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Who's a flake?

By Mariann Oswald



Snowflakes are mesmerizing. They are one of the most beautiful things about the winter season. End of story. Well, not really. Truth is snowflakes start from a tiny speck of dust. That's right. Dust. Tiny bits of dirt blow into clouds. Ice crystals form when water vapor freezes around the little speck and join together with other specks and grow into... SNOWFLAKES! One little snowflake is made up of as many as 200 separate crystals. Maybe even more.

Wilson Bently wondered about snowflakes... how they are formed, how many kinds there are, what color they are. In 1885, after many unsuccessful tries, Bently was finally able to take a picture of a snowflake through his microscope. 6,000 pictures later he announced that no two snowflakes are alike. Other scientists took up the challenge and after over 400,000 photographs decided they had proven Bently's theory. Scientists figure the chances of two snowflakes being identical are something like 1,000,000,000,000,000 to one. (That's one million trillion to one.)

Speaking of shapes, the shape of a snowflake is determined by the temperature in the cloud. When the snowflake is heavy enough it will fall through one cloud and pass into another, attaching to other crystals which will change its shape again. And, the size of the ice crystal depends on the level of moisture in the cloud. Bigger crystals form when there is more moisture. So, when you get a really, REALLY cold cloud that is full of moisture, you end up with a mighty big snowflake. The largest snowflake ever recorded measured nearly 15 inches across! It fell in the United States in 1887.

There are several distinctive shapes of snowflakes; long needle shapes, stars, six-sided prisms, six-sided plates and hollow columns. How can one snowflake be so different from another? Well, I wondered, so I looked it up. The shape depends on the temperature when it is formed. If the temperature is around 32°F thin six sided plates are formed. But if the temperature is around 25°F they are long needle shapes; at 21°F hollow columns; at 14°F stars and at 10°F prisms. Snowflakes that do not have exactly six sides are very rare. In any case, fluffy snow falls at around 15°F. So, if you like fluffy, check the thermometer.

Did you ever hear of PINK snow? Well, if you live in an area with red soil, the dust at the core of the snowflake will be red which will make the snowflake look pink. Is that where pink poodles come from? The truth about white snow is kind of interesting, too. The clear crystals act as prisms which break up light into the entire spectrum of color. Our sensitive eyes can't decipher the colors and therefore combines them all to make white... or light blue.

What it all amounts to is that snow makes kid's happy (especially when they get to stay home from school), it makes mom's and dad's something else (especially when the kid's stay home from school) and it totally, completely and utterly THRILLS winter skiers, sledders, hikers, snow fort makers, photographers and trackers, among other. The best part of snow to me is watching it fall, sparkle in the light and blanket the trees, the fence, the yard and the rocks in the brook. Ah, winter can be beautiful.

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Mike Liese, Kristen Heckrote

CEO Message

Jeff Rosalsky



Winter in the northeast is a glorious time. Everything is so quiet. The falling snow absorbs the background sounds of the woods. Our winter day programs adopt a more leisurely pace and our trails are always open for hiking, snowshoeing and cross country skiing.

There have been many changes regarding PEEC's ponds. Front Pond was drained to allow the NPS to replace the spillway and redo the dam. PEEC staff, NPS and the Tuckahoe School 5th grade conducted the PEEC 2009 Great Fish Rescue and saved thousands of fish which we relocated to Pickerel Pond. The dam project is finished, although we still need a bridge across the spillway. With the recent rain and snow, Front Pond has already refilled and we

anticipate it being in wonderful shape for spring pond study.

Please take note, as of the beginning of November, the National Park Service has designated the entire Two Ponds Trail as a No Hunting Zone.

The staff has put together an amazing 2010 calendar of events which includes old favorites, many new programs and some things from past years that we have brought back. There is something for every nature lover and outdoor enthusiast no matter their range of experience. Some of my favorites include the PEEC/ NPS BioBlitz we are planning for September 24-25 and the "Growing Green" special needs residential camp we are running in partnership with Easter Seals this summer. We also have over 30 free public programs in 2010 and I encourage all of you to participate.

Enjoy the quiet of winter.

Easter Seals and PEEC present...

Growing Green

AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
SUMMER CAMP FOR CAMPER
WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



learn

OCCUPATIONAL
GREEN SKILLS

- ✓ Organic Gardening
- ✓ Green Landscaping
- ✓ Trail Maintenance



gain

ENVIRONMENTAL
APPRECIATION

- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Nature Study
- ✓ Canoeing



enjoy

SPORTS
FITNESS & FRIENDS

- ✓ Sports
- ✓ Music & Drama
- ✓ Horseback Riding

REGISTER NOW!

