



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Each Step	1
CEO Message	2
Celebration of Life	3
End of Summer	4
Development Update	5
First Bloom in the Fall?	6
Funding Opportunities	7
List of Supporters	8-9
Donation Trends	10
Energy Efficiency	10
PEEC Volunteers	11
PEEC Talent	13
The Restorative Effects of Nature	14

**Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

RR 2 Box 1010
Dingmans Ferry, PA
570 • 828 • 2319

peec@peec.org
www.peec.org

Each Step

By Jeremy Philips, PEEC Naturalist



The muck was thick and the smell of decay fumigated the air with each step. Green frogs (*Rana clamitans*) hopped aside and a bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) made its classic “ddrruumm” call not too far away. Though I had been here many times, thoughts of leaches and bruised legs from unseen fallen trees in the water crept into my head as Ethan (former naturalist at PEEC) and I trudged out into the beaver swamp to see what we could find. We were not looking for anything in particular and we did not find anything that made us leap for joy that day. The hot summer day made us sweat, the warm water gave us no relief, but the experience of seeing what was in the middle of that pond, put a splendid smile on both our faces.

What we call “Thurner Beaver Pond” (it really does not have a name), has been a special place since the first time Ethan brought me here. It was the mid-spring of ’05. Standing on the front porch at PEEC we could hear a sound in the distance about 8:00 or 9:00 PM. Ethan and I cupped our hands behind our ears and faced the sound in attempts to hear it more clearly. Being who we are, we trekked up the road and turned in the woods towards the sound. We knew it was the time of year for gray tree frogs (*Hyla versicolor*) but we never expected the chorus to be as ear-piercing as it was that night. We sat on the edge of that pond for a long while listening, no talking, just hearing. That first night made this place such a special area for me.

In this very pond a Mississippi kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) decided to visit for a few days in 2006 and at least two different species of woodpeckers and great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) nest in the dead trees still standing in the pond. *Continued on page 12 ...*



PEEC Board of Trustees

OFFICERS

Dr. Barbara Brummer, Chairperson
Anthony Vallese, Vice-Chairperson
Carolyn Bolt, Secretary
George Hill, Treasurer

TRUSTEES

Helen Conover	Jan Lakuta, Esq.
Howard J. Grossman	Tanya Oznowich
Eric Hamill	Peter Wulphorst
Ken Klipstein	Howard Parish

Consultant: Mike Dickerson

<i>Emeritus</i>	<i>In Memoriam</i>
Dr. Harry Miller Jr.	Dr. Paul F. Brandwein
John (Jack) Padalino	J. Thomas Seely
Dr. Calvin Stillman	Dr. S. Marie Kuhn

PEEC's TEAM

CEO	Jeffrey Rosalsky
Director of Development	Flo Mauro
Director of Business Mgmt.	Mariann Oswald
Facilities Manager	Ted Wetzel

PEEC PEOPLE

Office Manager	Marlene Aceto
Associate Director for Education	
School Group, Summer & Volunteer Programs	Allison Owczarczak
Associate Director for Education	
Program Planning, Weekend Operations & Outreach	Heidi Normand
Programming Planning Assistant	Kristen Heckrote
Naturalist/Workshop Manager	Jeremy Phillips
Camp/Volunteer/Special Events Manager	Mike Liese
Program Assistant	Barbara Derrenbacher
Public Relations/Marketing	Bessy Vega
Maintenance	James Haskell

INSTRUCTORS & INTERNS

Hannah Taylor, Barbara DeBenedictis,
Molly Check, Miranda Luckie, Paul Balik, Serena
Barausky, Lauren Carley, Dana Columbrais,
Kelly Good, Angela Gutierrez, Kelly Lecko,
Anthony Pittala, Caitlyn Shortt, Sean Smith,
Andrea Ace, Laura DeWolff, Amy Hobbs,
James Maloney, Ryan McLaughlin

PEEC Seasons is a Quarterly Publication of
the Pocono Environmental Education Center
Marketing and Development Office.

Design & Layout	Niki Jones Agency
Editor	Bessy Vega

Contributing Writers
Flo Mauro, Heidi Normand, Mariann Oswald,
Mike Liese, Jeremy Phillips, Allison Owczarczak,
Barbara Brummer, and Jeff Rosalsky.

Contributing Photos
Jeff Rosalsky, Jeremy Phillips, Allison Owczarczak,
Mike Liese, Bessy Vega, Kristen Heckrote,
Eli Rivera, Alex Westner, John Barclay

CEO Message

Jeff Rosalsky



Summer at PEEC this year was wonderful, despite the intensity and volume of rain. As with all extremes in nature and in life, the rain had its compensating benefits. The creeks, streams and waterfalls were full and vibrant right through August. The wildflowers, both in the woods and on the roadsides, were abundant and long lasting. The gypsy moth population, which has been devastating the oaks and other trees in the Park, has been drastically reduced.

