



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center



Spring Equinox 2018

Seasons

A Quarterly Publication to Advance Environmental Literacy

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**Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

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Snow Fleas

By George Johnson

As a bug guy, the winter period usually isn't that exciting. All of the really cool and interesting insect friends are either hibernating, dead, or pupating. It's not until the weather warms up that the little critters start emerging, and one of the tell-tell signs that winter is almost over is when we get to see the tiny snow fleas start hopping around. I know what you're thinking, "SNOW FLEAS! GET THEM OFF! GET THEM OFF!" While they may share the same name, they are not actually related to the horrible biting fleas you can find on dogs and cats. In fact, according to the scientific world, snow fleas aren't technically insects either. They actually fall under a separate category of arthropods known as Springtails because they have a special tail adaptation, called a furcula, which they use to jump and hop around. At first glance however, they got the name snow fleas because of the way they act and look. Each little flea is only a couple millimeters long and they tend to hop around a lot. To the untrained eye, they do actually look a lot like actual fleas.

Toward the end of winter, they start reappearing and can be found pretty easily if you look closely enough. Against the snow, they tend to stand out and appear to be little specks of black that are jumping around. It also helps that these guys and girls gather together in gigantic groups, with numbers getting as high as 200,000 individuals! That's a lot of snow fleas.



So if you can find one, then chances are you'll find plenty more.

One thing that I get asked about all the time is how they are able to withstand the snow and cold. Most other insects in this region wouldn't last very long under these same conditions, but snow fleas do just fine. Any normal insect would end up freezing. For snow fleas, however, the answer lies within their miniscule bodies. Snow fleas have developed an amazing adaptation to keep their bodies moving and unfrozen. Basically, they create a special protein in their body that acts as an anti-freeze agent. The protein interacts with the water molecules within their bodies in a way that prevents the molecules from rearranging into ice crystals during the freezing process. So they are able to hop around as normal even during below freezing conditions.

These cute little ones often get a hard time because of their name, but they are actually extremely beneficial to the forest ecosystem and home gardens. Snow fleas are decomposers and eat dead and decaying plant material. The leaves that fall during autumn are all munched on by snow fleas. A dead tree comes down, snow fleas help eat it up. They are nature's recyclers that break down loose plant material and then add nutrients back into the soil for the plants to use. Without those nutrients, then plants in your local forest would have a very hard time growing. Make sure to keep an eye out now on our trails for these little guys. Pretty soon they'll be back in full force!



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Message from the Executive Director



PEEC is gearing up for the inflow of new seasonal education staff, followed shortly by thousands of eager students who come to PEEC in our busy spring season. In 2018 and 2019, through a generous grant from the William Penn Foundation, we are thrilled to be able to bring more student groups from the Philadelphia and Camden area to PEEC for watershed education.

At PEEC, we not only educate students from the tri-state area, we also focus on educating local residents on the importance of preserving our watershed. Most of us living in Northeastern PA take our water for granted. Rainfall is generally plentiful, the waterfalls look beautiful, the fauna and flora are healthy and the streams that flow into the Delaware River seem to replenish it constantly with endless gallons of water. However, most of the local residents don't rely on the River for drinking water. They have private wells which supply clean drinking water from deep aquifers. This water has been naturally filtered through layers of rock and sand. For most locals, the Delaware River water is only used for recreation and as a source of natural beauty, but has no bearing on their daily lives, unless it floods and cripples transportation arteries.

For the students from down river that visit PEEC, the Delaware River provides most of their drinking water when they are at home. The same water they canoe on and scoop in for macro invertebrates when they are at PEEC's ponds, will reach the taps in Philadelphia in less than two days. While the water when it leaves the Poconos is of the highest quality, because of the natural forest buffers we have to filter and protect it, no one should take this for granted. We need to treat this precious resource with care, as trying to clean up man-made pollution is challenging and costly. Water needs to be conserved and the watershed that surrounds it preserved and protected.