YOUNG ADULT (15-30)
Session 1: July 11-16
Session 2: July 18-23
Session 3: July 25-30
Session 4: August 1-6

CHILDREN (10-18)
Session 5: August 8-13
Session 6: August 15-20

Space is limited!
Download a registration form
at www.esep.easterseals.com or
CALL 570.421.1254 ext. 12

Operation Purple and PEEC!

By Patty Barron, NMFA

Throughout the weekend of October 23-26, PEEC proudly hosted more than 70 military kids and their families during an Operation Purple® Family Retreat, a program of the National Military Family Association (NMFA) and funded by the Sierra Club and the Sierra Club Foundation.

Military children and families – like service members themselves – “serve too” by making daily personal sacrifices. Deployment of a parent can be exceptionally stressful, but the time after that father, mother, husband or wife returns home is often the most challenging of all. In 2004, the Operation Purple program was created as a way to help military children struggling with the stresses of war. In 2009, the National Military Family Association piloted the Family Retreats program which allows families the opportunity to strengthen and renew relationships, explore their natural surroundings and participate in fun family-focused activities.

“This was an outstanding program...” said Jeff Rosalsky, CEO, PEEC “...which drew military families together and brought them all closer to nature. As an environmental education center within the spectacular Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, PEEC was a perfect location to host this retreat and we were proud to do so. Our National Parks are a treasure and a source of pride for this country, as are the

military and their families who serve.”

This free four-day retreat paired participants with PEEC’s staff of environmental educators who guided families on nature hikes, teambuilding exercises and field study exercise to promote strength, resilience and family growth. In programs led by PEEC staff, families experienced; learning about local fauna and flora, live animal presentations, folk singers, canoeing, campfires, arts and workshops all designed to foster a sense of community. Counselors from the National Military Family Association helped families to communicate, set goals, work as a team, and reconnect while exploring and learning about the environment.

The repeated long deployment of service members and frequent family relocations significantly impacts military families. During deployment, military spouses become the sole caretakers for their families, balancing their professional lives with family obligations. Children can experience behavioral problems, have trouble sleeping and become depressed while their parents are away. The Pocono Environmental Education Center views the Operation Purple Family Retreat as crucial to assisting military families engage in a lasting, healing, and transformative experience with each other.

There is no better setting to inspire such growth, connection, and celebration of family - among individuals, families, and the natural world - than through family-based education amid the spectacular scenery of one of our National Parks.



About the National Military Family Association

Military families serve our country with pride, honor, and quiet dedication. The National Military Family Association is the leading nonprofit organization committed to strengthening and protecting the families of the men and women currently serving, retired, wounded or fallen. We provide families of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Commissioned Corps of the USPHS and NOAA with information, work to get them the benefits they deserve, and offer programs that improve their lives. Our 40 years of service and accomplishments have made us a trusted resource for military families and the Nation's leaders. Visit www.MilitaryFamily.org.

About Sierra Club™

The Sierra Club's mission is to explore, enjoy and protect the planet. The Sierra Club's members and supporters are more than 1.3 million of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet we live on. The Sierra Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. We are committed to connecting military families with the healing powers of our natural heritage. Visit www.sierraclub.org/military.

Tuckahoe Students Lend a Hand for The Great Fish Rescue!

Dennis Schleider

Forty 5th grade students and teachers from Tuckahoe Common School took a very active role in a real life, hands-on wildlife conservation program. The students were participating in their annual 3 day outdoor, environmental program at PEEC.

The school group was asked if they wanted to observe a natural resource management activity taking place at PEEC that day. The Tuckahoe staff wanted the students to do way more than just observe and before you know it they were all knee deep (literally) 'rescuing all the fish, reptiles and amphibians they could find' in one of PEEC's ponds.

Garbed in ponchos, rain gear, boots, waders and gloves, carrying buckets, scoopers, dip nets and a great attitude, the entire Tuckahoe school group worked hand in hand with

staff members, naturalists and scientists from PEEC, the National Park Service and the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission rescuing and moving fish from one pond to another. A new dam is being installed this month on one of PEEC's ponds as part of an on-going National Park Service Dam Safety Program.

The great fish rescue took place after the pond was drained, lasted over 3 hours and involved; skimming and seining the water to gather up the fish, reptiles and amphibians, picking them out of the muck and algae and mud, sorting and identifying the species, putting them in buckets and pails, moving them by truck to another PEEC pond and releasing them all into that pond.

"Watching the NPS and PEEC employees working side by side with our 5th graders was very rewarding as an educator. The high energy level of the children and the knowledge of the staff made for a fun learning experience that had real benefits for the environment. All the children felt more ownership of the National Park as a result of this experience."



