



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center



Winter Solstice 2015

Seasons

A Quarterly Publication to Advance Environmental Literacy

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Executive Director	2
Species Spotlight: The Eastern White Pine	3
Have a Holly Jolly Sustainable Christmas	4
Ticket to Ride	5
The Mystery of the Rogue Gourd	6
Who Knew... Caribou	8
Why We Do What We Do	9
Special Donations to PEEC	10
PEEC Calendar of Events	11-12

**Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

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El Niño and Winter Weather in the Northeast

By Derek Scott

Every holiday season, millions in the Northeast begin to brace themselves for the impending winter weather that lurks around the corner. Even though cold temperatures and snowfall are inevitable, the question that always hangs in the air is whether this year is going to be the coldest or the snowiest. Year after year, predictions are made - some are met, and some fall short, but this year could shape up to be one of the wettest winters of late. What's the reason for this bold prediction? It has to do with a natural phenomenon occurring thousands of miles away...

Most people at some point in their lives have heard of the natural phenomenon known as El Niño. By its most basic description, an El Niño event is when surface ocean temperatures off the western coast of South America (near the equator) raise 0.5°C for at least a 3 month period. These events happen irregularly every 2 to 7 years, and can last upwards of several months.

Under standard conditions (also known as La Niña) easterly winds push warm coastal surface waters along South America east towards Asia. Colder water from deep in the ocean rushes up to replace the warm surface water creating a cyclical motion within the Pacific. Because of the presence of the easterly winds, sea level is actually about a meter higher near Asia than off the coast of South America. When these easterly winds begin to slacken, the surface water follows gravity and moves back towards South America - this marks the beginning of a possible El Niño event. As it does, surface water temperatures spike where cold water is usually rushing upwards from below along the coast. The result is a further decrease in easterly wind patterns which leads to even more warming of surface waters. Eventually, internal wave cycles within the oceans reset the cyclical motion in the Pacific, ending an El Niño event.

By now you're probably wondering what all of this change in ocean temperatures has to do with our winter weather patterns. Even though El Niño takes place near the equator, the shift in wind

Continued on page 8

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Message from the Executive Director



We are looking forward to an exciting and busy winter season at PEEC. In addition to our normal winter weekend activities, we will be expanding our Bridge the Gap program. I am thrilled to announce that the William Penn Foundation has renewed and expanded PEEC's grant to run our Bridge the Gap outdoor adventure and stewardship program for two more years. The programs are aimed at encouraging more active use of the trails along and connected to the Delaware River, as well as the river itself. For the next two years, in addition to more free biking, hiking, and paddling programs, we have been able to add free cross country skiing programs and snowshoeing programs along the McDade trail.

The 35 miles of the McDade Trail along the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware River provide some of the most spectacular winter scenery in this area. Watching the ice flowing down the river and the wintering eagles soaring overhead, while sipping a steaming mug of hot chocolate at the mid-point of your cross-country ski—what could be better. Cross country skiing and especially snowshoeing are fairly easy to learn and are phenomenal aerobic exercise. My only concern is that I have revealed one of my favorite places to go in the winter, but you are all PEEC people, so I look forward to seeing you out there. Also, your help breaking the trail after a fresh snowstorm is greatly appreciated — I'm not getting any younger.



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SUGAR SHACK SCRAMBLE

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016 • 9:00AM – 12:30PM



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Species Spotlight: The Eastern White Pine

By Lea Della Vecchia

With winter coming upon us, there are only a few trees still green around PEEC. A favorite is the white pine tree, *Pinus strobus*. The white pine tree goes by several different names – sometimes named the eastern white pine tree and the soft white pine tree. In the United Kingdom it is known as the Weymouth Pine tree, as it was brought to England by George Weymouth in 1620.

The white pine tree has several very distinct features. The needles of the white pine tree are long and very soft-looking as compared with many conifer trees. They are usually arranged in fascicles with five needles in each. Fascicles are bundles of needles that attach to the branch of the tree. The needles last for approximately 18 months—they are produced by the tree in springtime and last until the following fall, when they will turn a yellowish-brown and fall off. The tallest white pine tree is 186 feet tall and located in North Carolina.

