



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

2018 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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The 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's moon walk is the perfect inspiration for thinking about the impact of science on our everyday life. A scan of the articles published in that week's Science journal (Science 165 (3891)) shows us that in 50 years, some of the debates have not really changed—from discussions of family planning to concerns centered on opioid addictions, we are still trying to meld scientific advances and societal concerns. However, technological advances abound as we have moved well past the articles that question the potential success or failure of the development of the Concorde in light of mounting costs and the need for establishing theoretical connections between environmental cues and gene expression. Along the way to these scientific advances, governmental funding, and societal approval have played a vital role.

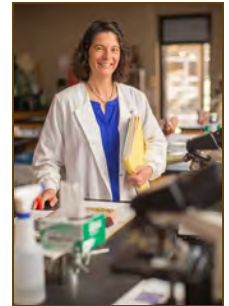
Science and Society have not always fit comfortably hand-in-hand in this country, and as we review the 1969 articles, an opinion piece discusses the post-war recovery of Germany's scientific research base while raising a concern about our lack of advancement because the "U.S. public is denigrating technology" (Science 165 (3891), 339). The moon landing would change all that, giving the public a rallying point. By October 1973, the Naval Research Laboratory sponsored a symposium "Perspectives in Science and Technology" that opened with the President of the National Academies of Sciences discussing the diminishing antitechnology attitudes in our society (Science 182 (4112): 570-571). Little could he have realized that the next century would see a mini-computer in the back pocket of every individual—a "smart phone" whose main purpose is no longer to make phone calls. While we may not be at the point of "doubling the neurons in the brain," other conjectures on the importance of genetic engineering have been brought to fruition as we can alter an organism's traits through the injections of DNA fragments. While the opinion of the general society has not always been favorable, it has been important in driving these advances.

Another 50-year anniversary will be celebrated this year, the grassroots of which inspired commentary in that same Science journal to encourage scientists that "we should feel obligated to advise our representatives," referencing the fight to block housing development on the fragile fossil beds in central Colorado (Science 165 (3891), 335). Ultimately, the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument was established on August 20, 1969, through the efforts of scientists, citizens, and conservation groups. An earlier Science article (Sciences 164 (3884), 1152), discusses the importance of this site with its well-preserved plant, insect, and fish fossil specimens.

For more than 50 years, scientists have been extolling the importance of science education as a way to both shape "society's present attitudes towards science" and to "develop social awareness among scientists," arguing that this schooling must be an integral part of early childhood education (Science 182 (4110), 336). It is vital that those making the advances connect to the individuals who are impacted by the discoveries, so we can share in the excitement together. We must work together.

As PEEC approaches its own 50th anniversary, we continue to connect science, society, and science education. Our summer camps and school programs encourage discovery and share the excitement of nature by integrating science and early childhood education. Our PEEC community is crucial in this mission. Funding from our individual members makes possible camp experiences for urban youth. We need you to help us achieve this mission and make an impact on our future citizens. Where will you leave your footprint?

~ K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D., Chair, Board of Trustees



K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.
Chairperson

PEEC People



Jeff Rosalsky,
Executive Director

PEEC Management Team

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Director of Development - Dennis Miranda
Facilities & Physical Plant Manager - Ted Wetzel
Head of Maintenance - Marc Wetzel
Director of Education - Stephanie Sherman
Director of Operations - Derek Scott
Director of Group Program Business Development - Sheri Bone
Public Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator - George Johnson
Asst. Summer Camp Director / Special Events Coordinator - Rachel "Ricky" Bennett
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Gilson, Beth Kuemerle, Nathan
Lanan, Ryan McLaughlin, Lindsey
Monito, Samuel Reiley, Emma Roth,
Kerry Sayland, Briana Sebastian,
Emily Sherek, Patrick Soloviev

"I started to forget that I wasn't home!" ~ Student-Participant in the WATER! Program, Philadelphia High School for Girls, Philadelphia, PA

Run, Hike, Crawl - 5K Trail Run

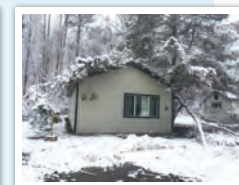


The annual PEEC 5k Trail Run, Run, Hike, Crawl, was held Saturday, May 5, 2018. The 5k trail runs through our main campus and through a variety of different woodland habitats along the Fossil and Scenic Gorge Trails. The runners enjoyed the race and helped raise over \$9,300 for PEEC.



Fast Facts

- **General Fact:** Over 30,000 people from across the U.S. and other countries come to PEEC each year to participate in scheduled programs or to hike with friends & family.
- **Education:** This year we were visited by 105 schools and organizations for environmental education, team building, and retreats. PEEC served over 9 thousand students for day or overnight programming.
- **Public Programs:** Over 2,100 people attended 115 scheduled programs, averaging 18 participants per event. 253 people attended our 20 grant-funded Bridge the Gap programs, grant-funded Bridge the Gap programs..
- **Volunteers:** 70+ people contributed a monumental 1600+ hours of volunteer hours, many of which were a part of the Winter Storm Riley clean-up.