The summer day camp season was amazing. Children and parents agreed that the staff was phenomenal and environmental education activities were the best ever. The Junior Naturalist photo safari week produced nature photographs that were inspiring and we are incorporating them into PEEC's website. The PEEC/ Easter Seals Summer Academy for Autistic Youth went well and we are planning to expand to an overnight program next summer.

PEEC is many things at the same time. We are an educational institution, an outdoor classroom, a natural history museum, a birder's paradise, a field research station and an oasis where people can simply commune with nature. On a daily basis I am amazed by the impact that PEEC has on the lives of our visitors. Their interest in, and fascination with nature and our environment transcends all boundaries of age, race, religion, education, disability or background.

The children who visit PEEC give me hope for the future of my own children and the future of the planet. They see the world the way it could be, and the way it should be. They are natural advocates of conservation, recycling and environmental preservation and embrace them with the same eagerness as they engage new technologies. Unlike prior generations, they are intuitively comfortable with the coexistence of environmental conservation and technological progress. They see the ways that the two can complement each other—and they are right.



The National Park Service and PEEC present...

BIOBLITZ

Pocono Environmental Education Center in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

September 24-25, 2010

WHAT IS A BIOBLITZ?

A Bioblitz is a 24-hour event in which teams of scientists, volunteers, and community members join forces to find, identify, and learn about as many local plant and animal species as possible.

WHAT WE NEED:

Scientists
Sponsors
Product / services donations



"Count me in!"
...and every other living creature
in the Park

Celebration of Life

In Memory of Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen



By Barbara Brummer—PEEC Board of Trustees Chairperson

She inspired generations of biology teachers; she created a love of the outdoors in thousands of people who otherwise would never have come to know the beauty and complexity of nature. A woman ahead of her time – she became the first Chair of Montclair State's Bio Department when it was founded in the late sixties; she helped to found the School of Conservation in Stokes State Forest; she was a founding Trustee of the Pocono Environmental Education Center; she worked tirelessly to preserve the hemlock forest in Valhalla Glen in partnership with The Nature Conservancy well before most people had an appreciation of protecting unique natural communities.

But most importantly, she touched so many of her students' lives and instilled her spirit and enthusiasm for appreciation of the plants and birds around the world. She reveled in getting students outdoors – whether it was just up the street to Mill's Reservation, the Montclair Hawk Watch (NJ Audubon), the Pine Barrens, Tillman's Ravine, Brigantine, Delmarva Peninsula or the Adirondacks! Over 41 years, her teaching at Montclair State University was transformational for many students, myself included.

Ask anyone who took her courses which teacher stands out in memory, and the reply is most likely "Dr. Kuhnen!" Her students continually showed up at her home in Clifton even 20 years after her retirement. She spent her entire life living and working within a 10-mile radius in northern NJ, "But, I've traveled to all seven continents" she once laughingly remarked—and undoubtedly left an impression on all of them.

Yes, she gave us all a new perspective on the natural world and we all had a lot of fun in the process. And yes, we will always remember those days, but most of all we will remember her – the energetic, demanding but fair – Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen, a woman whose passion and energy made an impression that changed lives.



PEEC Day Camps 2009

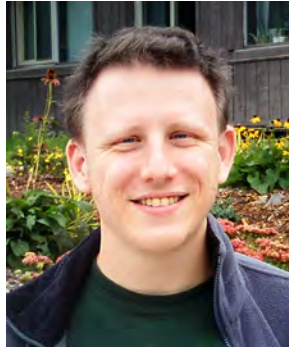
were filled with exciting activities for kids of all ages! Campers enjoyed such themes as “Creepy Crawlies”, “Water Adventures”, and one of our favorites, “Photo Safari”, where campers brought their 35mm/digital cameras and captured nature in their own unique way!

It was a wonderful Summer for Campers and PEEC Staff. We would like to share some of PEEC Day Camps Best Moments with you and your family.



End of Summer

Mike Liese



A few years ago some parents came up to me asking what their kids could do this summer. They were too old for camp, but too young to work. After giving it some thought I came

back with a time honored, yet unofficial, tradition at PEEC: they could volunteer. This became the foundation of what would evolve into the Volunteer Counselor Program.

This is the second official year of PEECs Volunteer Counselor Program. This year, the volunteer counselors at PEEC have been enormously successful. It is not the 900+ hours, volunteers contributed this summer that makes the program successful, although that is part of it.

For those who do not know, PEEC's Nature Camp has four age groups. The oldest is the Sr. Naturalists, from 8th – 10th grade. One of the Sr. Naturalist weeks of camp is a “CIT” (Counselor In Training) week. This in-depth training is an opportunity for the Sr. Naturalist to learn how to become a counselor. By the end of the week, the CITs have some experience and a good idea of what it takes to be a counselor.