White pine trees have a variety of uses in our modern society. The lumber is used for construction, furniture, coffins, matches and wood paneling. White pine trees are often sold as ornamental and landscape plants. White pine trees are also commonly used as Christmas trees. Depending on where you are, it may seem like there are white pine trees all around. In fact, only one percent of white pine trees remain from before European settlement of the Northeast, at which time many old-growth forests were clear-cut for farming and lumber.

White pine trees are coniferous trees, meaning they bear cones. The cones of a white pine tree are between four and eight inches long. The seeds of white pine trees are hidden in the pinecones. The seeds are food for squirrels, chipmunks, voles, white tailed deer, and a variety of birds. In the winter, black-capped chickadees, pine warblers, yellow belly sapsuckers and nuthatches can all be seen enjoying white pine seeds and grubs found on the tree bark.

The white pine tree is historically an important tree to the Iroquois Nation. The Iroquois Nation called the white pine tree the “Tree of



Peace”. To seal a peace agreement, both sides of a disagreement would bury their weapons under the roots of a white pine tree. The five Iroquois Nations are represented by the five needles of the white pine tree, all stemming from a common bundle.

In colonial times, tall, straight white pine trees with high quality wood were claimed as property of the British Royal Navy. They were branded with the “broad arrow,” which was the royal emblem of the Crown of England at the time. The Navy used these tall, straight pines for the masts of their ships.

White pine needles contain a lot of vitamin C—five times more vitamin C than lemons! White pine tea was often used as a preventative for scurvy. Next time you are at PEEC, check out some of the large white pines we have around – one can be found right by the bench at the beginning of Fossil Trail and Tumbling Waters (trail entrance by the lodges).



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**CROSS COUNTRY
SKIING**
JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016

January 3, 17, 23, 24, 31 —
Saturdays 10am-12pm • Sundays 1-3pm

February 6, 7, 21, 28 —
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Enjoy the winter woods with beginner ski lessons. Learn the basics of cross country skiing and practice on an old logging road loop. You decide how many loops to ski. Skis, poles & boots provided. Register w/shoe size to guarantee a spot.

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Have a Holly Jolly Sustainable Christmas

By Allison Owczarczak

'Tis the season of consumer consumption that not only drains our wallets, but also our planet's natural resources. But hark the angels sing, it doesn't have to sting.

Here are a few pointers to reducing your impact on the planet:

Go ahead and buy that artificial tree. That's right I said it. A third party study in 2010 found that artificial trees, when used for 10-15+ years, are only slightly more of an impact than real trees. Finished with the artificial tree? See if family or friends would like it. It's a nice feeling to step back after you've decorated your Grandmother's tree and think back to when you decorated it with her some thirty years before. Or you can cut off the branches and make wreathes, garland, table centerpieces and mantle decorations. Also a good number of artificial trees can be recycled as long as they are not "pre-lit".

Buying real trees has benefits too. You're supporting local farmers and, most likely, you are also supporting the small business that may be reselling those trees. This lessens the fuel consumption from buying an artificial tree from overseas, as well as the air pollution associated with shipping. Many birds and wildlife take refuge in the growing trees during the year. Young, fast-growing trees, like Christmas trees, release more oxygen than mature forest trees. After you are finished with your holiday, you can put the tree upright in a snow bank for the wildlife to use for shelter and even decorate it for the birds using 'pine cone' feeders. Many communities have Christmas tree mulch days where, in turn, the town may allow its residents access to the mulch to reuse in their gardens.

Reduce your light display size and switch to LED lights as your incandescent strings die. Incandescent lights can use as much as 7 watts while LEDs use .04 watts. Make use of electronic recycling days or look for Home Depot's Christmas Light Trade-in Event which occurred this year from Nov

5th-15th, 2015. Lowe's also accepts light strings for recycling, as well as charity foundations like www.lightsforlifeinc.com

Use the past months of your wall calendar to wrap gifts. Also consider wrapping gifts in a useful household cloth that is part of the gift such as a napkin, tablecloth, or bandana. Use natural fibers and objects as ribbons such as jute, hemp, raffia and use pine cones as adornment.