The lessons for Philly and Camden students, as well as locals, are the same – and we are thankful for PEEC's unique position and resources. It provides us with the leverage to educate tens of thousands each year, with the hope that they take action to preserve the Delaware River Watershed.

THE SCI-Q PROJECT

JULY 1 - JULY 7, 2018

- Explore the world through science.
- Learn from college professors.
- Contribute to field research!
- Application Deadline: April 15, 2018.
Check www.pec.org/sci-q for details.



Having a Pair of Shoulders Means....

By Dennis Miranda

PEEC is located in an amazing location on the Pocono Plateau! The forest that envelopes our campus is not merely just woods, but an assortment of varied habitats that together makes our home a magnet for breeding birds! Conifer groves of Norway Spruce, White Pine, Scotch Pine and Red Pine surround a spring fed beaver pond with shrubby edges and clearings. Northern hardwoods ring the pine with an understory tangle of vines, shrubs and grasses. The forest is laced by numerous streams, and vernal ponds occur everywhere, which makes PEEC a perfect habitat for the Red Shouldered Hawk!

A single Red Shouldered Hawk was observed for several weeks in early February, 2018, first noted by his repeated "keeper" call. By February 14, Valentine's Day, the territorial male found his mate and then there was a pair! Endangered in New Jersey and rare in Pennsylvania, the Red Shouldered Hawk typically mate and have a nest in March, but this pair is having an early start!

Since they feed on small rodents, frogs, snakes and occasionally fish, they have to have a reliable food source to start a family. At PEEC, the Red Shouldered Hawk has been seen waiting patiently for rodents by the compost pile.

Soon the pair will build a nest in a hardwood tree not far from water. The pair will have a clutch of 3-4 eggs. The female will incubate the eggs and the male will come to the nest with food for mom and kids for several weeks. The young birds will leave the nest after 5-7 weeks, but will continue to rely on the parents for food for another 2 1/2 months.

If successful in raising their kids, the pair of Red Shouldered Hawks will return in future years to the same nest or build a new one nearby. The kids, once they are adults, practice imprinting, which means they return to the general area where they were born to find a mate and start the cycle again. For PEEC, the Poconos, and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area, the presence of the Red Shouldered Hawk is a sign of a healthy and wild ecosystem. Enjoy!



Red Shouldered Hawk perched on top of broken tree

TOP 10 REASONS TO COME TO PEEC!

1. HANDS-ON, OUTDOOR, FIELD EXPERIENCES
2. REINFORCE STEM CURRICULUM
3. COMFORTABLE 4-SEASON LODGING WITH 250+ BEDS
4. WAKE UP IN A NATIONAL PARK
5. TEAM BUILDING & LOW ROPES
6. SUSTAINABLE DESIGN IN ACTION
7. UNPLUGGED STUDENTS = ACTIVE STUDENTS!
8. CAVE CRAWLING, BEAR BUILDING, & BEAVER LODGE EXPLORING
9. STEWARDSHIP, LEADERSHIP, & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
10. EDUCATIONAL & FUN! S'MORES! CAMPFIRE! CANOEING!
11. LIFE CHANGING IMPACT

PEEC is the largest residential environmental education center in the U.S. and has been an education partner of the National Park Service for 40+ years.

An independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit, PEEC advances environmental education, sustainable living, and appreciation for nature through hands-on experience in a national park.



TO: ALL EDUCATORS

FROM: PEEC

1 1/2 - 2 HOURS FROM NEW YORK CITY
2 - 2 1/2 HOURS FROM PHILADELPHIA

POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

538 Emery Road Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania 18328
Phone: 570.828.2319 peec@peec.org • www.peec.org



Run • Hike • Crawl

PEEC 5k Trail Race

SATURDAY MAY 5, 2018

8:00am - 9:30am - Registration
10:00am - Race begins

Take a journey through the woods of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Our 5k runs through our main campus and a variety of different woodland habitats on two of our gorgeous trail loops. Course has a variety of different surfaces, including pavement, dirt, rock and gravel.

