



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

2017 Annual Report



PEEC.ORG

PEEC Board of Trustees

MISSION

The Pocono Environmental Education Center (P.E.E.C.) advances environmental education, sustainable living and appreciation for nature through hands on experience in a national park.

VISION

"An environmentally enlightened world"

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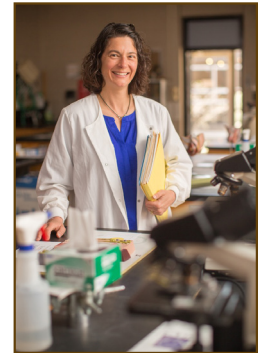
As we go about our busy lives, it is easy to forget our need to connect with nature...not just by reading about it, but by getting out there experiencing wild places and wild things first-hand. Nature can be a powerful elixir, able to remedy whatever ails your mind, body, or spirit. Small doses of that potent cure can be found closer than you think.

When angry voices at work follow me home as unwanted echoes, I sit alone on the patio and let the lyrical chatter of songbirds replace them. When city and highway fumes fill my lungs, I walk the neighborhood with my husband in search of flowers in bloom. Wisteria is our favorite. When my eyes itch and burn from hours at the computer, I spend a few minutes just after dusk stargazing with my daughter. Shooting stars and satellites are a bonus.

When my feet and legs ache from standing, I take my shoes off and walk the yard with my cocker spaniel, letting the pointy grass and crunchy leaves massage my feet. I wonder if his paws are ticklish. And when all else fails, we open the windows at night and allow cool breezes to wash over us and through us, refreshing our lives even as we sleep.

I hope that each of you can find similar ways, as simple as they might be, to ease those unwanted symptoms of the modern world. Of course, if you need a larger dose of nature, the amazing PEEC staff is always here with intensive outdoor care, ready to help you recuperate from the stresses of daily life. They know as well as anyone how to help you reconnect with nature. 200,000 acres of Pennsylvania public lands should do the trick. No prescription necessary.

K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.
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K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.
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Jeff Rosalsky,
Executive Director

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Head of Maintenance - Marc Wetzel
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Director of Group Program Business Development - Sheri Bone
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James Maloney, Ryan McLaughlin,
Eric Pecina, Siobhan Prout,
Alexa Sarussi, James Scott,
Kaitlyn Steketee, Maggie Worden

"Watching the beavers was excellent, cool and really fun!"
~ Student, River Valley Waldorf School, Upper Black Eddy, PA

2017 Fundraisers



The first annual PEEC 5k Trail Run — Run, Hike, Crawl — was held June 17, 2017. The 5k trail ran through our main campus and through a variety of different woodland habitats on two of our gorgeous trail loops. The pack of runners enjoyed the race and helped raise over \$8,100 for PEEC.

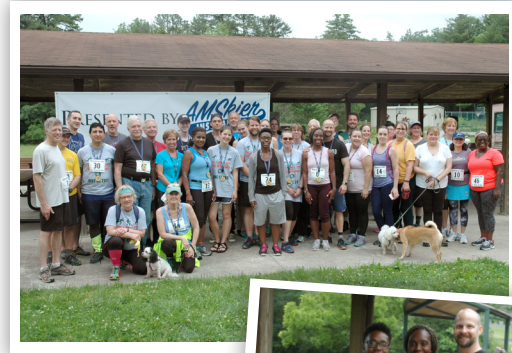


Run • Hike • Crawl

PEEC 5k Trail Race



JUNE 17, 2017



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**



Thanks to Harmony Presents of Hawley, PA, Mary Chapin Carpenter performed a benefit concert for PEEC October 24, 2017. The audience at the Peoples Security Bank Theater at Lackawanna College enjoyed a wonderful evening of Carpenter's music—both songs from her new album as well as many older favorites.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF PEEC!

100 FOR \$1000

HELP US CONTINUE TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE
IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMING

PEEC experimented with another new fundraiser in 2017: 100 for \$1,000 The UnEventful Fundraiser, which replaced The Wild Things Ball.

Though many people enjoyed The Wild Things Ball for a number of years, high overhead made the fundraiser difficult to sustain. With no event, 100% of the funds raised from 100 for \$1,000 directly benefited PEEC.

**THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR
100 FOR \$1,000 DONORS
WHO HELPED US RAISE OVER
\$100,000 FOR PEEC!**

*"I didn't know dinosaurs fueled my car."
~ Student, French American School, Princeton, NJ*

2017

Take a PEEC!

Summer Science in the Poconos – The **Victoria Foundation** and **PSEG Foundation** funded 75 students and their chaperones from five different schools in Newark, NJ to come to PEEC for a 4 day/3 night program. During this time, students gained hands-on experience in nature. They learned about area wildlife from local presenters, as well as pond ecology, team building, and other classes led by PEEC staff. They also participated in some recreational activities like campfires and night hikes!



Every Kid in the Park (EKIP) – This program was funded by the **National Park Foundation (NPF)**. About 600 fourth grade students from six different schools in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, all of which are in close proximity to the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA), came to PEEC as a way to learn more about what they can do in the national park 'in their backyard.' A DEWA National Park Service ranger was able to assist with pre and post school visits.



Women on the Water (WOW) and Boys in Boats (B2) – This is another watershed program funded by the **William Penn Foundation**. A total of 75 high school aged participants were recruited from the Philadelphia area to spend a week at PEEC and on the Delaware River learning about water quality. They learned multiple ways to evaluate water quality, how to paddle canoes and kayaks, set up tents, cook on camp stoves and make campfires. (Most of them learned what it was like to paddle in the rain, too!) One part of the program is for the participants to develop a watershed project in their neighborhoods and share their WOW/B2 experience with others. This program is continuing next year.



The Sci-Q Project – **Sanofi Pasteur** once again funded this program so that 20 eighth – tenth grade students and 3 leaders could explore all avenues of the science field. Students traveled to ESU for hands-on lessons in vertebrate anatomy, mammals, and DNA forensics. They also experienced a planetarium show and museum visit while they were there. A trip to the Sterling Mine Museum was one of the activities. While on the PEEC campus, students created robotic arms using cardboard, syringes and rubber tubing. In addition to many other activities, the students participated in creating and 'racing' their own cardboard 'boats' on PEEC's Front Pond.



Active Adventures – Find Your Path to Wellness – The first six months of 2017 saw the culmination of activities that began in June of 2016 with funding from the **AllOne Foundation**. Participants enjoyed activities that emphasized this message: Good health is more than just hiking! They joined classes in yoga, tai chi, and mindfulness, learned about healthy eating choices, and found ways to relax via painting.



“This experience was phenomenal. I was able to learn more about myself and get rid of my fears of the woods.” ~ Student, MAST High School, Cambria Heights, NY

2017



Nature Adventure Camp – PEEC's Nature Adventure Camps are designed to help campers grow and explore while under guidance of our highly-trained staff. In 2017, we hosted eight weeks of summer camp in which over two hundred campers took weekly trips around the Delaware Water Gap and surrounding areas to see waterfalls, hike and learn about their back yard. This year we had thirteen campers receive financial assistance through **The Ingeborg A. Biondo Memorial Foundation** and generous individual donations.

Festivals – Earth Day and Fall Family Fun Day are events for the community to celebrate the planet and connect with nature. We welcomed 635 visitors over our two festival days along with over forty vendors from local businesses, nonprofit agencies, artists and crafters from the surrounding area. Along with the usual music, crafts and fun, some highlights included a 1.4 mile Fun Run for Earth Day and free ice cream for canoeing during Fall Family Fun Day.

Scouting Program – Every year PEEC hosts four badge festivals where local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops and individuals can spend their day working toward nature and environmental badges. In four days alone, we hosted 127 scouts with many more overnight and weekend trips throughout the year that focus on team building, camping/survival and environmental issues.

Bridge the Gap (BTG) – Funded by the **William Penn Foundation**, BTG is a connector - a bridge - between people and their natural environment. This program has shown us that hiking and/or paddling are excellent ways to share the watershed message: Healthy forests encourage healthy waterways. BTG is a tool that accomplished sending that message as it helped promote watershed stewardship. In 2017, more than 1000 people hiked on and around PEEC's trails, and paddled on our ponds and the Delaware River. Many of those people showed their support of healthy watersheds by pledging to clean up their neighborhoods, become members of environmental organizations, and/or learn how to monitor water quality.

Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC) – In 2017, about 400 fourth grade students from the Delaware Valley School District and the East Stroudsburg Area School District were able to come to PEEC and hike. After a tour of our EcoZone, the students hiked on the trails where they accurately and appropriately used science vocabulary from the Wildlife Study curriculum to identify what they saw in the woods. Thank you to **The Dime Bank** and **Waste Management, Inc.** for allowing us to share nature with local students.



“The Night Hike was the scariest thing I ever did, but it was really cool!”
~ Student, Moorestown Friends School, Moorestown, NJ

2017

Education & Operations Updates

- This year we were visited by 105 various schools and organizations for environmental education, team building and retreats. Elkins Park celebrated their 25th year attending PEEC with a commemorative bench. We look forward to many more years with them and all of our groups.



- We added a new activity to our Astronomy curriculum with our own constellation box. Created by Morgan Bustamante of East Stroudsburg University for her internship project with us, students can now connect the stars with guides or create their own!
- In December, we received a generous donation of cross country skis, poles and boots to add to our adventure room. Thank you to Neal DeGrass for helping us provide winter programming as we hope for a few more snow days in the future!
- The 2 new kayak racks at Pickerel Pond were built for us as an Eagle Scout project.
- An eel tank was added to our Main Building educational displays.
- Our Confidence Course & Team Building Course were improved by the addition of a Swinging Log activity at Confidence Course 2 and a new Wall at the Team Building – Yurts course.
- Princeton University Community Action held Freshman Orientation at PEEC. They designed and constructed many exciting educational displays including a solar powered water heater, a meal worm composter for Styrofoam, rolling composters at the Dining Hall, and the educational Tree-in-a-Row game for guests to enjoy on our lower campus.



“Don’t worry tree, you’ll be remembered.”
~ East Harlem Scholars Academy, New York, NY

2017

Facilities



- Trail signage is continually maintained at PEEC; however, thanks to our instructional staff, 2017 saw the replacement of trail sign posts to help visitors navigate the PEEC campus.
- Staff Housing was updated in various buildings with new windows, insulation, new flooring, re-wiring, bathroom repairs, new cabinets, and/or paint
- LED lights were installed in Main Building Classrooms 1 and 2
- Several Guest Cabins recieved new windows, Hardie Siding, new flooring, and/or new insulation
- Thanks to a grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation, a wheelchair lift was installed in the EcoZone
- Benches at the Pond Side Amphitheater were replaced using recycled and renewable materials

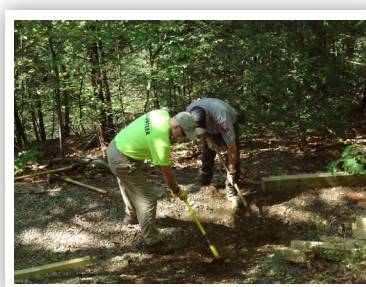
Fast Facts

2017 Volunteers: Our 230+ All-Star Volunteers logged over 5,500 hours of service at PEEC. Volunteers helped in the EcoZone, as well as many other indoor & outdoor tasks.

Special thanks to the **Delaware Water Gap National Park Service Trail Stewards** for helping us to improve & maintain PEEC's trails.

Public Programs in 2017: Over 2,100 attendees participated 120+ programs, including festivals & special events.

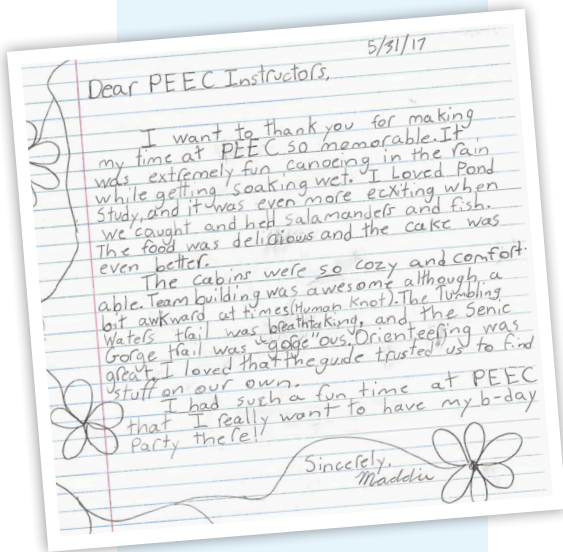
Growing Green: Since 2010, PEEC & Easter Seals of Northeastern Pennsylvania have partnered to offer Growing Green, a summer camp for special needs campers. This program continued to grow and improve in 2017. Growing Green continues to integrate various activities with PEEC Summer Camp.