John Donahue, Superintendent of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Jeff Rosalsky, CEO of PEEC worked right alongside the students, teachers and scientists. Both remarked on the wonderful opportunity the students had and "...that their enthusiasm and excitement superseded their cold hands and feet on such a wet and chilly afternoon...". We also wondered what parents would be thinking back at home when they opened up the students' luggage and found some pretty muddy, smelly clothes.

These students will long remember the day they actually became conservationists and stewards of their environment...the day their classroom and lessons came alive.

THE GREAT FISH RESCUE

Volunteers from Tuckahoe Common School, Southampton, NY

STUDENTS

Luz Espinoza
Gianna Fiorello
Raul Guevara
Joey Gulli
Melany Jimenez
Isabel Martin
Hector Mentado
Suraj Mohan
Devon Obrien
Vanessa Oliveira
Cameron Olsen
Alex Prag
Daniel Quezada
Oscar Ramirez
Milton Ramirez
April Rodriguez
Reagan Soledad
Bianca Vanegas
Nick Westerhoff
Dylan Schleider

ADULTS

LuMei Abatangelo
Melissa Aquino
Maily Arce
Charlie Bedard
Paolo Caglioti
Jaden Cajthaml
Spencer Crough
Rachel Escobar
Mike Finalborgo
Chris Gabrielsen
Gary Garcia
Rachel Grindle
Sita Kadesh
Marcy Kropinwnicka
Byanka Mazariegos
Andres Perez
George Ramirez
Joe Riccardi
Richard Ruhling
Fred Schneider
Ryan Vasquez



Search for Eagles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area & the Upper Delaware

Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen Memorial Field Trip Series

Jack Padalino, President Emeritus of the Pocono Environmental Education Center, writes:

Marie Kuhnen was my teacher, mentor, and friend. Our first meeting was in 1967 at a MSC Field Ornithology course which led to 39 consecutive years of “Big Days” together, as well as 40 consecutive years of winter birding on the NJ North Shore. After our last North Shore trip Marie wrote:

*“Dear Jack,
That really was a great day we had on the North Shore. In fact, it was the best I ever was on in that area. There were so many unexpected birds around that day – not only in number of species but in quantity. I personally did not get all you saw. Hang on to your vision as long as possible!”*

My vision, in another context, is very much determined by Marie’s influence. Marie was the first to be invited to be among the founding Magnificent Seven Trustees of the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC). Marie graciously accepted. After her Montclair State University retirement, Marie continued to provide teachers and others with a positive perspective of nature and natural systems through PEEC.

Many of those North Shore birding excursions afforded PEEC instructors the opportunity to bird with Marie and experience her wisdom and passion for nature. Yes, Marie was mentor to many; however, her insights as a PEEC Trustee have had a profound influence on how nature is experienced in a National Park.

Marie and I shared an affinity for the Red-tailed Hawk, our favorite bird. The North Shore trip message from Marie was written on a Red-tailed Hawk note card. Whenever I see a Red-tail I feel Marie’s presence. Her spirit, quiet smile, and blue eyes are forever present when watching Red-tails.

I have a treasure of memories and recollections of the wonderful times we shared birding and botanizing together for over four decades. Join me in celebrating Marie’s life and legacy.

HOLIDAY WISH LIST

1. Any make/model digital camera with 10 megapixels and 3-5 zoom will do!
2. Power Monitors by Black & Decker – model EM100B
3. New resin (dark green or brown) chairs for cabins
4. High end GPS system. Model: Garmin Oregon 400c ~ \$500
5. Maps: \$86 for an eastern US TOPO map. \$130 for Computer US trails map

Call 570-828-2319

Visit Amazon.com

Click on ‘Gifts and Wish Lists’
Type in Pocono Environmental Education Center

DR. S. MARIE KUHNEN MEMORIAL FIELD TRIP SERIES

Search for Eagles in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and Upper Delaware

Join John (Jack) Padalino, President Emeritus of the Pocono Environmental Education Center, partner with the National Park Service Delaware Water Gap NRA by caravan to search for eagles.

Meet in the PEEC parking lot, Brisco Mountain Road at 8am. WEATHER PERMITTING. Dress warmly, bring a bag lunch, drinks, binoculars, and field guides. The search for eagles will conclude along the Lackawaxen River approximately 4pm.

REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY

Email: jack@brandwein.org

Phone: 570.296.6752

Indicate which date you will be attending. FREE of charge!