“Fun to see how nature is. I’m inspired by different types of animals.” ~ Student, IS383, Brooklyn, NY

2018

Take a PEEC!



Summer Science in the Poconos

The **Victoria Foundation** and **PSEG Foundation** once again funded Newark students to come to PEEC at the end of June. Six schools (up from 5 last year) sent over 70 students for a 4 day/3 night adventure. During this time, not only were the students immersed in nature, but they also became friends with the other students who came from many neighborhoods throughout the city.



Women on the Water (WOW) & Boys in Boats (B2)

This program promotes watershed awareness while paddling on the Delaware River and camping along its shores. PEEC staff led this program for 75 students from five different schools/organizations located in Camden, NJ and Philadelphia, PA. This program is generously funded by the **William Penn Foundation**. Students spend 3 days and 2 nights on the river, taking water samples and exploring different ways to calculate water quality on the river that provides drinking water to their home communities.



The Sci-Q Project

20 eighth to tenth grade students from NY, NJ and PA came to PEEC for a week long 'immersion in science' program that was generously funded by **Sanofi Pasteur**. Students attended ESU for 3 hands-on classes led by college professors, paddled down the Delaware River to study geologic formations in the Water Gap, made hydraulic powered arm units, and visited the Sterling Hill Mine Museum. They also, among other activities, finished their week creating team 'boats' using only cardboard, duct tape, plastic bags and gallon jugs, and raced them on PEEC's Front Pond.



"It is still funny that the turtle wiggled his hands at our thumbs." ~ Student, River Valley Waldorf School, Upper Black Eddy, PA

2018



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, biking, and 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 2018, more than 1200 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)

Thanks to generous donations from **The Dime Bank** and **Waste Management**, 2018 saw over 300 local 4th graders attend a day program at PEEC. They visited the EcoZone and then hiked on one of PEEC's trails, learning wildlife study vocabulary as they hunted for items related to what they discovered in the EcoZone. Also, area families were able to come visit the EcoZone throughout the year on select weekends. EITC funding is important in allowing local students and families to explore nature.



Nature Adventure Camp

In 2018, PEEC's Nature Adventure Camps hosted over three hundred campers during our eight weeks, featuring favorite highlight trips into the Delaware Water Gap to see waterfalls and hike. This year also brought some great partnerships with Archery Addictions and Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center for All-Camp activities, as well as 3 sessions with local artist Ricky Boscarino at his Luna Park home studio. This year we had eighteen campers receive financial assistance through the **Biondo Family Foundation** and **generous individual donations**.



"I really needed to come here." ~ Participant in the WATER! Program, Mastery Charter High School, Camden, NJ

2018



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 2018. Each year Growing Green campers participate in various activities with PEEC Summer Campers. This program was funded by **The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation** and **other generous donors**.



Festivals

Earth Day and Harvest Festival are events for the community which celebrate the planet and encourage connections with nature. We welcomed nearly 500 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 an Earth Day poetry contest and free ice cream for canoeing during Harvest Festival.



Scouting Programs

Every year PEEC hosts four badge festivals where local Scout troops and individuals can spend the day working toward nature and environmental badges. Over 4 badge festivals, we hosted 127 scouts, with many more overnight and weekend trips throughout the year that focused on team building, camping/survival and environmental issues.



WATER!

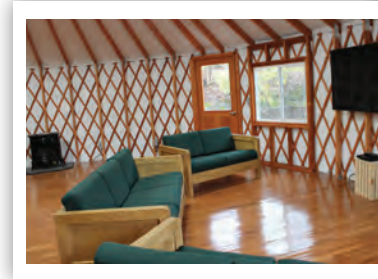
Watershed Awareness: Teaching Everyone Responsibility! Over 250 students from the Camden and Philadelphia area attended this **William Penn Foundation** funded 3 day/2 night program that focused on watershed health. PEEC, Camden and Philly all are located in the Delaware River Watershed, so it was interesting for the students to learn what factors help keep a watershed healthy. They took notes about what was happening in the watershed in our area and then compared them to what is happening in their own neighborhoods. Students then plan and carry out various watershed projects to help raise awareness and watershed health.

“Best team building work ever!” ~ Student, French American School of Princeton, Princeton, NJ

2018

Education & Operations Updates

- The Nature Lodge was replaced by two classroom-sized Teaching Yurts. The Dr. S Marie Kuhnen Teaching Yurts are named for one of the founding members of PEEC, an avid birder, teacher, and mentor.