Make your own Christmas card by reusing or repurposing paper and paperboard

products from packaging materials like shoeboxes or magazines.

Give less stuff. Instead give things that have purpose and meaning. Handmade gifts show the time, care, commitment, thoughtfulness and financial giving that goes into the effort. Of course it comes with the risk of unwittingly becoming Aunt Claire who gives Ralphie the bunny union suit in 'A Christmas Story.' But for the receiver, it may become his or her favorite gift of the season and may be cherished for years to come.

Battery Solutions

In November 2013, PEEC learned about Battery Solutions, a Michigan-based company that uses state of the art technology to reclaim materials from dry cell batteries (AAA, AA, D, 9-volt, etc.). Since that time, PEEC has had a box on the front counter where employees and visitors can deposit used batteries.

After sending our large box of batteries to Battery Solutions, we received the Confirmation of Reclamation below.

Instead of being tossed in the trash to corrode in landfills, over 36 pounds of batteries are now in the process of being recycled. Battery Recycle Kits, in various sizes, are available at <http://www.batteryrecycling.com/new+iRecycle+kits>.

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Description of Material:
Alkaline Batteries 30 lbs : Lithium Ion Batteries 1 lb : Primary Lithium Batteries 1 lb :
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Authorized Signature:
Printed Name: Doug Smith
Title: Director of Battery Technology, Battery Solutions
Date: 9/16/2015

www.batteryrecycling.com

Ticket to Ride

By Sheri Bone

This fall, the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DWGNRA) and PEEC again partnered to execute the latest round of the “Ticket to Ride” grant program awarded by the National Park Foundation (NPF). Charged with giving the local program a name that fit the program, “Over the River and Through the Woods!” was chosen.

Six schools representing four area school districts sent more than 500 fourth graders to PEEC for a day. The students learned about Pocono animals and habitats when they took a tour of the EcoZone, PEEC’s Exploration and Discovery room. Then, armed with clipboards and pencils, they hiked a trail, looking for similar things in the woods to what they saw in the EcoZone.



In the woods, they investigated bear scratches on trees, looked for a variety of nests, and discovered actual beaver chews. Around the ponds, fish and other aquatic animals were observed. They learned that, during summer days, bats may sleep under the bark of some of the hickory trees. Before the students came to PEEC, National Park Service (NPS) and PEEC staff members visited them at their schools. It was then that the students learned the long name of the park located in their backyard and they were introduced to why national parks were created and were shown a large map of the park. They were also taught the “Over the River and Through the Woods” song, with the lyrics changed to fit the program.

In early winter, a post-trip visit to the schools by NPS and PEEC staff will occur. At that time, a review ‘quiz’ will be administered, and information will be distributed about what families can do in the DWGNRA, including activities at PEEC. “Pocono Pony” pamphlets will be given to each student so their families can plan summer weekend activities using this free shuttle. And, they will review the song that described their earlier visit:

“Over the river and through the woods – discovering the park -
There’s so much to do for me and you from morning until dark!
Over the river and through the woods, we’ll go to the EcoZone!
We’ll take a nice hike in the outdoors we like, ‘til the buses take us home!”



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EAGLE WATCH



JANUARY 30 & FEBRUARY 6, 2016
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The Mystery of the Rogue Gourd

By Andrea Ace

It was a chilly Thursday morning in mid-October when I walked into PEEC's hoop house to put an apple core into the composter. In one of the raised garden beds, I noticed an anomalous gourd that looked like the love child between an acorn squash and a butternut squash – it was beige, oblong, and had deep ridges running lengthwise. Moving closer, I noticed “normal” acorn squash were also peeking out from a different vine. The longer I looked at the garden bed, the more of these squash I saw growing among the watermelon.

This beige squash was unlike anything I had seen in a grocery store or farmer's market. I will be the first to admit that my gardening skills and knowledge are dismal, so I turned to



The harvest from one garden bed at PEEC's hoop house

other sources to help answer the question of the mystery squash.