Fast forward a year and now the CITs want to give back to PEEC, they are now volunteers. These volunteers participate in the same staff training as PEEC's counselors and instructors. The expectations are the same, and the volunteers are learning how to care for children. They received the same CPR, AED, & First Aid certifications and helped make the Nature Lodge look the best it's ever been! Additionally they are learning what it takes to have a real job. What it means to sign in, out, have a good attitude despite being asked, again, to take a camper to the bathroom. Every few weeks they are given formal evaluations so they know what they did right, what they need to improve upon, and the things they should never forget.

And so they volunteered... and in doing so, really made PEEC Camp the best possible experience I could imagine not only for the campers, but for themselves. The best part was that many volunteered for a few weeks then, took a week or two to become Sr. Naturalists again before returning to volunteering. They got a full summer experience here from backpacking down the Appalachian Trail to teaching a Wet & Slimy how to canoe.

So thank you Aaron Brown, Matt Fine-Lopez, Gabe Kieffer, Skye Gunter, Matt “The Giant” Stewart, and Alexa Rosalsky for your ability to make the transition from camper to counselor. Your effort, contribution, and growth were needed to make the volunteer program successful. Not only that, but your presence definitely had a beneficial effect on PEEC making its camp a better place and its campers have a summer they will never forget.

PEEC Day Camps: Best Moments

www.peec.org/daycamps.htm



WISH LIST

1. Volunteers...daily, weekly, monthly. Visit www.peec.org/members.html#volunteer
2. Gift cards...Lowe's, Home Depot, Staples, General MC or VISA
3. New resin (dark green or brown) chairs for cabins
4. Medium - Large freezer for storage of future program materials (dead animals)

Call 570-828-2319

Development Update

By Flo Mauro



I was just asked a very simple question '...why can't everyone who contributes to PEEC be considered a Friend of PEEC, receive our undying gratitude and thanks and maybe a benefit

or two?'...and I could not come up with any reason why not. So this past July we initiated a new Friends program and the response has been positively overwhelming!

In our last newsletter our Friends of PEEC section looked a little lean...wait till you see

the Friends section in this issue. You can also view our donors list on our web site at www.peec.org. We will be updating the online listing with every newsletter issue. There will soon be a beautiful 'Friends' banner on display in the lobby at PEEC as well.

It has been quite the challenge to update our Friends list to make sure we have included everyone who has donated, joined, contributed and sponsored someone or something here at PEEC this year. Bear with us as we continue to update this fabulous listing, and please let me know if you or someone you know is missing from it.

A few little fyi's...

- Our fundraising efforts this year have been successful in raising over \$20k to date. A few participants told us that this year's Native Plant Sale and Golf Outing at Great Bear in July were our best yet. Golf Outing participants can check out the event's slide show at www.peec.org
- We recently received a donation of a 24" monitor for the lobby in the Main building. Check it out! Preview on-going slide shows of our facilities, upcoming events, testimonials, our own flora and fauna, our day camper's in action (we needed bleacher seats on the day we put their smiling faces on display) and much more. A great gift!
- Welcome Bessy Vega! Bessy is the newest (and most welcome) member of our Marketing & Development team. Bessy and the NikiJones Agency are responsible for constantly updating and upgrading our web site, brochures, flyers, publications, press releases, ads and our overall public image.

We hope you enjoy the first ever e-version of PEEC SEASONS. It is an on-going challenge to secure email addresses for our Friends and members...let us know if you would like us to include your friends with our future e-news.

As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity. There are so many ways for folks to support PEEC. Call for details or visit www.peec.org

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

For complete descriptions, visit www.peec.org/eventssubject.html

October 2009

Columbus Day Family Nature Getaway.....	October 9-12
Fall Hikers Weekend.....	October 16-18
Fall Photography with John Barclay.....	October 16-18
Educator's In-Service.....	October 17
Digital Fall Photo Weekend with Ray Klass.....	October 23-25
PEEC-A-BOO Halloween Trail.....	October 31

November 2009

Boy Scout Badge Festival.....	November 7
Girl Scout Badge Festival.....	November 14

December 2009

Christmas Bird Count.....	December 27
---------------------------	-------------



First Bloom in the Fall?

By Heidi Normand



Yes!

Imagine: you are in the 4th, 5th, or maybe 6th grade and you are picked to participate in an environmental education program where you get to spend

the night in a yurt at PEEC, hike and challenge yourself with your new friends on the teambuilding course, go canoeing and hang out under the stars around a campfire.

If you are one of the 15 local children chosen for the Firstbloom Program at PEEC you more than likely have never done any of these things....and now you get the chance.

In August, PEEC was awarded a \$20,000 grant to represent the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area as one of 26 U.S. National Parks to offer the Firstbloom Program in 2009 / 2010. Firstbloom was launched in 2006 by the National Park Foundation with an initial \$1million contribution secured by ARAMARK through the Yawkey Foundation and is supported through additional individual, foundation, and corporate support.