- 2018 brought a new experience for schools and visitors—Questing! Questing is a fun, riddle-based investigation that guides students across the PEEC campus. Designed by our 2018 Instructor Intern Emily Sherek, Questing teaches tree identification, fun facts about native animals, and highlights our sustainable practices at PEEC.
- Incoming Princeton University freshmen worked on projects at PEEC as a part of their Community Action Projects. Highlights include:
 - A Hydroponics System to complement the existing Aquaponics System.
 - An Earth Material tool shed with a Green Roof was added to the Canoe Garden.
 - A Biogas Digester, to convert compost to methane gas for sustainability classes, is now located near last year's Composters.
 - A Sound Garden was added along the Trail for Everyone.
- Additional canoe racks at Pickerel Pond and Front Pond now complement the kayak racks built in 2017, all courtesy of local Boy Scout Troop 5.
- The Bird Blind near the main building on Two Ponds Trail was demolished and rebuilt, also by Troop 5.
- A New Teambuilding Wall was built on the Amphitheater course and significant replacements/repairs were made to the swinging steps element.
- Two Ponds trail was rerouted closer to the edge of Pickerel Pond following tremendous storm damage from 2018 Winter Storm Riley.
- Courtesy of the DEWA Trail Stewards, significant trail improvements were made, including blazes and bog-bridges.
- Kerry (the) Fisher was added to our Main Building taxidermy collection. We would like to thank Lehman Township for finding Kerry and offering him to us for preservation.



“By the way I learned a lot about the environment and wildlife. It was really funny when we were doing quest and we saw that bird that said ‘cheeseburger, cheeseburger’.” ~ Student, River Valley Waldorf School, Upper Black Eddy, PA

2018

Financial Report

Revenue gains other supports

	2017	2018
Instructional Fees	1,075,323	1,046,971
Grants	191,316	655,811
Contributions	418,576	136,964
Insurance Proceeds	—	145,677
Misc	—	—
Fundraising	78,512	85,046
Investment Income	1,200	3,131
Net Unrealized (loss) Gain on Investments	(781)	(4,624)
Gift Shop	12,309	12,406
Other Income	—	—

Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support

1,776,654 **2,081,382**

Expenses

Instructional	1,193,412	1,191,856
Management and General	310,358	297,478
Development and Fundraising	42,513	45,761

Total expenses

1,546,283 **1,535,095**

(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets from Operations

230,371 546,287

Net Assets, Beginning of Year as Previously Reported

223,372 453,743

Net asset, ending

453,743 **1,000,030**

Depreciation	42,865	46,099
Other Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets	250,608	415,118

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

523,844 **461,217**

Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities / Payments for Property & Equipment

(19,341) (292,662)

Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities

(9,387) (34,095)

Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents

495,116 134,460

Cash and Cash Equivalent: Beginning of Year

129,504 624,620

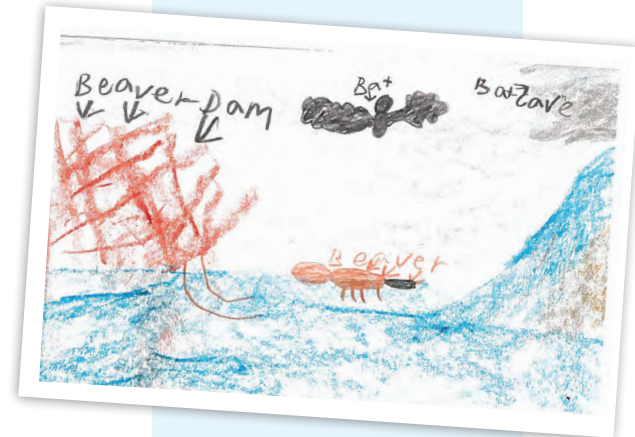
Cash & Cash Equivalent: End of Year

624,620 **759,080**

Supplemental Disclosures:

Cash Paid During Year for Interest

- **2,715**



In Their Own Words

Thank you for having me, and the other 6th graders at BST join you at PEEC. I really enjoyed your classes, they were so interactive, and hands on! I definitely prefer classes you get to do stuff in, over notetaking, or just listening. I really liked using a compass to find different points on a map. I loved being able to be independent.

"Thank you for having me, and the other 6th graders at BSI join you at PEEC. I really enjoyed your classes, they were so interactive, and hands on! I definitely prefer classes you get to do stuff in, over note taking, or just listening. I really liked using a compass to find different points on a map. I loved being able to be independent."

"Who knew sitting looking at a tree could be so neat." ~ Student, Newtown Friends School, Newtown, PA

2018



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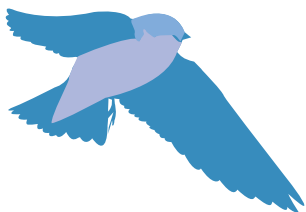
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TREE SWALLOW



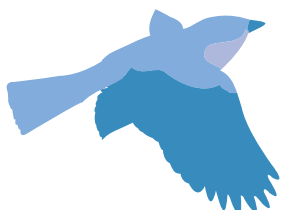
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Continued on next page.



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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“Last year’s students named PEEC as their favorite elementary school memory - 60% of them!” ~ Teacher, PS32Q, Flushing NY

2018

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PEEC

Pocono Environmental
Education Center

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Where Learning comes Naturally