Derek, PEEC's Public Program Manager,

maintains PEEC's hoop house and coordinates most of the gardening that happens there. I asked him about the mystery squash, and he told me that he had only planted watermelons and cantaloupes in the raised beds, so the presence of squash in any variety, much less two kinds, was truly a mystery.

We picked one of these mystery squash from the vine to cut in half and see if that could give us any clues. The inside looked and smelled like pumpkin, but then again, most uncooked squash looks and smells like pumpkin to me. The dark green acorn squash growing simultaneously was on a separate vine from the beige squash, and there were no young squash of either kind that looked like anything other than a smaller version of itself.

We gathered all the factors that may have contributed to the appearance of this slightly obscure squash.

First theory: Inside the hoop house is a compost tumbler that decomposes organic matter, mostly a combination of garden waste and coffee grounds from the main building. The compost tumbler has been in the hoop house for a little over a year. Could a few rogue squash seeds have found their way out of the composter and into the soil of the corner garden bed in the hoop house? We hadn't used any soil from the composter yet, so I wasn't convinced on this logic.

Second theory: Last fall, staff members placed a few pumpkins outside the hoop house, where they festively sat and eventually decomposed without any human interference. This year we discovered pumpkin vines growing in front of our hoop house. These accidental pumpkins have been more productive than the intentional pumpkin plants one of our staff member attempts to grow every year. Could the pumpkins have somehow pollinated with the acorn squash to produce the oblong squash before us? This theory seemed possible – I decided to look into it further.



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INTRODUCTION TO SNOWSHOEING JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2016



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Cross-section of the mystery gourd

Third theory: Could these squash have been from a few rogue seeds from a melon packet? This seemed like the most likely option. Later on, Derek discovered that the solution was not too far off from this theory. The seed packets for melons and squash were stored near one another and may have gotten a bit mixed up in their communal seed tin.

To solve the mystery of what kind of squash we were looking at, I conferred with my friend Google, who always seems to have the answers. A few minutes later I had pinned my mystery squash: Fordhook acorn squash. Hello, gourd-geous!

The Fordhook acorn squash was first introduced in 1890 by W. Atlee Burpee at Fordhook Farm in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. Fordhook Farm was the first of several farms Burpee ran across the United States to test experimental varieties of vegetables, flowers, and seeds. Several other unique varieties of vegetables were developed at Fordhook and bear its name. Fordhook lima beans grow in bushes instead of in a vine. The Fordhook hybrid tomato was developed during WWII as a high-yield vegetable to grow in victory gardens but was soon overshadowed by the Burpee Big Boy tomato, which needed little fertilizer and was tolerant to disease. Fordhook Farm was also the birthplace of the vegetable we now recognize as iceberg lettuce, originally called crisphead lettuce. Because of his creativity and entrepreneurial spirit, WA Burpee perfected his seed game and made Burpee Seeds a well-known company that is still in existence today.

I proclaimed my decision to keep some seeds and replant them for next year. Lea, PEEC Program Coordinator, whose green thumb is evident in her resplendent and prolific vegetable garden, told me that the next generation of squash might not be true to the variety because it was grown next to a different variety of acorn squash. Because acorn squash and Fordhook



Fordhook acorn squash



Acorn squash

acorn squash are so genetically similar, if the flowering plants were right next to one another (they were), the resulting plants would have combined DNA from pollination. Thanks, bees!

I'm still going to plant the Fordhook acorn squash seeds, in the spirit of W.A. Burpee himself. The seeds in this brave new squash will have traits from both squash parents and I can't wait to see what they turn out like. And in case you remembered the watermelon that was growing side by side with the squash, I did look into it and am fairly sure their genetics are separate enough that no unholy melon-squash offspring will be created. The pumpkin vines growing outside the hoop house were hopefully far enough away from the squash growing inside the hoop house to not affect the next generation of seeds. Only time will tell!

The best part about growing squash is cooking and eating it! Squash is a versatile vegetable and great comfort food on a cold day. Many people incorporate squash into soups and casseroles, but I prefer to bake them in the oven and add flavorings or fillings.

Recipes

Fordhook Acorn Squash Recipe

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.

Cut in half lengthwise – the ridges on the Fordhook squash make this task relatively easy.