SCHEDULED FIELD TRIPS

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

Monday, December 21, 2009

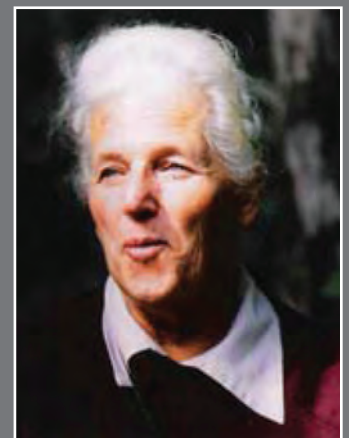
Wednesday, January 13, 2010

Sunday, January 31, 2010

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Sunday, February 28, 2010



Eagle observation data that we collect will be shared with the Eagle Institute and Hawk Migration Association of North America HMANA. An Eagle identification field guide and a “Search for Eagles” activities hand-out will be provided. Join us to Search For Eagles, the symbol of our nation.



PEEC SUPPORTERS

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

DECEMBER 2008 – DECEMBER 2009

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Simone Collins Landscape Architecture
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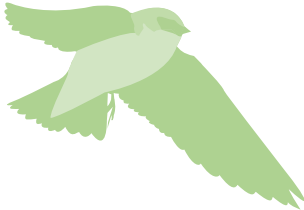
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Roy Arezzo
Marjorie Boggs
Cliff Park Inn & Golf Course
Thomas & Jean Hoff

Abby, Ash & Brian Meade
Pike Physical Therapy Fitness
Stacy Rodriguez
Gail and Frank Wershing

TREE SWALLOW

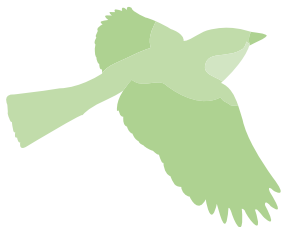


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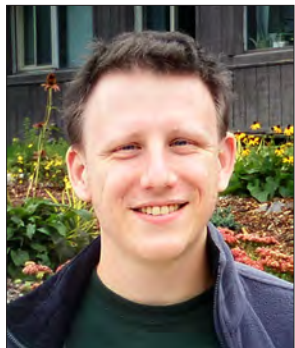
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Natalia Vega
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E Wolf
Richard and Pat Cantor
Ed Wulthal
Lou Wentzler

VIP's

By Mike Liese



PEEC Volunteers give of their time, energy and expertise to help us every day in many, many ways. Our volunteers are logging in record numbers of hours helping out as Board members,

gardeners, painters, scrapers, special event ticket takers, craft makers and front office receptionists. Let's not forget the 5th grade students from Tuckahoe School helping with the Great fish Rescue and the wonderful volunteers who came to help us with Operation Purple.

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Brandon Brown
Barbara Brummer
Arlene Casimir
Helen Conover
Michelle Eisnauale
Terry Finlayson
Maldonado Geneva
Eric Hamill
George Hill
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Robert Sherer
Carolyn Shuttleworth
Matthew Stewart
Margie Teixeira
Mike Teixeira
Anthony Vallese
Lou Wentzler
Penny Wetzel
Peter Wulfhorst

THANK YOU all so much and don't forget to volunteer this winter. We have plenty to do and love the company! Call 570-828-2319 and ask for Mike.

Pee²C energy efficiency corner

By Jeff Rosalsky

As things settle down for the winter at PEEC and we have mainly day long environmental education programs, we attempt to reduce our energy usage. We do this as a conservation measure to shrink our carbon footprint as well as for the practical goal of reducing operating costs. We completely close down older residential buildings and keep our newer structures minimally heated when not in use. As we have fewer educational and administrative staff in the main building during winter, we have decided to close off portions of the main building temporarily to reduce heating costs. At the same time we are using the opportunity to conduct an experiment in the insulating value of alternative materials.



Problem:

During the summer the education department is housed in an 1100 sq. ft. area consisting of a large conference room, two offices and a shared office space. The large conference area which is 60% of the education department by square footage is not required during the winter, but staff like the open plan for spring and summer from the perspective of light, ventilation and staff communication. The problem was how to close off and insulate the used space from the unused space in a temporary manner.

Solution:

We decided on a solution that was temporary, renewable, biodegradable and hopefully very energy efficient—straw bales. We stacked 22 straw bales to create a temporary wall between the two parts of the education department. Straw has been used as an insulator for centuries. Typically straw is treated as an agricultural waste product as it is slow to decay unlike nitrogen-rich hay. A full bale is supposed to have an R value of 27. Straw, unlike hay, is not attractive to rodents because it contains no seeds. In addition, a tightly packed bale is too dense to allow enough air for combustion. At the end of the winter we can store the bales for next year, use them as mulch for garden beds or just throw them into the compost pile. We will use a remote thermometer system, with one thermometer on each side of the straw bale wall, to test its effectiveness as an insulator. We'll let you know the results.

