Day Tripping - June 2024

June is a good time to get out and visit nature. One of the places that is somewhat new to me is Kettle Creak Environmental Education Center. It is located in Monroe County. Their mission is to foster community awareness through first-hand experience of the natural environment of the Poconos. They have programs designed for people of all ages and abilities.

They maintain 3 outdoor learning areas. The 166 acre Kettle Creek Wildlife sanctuary, the 1000+ acre Tannersville Cranberry Bog (of this I wrote in the September 2022 day tripping), and the Messing Nature Center site. They offer an unique gift shop with books, bird feeder, birdseed and other nature oriented items.

The Kettle Creek Wildlife Sanctuary, located at 8050 Running Valley Road, Stroudsburg provides an arena for outdoor programs. Located on the property are an old field, mature deciduous forest, evergreen stands and 2 ponds. There are over 2 1/2 miles of maintained and well marked trails open 365 days. There are 5 main trails. The Black Bear Trail is a paved trail accessible to wheelchairs and the physically challenged. It is about 900 ft to Swink Pond and passes the remains of an old farmhouse. The Grey Fox and Red-tailed Loops are well maintained, start at a parking lot with moderate hiking. The Songbird Trail and Deer Trail are also loop trails. Songbird is about 1/2 mile through old fields and immature forests, easy to walk with only 1 uphill section. The Deer Trail is about 1.1 miles with some uphill sections.There are several other trails but they are basically connecters to the loop trails. Other than the Black Bear Trail, all the trails are wooded trails that do have rocks, leaves, and branches in places and may be wet, muddy, and leaf covered. The sanctuary is open year round for hiking from dawn to dusk. No hunting, camping, littering or pets are permitted.

On the grounds of the Wildlife Sanctuary is the Kettle Creek Environmental Education Center.This is open Monday through Friday 8 - 4:30. Also some Saturdays 9 - 1. The center has special events throughout the year for groups and individuals. They have displays and the gift shop is located in this building.

The Tannersville Bog contains a 150-acre wetland and a relict boreal bog, that once was a huge glacial lake.The Bog is open by guided access only. I have included the schedule for available tours at the end of this article. As I said I wrote on this bog previously. Bill and I visited it a while back. It is definitely worth the $6 charge for the tour.

Messing Outdoor Site is located on Marshalls Creek Road, East Stroudsburg. The site is mostly used for outdoor school programs. However, they do invite the public to come in March of each year for their Maple Sugaring. You need to register for this event and the cost is $6 for adults. They features a tour of the Sugar bush and includes stops to learn about Native American and early pioneer methods of making maple syrup, their evaporator process and methods of identifying and tapping a maple tree.

So get out and enjoy the beauty of the Poconos either at Kettle Creek , Tannersville Bog, or one of the other gorgeous areas in the Poconos.