

Wolf Administration Announces Funding for Streamside Buffer Planting, ATV Projects

By Terry Brady

HARRISBURG - The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn today announced applications will be accepted through September in two department grant programs aiding streamside buffer planting and ATV-related projects.

"Improved water quality in our rivers and streams, by planting trees to limit run-off and sedimentation, is the goal of one round of grants now available," Dunn said. "During the same time period, we are seeking grant applications for projects that will add to the enjoyment of ATV-riding enthusiasts throughout Pennsylvania."

In the application period, which opened August 1 and closes September 30, \$1 million in PENNVEST-funded grants again is being made available to assist landowners in planting trees along stream and riverbanks in the state. Also offered is approximately \$600,000 for projects related to use of ATVs.

Expanding existing streamside buffer options for landowners, DCNR and PENNVEST partnered to offer funding for landowners to implement multi-functional buffers. Such buffers provide greater flexibility in landowner eligibility, buffer designs, widths, plant species and allow planting of some income-producing crops in the buffer zone. For these PENNVEST-funded grants, multi-functional buffers are required.

Individual landowners; businesses; non-profit organizations; local governments; and educational institutions are all eligible for buffer grants but must be prequalified.

Forest buffers along stream banks provide critical barriers between polluting landscapes and receiving waterways. Properly planted and maintained, streamside tree and shrub plantings:

- Filter runoff of sediments and fertilizers applied to lawns and crops;
- Control erosion;
- Improve water quality;
- Reduce flooding;
- Cool stream temperatures;
- Improve fish habitat.

Pennsylvania has a goal of planting 95,000 acres of buffers along waterways by 2025. To date, investments totaling almost \$4.4 million have funded plantings on more than 920 acres.

Proposed ATV-related projects eligible for DCNR grants include planning; land acquisition; development; rehabilitation; maintenance; purchase of equipment for maintenance and construction; and development of educational programs related to ATV trails and facilities. No match is required for this funding, however, applications providing matching funding will be given additional consideration.

With a few limited exceptions, all ATVs in Pennsylvania must have a registration issued by DCNR. Pennsylvania has around 178,000 active registered ATVs statewide. Grants are administered by DCNR with funding provided from registrations.

To apply for buffer or ATV grants, visit DCNR's grants portal.



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Get the Facts About Concussions

By Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - With many student athletes gearing up for fall sports practice, students, parents and coaches are reminded about ways to prevent, recognize and manage concussions.

A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head, or from a fall or blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. Concussions can have serious short-term and long-term impacts, especially on young people whose brains are still developing. To protect

students, the 2011 Safety in Youth Sports Act was passed to require all school entities to develop return-to-play policies for student athletes with concussions, as well as to require related training for coaches. Visit the Department of Health's website at health.pa.gov and search for "Traumatic Brain Injury" for approved curricula for coaches and other school personnel, along with frequently asked questions about the law and many other state-related resources.



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*Owner of Slate
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Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Alphabet Soup

Sometimes when I discuss the replacement of an air conditioning system or heat pump with a customer we get around to the efficiency part and I realize that the concept is hard to understand for them. It isn't made any easier by advertisements or incentives offered by the electric companies either. Since air conditioners usually only run in the summer they have a seasonal efficiency acronym. SEER stands for seasonal energy efficiency ratio. In simple terms it is like the gas mileage rating on a car but helps compare apples to oranges. It tells you how much cooling you should expect from every kw/h of electricity you pay for. More efficient models get more cool per kw/h. The difference between the low end and the high end isn't huge but it is worth knowing before you choose a system. The more efficient systems have more area to disperse the heat outside and to pick it up inside so the units are physically larger and have more copper and aluminum in them. That explains most of the price difference. But just how much will one save you over another? Older models were anywhere from 10 to 12 SEER and new ones go from 13 to around 20. Going from a 12 SEER to a 16 SEER will save about \$90/year on electricity. Going from 12 to 14 would save about \$50/year. Based on the rising cost of electricity you would definitely get some return on your investment. Going from 12 to 20 though is a little tricky because the equipment is considerably more expensive. It has more features but the actual return on investment may be poor.

Heat pumps add another dimension to the mix because they operate year round. They have some alphabet soup for heating. HSPF stands for heating seasonal performance factor and EER stands for energy efficiency ratio. EER is easier to understand because it is much like SEER but not seasonal. COP is another one and it stands for coefficient of performance. They will all keep you confused well into the next century but they are trying to explain how much better each model is at heating your house instead of having electric heat. Even though heat pumps use electricity and almost all have electric backup heat, they attempt to make it look like the heat pumps fault that your bill is \$500/month instead of putting the blame on a poorly constructed house or the high cost of electricity.

I will delve into the mysterious world of the heat pump very soon.

Ken Field is the owner of Field's Service, Inc. and Slate Belt Energy Services. He has over 40 years of experience in heating, air conditioning and is certificated by RESNET and BPI in various areas of energy conservation. He can be reached at 610-599-8832 or at www.SlateBeltEnergy.com

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Are You An Educator Looking For A Different Way To Use Your Skills?

By D&L

EASTON - The Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor (D&L) is looking for an Education Manager! The D&L is seeking an experienced and enthusiastic individual to provide creative leadership for the D&L's education program. Interested applicants can submit their cover letter, writing sample, and resume to finance@delawareandlehigh.org with the subject line "Education Manager Position," salary range \$40,000 - \$45,000.

Go to <https://delawareandlehigh.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f3ae555e0e3cda8ec5be9de1f&id=c242ae176b&e=0212edb35a>

The Great Allentown Fair August 27 - September 2, 2019 Celebrating 167 Years!

By Michael Ortoski

ALLENTOWN - The Great Allentown Fair, running August 27 - September 2, 2019, celebrates its 167th year offering a fun and educational experience for visitors of all ages. Dedicated to supporting the achievements of farmers, gardeners and homemakers, the Fair enables children to learn where their food comes from while spending an exciting day riding rides, playing games and seeing shows. The young and young at heart will find tantalizing international cuisine, musical concerts, thrill shows, and the latest in gizmos and gadgets.

Go to <http://www.allentownfairpa.org> to see all the events.

Save for Higher Education with State 529 Plan

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

NAZARETH - For families looking to plan for higher education, the Pennsylvania Treasury offers two savings programs: the PA 529 Guaranteed Savings Plan (GSP), in which growth is tied to the rate of tuition inflation, and the PA 529 Investment Plan (IP), in which investment returns are determined by financial markets. Contributions to PA 529 plans are deductible from Pennsylvania income taxes, grow tax free, and, when used for qualified educational expenses, are federal and state tax exempt.

Both plans provide flexibility to pay for higher education expenses at most higher education institutions across the country, including colleges and universities, as well as many technical and career schools. The money may also be used to pay for tuition expenses up to \$10,000 at elementary or secondary public, private or religious schools. The PA 529 GSP is offering free enrollment - a \$50 savings - for all new accounts opened before Aug. 31.

Sign up at PA529.com and use code "SUMMERGSP" when prompted. The PA 529 IP features low fees and more than a dozen conservative and aggressive investment options. No enrollment fee is charged for the PA 529 IP. Information about both programs is available at: <http://links.pahousenews.com/q/vJVEjaescQ3TaNYp9NHLVxrOFcBuDFxTXGdKEfguebSK74cDdDdFB0V9kTA>