VISIT US AT PEEC.ORG TO LEARN MORE!

PEEC STORM UPDATE!

Dear PEEC Friends and Supporters:

The back to back Nor'easters over the past few weeks inflicted significant damage to our area. We were fortunate that all staff who live on campus were safe and the Visitor Activity Center continued on emergency generators throughout. As many local roads were closed due to trees and downed wires, staff spent their days removing trees and debris that were scattered everywhere. In the evening, they survived on limited emergency generators, non-electric heat and limited hot showers—but it was PEEC staff and they were wonderful.

The campus had a large number of trees fall which blocked our roads and took out our power, phone and internet lines. We also had trees fall and damage several cabins and a yurt. A particularly large tree fell across the walkway to the Visitor Activity Center and missed the building by inches. Our teambuilding and confidence courses require significant clean up, but the elements suffered no damage.

TO DONATE
TO PEEC
PLEASE VISIT

PEEC.ORG

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We all learned some great lessons about the strength of extreme weather events and how poorly they can be predicted at a local level. Unprecedented, this storm was more severe and impactful than Hurricane Sandy, due to the heavy wet snow on the trees and the tremendous winds. While PEEC was certainly more prepared than we had been for Hurricane Sandy, and we learned some things from this storm which will make us even more resilient, we still took the brunt of nature's wrath.

Fortunately, electricity was finally restored on the PEEC campus on Saturday night, after 9 days without power. However, we were forced to cancel, due to inaccessibility, lack of power and heat, and general safety concerns, a Boy Scout weekend, the Sugar Shack Scramble, and several other groups and programs. For this we are profoundly sorry.

There is tremendous damage on our trail network—literally hundreds of trees have fallen across the paths and some parts are inaccessible. Trail markers have vanished under piles of debris and the landscape in places has been transformed by uprooted and wind sheared pines and hardwoods. We have a significant cleanup and clearing project ahead of us.

We are tackling this challenge as best and as fast as we can. The vital work of educating young and old on the wonders of our environment is dependent upon how quickly we recover from this storm. Your Pocono Environmental Education Center could use your support to clear trails, restore signage and repair damaged buildings. Please make a donation to PEEC of any amount to help us recover. Your generous gift will help get us ready for spring!

Thank you for your support and financial gift to PEEC! See you on the trail real soon!



Jeffrey Rosalsky, Executive Director



Run, Hike, Crawl 5k Trail Race

By Derek Scott



Run • Hike • Crawl

PEEC 5k Trail Race



Trail with 1km left to go, participants had to traverse the steep switchbacks to the bottom of Fossil Trail, only to immediately begin climbing several hundred feet straight uphill to the finish line. By the time they finished, many asked how they ended up where they started on a course that felt entirely uphill.

Last June, PEEC hosted its first-ever 5k trail race. After months of planning and organizing, 51 participants from all over the Tri-State area joined us on a cool, overcast Saturday morning to run, hike, and crawl the challenging 3.1 mile course.

The 5k began on our lower campus with a mass start and started uphill immediately for the first kilometer, past our main building and onto the Scenic Gorge Trail. After just over 2 kilometers of rolling hills through the woods, participants returned to the PEEC property, only to shortly thereafter begin Fossil Trail. While this marked being over the halfway point, the real challenge was just beginning. Halfway through Fossil



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

FARM TO TABLE DINNER



APRIL 7, 2018
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM



Welcome the coming of spring with PEEC's **2nd Farm to Table Dinner**.

This dinner features local produce perfect for the season! Bring your friends & family to enjoy this cozy evening.

Payment is required at registration.
Space is limited - call early!

\$25 PER PERSON

While completion times on the course varied between runners, hikers, and crawlers, every participant received a T-shirt for joining us for this first-ever event. Handcrafted, wood burned tree cookie "medals" were awarded to the top 3 males and females in each age group. The current course record holder is Roman Zhmurenka, who finished the grueling 5k in 22 minutes and 2 seconds.