Firstbloom connects kids between 4th and 6th grades to nature and national parks while helping them learn to appreciate native plants and

their role in a healthy environment. Firstbloom participants around the country were asked what the best part of the Firstbloom program was for them. The most significant of the experiences reported by the kids was the time spent in national parks '...doing something in nature...'

As I began writing this article I was somewhere over Arkansas on my way to Austin Texas to take part in Firstbloom's 4-day training. Molly J. Check, PEEC's Firstbloom Lead Instructor and I trained with close to 30 National Park Service, Boys and Girls Club and various social service employees. When we were chosen, I was very excited to be a part of this program. Somewhere in the midst of the training we became ecstatic about what this program will give the kids involved. A demographic of particular importance to PEEC is local youth. This program will help the youth in our area become better acquainted with the land that surrounds them every day. There is potential to renew the program for 2 more years.

PEEC's local partner for this program is Scoutreach. Scoutreach is a division of the Boy Scouts of America that gives special leadership and emphasis to urban and rural youth interested in scouting programs. Scoutreach is the Boy Scouts commitment to making sure that all young people have an opportunity to join Scouting regardless of their circumstances, neighborhood, or ethnic background. We are excited about the challenges Firstbloom offers and hope it is the beginning of a new era in PEEC programming.

PEEC's Firstbloom Program begins with a kickoff weekend that coincides with most of the other Firstbloom Program site kickoff events. Each month after that, our group will meet to work on planting projects all over PEEC and for a year straight we will be working with the participants to help them connect with the natural world around us all.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the staff of PEEC and our local kids. I personally look forward to filling you in this year about their progress. Join us for our Earth Day 2010 Celebration to see Firstbloom's plantings, their informational table and exhibits!



FIRST BLOOM 2009



Funding Opportunities

PEEC believes that every child should have the opportunity to learn about nature hands on. Unfortunately, with our current economic climate, many schools and organizations have been faced with cutbacks. Ultimately, children lose out as Field Trips and other extracurricular activities are eliminated from school programs. In that same sense, donations have dropped dramatically and many community organizations are also struggling to stay afloat.

If your school or organization has an idea for a program, but lacks the funds and needs assistance, please reach out to PEEC. Our CEO, Director of Business Management, and Associate Director for Education will do everything possible to work with you and find the funds you need for your project. And although we cannot guarantee we will acquire funds for your school or organization, you can be sure we will try our best to assist you!

In addition, we have listed some resources on this page that may be available to cover transportation costs, field trips, and other activities. We will make every effort to list resources in every issue of Seasons to help you on your way to enhancing your children's environmental awareness at PEEC!



FIELD TRIP FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Bus Fund: Your school group may be eligible for free transportation. The South Jersey Cultural Alliance administers a grant for transporting students to cultural and educational events. Contact Caz Boyd at 609-645-2760 for an application.

Target Field Trip Grants: Target will award 5,000 Field Trip Grants of up to \$800 each during the 2008-2009 school year. Check www.target.com for more information.

Lowes Charitable and Educational Foundation: Administers grants to schools that provide outdoor, hands-on science education to students in grades K-12 and assists schools in enhancing their core curriculum in all subjects. Check the website for more information: www.lowes.com/community

Corporate/Business Sponsorship: Make a request to a local business, or one of the groups listed below, for financial support for your outdoor education field trip

Rotary: www.rotary.org

Lions: www.lionsclubs.org

Kiwanis: www.kiwanis.org

Jay Cees: www.usjaycees.org



The **PERFECT PLACE**  for...
www.peec.org/retreats.html



-  **RETREATS**
-  **WORKSHOPS**
-  **CONFERENCES**
-  **CAMPS**



PEEC www.peec.org/pdfs/PEEC-donorlist-web.pdf SUPPORTERS

DECEMBER 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2009

BALD EAGLE



Brummer Family
East Stroudsburg Savings Association
The First Bloom Foundation
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
Great Bear Golf & Country Club
Ingeborg Biondo Foundation
LadyBird Johnson Wildflower Center

Litzenberger Family Foundation
Nassau Broadcasting
The National Park Foundation
Niki Jones Agency
Pennsylvania Power & Light
PNC Foundation

Pocono Living Magazine
Puente-Reilly Group
Sanofi-pasteur
Alan D. Sexton
Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
Lou Wentzler

RED SHOULDERED HAWK



Kim Brino
Ceasar's Pocono Resort
Community Rental Centers
Jeffery Duban for Dr. Jeanne Petrek
Futures & Options for Kids
Carol Hill

Ken Klipstein
Alan & Julia Leventen
Marcia Kaplan Mann
Larry Martone
Reppert Factor
Jim & Carol Rienhardt

Jeff Rosalsky
Becky Setzman & Matt Becker
Selma Thomson & Chat Gunter
TRACO Embroidery & Screen Printing

BLUE HERON



Altec Lansing
Bohlin, Cywinski, & Jackson
Carolyn Bolt
Robert & Cyndie Brummer
The Bushkill Group
Dingmans Ferry Bridge
Anabel Frye
Lorraine & Skip Gregory

Nick Jecko
McGrail, Merkel & Quinn
Harry K. Miller
Mt. Manor Golf
Tanya Oznowich
Tom Park
Pocono Mountains Visitor's Bureau

Regina Farms
Ross Family Foundation
Shawnee Inn & Golf Resort
Tin & Kris Shimalla
Tamiment Golf Course
Anthony J. Vallese
Wisspering Pines Garden Ctr.