Remove seeds from center. Discard, save, or roast seeds – your choice!

Place the squash in a baking dish with about a half inch of water. There seems to be differing opinions on whether squash should be cooked cut-side up or cut-side down – I tried both methods when baking several of these squash and can report back that it does not matter.

Bake squash at 350 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes, depending on the size of the squash. The squash is ready to eat when you can stick a fork in it. Literally. Add spices or toppings, if desired (see suggestions below).

Suggested additions: Butter, salt and/or pepper; Honey or maple syrup and walnuts; Garlic and parmesan cheese; Stuffing; Wild rice; Chili

The possibilities are endless – go with your gut!

Roasted Squash Seed Recipe

Directions:

While squash is cooking, separate seeds from gooeey innards and rinse. Pat dry. Don't forget to save a few seeds if you want to grow squash next year.

Mix seeds in a bowl with a small amount of olive oil and salt (enough to cover them). Other seasonings can also work – experimentation is the spice of life!

Place seeds in a single layer on the foil-lined baking sheet.

After squash is finished, turn oven down to 300 degrees and pop the baking sheet in. Check every five to ten minutes. The seeds are ready when they look brown.

El Niño and Winter Weather in the Northeast

Continued from Page 1

patterns has global impacts. Warmer waters in the middle of the Pacific cause the Jetstream (the wind most associated with our weather patterns here in the US) to move further north on the west coast and plummet south on the east coast. This stark change from the usual movement of the Jetstream results in warmer weather patterns for places like California and Oregon, and cooler weather for states like Virginia and the Carolinas. Traditionally, these events usually bring increased precipitation to most southern states during the winter months.

When you get to the Northeast though, things start to get a little less straight forward. Even though the states to the south of us receive cooler temperatures, places like New York and Pennsylvania can actually see milder winter temperatures during El Niño years. If there's a strong enough event, parts of the Northeast can also see the increased precipitation that our southern states see. The 1998 ice storm that wreaked havoc on the Northeast was actually partly to blame due to that year's El Niño. With this year's event forecast to be one of the strongest on record, it's safe to say we could be looking at quite a bit of moisture. Combine this with the fact that milder temperatures from last year's winter would be in the upper 20s, and you've got a perfect recipe for a whole lot of snowfall.

Even with all the predictions about this year's El Niño, we may not see the wet winter that people seem to be anticipating. While these events usually have similar results each time they occur, scientists are still trying to figure out why exactly El Niño occurs and what impacts it has. By now we've been able to figure out how things usually shape up but that doesn't mean we truly know what's in store for this winter, especially in an area that seems to get varied impacts during El Niño years. So if you're the type of person who loves winter, snowfall looks promising for this year; if you're not, just cross your fingers that we only see that milder weather instead.

Who Knew... Caribou

By Mariann Oswald

When I started out looking for a story for the winter newsletter, my first thought was "winter myths and legends" in our locale. I looked up Pennsylvania under this category and found that "the Jersey Devil" and Sasquatch never roamed our fertile lands. However, reindeer did. Well, to be more precise, caribou, but they are the same animal, literally. And, we all know there are plenty of myths and legends about reindeer. Rudolph, for instance, joined Santa's team in 1939, a whopping 116 years after Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner, and Blitzen – little whipper snapper.

I have heard that there is controversy over the gender identity of the original eight reindeer. It is a fact that male reindeer shed their antlers in the winter and females do not. It is also a fact that Christmas in the Northern Hemisphere takes place during the winter. BUT... and don't tell the reindeer this... castrated males do not shed their antlers. Ah ha! So now what's the answer?

Good news for reindeer lovers: the species thrives in Finland and Norway, Siberia, Greenland, Alaska, Scotland, and Canada. They are NOT endangered, except possibly south of the equator. They seem to stick to the north and leave the south to the penguins.