Saturday, May 5th of this year PEEC will host the second annual Run, Hike, Crawl 5k Trail Race. Registration is already open at peec.org/5k, but don't wait to register! This year's event is limited to 100 participants, so sign-up early and guarantee yourself a T-shirt while you're at it!

Pennsylvania Owls

By Sheri Bone

“A wise old owl lived in an oak. The more he saw, the less he spoke. The less he spoke, the more he heard. Why can’t we all be like that wise old bird?”

I learned this quote when I was in elementary school. So whenever I think of an owl, I picture the bird that accompanied that saying: A feathered scholar with a pointy, hooked beak, wearing horn rimmed glasses and a mortarboard. A wise old bird.

It is fitting that I think of owls like that because they are symbols of wisdom. They have been associated with this quality partly because their nocturnal habits are related to scholars or wise elders. Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom, and Merlin, the sorcerer in the King Arthur legends, are often depicted with owls. Harry Potter’s school mates (and we know they are all wizards!) got their mail from an owl delivery. Wisdom, secrecy, sorcery – all qualities associated with owls.

Owls are fascinating. The feathers on their wings are constructed in such a way that when they flap their wings, owls are virtually soundless. This makes it easier for them to catch their prey without letting on that they are in the area. Surprise! It also makes it easier for the owls to listen to their prey since there is less wing noise to compete with the sound the little animals make as they scuttle along. Double surprise!

Owls don’t digest everything they eat. When they catch their prey, owls swallow the animals whole, or at least in large parts. Some body parts, like teeth, skulls, claws, fur, and feathers, are too dangerous to pass through the owl’s digestive tract. These parts are compacted in the owl’s gizzard, making a rather large pellet. When the pellet is large enough, but not too big, the owl regurgitates it. School students (and some who come to PEEC!) have carefully dissected owl pellets to find out what kinds of animals owls prey on. Finding bones, sorting them, and classifying them is a very interesting activity.



There are eight different kinds of owls that live in Pennsylvania. Only eight. That surprised me.

Since I don’t know a lot about owls but want to know more, I will be writing articles about them over this next year for PEEC’s Seasons Newsletters. I will borrow the strategy from mystery author, Sue Grafton, who used the alphabet to organize the order of her books.

A is for Adorable

The smallest owl in Pennsylvania is the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Because it was on the PA “Conserve Wild Resources” license plate from November 1993 until February 2000, it is the most widely recognized owl in Pennsylvania. It has been described as a “round-headed little gnome” perching in evergreen trees. It, like most owls, is nocturnal. It has excellent vision and hearing, also a trait of owls, so it can easily find its prey (usually mice) and swoop down to catch its meal. Voles and small birds also fill the diet of these cute birds.

And, as my title suggests, they are adorable! They are only about the size of a robin. One thing that makes them cute is that their heads are larger than you would expect for the size of their bodies. They have bright yellow eyes on their facial disks (which can be very light, or have greater amounts of brown streaks) and do not have ear tufts. Their beaks are dark.

However cute we may think they are, they do not appear that way to their prey! This predator is fierce and silent. Well, silent as it hunts, but it does have an easily recognizable call, especially during mating season. During this time, from January to May, late at night, the males ‘sing’ out a rhythmic tooting call that can go on for hours. (Listen to the call at this site: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Saw-whet_Owl/sounds).

Nesting occurs in tree cavities. Five or six whitish eggs are laid in each clutch. The female incubates the eggs. (This is unlike the Bald Eagle where both parents take turns sitting on the eggs.) After the eggs hatch and the owlets develop feathers, though, the male takes over caring for them while the female will find another male with whom to start a different family. (Interesting!) It is important to have as many babies as possible since, even though the Saw-whet is a predator, it is prey to other animals including larger owls, martens, squirrels, and hawks, to name a few.

You might be able to find a Northern Saw-whet Owl in coniferous or mixed deciduous forests. It is not that easy to find, though. During the day, it sleeps and rests in dense vegetation, close to the trunk of its tree (usually evergreen). At night, when it hunts, it perches high in the trees and listens for its prey. The best way to find this cute little predator is to listen during the months when the males call out their TOOT TOOT TOOT and zone in on them that way.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl: the first of my eight Pennsylvania owls. Thanks for starting this journey with me.