SCARLET TANAGER



Vanessa Abramson
A.M. Skier Agency
Sarah Bender
Heidi Berman
Nancy & Derry Bird
Bottini Fuel
Mary Ellen Bradley
Michael & Victoria Brown
Heather Chadwick
Bonnie Cogiu
Combined Energy Services
Helen Conover
Tracy & Peter Cook
Joan A. Coverdale
CPA Single Shot Rifles
Paula DeLucco
Peter & Barbara Derrenbacher
Dime Bank of Dingmans Ferry
Ed Nikles Custom Builders
ESSA Bank and Trust

Flair Home Center
Bob & Beth Fredrick
Rosemarie Geng
George Ely & Associates
Deborah Glass
Hideaway Hills Golf Club
Florence Higgins
Hotel Fauchere
Hovus, Inc
Howard Hyde
Independence True Value
John Coda & Son Supply, Inc.
Eileen Kelly, Sussex Honda
Albert Kishel, PA
Karen & Thomas Konzitas
Mander Fire and Safety
Rodney J. Martin
Flo Mauro
Jeanette Miller
Elizabeth Mindlin

Phillip Munkacsy
One Point
Dr. Howard Parish
Paul E Simmons Realty
Darell Phillips
Walter & Betsy Pusey
Richard Roa Tech Services
Nancy J. Roberts
Judie Rosborough
Lee & Iris Salber
Carolyn & Paul Shuttleworth
PA State Reresentative John Siproth
Smith Prints
Sun Litho Print, Inc
Karol Sundholm
Kathleen Thomas
TSE Electric and Plumbing, Inc
The Waterwheel Café
Wrenches Automotive

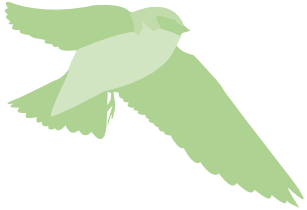
CERULEAN WARBLER



Abby, Ash & Brian Meade
Marjorie Boggs
Louise Check
Cliff Park Inn & Golf Course

Pike Physical Therapy Fitness
Stacy Rodriguez
Gail and Frank Wershing

TREE SWALLOW



Jeanette Bergeron
Patricia Bermudez
Betty Lee Bingnear
Stephanie Black
Mindy Boslow
Roberta Bramhall
Michael & Victoria Brown
Henry Cabezas
Steven Catizone
Michelle Causton
Charlene Chang
Addad & Nicole Cohen
Margaret & Winston Crawley
Erica & Steve Cullman
Sandy DeSmedt
Ralph DiMondo
Anna Ditterline
Don Epstein
Maria Esquela
Janet Fabiyi

Barbara Frazier
Robert Friedermann
Mr. & Ms. Michael Friedlander
Ruth A. Gseller
Dan, Liz & Anna Hendey
Rachel Hendricks
Roy Herring
Ken Horen
Jack Champion Steakhouse
JR Green Scene
Regina Kilayko-Lewis
Sylvia Kleff
Ernst Kohlstruk
Larry R. Kramer
Lars Loercher
Jack Lutfy
Dave Miller
Delano Morgan
Alia Morgulis

Karena Myers
Nina Nesher
Andrew Olexson
Wilda Paul
Leslie Peterson
Lois Prytherch
Lynn Robinson
Cheryl Rubin
Maureen Schaeffer
Linda Schmitt
Steven Schoonover
Mathilda B. Sheptak
Jerry Snyder
Wade Trexler
Angus Vandersluis
Dore'Vorum
George J. Warden
Wood loch Resort
Caroline Younc

EASTERN PHOEBE



Judith Adelson
Stephanie Anzman
Roy Arezzo
Edward & Maria Barnas
Susan Bartolomey
Vida Bauer
Arline Bonadonna
Adele Breitzkreitz
Brenna Bry
Fred Bucholz & Helen Ripple
Joycelyn Canfield
Ronald F. Cordts
Miriam Daum
Lore Ettlinger
Martin Evers
Michael Fellers
Linda Franzman
Marion Gitterman
Daniel Gluck

Arthur Goldberg
David M. Goldberg
George & Linda Greene
Howard Grossman
Alvin & Mary Hall
Thomas Hoff
Eileen Howatt
Lois Ormiston Kehoe
Susan Koomar
Suzanne Kwiatkowski
Beth D. Landmesser
Liz Lawlor
Jane LeCroy
Carol M. Lizell
Tammy Love
Ken Lutz
Sandra Masotto & Tom Yid
Paul Menditto
Victoria Nemeth