...Bears still traveling

By Jeremy Phillips



Early February, cold winter day, a bit of snow left on the ground, a group of future naturalists and I were walking around Pickerel Pond inside the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation

Area. Out of the side of my eye I saw, what looked like human-sized tracks crossing the ice. I thought, "How lucky were they to not fall through that thinning ice?" My second thoughts, however, realized that a person walking with no shoes on was not the most likely scenario. See, we were on our way to a pond created by a beaver (*Castor Canadensis*), it was February, and it was an unexpected sight to see these footsteps in the snow ambling across a frozen pond.

Black bears normally do not come out from their slumber until March or April (females

with cubs). They are not true hibernators but they do go without food, water and do not eliminate wastes all winter. Many females will find or dig dens to sleep through the winter. Black bears give birth in January or early February. The cubs can weigh as little as ten ounces! Black bears have delayed implantation which means that the embryo remains in a state of suspension for up to five months! Black bear mothers average 250 pounds and males are usually around 450 pounds and can reach up to 850 pounds in our area due to the abundant food in our area.

The Catskills including places to the south, like Libertyville, NY, down through the Poconos and Sussex county, NJ have one of the largest black bear populations in the Eastern United States only rivaled by Northern New York and Maine. Their range is expanding, though not near the historic range, as are the encounters with people. It is important to know that black bear injuries rarely occur and are mostly due to feeding the bears.

This time of year is an interesting time for bears. Food is abundant and energy is up. Seventy five to eighty percent of black bear's diet is vegetation like berries, fruits and nuts which I have been out picking. The rest is insects, small

mammals and carrion. They may be travelling great distances to find food or, if a young male, unoccupied breeding areas. Established males will mark territories and start mating with females.

Coming across a track in the June mud, or a fresh scrape on a creosote laden telephone pole can remind us of the majestic, curious and controversial creature that we call the American black bear. No matter what your opinion of black bears, they are animals to be respected and wondered over.

I still wonder why that bear was out in the cold of February. We walked in the path as that bear, saw, smelled, and touched the same ground. We followed it over that pond, up a hill and directly to the same spot I was heading to check on the beaver activity. Well, I imagine the beaver were active that night. I stood over the beaver lodge looking down at a maze of tracks leading from two giant holes in the ice where the bear had crashed through soaking its thick black fur, to the beaver lodge. The lodge was ripped open. I cautiously peered inside viewing only the large limbs and mud used to construct the lodge. The bear tracks did leave the pond. We followed for a while longer but the bear was long gone. Somewhere, I hope those tracks are still travelling.

SUMMER DAY CAMP SCHEDULE

9 WEEKLY PROGRAMS
June 21 through the week of August 16, 2010

FULL DAY SUMMER CAMPS



FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

Tadpoles (All day program)
3 years old through Kindergarten

Wet & Slimy
1st through 4th grades

Junior Naturalist
5th through 7th grades

Senior Naturalist
8th through 10th grades

Volunteer Counselor Program Ages 15+

CALL PEEC 570.828.2319
VISIT THE WEBSITE www.pec.org/daycamp.html
for details and camper/counselor applications.



SUMMER FAMILY STAYCATIONS

The whole family can stay at PEEC and enjoy the Poconos this summer while the kids are attending PEEC Day Camps! 'Staycations' are available during June, July and August.



CALL PEEC 570.828.2319

VISIT THE WEBSITE www.pec.org

WINTER PROGRAMS AND GETAWAYS 2010

Join PEEC for one or more of our fantastic outdoor programs!

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Unless otherwise indicated.

TO REGISTER:

Call PEEC at 570-828-2319
with credit card information available
Or download application: www.peec.org/pdfs/PEECProgramRegistration.pdf

FRIENDS OF PEEC DISCOUNTS:

Cerulean Warblers—10% day programs
Scarlet Tanagers—10% overnight programs

WINTER NIGHT WANDER

January 16, 2010 | 6-8pm
Cost: FREE

Explore one of PEEC's natural areas at night. Take in the stillness, listen and look for signs of animals.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE

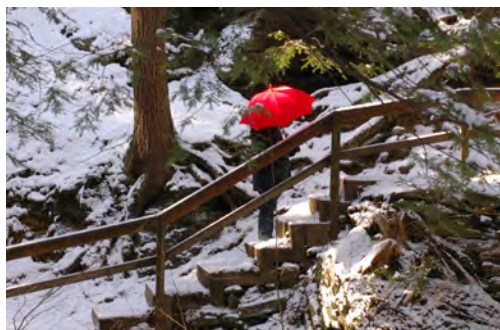
January 18, 2010 | 9am-Noon

This is the perfect day to get involved with our volunteer program. All ages can contribute to help PEEC fulfill its mission. A snack will be provided.

