase a variety of nature-themed quilts. Their artwork will be on display for the month of November. **There is no charge.**

KETTLE CREEK ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER



570-629-3061



For Office Use Only

ANNUAL BIRD SEED SALE DAY — Saturday, October 26, 2024

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

****ORDER DEADLINE****
Friday, October 18, 2024

QUANTITY ORDERED	DESCRIPTION OF WILD BIRD SEED	DAY OF SALE PRICE	TOTAL
* 25 lb. Bag	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$15.75	
* 50 lb. Bag	Black Oil Sunflower Seed	\$28.55	
* 30 lb. Bag	Value Blend	\$18.80	
* 20 lb. Bag	Choice Blend	\$20.25	
* 40 lb. Bag	Choice Blend	\$37.35	
* 20 lb. Bag	Premium Blend	\$24.80	
* 40 lb. Bag	Premium Blend	\$47.30	
* 5 lb. Bag	Sunflower Kernels	\$8.95	
* 5 lb. Bag	Safflower Seed	\$7.90	
* 4 lb. Bag	Fruit & Nut Woodpecker Blend	\$11.70	
* 4 lb. Bag	Finch Blend	\$11.00	
* 10 lb. Bag	Nyjer (Thistle) Seed	\$24.00	
* 12 oz.	Hi-Energy Suet	\$1.45	
* 12- 12oz.	Hi-Energy Suet	\$16.50	

MAIL COMPLETED ORDER FORM AND CHECK TO:

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

SUB-TOTAL DUE: _____

*PLUS 6% SALES TAX: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

Monroe County Conservation District (MCCD)

Donation to EE Center: _____

This year we are accepting credit card payments over the phone or in person

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Another Great BugFest!

The 2024 BugFest event at Kettle Creek was a day full of fun, excitement, and learning all about some of our tiniest, yet most important local species—insects! Our center saw 230 visitors throughout the day who had the chance to participate in various crafts, games, and educational activities. Highlights of the day included visiting stations such as the insect zoo, build-a-bug craft, bees wax candle-making, maggot painting, insect Olympics, aquatic insect identification, face painting, insect safari, a live butterfly tent, and much more. This annual event is made possible due to the help from our wonderful volunteers and partnering agencies including the Monroe County Insects Are Us 4H Club, Penn State Extension, Master Gardeners and Monroe County Bee Keepers Association.



This year's Bug Fest received a *special donation* from a very generous woman who learned about the event through a segment on WNEP news. The donation was *enough to cover admission fees for every participant*, which was a wonderful surprise for families as they arrived at our registration tent. The staff at Kettle Creek truly appreciates all the individuals and organizations who helped make BugFest 2024 extra special. We hope this event helped inspire a sense of curiosity and love of learning about our six-legged friends and we are looking forward to another amazing BugFest next summer! ❁



DISTRICT NEWS

As many of you know, the Monroe County Conservation District is involved with safeguarding our local resources and ensuring that development within our county is done sustainably and responsibly. We would like to share some of our recent outreach efforts:

- Our new Watershed Specialist Charlie Kelshaw recently presented the findings from our 2023 Water Quality Study at the **Brodhead Watershed Association's Annual River Ramble** on July 28th, showcasing our efforts in monitoring and assessing local stream health. This information is publicly available through the Monroe County Planning Commission website at <https://www.monroecountypa.gov/departments/planning/resources/water-quality>.
- Our team also had a great time engaging with teenage scientists at this year's Monroe County **Conservation Camp**, where we led presentations and activities to inspire future environmental leaders and stewards.
- Currently, we're partnering with **IWLA Saltwatch** to track the effects of road salt on local waters. You can contribute by using our free dipstick kits to collect water samples from your local streams, rivers, or lakes.
- Looking ahead, be sure to join us for the **Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge Fall Fest** on October 19th from 10am-2pm. The event will feature fishing and archery lessons, crafts, and live presentations on animals and macroinvertebrates. We hope to see you there and appreciate your ongoing support!

Contact the conservation district at 570-629-3060 if you're interested in assisting in **Saltwatch** or having members of our team partake in your event.

Fun Fact: There are over 160 different kinds of fish that inhabit Pennsylvania's Waters! ❁



Project FeederWatch

Embrace the winter. Count feeder birds for science!

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology



Calling All Birders!

Do you have a passion for bird watching or an interest in participating in a citizen's science project? Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center is currently seeking volunteers to participate in **Project Feeder Watch** for the 2024-2025 season! Count dates will be Tuesdays & Wednesdays every other week beginning in November and ending in mid-April. Volunteers will receive detailed instructions on how to conduct bird counts right here inside our building as we watch the feathery friends that visit our outdoor feeders. This is also a great opportunity for novice birders to work with seasoned birdwatchers to learn bird identification. Data collected at our center will be submitted to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to provide scientists with important information about bird distribution and abundance. For more information or to sign up as a volunteer, contact Environmental Educator Derek Lederer by emailing dlrmccd@ptd.net or calling 570-629-3061. ❁

MCCD Welcomes New Staff

Please help us welcome some new staff members this fall! Charlie Kelshaw is our new Watershed Specialist, Jonathan Knauff is a new Resource Conservation Specialist, and Lisa Kershaw is our new Office Assistant Senior for the district's technical section. Here's what they had to say about themselves and their new positions:

First of all, why Monroe County?