Sources:

Cornell Lab of Ornithology – https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Northern_Saw-whet_Owl/id

Owling.com – <http://www.owling.com/northern-saw-whet-owl-biology/>

Audubon Field Guide – <http://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/northern-saw-whet-owl>

Wikipedia - https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northern_saw-whet_owl

Star-light Highlights for 2018

By Stephanie Sherman

Spring is associated with many wonderful events like the birds returning, flowers blooming and the lengthening of our days as the Earth slowly shifts closer and closer toward the sun. It's also a time for spring cleaning. As I was inventorying our Astronomy curriculum, I thought to myself, "It's been quite a time for celestial events." On January 31st, we had the Full Moon, Supermoon, and Blue Moon all partnered with a Total Lunar Eclipse over western North America. It's amazing the sense of wonder the night sky can hold. I still think back to last summer when all of my camp kids were making Solar Eclipse viewers out of cardboard boxes and what fun we had. This begs the question: what do we have to look forward to this year? Here are some of the highlights for 2018!

- March 31: The second Blue Moon in a single year! March will have two Full Moon events, the second in a month is called a "Blue Moon."
- May 6: Eta Aquarid meteor shower reaches its peak time around midnight. These shooting stars are actually dust particles from Halley's Comet. The entire shower runs from April 19 to May 28 so keep your eyes on the sky!
- June 28: A Full Strawberry Moon occurs to mark the height of strawberry season for North America.
- July 15: Venus will be its closest in proximity to the crescent moon during just around sunset. Look to the west, North America is going to have the best view in the world.
- July 27: Mars will be the biggest and brightest in the night sky since 2003.
- August 12-13: The Perseid meteor shower lights up with over 60 shooting stars in an hour at peak times. The moon will set early that night so it looks to be excellent stargazing conditions!
- December 12: Possible encounter with comet 46P/ Wirtanen. If all goes well, this comet may be visible with the naked eye and could be the brightest comet in the Northern Hemisphere in the past 5 years.
- December 13 & 14: The Geminid meteor shower is the most intense show of the year with up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour! Set an alarm because these are best seen after midnight when the moon sets.

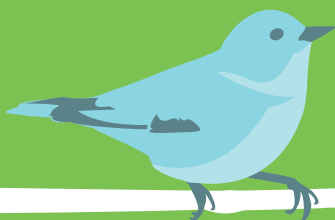
These are truly just the highlights for our area happening throughout the year. There are plenty of other celestial events happening all around the world from lunar eclipses to more meteor showers. The best place to start, however, is by looking up. While admittedly not the savviest of stargazers, I still enjoy being able to pick out a few of my favorite constellations throughout the night sky. Lackawanna Astronomical Society and the Lehigh Valley Astronomical Society offer great opportunities for star gazing with enthusiasts who are happy to share their stories! For more information, you can visit lackawannaastronomicalsociety.org or lvaas.org.

Sources:

<https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2017/12/top-skywatching-events-2018-eclipses-meteors-planets-astronomy/>
<http://www.seasky.org/astronomy/astronomy-calendar-current.html>
<https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/sights-to-see.html>



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**BIRDS &
BREWS**
MAY 4 – 6, 2018

Watching Eagles

By Sheri Bone

Did you get to see the Super Bowl on February 4th? If so, then you know that the Philadelphia Eagles were worth watching this year. But every year, it's the bald eagles, America's national symbol, that we at PEEC like to watch!

When we go down the Delaware River with our Day Paddle groups, and Women on the Water and Boys in Boats participants, we look for, and usually see, many eagles. But those activities occur during the summer months. What can an eagle enthusiast do now?

The answer is "eagle cam." There are many eagle cams around the country, their lenses focused right on eagles' nests, showing eager eagle watchers about nest maintenance and egg incubation. This is the PERFECT time to tune in because the first day of spring is about the time when eggs start to hatch!