Carol Norr
Dianne Ochiltree
Kathy Oehlmann
Anne Palmer
Robert Palmer
Jill Perry
Christine Preston
Robert & Joann Preusser
Linda Reik
David Roberts
Dr. Sally Rosen
Patricia Swoyer Salber
Steven Shaw
Bonnie Swanson
Arlene Tishuk
Herman Wentzler
Olga Weston
Peter Wulfhorst
Alan Wyckoff

VOLUNTEERS

Gabe Beecher
Rebecca Biccum
Chad Brown
Lucas Cuevas
Rachel Dudle
Connor Geiger
Dustyn Hines
Chris Hubbard

Natalia Marroquin
Briana Plaxe
Dana Ritcher
Kyser Rodriguez
Christina Sequeira
Carolyn Shuttleworth
Dan Thompson

Bessy Vega
Natalia Vega
CS Wolf
E Wolf
Richard and Pat Cantor
Ed Wulthal
Lou Wentzler

Donation Trends

By Mariann Oswald



Well, now that doesn't sound like a very "reader friendly" subject. But, as I was doing a little background research, I found some very interesting facts that I thought I should pass along. I was

dumbstruck to learn that of all of the categories of charities the hardest hit economically has been the "environmental" category. It is especially difficult for non-profits in this financial climate. That is not in question. But, why would Environmental issues be less important than Arts & Humanities, Humans Services and Technology in the eyes of John Q. I never found the answer to the question, but I did find tables and charts and plenty of statistics that all show the same trend. Environmental awareness is not a "trendy" subject.

One thing that did not surprise me, though, was the movement on HOW donations are being made. Internet based donations are growing rapidly as "snail mail" campaigns die out. That is actually good for the environment, even if donations don't go up, because the use of paper is going down. Unfortunately with only 10% of internet users using this opportunity to donate, the actual dollar amount of donations is going down.

But, then again, donations and support come in all shapes and sizes; monetary and otherwise. Just ask some of the kids who came to summer camp this year. The two new (to PEEC, anyway) canoes, the scholarships, the volunteer time and effort put into the programs... all donations. Did you create those smiles? If you support the mission of PEEC you did. (Be sure to check out the 2008-2009 donors list at www.peec.org)

Did you see the great new slide show PEEC has on display in the lobby? It shows visitors what they will learn about at PEEC, some great photos of summer camp and the campus. A donation helped put the display there!

Were you one of the individuals or groups who came to PEEC to learn about the environment, to learn what you can do to help, how the ecosystems work together, how we each make a difference. Are you responsible for environmental education? Believe it. You are!

So, going over a list of the 10 best practices of savvy donors*, which you surely are, I would just like to point out that:

1. Many of our donors, have been proactive in your support. You have taken the time to know and understand our mission and support PEEC because we are here for YOU.
2. We do not have a "middleman". When you support PEEC, 100% of it is used at PEEC.
3. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, federally approved and legitimate!
4. We are committed to the privacy of our supporters and NEVER share or sell donor information.

5. PEEC's programs are all geared toward furthering our mission. Whether through group visits, summer camp, workshops or drop-in visitors PEEC personnel pass along vital information on the environment, provide hands-on (and feet-on) experiences and all in, on or around the great outdoors.
6. Friends of PEEC are loyal. PEEC's supporters stay supporters for years.

PEEC's success is measured in the miles that hiker's have walked on our trails; in the ohs and ahhs from workshop and school groups as they see a live skunk; in the number and variety of bird's that crowd the feeding station. Success is measured in the loyalty of our dedicated Friends of PEEC, old and new. The success of PEEC is measured in YOU. You bet!

PEEC The perfect place for learning, exploring, getting away and connecting

*Check out the list at www.charitynavigator.org

Peec²C energy efficiency corner

By Jeff Rosalsky

PEEC has begun a number of initiatives to reduce energy usage on campus. Energy costs are PEEC's third largest expense. The long term trend of rising fossil fuel prices and the upcoming deregulation of electricity costs in Pennsylvania will only exacerbate the problem. In each issue of Seasons we plan to highlight a different energy efficiency strategy we have employed on PEEC campus and over time provide the results.

Problem:

In PEEC's main education building the hot water in our two bathrooms near the main office was supplied by an un-insulated traditional electric 30 gallon hot water heater, which was rated at \$406 per year to operate. The heater was located in the unheated basement, 30 feet from the hot water taps. The heater ran 24/7 365 days a year, but the hot water was used only during business hours and intermittently when guests washed their hands. Most of the electricity was just wasted. Because of the long run of un-insulated copper pipe, it used to take several minutes for the water from the tap to heat up, by which time the guest had probably left the bathroom in frustration with a cold hand wash.