More fun facts, not myths:

- Female reindeer are smaller than males, 220 pounds average vs. 260 (or 700 if you believe some hunters). They stand about four feet high at the shoulder. Their antlers are three feet tall!
- Although usually quiet, reindeer do occasionally grunt, especially to their offspring.
- Reindeer have very short tails; they don't have much use for swatting flies.
- In the winter, a reindeer's hair turns a light color, because winter hair is hollow for insulation. In the summer, it is dark on top and lighter underneath.
- Reindeer migrate hundreds of miles to find food supplies of lichen and plants, although the few who hang with Rudolph snack on an occasional cookie.
- Reindeer have a great sense of smell. Good for finding lichen under the snow, and cookies.
- Reindeer are great swimmers, like Mark Spitz and Johnny Weissmuller. Can you imagine? Well, not really, but they are great long distance swimmers. They can swim about five miles per hour.
- Reindeer have big feet, like snowshoes on skinny legs. Big feet with tendons that click as they walk. Needless to say, they don't sneak very well. They do run up to 50 miles per hour, though. And, interestingly enough, reindeer can change the temperature in their skinny legs to near freezing levels to keep their core body heat even.
- Reindeer's hair grows long and thick in the winter to keep them warm. Take heed from the reindeer; cover up head to toe to keep warm.
- Reindeer eyes change from gold to blue in the winter. Really! It helps them see in near darkness, according to the Proceedings of the Royal Society B. The University College London recently discovered that reindeer are the only known mammals that can see ultraviolet light.

So, as the winter solstice approaches and the sun seems to shine less and less, the cold permeates every room and the dark magically comes to life in bright colors and fanciful designs, enjoy reindeer stories (some as old as 3000 years!) and look up. Let me know if you see any reindeer flying.

<http://legacy.pitchengine.com> <http://mentalfloss.com> www.kidsplayandcreate.com www.reindeer.org.uk

"Why We Do What We Do"

The class trip to PEEC was awesome! It was very enjoyable. I liked learning about eagle nest, the aquaponics, fossils from prehistoric animals, bears, beaver dams, bats, caves, and well, bat caves!

My favorite part was the Eco Zone. I loved the bat cave and build-a-bear. The hike wasn't my favorite because I've been on many hikes but, it was still good.

Thank you for the amazing trip.

the class trip to PEEC was amazing. I learned that Pennsylvania was under water. My favorite part was the bat cave because it was dark and spooky. Thank you for the best time ever.

The class trip to PEEC was fantastic. I learned that you can use water to plant stuff. My favorite part was the hike. Thank you for the trip there.

The class trip to PEEC was very interesting. Somethings I learned was that beavers whack their tails on the water when there's danger. My favorite part was the bat cave because it looked realistic and the way in and out was really fun. Thank you for letting us go on a hike and in the Eco zone.

The class trip to PEEC was fantastic. I learned that bat caves are always changing because of the colum in the middle. I think my favorite parts were putting the bear bones together, the bald eagles nest, and the bat cave and beaverdam. I had a wonderful time thank you so much. The trip to Pennsylvania was beautiful. Thank you again.

The class trip was fun. I learned that a poisonous and not poisonous snakes. My favorite part was the hike. I do not know how the bear stuck together but it was really cool. Thank you for being our guide!

This class trip to PEEC was amazing. I loved the hike and seeing the dam it looked like the beavers took months to build it. I learned so much from you. Thank you for taking all around PEEC. I hope you feel better.

Special Donations to PEEC

As a 501(c)(3) organization, PEEC depends on the support of friends & members. Special donations to PEEC can be made *In Memory of* or *In Honor of* a person or event. During 2015, PEEC received the following special donations:

In Memory of Lori Dalton

Heather L. Rosborough Campership Fund

In Memory of Michael Mann / Scouting Programs

In Honor of Flo Mauro's Retirement / Summer Camp

In Memory of Glenn Simpson

If you are interested in making a donation to PEEC made *In Memory of* or *In Honor of*, please include a note with your donation or call 570-828-2319 with any questions.



It is with much sadness that we share with you news that our coworker and friend, Glenn Simpson, passed away unexpectedly at home earlier this fall. In memorial, we are planning to plant a tree, add a memorial bench to one of Glenn's favorite trails, and add a BMX bike to our EcoZone bike generator display. The bench and tree memorial is tentatively planned for the next PEEC Alumni weekend in September 2016.