How does someone find web cams? It's a fairly easy job. Just go to your favorite search engine, and type in "Eagle Cam." When I just typed those two words into my search engine, before I hit 'enter', I noticed a group of options I had. One was "eagle cam DC," one was "eagle cam NJ" and the one we like to use here at PEEC is "eagle cam Hanover PA." Clicking on it (here's the web address: <https://hdontap.com/index.php/video/stream/bald-eagle-live-cam>) will give you not only a great view of the eagle's nest, but hopefully you will see some eaglets! Or soon, anyway - one of last year's babies hatched on the first day of spring and its sibling hatched two days later. (If you go to the DC one, their babies will have already hatched.)

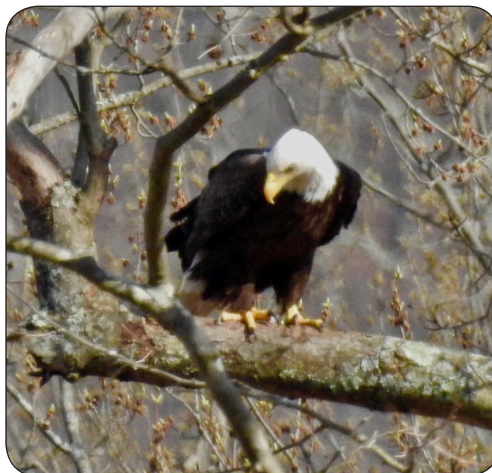
In our area, the eagle parents reinforce their nest during January and February. Sometime right around Valentine's Day, the first egg is usually laid. Here it is, February 20th as I am writing this, and NO eggs have been laid yet. I am a bit disappointed because I like to look for them and watch the parenting process. Other watchers are disappointed, too; I know that because I read comments they leave under the video! Scroll down below the video and you, too, can read their comments or write your own! Sometimes just reading what others have written is enough to fill you in on what is happening.

Here is just a little eagle trivia: Eagles mate for life and usually use the same nest from year to year. The female is larger than the male. It takes four to five years for the eagles to mature and get their white heads and tails. Both parents incubate the eggs, and take turns feeding the babies. Sometimes storms destroy nests. Then a new tree must be found and a new nest built. (Or sometimes they steal a nest that is already there, made by a different bird.)

Usually two eggs are laid. This way, at least one will survive to adulthood. Sometimes neither of the eaglets survive. That happened two years ago. One egg never hatched, and the one that did produced a very weak baby that died just two days later. All of us who were watching were saddened. Some people were devastated, as we could tell by the comments they left. Why can't we humans step in and fix those kinds of problems? Because we let Mother Nature take care of them. And sometimes Mother Nature's answer is not the one we want.

I am so glad that I can view the eagles. The eagle cam in Hanover is part of a program set up by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Here is a quote from the website: "The bald eagle's history in Pennsylvania is a precarious one. Only 30 years ago, Pennsylvania had a mere three nests left in the entire state. With the help of the Canadian government and several agencies including the Pennsylvania Game Commission, bald eagle chicks were brought back to PA to reintroduce bald eagles to the Northeast. Enjoy the live streaming Bald Eagle Nest Cam." I know I do!

Update – An egg WAS laid during the afternoon of February 20th, soon after I wrote this! Egg #2 was laid on Friday, February 23!




PEEC
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ANNUAL EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

APRIL 28 • 11AM-4PM



HELP US CELEBRATE THE EARTH!

There will be hands-on learning stations, interpretive hikes, conservation exhibits, crafts, food, music, and much more!
*Pre-registration is **not** required.*

All Day Tie-Dye, bring a white article of clothing from home or see us at the store while supplies last.

\$5 PER CAR

Includes entrance to all programs and activities


PEEC
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Plant SALE!

MAY 12 & 13, 2018 • 9:00AM – 4:00PM



Choose from a variety of native and deer resistant flowers and grasses to beautify your yard at our annual plant sale! Sun loving and shade loving plants will be available.