WINTER TRACKING

January 23, 2010 | 1-3pm
Cost: FREE

What do animals do in the winter? Join PEEC staff and follow the footsteps of our local animals.



EAGLE WATCH I

January 30, 2010 | 9am-3pm

Cost: \$35

Join us as we take a trip north looking for eagles. We will make a stop at the Eagle Institute and look for eagles soaring, feeding and nest guarding. Bring a lunch, dress in layers and be ready to spot some eagles. Register by January 15!

WINTER WONDERLAND WALK

January 31, 2010 | 1-3pm

Cost: FREE

Come walk or snowshoe with PEEC staff as we experience the winter for ourselves. Limited snowshoes available

CROSS COUNTRY SKI

February 6 & 7, 2010 | Noon-3pm

Cost: \$25 adults, \$15 children

Cross country skis and beginner lessons will be provided for an easy outing to enjoy PEEC's woods in the winter. In case of no snow, join us for a winter hike (Free).

EAGLE WATCH II

February 6, 2010 | 9-3pm

Cost: \$35

Join us as we take a trip north looking for eagles. We will make a stop at the eagle institute and look for eagles soaring, feeding and nest guarding. Bring a lunch, dress in layers and be ready to spot some eagles. Register by Jan. 30!

WINTER LUAU:

Family Nature Getaway

February 12-15, 2010

Cost: Adults \$190, Children 4-11 \$145,

Children 3 and under Free

Includes 3 nights lodging and 9 meals

Miss that summer breeze? Well, we will make it a "cool" beginning to the end of winter. We will provide activities, food and lodging that will make you forget about the hard winter.

EAGLE LOVERS WATCH

February 13-14, 2010 | 10am start

Cost: \$150

Includes 1 night lodging and 4 meals, featuring local wine served with dinner. PEEC's woodsy setting and guided eagle tours provide an experience to remember. Register by February 3!

MONUMENTS TO NATURE:

Winter Waterfall Series

February 20, 2010 | 1-5pm

Cost: \$25

Kick-off this "monumental" series of waterfalls and trees with a unique look at waterfalls in the winter. Transportation provided. Register by February 10!

ARCTIC BIRDS

February 21, 2010 | 9-3pm

Cost: \$35

Bring a lunch. Take a ride with us to view one of the areas great winter resting spots for birds. Register by February 10!

CROSS COUNTRY SKI

February 27 & 28, 2010 | Noon-3pm

Cost: \$25 adults, \$15 children

Cross country skis and beginner lessons will be provided for an easy outing to enjoy PEEC's woods in the winter. In case of no snow, join us for a winter hike (Free).

MONUMENTS TO NATURE: Twigs, Buds & Bark Tree ID

February 27, 2010 | 1-4pm

Cost: \$10 adults, \$5 children 10 and under

This "monumental" series continues with identification of trees in winter. Learn key tips to this tricky endeavor.

MOONRISE WALK

February 28, 2010 | 5-7pm

Cost: FREE

Join us for a short walk to watch the moon rise.

BROWNIE BADGE FEST

March 6, 2010 | 9am-4pm

Cost: Half day \$12, Full day \$20

BBQ lunch available to purchase. Bring one scout or an entire troop. Overnight accommodation available, call for rates. Register Early!!!

NORTH SHORE BIRD TRIP

March 6, 2010 | 7am-8pm

Cost: \$60

Bring lunch and snacks. Join Jack Padalino on this amazing bird journey through the northern shore of New Jersey. This trip is part of a series of birding events presented to celebrate and honor the life of PEEC Trustee and friend, Dr. S. Marie Kuhnen. Register by February 22! Limited to 12 people.

SUGAR SHACK SCRAMBLE/ ORIENTEERING

March 13, 2010 | 9am-Noon

Cost: \$20 adults, \$10 children

Join PEEC staff and CEO Jeff Rosalsky on an orienteering expedition to Two Saps 'sugar shack' and enjoy PA maple syrup and pancakes. Register by March 3! Limited to 15 people.

LAST BLACK AND WHITES

March 19-21, 2010

Cost: \$175

Includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals

Join PEEC Assoc. Education Director, Allison Owczarczak and tour the National Recreation Area with cameras in hand to visit many historic sites. Perfect for black and white photographs.

EQUINOX EXTRAVAGANZA

March 20, 2010 | 1-4pm

Cost: \$5

Shake the frost off from the long winter.