Solution:

We replaced the traditional hot water heater with two Bosch Powerstream Pro under the sink, point of service, hot water heaters. They are 99% efficient with no standby loss, as they only use electricity to heat water when the tap is running and there is no heat loss through the basement pipes. The water heats within a few seconds. The rest of the time no power is consumed at all.

PEEC Volunteers

Volunteers are very important to PEEC! This is why, when looking for an adequate name to call our volunteers, we chose "VIP's", Very Important People. PEEC understands that many of our projects could not be achieved without the help of folks like you who volunteer your time, skills, and effort. PEEC appreciates volunteers of all ages! You can bring the whole family, spend time together on a Saturday morning while making a valuable contribution to the community. It is never too early to show children how to give back. If they start small, chances are, by the time they are in high school or college they will engage in volunteer work on their own without parental encouragement and will pass it on to their own children. The rewards of doing volunteer work are many! If you have always thought of volunteering at PEEC, but have never had the chance, please give us a call at 570 828 2319.



Become a PEEC VIP Volunteer in PEEC

www.peec.org/members.html#volunteer

How You Can Help

- Data Entry/General
- Office/Reception
- General Maintenance
- Special Events
- Grounds/Trail Keeping
- Instruction/Presentations
- Interpretive Hikes
- Mailings and Marketing
- Trail Patrol
- And More!

Download
VOLUNTEER
Application

Interested in
volunteering at PEEC?

Please contact Mike,

PEEC's Volunteer Coordinator.

mliese@peec.org • 570-828-2310 ext. 228

Pike County Day of Caring

The Pike County Day of Caring took place on September 12th, giving PEEC an opportunity to invite volunteers to help out with various projects. PEEC was fortunate to have the attendance of 17 volunteers, who joined us for a full day of work, including scraping and painting, gardening and landscaping.

Volunteers enjoyed a lunch on PEEC and had a wonderful time giving back to their community!

... *Continued from page 1* In the winter of 2009 a black bear (*Ursus americanus*) woke from its slumber and walked across the ice leaving its tracks in the snow. In the summer evidence of bears can be seen as they bend highbush blueberry (*Vaccinium corymbosum*) to reach the top berries and leave scat nearby. The sound of spring peepers (*Pseudacris crucifer*) rival the gray tree frog previously mentioned, hundreds of spotted salamanders lay their eggs here, and I have witnessed thirty or more red-spotted newts (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) in the dead of winter teeming with life in an opening in the ice.

I have found places where white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) bed down nearby, I follow their trails around the pond for easier walking. Thousands of small insects provide food for bats, birds and dragonflies. The list goes on...

One thing you will not find in Thurner pond, or at least none of any size, are fish. Fish are top predators in ponds and eating almost everything that moves. The lack of fish in these types of ponds provide opportunities for amphibian eggs to hatch, insect larva to grow and ducks to raise their young. Why are there no fish in these ponds?

Beaver ponds go through a "life cycle." These amazing mammals will select a place with little standing water, build a lodge and dam the flow of the water to create a place full of biodiversity. The middle years of the beaver ponds "life" consists of many beavers. The young stay for two years and 4-6 kits are born each year. They may move there lodges, raise the water level by building up the dam, create canals to have easier access to fell trees for food. This is also a heightened time for diversity at the pond. The pond is a regular stopping point for large animals feeding on arthropods and amphibians, deer and moose (in northern US and Canada) find the soft aquatic plants irresistible. Once the food sources get too far away from the pond, a predator gets a beaver or sometimes for reasons unknown, the beavers will leave, the dam will break down and the pond will slowly empty leaving very little water for fish. The rich soil, once hidden by the water will be exposed again, dormant seeds, and seeds blown in by the wind will take hold and the cycle will continue.

Walking out to Thurner pond this year will give you an idea of the later stage of a beaver pond. The beavers have left and the water level has been slowly dropping all summer as maintenance on the dam has ceased. The great blue herons abandoned the nests this year and moved elsewhere, the frog's chorus was a not as loud and oodles of grasses have emerged in the expanding shoreline. Unless a beaver decides this is a suitable habitat, this area will become grassland and, eventually, a forest.

Although beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity may seem destructive, it actually provides life for many different species. The relentless work of beavers provides homes for frogs, salamanders, birds, mammals and insects. Many landowners consider beavers a nuisance while failing to see the benefits of each step in the cycle of beaver ponds. The diversity and enriched soil all account for a wondrous place.

Get out and take a few steps around local beaver pond, or, as Ethan and I did, a few steps in the pond. Each step will offer something new. This time of year beavers will be storing food underwater near the lodge. Look for twigs sticking out of the water.

Check out the PEEC Naturalist blog at peecnaturejournal.blogspot.com



PEEC-A-BOO!