Remaining plants will be sold through the following week so stop by to check them out!

PEEC MEMBERS PRE-SALE

FRIDAY, MAY 11TH | 5-7PM

FREE ADMISSION

Restorative Architectural Design

By Ricky Bennett

The demands of today place a heavy toll on our brains, adult and child alike. Too much stress can lead to brain fatigue and a decrease in our ability to function cognitively, mentally, and physically. Due to the rise in people displaying “brain fatigue,” there has been an increasing emphasis placed on designing restorative places. Restorative places are those that allow the brain to rejuvenate.

The pictures to the right are examples of restorative design elements being incorporated into business offices. The pictures below are examples of restorative spaces being incorporated into children’s hospitals.

Image 1: https://www.google.com/search?biw=1440&bih=794&tbm=isch&sa=1&ei=s0KD Wu_BJcrojwT964yACg&q=pictures+of+biophilic+classrooms

Image 2: <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/ex/sustainablecitiescollective/nature-view-nature-design-reconnecting-people-nature-through-design/1069371/>



Multiple researchers suggest that as little as 45 minutes in settings like the ones above provide relief. The phrase, “I just need to get away” is becoming easier to do with designs like these.

Image 1: <https://www.google.com/search?q=restorative+spaces+for+kids&source>

Image 2: <https://www.google.com/search?q=restorative+spaces+for+kids&source>

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PEEC?
VISIT US AT PEEC.ORG

SPRING PROGRAMS AND GETAWAYS

2018

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Unless otherwise indicated.

TO REGISTER:

Call PEEC at 570-828-2319

APRIL

Boy Scout Badge Festival

Saturday, April 7 – 9:30am-4:00pm

\$25 Full Day

Attention all Bears, Webelos and Boy Scouts! Join us for a fun day of badge work and ask us about turning it into an overnight! Bears will work on the Bear Necessities adventure (pre-req 5 and 9). Webelos will work on Castaway adventure (pre-req 2a: assemble and bring a survival kit). Boy Scouts will work towards their Nature Merit Badge (pre-req 4.a.2, 4.d.1-collect 10 insects/spiders). Scouts must be supervised at all times by a parent or troop leader. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited - call early!



Farm to Table Dinner

Saturday, April 7 – 6:00pm-8:00pm

\$25/person

Welcome the coming of spring with PEEC's 2nd Farm to Table Dinner. This dinner features local produce perfect for the season! Bring your friends & family to enjoy this cozy evening. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited - call early!

Salamanders, Frogs, and More!

Sunday, April 8 – 10:00am-12:00pm

Saturday, April 21 – 10:00am-12:00pm

\$5

Amphibians are stirring in the woods! Join us as we explore nearby breeding pools for salamanders, frogs, and egg masses. We'll provide nets and collection jars for gentle, up-close study. Wear boots and clothes that can get muddy or wet.



Girl Scout Badge Festival

Saturday, April 14 – 9:30am-4:00pm

\$25 Full Day

Attention all Girl Scouts! Come to PEEC for a fun day of hands-on badge work and ask us about turning it into an overnight! Brownies will explore the trails while working on their Letterboxer badge. Juniors will get creative with the Outdoor Art badge. Cadettes will work towards the Trees Legacy badge. Seniors work on their Outdoor Art Expert badge. Juniors and Seniors please bring a camera for the day. Scouts must be supervised at all times by a parent or troop leader. Payment is required at registration. Space is limited - call early!

Bridge the Gap: Bike the McDade

Sunday, April 15 – 1:00pm-4:00pm

Free

Join us for a bike ride along the McDade Trail! We will provide all equipment and transportation. Please bring a water bottle and wear sturdy footwear. We will have extra water and snacks available. Funding for this program provided by the William Penn Foundation. Call for details.