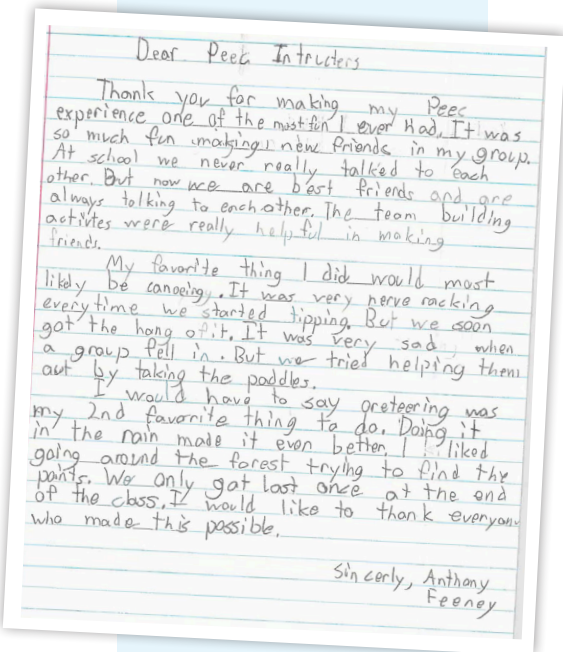
“Wake up time should be earlier.”
~ Student, Knowledge & Power Preparatory Academy, Bronx, NY

2017

Financial Report



In Their Own Words



Revenue gains other supports	2016	2017
Instructional fees	1,050,645.00	1,075,323.00
Grants	250,615.00	191,316.00
Contributions	74,135.00	418,576.00
Misc	-	-
Fundraising	64,341.00	78,512.00
Investment income	3,156.00	1,200.00
Net unrealized (loss) gain on investments	181.00	(781.00)
Gift shop	13,802.00	12,309.00
Other income	-	-
Total revenue, gains and other support	1,456,875.00	1,776,654.00
Expenses		
Instructional	1,149,254.00	1,193,412.00
Management and general	292,185.00	310,358.00
Development and fundraising	68,149.00	42,513.00
Total expenses	1,509,588.00	1,546,283.00
(Decrease) increase in net assets from operations	(52,713.00)	230,371.00
Net asset, beginning of year as previously reported	276,085.00	223,372.00
Net asset, ending	223,372.00	453,743.00
Cash flow from operating activities		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(52,713.00)	230,371.00
Adjustment to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities		
Depreciation	56,973.00	42,865.00
Other adjustments to reconcile changes in net assets	8,646.00	250,608.00
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	12,906.00	523,844.00
Cash flows from investing activities	(23,012.00)	(19,341.00)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities	8,339.00	(9,387.00)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	(1,767.00)	495,116.00
Cash & cash equivalent: Beginning of year	131,271.00	129,504.00
Cash & cash equivalent: end of year	129,504.00	624,620.00

"I wish we were here for a whole week! (after a whole day outside in the rain)"
~ Student, Elkins Park School, Elkins Park, PA



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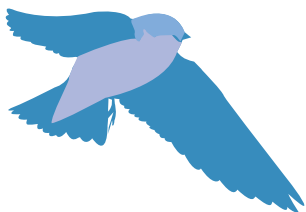


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Continued on next page.



EcoZone Discovery Room!



Sci-Q Science Camp



Fabric Arts at PEEC!



Summer Camp

"It was an honour to come - first time on canoes & having s'mores!"
~ Student, East Harlem Scholars Academy, New York, NY

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"I can't wait to tell my mom everything that I did."
~ Student, Elkins Park School, Elkins Park, PA

2017

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PEEC

Pocono Environmental
Education Center

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