Orienteer for signs of spring and plant seeds to bring home. Snacks will be served to celebrate the end of winter and welcome the new growing season.

PLAN YOUR GARDEN DAY

March 20, 2010 | 1-3pm

Cost: FREE

What should I plant? When should I plant?

Learn the answers to these questions and more.

BASHA KILL TOUR

March 21, 2010 | 8-2pm

Cost: \$35

Want to learn more about the natural areas near us? Sign up for the Basha Kill tour and explore this magnificent wildlife management area.

BOY SCOUT WEEKEND

March 27-28, 2010

Cost: Scout Rate \$99,

Parent Scout Combo \$130

Includes 1 night lodging and 4 meals

Webelos and Boy Scouts, come work on badges and advancement. Various badges will be offered.

Elegant Water

Poem by 25 students from PS 14, Bayonne, NJ.

Funded by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation Summer 2009.

Compiled by Heidi Normand.

She read us a story while we closed our eyes and tried to picture it.
Water is flowing.
Birds say "caw-Caw-CAW"

I felt freedom washing over me like water.
In my mind as I pass a small creek. Images crowd my head.
How that little creek flows into bigger bodies all over the world
And I could feel my feet dipping
Into a million different creeks around the earth.

I hear the crisp wind crackling
And feel rushing water hit my feet.
It sounds like my grandpas alarm clock...tick, tock.
And I feel all the worlds water between my toes as fast as a fire hose.
I feel focused because I am calm and serene as I become a part of the ocean.
It feels like I've known this place forever as my senses are taken to distant lands.

The icebergs are melting
And when I finally come back to reality, I am sitting by a stream.
Water calmly moving my feet.
The gurgle of the stream soothing
And there is a cold slab of rock in it.
It is an extravagant feeling to have,
Seeing water that has touched all of the world.

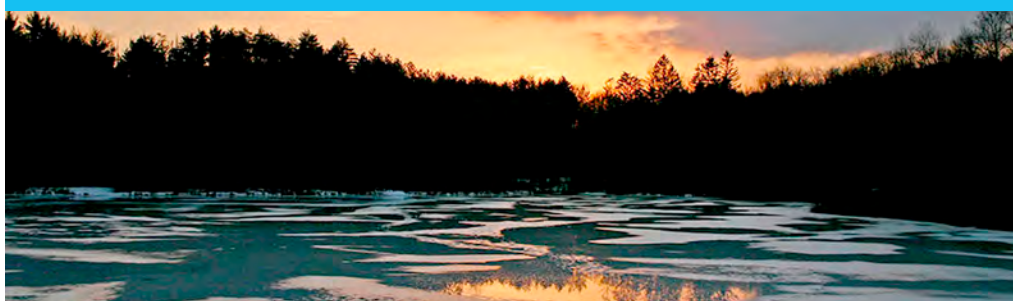
Now, the woods are bigger, denser than I first thought.
Now that I am back to this piece of earth.
The trees are huge, and in parts bunched together like groups of friends or family
Or like cliques of nerds and cheerleaders.
There are not just two types of birds here: pigeons and sparrows
And the soil is moist from rain.
The air fresh and crisp.
Everything so green and the silence so soothing.

Calming noises ring through my ears
As relaxation to the point of sleepiness overtakes me.
I feel the world through one touch of water.

This is one way that allows me to connect with people all over the world.
In theory, all of us are connected together by just dipping our feet into a stream.
Water is our connection to all of the world.

I hear a whisper, a distant yet peaceful sound
And for the first time in my life I can see that Nature is beautiful,
As I see it through different eyes.

I came into this trip a little doubtful.
Well boy was I wrong!



A Fundraiser's Dream

By Flo Mauro



PEEC Summer Camp Director, Mike Liese, approached me this past August and gave me a letter and several photos of two of our day campers. The campers, a brother and sister combo, wrote a thank you letter for me to send to the wonderful people who helped sponsor and send children to our day camp. It was a wonderful letter. The sponsor called the day she got the letter. She was thrilled to tears and sent an additional donation to help more children come to camp.

A few weeks ago Mike approached me again. Our dynamic brother and sister combo were at it again. They put up a lemonade stand in their neighborhood and sold lemonade to raise funds to help send more kids to camp at PEEC next summer. They actually brought in their money jar with scrunched up one dollar bills, quarters, nickels and dimes to give it to us in person.

You cannot make this up! This is fundraising at the grass roots level. We were so taken with the story, let alone the photograph, that we made it the center of attention for our Annual Appeal and made them the first contributor. Please, donate what you can...match their effort. Log onto our web site (www.peec.org) for more information or simply fill out the form and send it in.