Fiber Arts Workshops

Nuno Felting & Knitting - April 19-22

\$280 Full Workshop

Call us for day rates

In this workshop, led by Patti Shreiner, learn how to knit socks two-at-a-time with worsted weight yarn to make perfectly fitting, cozy, house socks in record time with the "Fish Lips Kiss Heel" pattern. Some of the other activities include crafting Felt Wee Folk and transforming an old sweater into a pillow, slippers, or a pet bed. Includes lodging and meals!

Spring Peeper Search

Saturday, April 21 – 7:30pm-9:00pm

\$5

These tiny tree frogs have thawed out and are active again in our forested wetlands. Listen to the impressive choir made by these vocal amphibians as we carefully catch, study, and release them. Bring a flashlight for better searching!



Earth Day Clean-Up

Sunday, April 22 – 10:00am-2:00pm

Free

Spend the day appreciating the planet by helping us with a clean-up of our campus and the surrounding area. This is a great opportunity to get involved in our volunteer program!

Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 28 – 11:00am-4:00pm

\$5 per car

Help us celebrate the Earth! There will be hands-on learning stations, interpretive hikes, conservation exhibits, crafts, food, music, and much more! Pre-registration is NOT required.

Continued on Page 12

SPRING PROGRAMS AND GETAWAYS 2018

Continued from Page 11

APRIL

Tweets and Sweets

Sunday, April 29 – 9:00am-11:00am

\$5

Interested in learning more about birds? Join us for a hike that focuses on bird ID and their unique natural history. We'll be having breakfast snacks & beverages before we head out. We will provide binoculars and field guides.

Intro to Fly Fishing

Sunday, April 29 – 9:00am-12:00pm

\$10

Learn the basics of fly fishing. Practice knot tying, casting, and other skills with volunteers from the Brodhead Chapter of Trout Unlimited.



MAY

Birds and Brews

May 4-6

\$215

Call for commuter & day rates

Spring migration has begun! Join us for a wonderful weekend of bird watching and beer tasting. Enjoy guided hikes that teach how to identify birds by sight, sound and habitat. Program is geared towards beginners and experts alike. Saturday night we'll provide transportation to one of our local breweries and the 1st round is on us! Includes two nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch.

Tea Plant Party - NEW PROGRAM!

Saturday, May 12 – 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$15

Learn the basics of planting and caring for your very own succulent arrangement. Program includes all of the supplies you'll need with plenty of succulents and planters from which to choose. Makes a perfect Mother's Day gift! All ages welcome.



Plant Sale!

May 12 & 13 – 9:00am-4:00pm

Free admission

Choose from a variety of native and deer resistant flowers and grasses to beautify your yard at our annual plant sale! Sun loving and shade loving plants will be available. Remaining plants will be sold through the following week so stop by to check them out! PEEC Members will be able to join us for a pre-sale on May 11th from 5 – 7pm.

Create Your Own Walking Stick

Sunday, May 20 – 1:00pm-4:00pm

\$25

Spend the afternoon with us as we create handcrafted walking sticks. Wood, tools, gloves, and aprons will be provided, as well as suggestions and pointers on how to personalize your work. Pre-registration required.

Wilderness Walkabout - NEW PROGRAM!

Sunday, May 20 – 1:00pm-3:00pm

Free for Members

\$5 for Nonmembers

Get out and explore PEEC! Join Paul Kovalski, aka Dr. Dinosaur, as we hike one of our trails and discuss the natural history of our park.

"Spring Fling" Family Camp Weekend
Memorial Day Weekend: May 25th-28th
Adults \$225

Child, Commuter, Day Rates Available

Bring your family and friends to experience the best of what PEEC has to offer. Interpretive hikes, animal presentations, canoeing, campfire and more! Includes three nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner to Monday lunch.



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

Spring Fling

FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 25 – 28, 2018

Bring your family and friends to experience the best of what PEEC has to offer. Interpretive hikes, animal presentations, canoeing, campfire and more!

Includes three nights of lodging and meals from Friday dinner to Monday lunch.

Cost:

Adults \$225

*Child, Commuter and Day rates available – call for details



CALL PEEC
570.828.2319



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