8050 Running Valley Road Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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



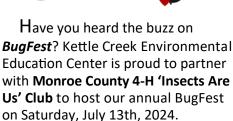
MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Summer 2024 Newsletter

Volume 47 No. 2

# We are buzzing with excitement for



This exciting, family-friendly event is a great way to learn about the fascinating world of bugs and other creepy-crawlies through *interactive games, activities and crafts*. Your passport to BugFest will guide you to stations such as our insect zoo, builda-bug craft, free face painting, makeyour-own-antennae, our outdoor insect safari, live butterfly tent and much more! At the end of the session, turn in your stamped passport to receive a special prize.

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Children will have a blast at the interactive stations with volunteers from the Monroe County Bee Keepers Association, Master Gardeners, Penn State Extension and more! (*If you are reading this and would like to volunteer to help with BugFest, contact us!*)

Participants can join us for the morning session from 9:30am-12pm or the afternoon session from 12:30-3pm. This fun filled day will include the opportunity to watch a skit by the 'Insects Are Us' 4-H Club followed by the infamous *Insect Olympic* games in the field from 11-11:30am during our morning session and 2-2:30pm during our afternoon session. Our day will end at 3:00pm with the release of the Monarch and Painted Lady butterflies from our butterfly tent. The cost to attend is only \$5 per child ages 3-12 and any child wearing a bug costume will receive \$1 off admission! Anyone under 3 or over 12 years of age may attend free of charge. Pre-registration is required, so call our office at (570) 629-3061 to reserve your spot.

We can't wait to see you this summer at BugFest! 🌣





### 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 Jason Smith

### **District Staff**

Kristina Heaney District Manager

David Hooker Head Resource Conservationist

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

David Lucykanish, John Motz Resource Conservation Specialists

Roger Spotts Environmental Education Coordinator

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

> Barbara Bistrais Finance Manager

Diana Flint, Iwona O'Connor Office Assistant Seniors

> Anthony (Tony) Herda Groundskeeper

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

Save the Date – Thurs, Sept. 19, 2024 Plans are underway for the 2024

KCEF Fundraiser Dinner at Trout Lake. What a great venue for our annual gathering of friends, donors, and sponsors! If you, your agency, organization, or business has been invited to be a sponsor and you have not yet sent your Dinner Response Form, please do so. Dinner sponsorships are a major part of our fundraising effort throughout our community. The deadline is Monday,

July 29th. If you would like to be added to our sponsor invitation, please contact the fund. Our sponsors include individuals, families, local governments, organizations, and businesses. All sponsors are listed prominently in our dinner program.

Invitations to attend the dinner will be sent out soon. If you would like to attend the dinner and have not received an invitation in the past, please contact us and we will be glad to send you one. Remember – our dinner is by reservation only, seating is limited!

Update on the building entrance project: KCEF is partnering with the District on the building entrance project that has been highlighted at our last two dinners. The portion of the project that KCEF is funding is a pond and waterfall feature with a glass viewing wall enabling visitors and school children to view the pond underwater. This portion of the project is being funded by the memorial donations we have received in memory of both Karen Boyle and John Woodling. Memorial donations are still being accepted. In addition to this project, KCEF continues to help fund the district's

environmental education programs that are provided for all 4 school districts

in Monroe County, family and adult programs, and programs for organizations by request.

Thank you to all in our community who support the Kettle Creek Environmental Fund! 🌣

<u>How to contact KCEF:</u> Address: 8050 Running Valley Road Phone #: 570-629-3061 Email: kettlecreekfund@gmail.com

- 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







Summer in the Poconos, we hear it all the time as people are encouraged to visit the area for a variety of reasons. We welcome summer as well because it provides us the opportunity to offer a different variety of programs as schools are out and we turn our attention to exploring the outdoors with people of all ages. Our 2024 summer schedule is jam packed with opportunities to explore different outdoor areas in Monroe County.

Our Public Bog walk schedule offers Wednesday walks at 10am and various other options to visit this unique area. Even if you have been to the bog before, a different time of year will offer different flowers, berries, etc. and don't forget to check out the sunset walks as well.

Our summer camp registrations are filling up fast, we look forward to having the chance to work with campers ages 7 on up as they spend a week exploring Kettle Creek and many other natural areas in Monroe County during one of our camp options.

As you make your summer plans don't forget to include a visit to Kettle Creek, it is close by and has a number of great trails for hiking and letting your soul relax in the outdoors. The trails are open every day dawn to dusk for general hiking, no pets please. If you have children or grandchildren you will want to plan some time to visit Lillianna's Nature Discovery Area, a hands-on playground for kids of all ages with some unique experiences waiting to be discovered. Our Center is open 8am-4:30pm Monday-Friday and includes displays on Pocono Wildlife, a deck with picnic tables, a small gift shop and a gallery with beautiful art exhibits from local artists that change monthly.