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*

PEEC Annual Appeal

Dear Friend of PEEC:

PEEC is an amazing place to visit and to work. The education staff here is phenomenal. The children and adults who come to PEEC, whether for their first visit or their fifteenth, are always impressed and leave here richer for the experience. This fall a group of high school students from Queens, NY spent four days at PEEC. Many had never left the five boroughs and certainly hadn't stayed overnight in the woods.

I remember overhearing their apprehension about taking a night hike—especially when they were told no flashlights were permitted. They were afraid of the unknown and scared of what was out there in the darkness. Several days later, that same group of girls was sitting in the carpet area of the main building waiting for their bus. They were trumping each other with the quality of their Devonian fossils finds from the local quarry. One of the young women leaned back in her chair, looked up at me with a big smile and announced on behalf of her friends, “We are not leaving!” I played along and told them they were welcome to stay. The reality is I would have been thrilled if they could have spent another day or two to experience all PEEC has to offer.

This is the crux of my annual appeal to you. It is only because of your support that PEEC can continue to offer the quality of environmental education that we do. We provide programs to over 24,000 people a year. Your donation allows us to operate PEEC at as low a cost to our participants as possible. Over 70% of our operating funding comes from participants in our programs, but the balance relies on support from grants and individual donors like you.

Here is a quote from my favorite thank you letter of 2009:

“Thank you, PEEC staff for all the effort and hard work you’ve done for us when we were at peec! I thank all of my peec instructors, including Miranda and many others who helped make my days at PEEC awesome. If it weren’t for you I wouldn’t have learned half the things I know now. I also think that without my instructors I’d probably still be lost in the woods wandering [sic] where I am!”

If you are wondering what you can do to ensure PEEC’s future, please give as generously as you can.

Yours truly,

Jeff Rosalsky
CEO

Barbara Brummer
Chairperson

THANK YOU
for Bringing us
Closer to Nature!

Day campers raised \$50.22
from their lemonade stand
this summer and donated
it all to PEEC!



YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT PEEC WITH MY TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION :

☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25

Please make checks payable to PEEC or you can pay by Visa Mastercard:

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt/Suite #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- ☐ I wish to remain anonymous
- ☐ I do not want to receive acknowledgement
- ☐ Please send Friends of PEEC membership information
- ☐ I have filed for a Matching Gift with my employer.
Company _____



PEEC

**Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

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Dingmans Ferry, PA 18328

Phone: 570-828-2319
Fax: 570-828-9695
Email: peec@peec.org

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*National Environmental Study Area
Center for Excellence In Education*

PEEC MISSION STATEMENT

PEEC ENHANCES ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS, KNOWLEDGE, & APPRECIATION
THROUGH HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN A NATURAL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM.

PEEC SEASONS

Winter Solstice 2010

Celestial Seasons

Celebrate Winter and the celestial seasons by simply venturing outdoors at night and looking up at the night sky as *'...the stars... each in their season returns and returns and is always the same...'* Les Miserables

If you can find a place without a whole lot of interference from ground light, you will be truly rewarded. You will not even need a telescope or binoculars to enjoy the show. Do a little research and find a few star stories and legends to share before your journey into the night.

December 20...the winter solstice...the longest night: Aries or The Ram is most often depicted running or jumping and is most easily spotted on beautiful December nights around 9:00pm.

January

Orion is one of the most recognizable symbols in the night sky; his belt is composed of three stars, Alnitak, Alnilam and Mintaka, which are easily visible in the southern night sky around 9:00pm on frosty January evenings. Orion means The Great Hunter. Accompanied by his two dogs, Canis Major

and Canis Minor Orion spends eternity in the night sky hunting celestial animals such as Lepus, the rabbit and Taurus the Bull.

Taurus, as with Orion can easily be seen around 9:00pm on January evenings. In Greek mythology Taurus is Zeus in disguise. As the story goes, Zeus disguised himself as a white Bull in order to lure his mistress Europa to his side. Taurus is also one of the thirteen Zodiac Symbols. Zodiac constellations are those which the sun appears to pass through during the year as the earth orbits the sun.

February

Gemini is also one of the thirteen Zodiac symbols and is associated with masculinity and a positive attitude. Gemini is translated as, the twins. The twin stick figures in the sky are Greek heroes whom can be seen best around 9:00pm on Freezing February nights.

Canis Major or Big Dog is best observed in the month of February at roughly 9:00pm. As one may expect with the name Canis, this constellation resembles a dog. Not just any dog however, Canis Major is one of the hunting dogs of The Great Hunter, Orion. Canis Major also has the honor of containing the brightest star in the night sky, Sirius or the Dog Star.