Jonathan: I have a personal connection with the region's waterways and it's not far from my hometown in NJ.

Lisa: I used to live in East Stroudsburg and my children attended Smithfield Elementary, plus I'm a graduate of N.C.C.

Charlie: Growing up in NEPA, I developed a deep appreciation for the distinctive watersheds of Monroe County. The water here winds its way through glaciated landscapes and outwash plains, creating pristine habitats for a diverse array of both fish and wildlife.

Best part of working at MCCD?

Lisa: Even though it's my first week, everyone seems really nice.

Charlie: I love that I get to work to protect the environment and help create memories for all of the citizens of Monroe County with the best staff around!

Jonathan: Mostly the people I work with—it feels like I'm in a perpetual Parks and Rec episode. Being part of an organization whose primary goal involves mitigating damage to our natural resources helps, too.

Favorite hobbies?

Jonathan: Fly fishing, waterfowl hunting

Lisa: Video games, coloring, puzzles, listening to music

Charlie: Fishing, watching football (Roll Pards! & Go Birds!), reading Stephen King books and cuddling my three cats.

What inspires you?

Charlie: My mentors, family and friends inspire me every day. Not only did they form me into the person I am today, but they continuously help to sculpt me into the best Watershed Specialist I can be.

Lisa: My family

Jonathan: The connection I have to our coldwater fisheries is my primary motivator in life—the list of life lessons I have learned from the pursuit of wild trout with a fly rod is ever-growing. 🍷

Chasing Waterfalls in the Finger Lakes with Kettle Creek!

Once again, we hitched up the kayak trailer to the bus and led a group of 8 participants for an adventurous camping and paddling trip to NY. This time we visited the Finger Lakes region to explore as many waterfalls as possible in just three days from August 27th-29th.

Our trip itinerary first took us to Robert Treman State Park where we hiked up the gorge to the long, cascading Lucifer Falls, then cooled down with a dip at the swimming area by the Lower Enfield waterfall. We camped at Watkins Glen State Park and explored the infamous gorge trail, stopping for lots of breathtaking photos along the way. We spent an afternoon paddling several miles on Seneca Lake to the lovely hidden Hector Falls, and rode some epic lake waves while paddling back. On the last day we toured Taughannock State Park to view the tallest waterfall in NY, ate lunch by the lake, then topped it off with a stroll through Cornell Botanical Gardens in Ithaca and dinner!

The trip was a fantastic opportunity to view nature's majesty while being physically challenged in a safe and supportive atmosphere, helping to build self confidence. Participants reflected that it was a wonderful time to bond with other people and learn about our environment. It was inspiring to see each person realize they were capable of more than they thought, and collectively the group really supported and checked in on each other each step of the way. A truly empowering, all-women trip with some fun & excellent people! 🍷



PUBLISHED BY:
 MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
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Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

**Don't Forget—
 MCCD's 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
 2025 MCCD calendar!

**** Submissions due September 20th ****

For details and entry form, please see the link
 on our website, mcconservation.org



2025 Calendars will be available starting at our **Photo Contest Display Art Opening** on Saturday, December 7th at 11am. We will be showcasing and awarding the photos that made it into our **MCCD 2025 Calendar!**



**The Gallery at
*Kettle Creek***

September
 Heather Sheurs *"Foraged"*
 Heather uses vintage lenses and alternative photographic processes to give an immersive experience into botanicals.

October
 Claudia Hill & Joan Lech *"From Nature to Art"*
 Claudia and Joan use an arsenal of mediums to create their unique artwork.

November
 Monica Doshi Weichand *"Exploring Nature Through the Art of Quilting"*
 Five quilters will showcase a variety of nature-themed quilts.

December
 2025 Calendar Photo Contest Display
 Enjoy the entrants in our Monroe County Natural Resources Photo Contest.

KETTLE CREEK FOR KIDS	
KCK is back this fall! Programs are at 10am on select Mondays for ages 3-6. Parent/guardian must attend with their child. Please dress for the weather. Cost: \$7 per child, cash or check only. Payable day of program. Registration is limited, call to sign up!	
Sept. 23rd	Busy Bees - Fall is a busy time to be a bee! Come learn about how bees prepare to weather the long winter season. We will spend time both indoors and out, so please dress for the weather.
Oct. 7th	Going Batty - Furry, flying creatures of the night—Some think they are adorable, while they give others a fright! Through a story, outdoor activities and a craft, we will discover fascinating facts and the ecological importance of our nocturnal friends—bats!
Oct. 21st	Forest Floor Scavenger Hunt - Kids will explore the forest floor to discover the wonders of fall, including colorful leaves, acorns, pinecones, and signs of animal activity like squirrel nests or tracks.
Nov. 4th	Celebrate Trees - Bring your little explorer out on the trails for fun tree activities! We will work on our sorting and building skills as we play with all the different parts of the trees that comprise our forests.