October 31, 3-9 PM
570.828.2319

Halloween Trail

THIS EVENT SELLS OUT...
CALL NOW TO RESERVE YOUR TRAIL TIME!

Follow your guide around our family-friendly trail.

Learn about nocturnal creatures and other amazing animals and then listen to a story around the campfire!

Enjoy crafts and other activities before and after your journey on the trail.

Tasty treats will be available for a nominal fee.



<http://www.peec.org/eventssubject.html#12>

Notebooks, Toothpicks and the Houses that Shelter Them.

By Heidi Normand

A cruel game of pick-up sticks
cover mountainsides.
The aftermath of a logging culture patchworks
hillsides and mountains.
Creates bald spots no one even tries
to hide.

Spires, snags-
green and brown in high-noon sunlight
can do nothing against the power-
of men with chainsaws,
logging trucks,
and demand on their side.

As if thrown by a greedy child's hand,
bodies lie askew atop defiled ground.
Thumps of vegetal flesh echo
When stacked on trucks.
I drive highways and back woods country roads.
I drive through downtown thoroughfares and

floating before me-as if on wings-
wisps and clumps of bark and bough.
In the way of everyone's rushing need
to be there now.
Douglas Fir, Cedar, Hemlock.
Oaks and any number of species of pine.

Our giants of myth
reduced, to bark on concrete.
They take their only ride stacked on their backs
blasted by exhaust gusts.
On their way to become children's' toys
notebooks, toothpicks
and the houses that shelter them.



Expressions & Impressions

JAMES PHOTOGRAPHY
GALLERIES

www.peec.org/jamesphotos.html

DAY CAMP
PHOTO SAFARI

SLIDE SHOW www.peec.org/photosafari.html

Letters

Dear Peec,
Thank you for leading me
and the Glo's house to your
fine land of nature. I've enjoyed every minute of Peec.
Thank you so much for the amazing cake on my 12th birthday.
All you guys have been so nice and helpful, and gave me a new experience to look after.
Thank-U
Love,
Nicole

Dear peec staff,
Thank you for everything
I really appreciate the
things you taught me.
I really didn't believe
the things I could do
thank you so much!!!

Sincerely,
KEVANNA

Dear PEEC Staff,
OMG! That was the best camp
I've ever been to. I thank all of
you for the activities, food, and
fun. You guys are truly the
best if I get a chance to
go over there again I
would. You guys totally
know the definition
of fun. I loved the
hike it was worth seeing
the beautiful waterfall. I felt
real peaceful just hearing
the water rush down.
Sincerely,
Luis

The Restorative Effects of Nature in an Unstable Economy

By Allison Owczarczak



Financial stress can be unbearable, whether brought on by shorter work weeks, the ever-popular ‘downsizing’, when your job goes overseas without you, unexpected bills, and health care insurance that is far from assuring, or even bigger challenges. Regardless of the situation, it is always nice to know that nature is there to restore us when things become rough and challenging and you just need a break from it all.

I was fresh out of college one cold, snowy December. I was not looking to start a career. I just needed to fill a five month period of time before summer camp and what I then thought, was going to be a 20 year career in the Coast Guard. At the time I had the expenses of an apartment, utilities, and car insurance. Luckily, my aged car was paid off, but I had no health insurance and in six months I would need to start repaying my staggering student loans.

I began my job search and was surprised to find no one would hire me. I had eight years experience working around horses and I could not even get a job as a barn hand. Car detailing jobs were plentiful, but apparently, not for me. I was desperate enough to try selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door, but with no sales, came no commissions. Each day was filled with dropping off applications, making phone calls, and receiving turn downs. The pressure mounted. My savings from jobs I worked in college were quickly shrinking.

So to de-stress each afternoon, I hit a trail and hiked. The solitude of being away from all the people that said “no” was refreshing. Nature never says no...although she does throw at you snow, sleet, rain, and wind... but that never kept me off the trail. In fact, my favorite hikes were the snowshoe hikes on State Game Lands when the roads would not be plowed until at least the next morning. I would observe flocks of cedar waxwings pick off the remaining berries that no other birds dared to touch. I saw beautiful sunsets, then the snow turn varying shades of blue in the approaching twilight.

Sometimes, I did not get back to my car until ten at night, but clearing my head was the only way I would be able to sleep, wake up the next morning, walk down to the gas station for the paper and start the day fresh, job searching again.

I eventually found two jobs in which I had to convince the interviewers, “Yes, I have a college degree and yes, I want this job.” One job was a short order cook and the other was harvesting mushrooms in a mushroom mine. On tough days even after I finally found employment, I still found time to go for a walk. While I only had time to trek the local cemetery, since it was the most nature I had access to living in the heart of a small city, I still felt refreshed and ready for the next day.

So whether you have a job or you are on the search, get outside. Nature is waiting and ready to restore you! Nature can be found in your local park, cemetery, or even in the trees that line city streets. And in most places, it’s free! And what could be better in our current economic state?