So whether you are just visiting the area or you are a permanent resident we hope to see you at Kettle Creek this summer.  $\Leftrightarrow$ 

-Roger Spotts, Environmental Education Coordinator



### **A Fond Farewell to Barb**

Barb Bistrais began her work at the Conservation District 18 years ago as our bookkeeper but she became much, much more than that during her time with us. Barb basically was the person behind all the financial record keeping, etc. for the entire district office. When she arrived, we were a smaller operation but as the District programs grew and modernized Barb was right there helping to keep the operation working smoothly. She was the behind-the-scenes person who was absolutely necessary to make sure that all the financial needs and record keeping were kept clean and up-to-date. The Conservation District has a very complicated financial situation with all the grants, state, and county funding as well as the program income from all the educational programs—it was Barb's job to keep everything in line, a very difficult task but one that she did very well.

Barb did not just stop with the finances at the District; you might have talked to her on the phone about programs, bird seed, fundraisers, pollution complaints, or even what to do about a baby bird you found. Her energy and commitment were greatly appreciated. You might not know this about Barb but she is an excellent cook and for years ran the kitchen during the County Envirothon competition serving over 100 people lunch each year.

Barb is moving on to pursue a new career and we wish her luck. We can't thank her enough for all her hard work the past 18 years. The entire Board and staff will miss her greatly.









#### Conservation through Education ~ Summer 2024

# 2024 Summer Public Programming

# Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> – 10am

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

### Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed—Holiday

#### Sunset Bog Walk Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> – 7pm

Explore the beauty of the bog during the golden hour just as the sun sets. Please wear appropriate footwear.

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



#### **Amazing Animal Adaptations** Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 10am

Join us for an unforgettable morning with Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center as they bring live animal ambassadors to Kettle Creek! Discover the incredible ways reptiles, birds, and mammals of PA survive and thrive in their natural habitats. This is a fun event for the whole family.

Get ready to witness live animals up close and learn from the experts themselves! No registration required, call us with any questions.

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

#### Pond Peeking Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> – 1pm



#### The pond at Kettle Creek is full of fascinating critters that are a wonder to observe. Join us at 1pm as we explore the life in Swink Pond. Participants should be prepared to get muddy feet. Cost: \$5 per person.



Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

#### **KC for Kids: Critter Quest** Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> – 10am

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

#### **Red Cross Blood Drive** Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup> – 9am-2pm



We are proud to be hosting another blood drive from 9am-2pm. Call Barbara at 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.

### Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

## 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

Conservation through Education ~ Summer 2024

Thursday, July 4<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed—Holiday Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed



Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

### KC for Kids: Birds of Prey Expedition

Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> – 10am This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. Cost: \$7/child.



### **Sunset Bog Walk**

Thursday, July 11<sup>th</sup> – 7pm

Explore the beauty of the bog during the golden hour just as the sun sets. Please wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.



#### **BugFest**

### Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup> – 9:30am-12pm & 12:30pm-3pm

Displays, activities, games, crafts, live insects, insect safaris, and presentations all day, all about insects! Join us for the morning or afternoon session. Come dressed as your favorite bug and receive a discount of admission price! See front cover for more details. Cost: \$5/child ages 3-12. Parents can attend for free.

# Sunday Bog Walk Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – 11am



Join us at 11am 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 and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.



### KC for Kids: To Be a Bear

Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> – 10am This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. Cost: \$7/child.

### Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed

Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

### KC for Kids: Meadow Safari



Thursday, July 25<sup>th</sup> – 10am This one-hour program is for children 3-6. See page 10 for details. Cost: \$7/child.

### Saturday, July 27<sup>th</sup>—Building Open



Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, July 31<sup>st</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.



### Meet the Artist: Derek Lederer *"Wildlife Photography"* Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 11am



A symphony of nature through the camera lens. Derek's show will be on display all month long. There is no charge.



#### Wednesday Bog Walk Wednesday, August 7<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

### The Big Trees of Kettle Creek

Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – 10am

Join Environmental Education Coordinator Roger Spotts as we search out some of the big trees at Kettle Creek. From White Pines to Red Oaks, these monarchs have lived here for decades. Cost: \$5 per person.