If anyone would like to contribute to the Glenn Simpson Memorial Fund, please include a note with your donation.



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

WINTER
Wonderland

**FAMILY NATURE
GETAWAY WEEKEND**
PRESIDENT'S DAY WEEKEND
FEBRUARY 12-15, 2016

Bring your friends and family to experience PEEC in the wintertime. Cross country skiing, animal tracking, nature hikes, crafts, campfire and more! Price includes three nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner to Monday lunch. Join us for a wonderful winter weekend!

Call now to make your Reservations
peec@peec.org • www.peec.org

POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER
538 Emery Road • Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania 18328

**CALL
PEEC**

570.828.2319

**\$225 PER
ADULT**

CHILD, COMMUTER & DAY RATES
- CALL FOR DETAILS

WINTER PROGRAMS AND GETAWAYS 2016

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED Unless otherwise indicated.

TO REGISTER:

Call PEEC at 570-828-2319

JANUARY

Cross Country Skiing
Every Saturday (10am-12pm) and Sunday (1pm-3pm)
(EXCEPT 9th & 10th)
\$20 adult / \$10 child

Free - Bridge the Gap: McDade Trail (9am-12pm): 2nd, 16th, and 30th

Enjoy the winter woods with beginner ski lessons. Learn the basics of cross country skiing and practice on an old logging road loop. You decide how many loops to ski. McDade Trail dates funding provided by the William Penn Foundation. Skis, poles & boots provided - register w/shoe size to guarantee a spot.



Intro to Snowshoeing
Every Saturday (1pm-3pm) and Sunday (10am-12pm)
(EXCEPT 9th & 10th)
Cost: \$10

Learn the basics of snow shoes and enjoy a winter stomp through the woods. No experience necessary - we provide the equipment and teach you everything you need to know. Register early to guarantee a spot.



Winter Ecology Hike
Saturday, January 2 - 10am-12pm
Cost: \$5

Learn how different plants and animals survive the winter. Join us on a hike and experience PEEC in the wintertime. All ages welcome.

Christmas Bird Count
Sunday, January 3 - 8am start
Cost: Free

It's the National Audubon Society's 116th annual Christmas Bird Count! The longest running Citizen Science survey in the world, the Christmas Bird Count provides critical data on population trends. You can register for the area around your house and participate from the comfort of your living room, or you can venture out into a different part of the count circle. If you're a beginner, we'll pair you up with a more experienced birder. Pre-registration is required for this event.

Ecozone Discovery Room!
Saturday, January 16 - 1-4pm
Cost: \$2 per person

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Animal Tracking
Sunday, January 17 - 1-3pm
Cost: \$5

Animals leave behind clues that give us glimpses into their lives. Explore our natural areas for tracks, trails, scat, territory marks, eat marks, and other signs that animals leave as they travel through the fields and forests of the Poconos.

Eagle Watch for Eagle Enthusiasts!
Saturday, January 30 - 9am-3pm
Cost: \$20

Join us on a trip north in search of eagles. Visit the Mongaup Reservoir, the Delaware River, & the Eagle Institute to look for winter residents and nesting pairs. Bring a lunch, camera & warm clothes. Call to reserve a seat in the van.

Ecozone Discovery Room!
Sunday, January 31
1-4pm

Cost: \$2 per person
Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

FEBRUARY

Cross Country Skiing
Every Saturday (10am-12pm) and Sunday (1pm-3pm)
(EXCEPT 13th & 14th)
\$20 adult / \$10 child

Free - Bridge the Gap: McDade Trail

(9am-12pm): 20th & 27th

Enjoy the winter woods with beginner ski lessons. Learn the basics of cross country skiing and practice on an old logging road loop. You decide how many loops to ski. McDade Trail dates funding provided by the William Penn Foundation. Skis, poles & boots provided - register w/shoe size to guarantee a spot.

Intro to Snowshoeing
Every Saturday (1pm-3pm) and Sunday (10am-12pm)
(EXCEPT 13th & 14th)
Cost: \$10

Learn the basics of snow shoes and enjoy a winter stomp through the woods. No experience necessary - we provide the equipment and teach you everything you need to know. Register early to guarantee a spot.