### **Saturday Bog Walk**

### Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> – 2pm

Join us at 2pm 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 and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

#### Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

#### Photography in the Bog Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> – 2-4pm



This is an immersive program dedicated go capturing the beauty of avian life and distinctive plant species thriving in wetlands. Participants are invited to explore these unique ecosystems with their cameras to document the mesmerizing array of bird species and rare flora that call the bog home. From the graceful flight of warblers to the delicate blooms of carnivorous plants, the program offers a remarkable opportunity to delve into the intricacies of nature through the lens of photography. Bring your camera and accessories and/or a smartphone. Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$10 per person.

### Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>—Building Closed



Hike at Bog Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup> – 10am

Join us for a hike and explore the secluded Cranberry Bog. Participants should dress for the weather, wear sturdy footwear, and bring water. In cooperation with the Brodhead Watershed Association and a grant through the William Penn Foundation there will be no charge for this walk. Register online at brodheadwatershed.org.

#### Wednesday Bog Walk

Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> – 10am See listing on June 19<sup>th</sup> for details.

#### **Sunset Bog Walk**

#### Thursday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6:30pm

Explore the beauty of the bog during the golden hour just as the sun sets. Please wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and limited. Meet at the Tannersville Bog parking lot. Cost: \$6 per person.

### Weiss Meadow Walk at the Bog Preserve

### Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – 9am

A walk through the prescribed burn areas to highlight the beautiful wildflowers that grow in the meadow hab Please wear appropriate footwear. Pre-registration is required and limited. Cost: \$6 per person.



Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>—Building Open



Trip is limited to 11 people, so call now to register!

### Spaces Still Available for our Bus Trip to the Finger Lakes!

If you've never had the opportunity to hike the infamous Watkins Glen Gorge trail in the Finger Lakes, NY region you're in luck! Kettle Creek EE Center is leading a bus trip there on August 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>. In addition to immersing ourselves in beautiful gorges, we will be kayaking on nearby lakes and swimming next to waterfalls! We will be spending two nights camping at Watkins Glen State Park, and we can provide the tents. Our trip will finish with a stroll through the lovely Cornell Botanic Gardens. See the flyer for more details. Please call our office at 570-629-3061 to sign up or if you have any questions! ©





## **Envirothon Results!**

Monroe County once again sent a competitive team to the state Envirothon competition. Pleasant Valley High School took the top three spots at the county competition this year, with 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes going to the **Shadow Wizard Money Gang** and **Joan of Shark** respectively. Our 1<sup>st</sup> place finishers, the **Mudsnipers**, included four members of last year's winning team, who went on to place 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 2023 state competition. After completing an oral presentation on this year's theme, *Renewable Energy*, The Mudsnipers took a further five tests on the course at Camp Mt. Luther, surrounded by the best teams from every other county in the state. Their final score of 533, out of a possible 600 points, landed them **3rd place in an incredibly tight top three**. Monroe County finished just 2 and 4 points respectively behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 1<sup>st</sup> place teams, York County and Erie County. Monroe County is incredibly proud of the continued excellence shown by our high school students!

We would like to acknowledge the achievements of our Junior Envirothon participants this year as well. Monroe County students from 5th - 8th grade were tested on their knowledge of local animals, trees, pond life, and invasive plants. Our winners for the 5th & 6th grade competition were **Cactus Makes Perfect** from Tobyhana Elementary Center. The winners of the 7th & 8th grade competition were the **Spunky Spruces** of Pleasant Valley.

Congratulations to our winning teams and all those who participated this year! 🌣

### **Survival Skills for Adults**



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 on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> 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. Thanks to this generous grant, this program is free of charge for participants. This program is for adults & adolescents aged 14 or older. Registration is required and limited. Reserve your spot today by calling (570) 629-3061.



### 2024 NPDES Engineers Workshop a SUCCESS!

On May 10<sup>th</sup> Monroe and Pike Conservation Districts held their annual **NPDES Engineers Workshop** at the Skytop Lodge with over 120 attendees. The event, "Back to the Basics", focused on the basics of the Chapter 102 NPDES permit program and tips, tricks, and tools for newer professionals as they break out into the industry. MCCD all-star engineers Mike Wilk and Drew Wagner presented on program updates and some of the key elements to submitting an application that supports sustainable development. The event was a huge success with great prizes and engaging audience questions. A special thanks to all the Pike and Monroe staff for making this remarkable, educational opportunity happen each year!  $\heartsuit$ 



## Headwalls - A Pipe's Best Friend

We see a LOT of pipes in our travels. Not all pipes are created equal, however, they all have some things in common. Two of those things are the upstream and downstream ends.

The majority of stormwater pipes we see are HDPE plastic, smooth bore with corrugated outsides. The smooth bore allows water to transport sediment better, which can minimize clogging. The outer corrugations allow the aggregate backfill to 'lock them in' and gives them strength. The end treatments however, which protect these pipes from being crushed, are often lacking.

Headwalls, or sometimes called endwalls at the downstream end, are used to hold backfill and keep pipe ends from being crushed by traffic that may, shall we say, venture off the travel lane. The problem for driveway pipes is, they are often at that point in the road where vehicles are turning, and so they need a wider radius than just the lane they travel in. Pipes come in 20' sections, so on a typical 10' driveway, there are 10' extra. Consider now the flared ends of the driveway where turns would be made- that 10' only gives you 5' on each side—enough for most vehicles, but not much for longer vehicles.

Headwalls help protect your driveway pipe from delivery trucks, and young and old drivers alike. Headwalls, like the pipes they protect, come in different shapes, sizes, and materials. There are precast concrete head-





walls, cast in place concrete, field stone (shown in picture), and even plastic headwalls which can be filled with sand or gravel. The DGLVR program requires headwalls on all pipe installations. And the District encourages all landowners to protect their stormwater conveyances, including pipe ends. Information on headwalls can be found on the Center for Dirt and Gravel Studies website: <a href="http://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/general-resources/technical-bulletins/">www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/general-resources/technical-bulletins/</a>.



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### How Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Programs can help!

In August and September of 2021, storm events in Monroe County led to significant streambank erosion along the Pocono Creek in Stroudsburg. One of these storms included Tropical Storm Ida, which resulted in record setting rainfall amounts in eastern Pennsylvania. Two homes in particular found themselves within 8-10' of the banks of Pocono Creek as a result. The damages sustained to both properties combined with a regional state of emergency made them eligible for grant funds through the Natural Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP).

MCCD acted as the local sponsor for NRCS's program and helped administer the funds needed to complete streambank stabilization measures to protect the two homes. The repairs include a stacked rock wall along a 150' long vertical bank that was as high as 15' in some sections. Two channel deflectors and another 200' of riprap bank protection were also installed. *These repairs will not only protect the homes of two families in* 

Stroudsburg, but will also reduce further sediment pollution to Pocono Creek as

Before: a very steep, eroded streambank pollution to Pocono Creek a result of the accelerated erosion taking place there.

The EWP program is made eligible to private homeowners and business owners through NRCS after a region has seen significant property damage as a result of a natural disaster. Eligibility criteria can be found at NRCS's EWP website linked below. Program eligibility determinations are made by our local NRCS office out of Mayfield, PA.  $\diamondsuit$ 

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewpemergency-watershed-protection



After: With NRCS funds, this streamfront property now has stable streambanks

PUBLISHED BY: MONROE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT 8050 RUNNING VALLEY ROAD STROUDSBURG, PA 18360 TELEPHONE: 570-629-3060 FAX: 570-629-3063 E-MAIL: monroecd@ptd.net WEBSITE: mcconservation.org

Conserving Natural Resources for Our Future

# Monroe County Conservation District's Annual Photo Contest

In an effort to support the conservation of our county's natural resources, we feel it is important to allow the public an opportunity to showcase what they feel are Monroe County's finest natural resources.

> **12 Winners will be Chosen** Each winner will receive maple syrup and a calendar!

For full rules and how to submit a photo visit www.mcconservation.org



#### June

Pocono Photo Club "Nature through our Lenses" A collection of photos from various members of the Pocono Photography Club.

#### <u>July</u>

Caroline Fegley *"Blirb Studios - Wildlife Art"* Wildlife paintings and sculptures by a local research biologist.

#### <u>August</u>

Derek Lederer *"Wildlife Photography"* A symphony of nature through the camera lens.

#### **September**

Heather Sheurs "Foraged"

Heather uses vintage lenses and alternative photographic processes to give an immersive experience into botanicals.

# Kettle Creek for Kids

It's summer so let's explore! Programs are at 10am on select Thursdays 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!

June 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Critter Quest</b> - Join us as we explore different habi- tats, from forests to ponds, to find and learn about all sorts of amazing animals. It's a fun journey packed with discovery, excitement, and plenty of critter spotting!
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Birds of Prey Expedition</b> - Soar and learn about the world of eagles, owls, & hawks as we discover the amazing lives of these birds. Explorers will have a blast learning about the rulers of the sky!
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	<b>To Be a Bear -</b> Learn about the largest animal in the Poconos! Join us as we become bears and figure out what they like to eat and how they spend their time. The program will include a walk and a craft.
July 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Meadow Safari</b> - Join us on an exploration of our meadow's wonderful wildflowers and their pollinator partners! Using nets and bug boxes, we will catch the meadow's tiny creatures and learn about how these insects work together with the flowers to make the meadow habitat thrive.