Eagle Watch
Saturday, February 6
9am-3pm
Cost: \$20

Join us on a trip north in search of eagles and other rare wintering birds such as ravens. Visit the Mongaup Reservoir, the Delaware River, and the Eagle Institute to look for winter residents and nesting pairs. Bring a lunch, camera, and warm clothes. Call to reserve a seat in van.



Continued on Page 12

WINTER PROGRAMS AND GETAWAYS

Continued from Page 11

FEBRUARY

"Winter Wonderland" Family Nature Getaway Weekend

President's Day weekend: February 12-15

Adults \$225 / 25% off ages 7-10

50% off ages 4-6 / free under 3

Bring your friends and family to experience PEEC in the wintertime. Cross country skiing, animal tracking, nature hikes, crafts, campfire and more! Price includes three nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner to Monday lunch. Join us for a wonderful winter weekend! Commuter and day rates available – call for details.

Little Eco Explorers: Eagles
Saturday, February 20 - 1-3pm
Cost: \$5 per child

A fun hands-on program for young children! Join us for a story, craft, and activity focusing on a particular critter. Call for details.



Ecozone Discovery Room!
Sunday, February 21 - 1-4pm

Cost: \$2 per person

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Animal Tracking
Saturday,
February 27 -
10am-12pm
Cost: \$5

Animals leave behind clues that give us glimpses into their lives. Explore our natural areas for tracks, trails, scat, territory marks, eat marks, and other signs that animals leave as they travel through the fields and forests of the Poconos.



MARCH

Sugar Shack Scramble
Saturday, March 5
9am-12:30pm
Cost: \$12

Join us for a hike through the woods out to the "Two Saps" Sugar Shack and enjoy hot cocoa and pancakes with fresh maple syrup! Sign up in advance for a 9am or 9:30am start time. Spaces limited!

Ecozone Discovery Room!
Saturday, March 5 - 1-4pm
Cost: \$2 per person

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Sunday for Singles
Sunday, March 6 - 1-3pm
Cost: Free

Enjoy a guided hike on a PEEC trail. This program is all about exploring nature and meeting new people.

"Spring Cleaning" Volunteer Day
Saturday, March 12
10am-12pm
Cost: Free

Come lend a hand with some springtime projects around our campus. Call for details. Pre-registration required.

Little Eco Explorers: Foxes
Sunday, March 13 - 10am-12pm
Cost: \$5 per child

A fun hands-on program for young children! Join us for a story, craft, and activity focusing on a particular critter. Call for details.

Do It Yourself Day: Paracord Bracelets
Sunday, March 13 - 1-3pm
Cost: \$5

Join us for an afternoon and learn how to make your own paracord bracelet! We'll provide the supplies and teach you everything you need to know. Pre-registration required.

Ecozone Discovery Room!
Saturday, March 19 - 1-4pm
Cost: \$2 per person

Climb into a bald eagle's nest, crawl into a bat cave, and dig in a fossil pit! Explore this indoor discovery room and enjoy hands-on exhibits on natural history, sustainability and the local environment. No registration required.

Woodcock Walk
Saturday, March 19 - 6:30-8pm
Cost: Free

Join us for a walk to see the mysterious woodcock and its spectacular springtime mating display. Ages 10+ please.

Black & White Photography Tour
Sunday, March 20 - 9am-4pm
Cost: \$30

Grab your camera and join us for a tour of the historic buildings in the Park. This is the perfect time of year to shoot black and white photos. Pack a lunch and dress warm. Call to reserve a seat in the van.

"Spring Cleaning" Volunteer Day
Sunday, March 20 - 10am-12pm
Cost: Free

Come lend a hand with some springtime projects around our campus. Call for details. Pre-registration required.

Fire Building
Saturday, March 26 - 10am-12pm
Cost: \$5

Learn some primitive and modern fire making skills. Try your hand at a flint & steel fire and more! Ages 10+ please.

The "Easy Does It" Hike
Saturday, March 26 - 1:00-3:00pm
Cost: Free

Enjoy a nice leisurely walk through the woods. Join us for easy hikes, slow paces and interpretive natural history.

