

# PA State Parks, Forests Offering Visitors a Winter Playground

By Terry Brady

**HARRISBURG, PA** – With today's official arrival of winter, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn is reminding outdoors enthusiasts Pennsylvania's state forest and park systems again are rolling out the welcome mat for winter visitors intent on enjoying cold-weather, outdoor fun.

"As the temperatures turn seasonable and snow and ice begins to accumulate, our state forests and parks extend an invitation to head to their woodlands, lakes, and trails and enter a new world of outdoor excitement and adventure," Dunn said. "We are hoping families seek out a sledding hill at a nearby state park or stroll on a forest trail and enjoy the beauty and peace winter landscapes offer. For others, snowmobile and ATV trails have opened, and hunters and anglers will be heading to our state forests and parks for late-season hunting and ice fishing."

Following the December 9 close of Pennsylvania's regular deer hunting season, snowmobiling began December 11 and closes April 1, 2018, in state forests and parks where conditions permit. This season, snowmobile riders in Pennsylvania's state forests and parks have access to almost 3,000 miles of marked joint-use state forest roads, closed roads, and trails in 18 of the state's 20 state forest districts and in 32 state parks.

Winter ATV trails stretching more than 170 miles in seven state forest districts also opened December 11. DCNR again is providing condition updates on its toll-free, snowmobile hot lines, 1-877-SNOMBLE (1-877-766-6253); or 717-787-5651. Recorded messages, providing reports on snow depths and trail conditions across the state, are updated at about noon each Tuesday and Thursday. DCNR also provides weather and condition reports online for state parks and forests.

All snowmobiles and ATVs in Pennsylvania must be registered with DCNR's snowmobile/ATV Unit. For more information on registration, call toll free (866) 545-2476 or visit DCNR's website.

When winter weather cooperates, state parks and forests also are the scene of coordinated winter festivals with games, dog-sled races, sleigh rides and fun competitions for families.

For the cross-country skiing enthusiast, more than 330 miles of marked cross-country ski trails are offered on Pennsylvania's more than 2.3 million acres of state forestland. Also available are nearly 400 miles of groomed and un-groomed cross-country ski trails in 73 state parks. Downhill skiing is offered at Blue Knob State Park, Bedford County; Laurel Mountain State Park, Westmoreland County; and Camelback (Big Pocono State Park), Monroe County. Skiing again is not being offered this season at Denton Hill State Park, Potter County.

Most state parks with bodies of water are open, weather permitting, for ice-skating, ice fishing, and ice boating. Sledding, tobogganing, and snowshoeing also are available at many parks.

Archers, muzzle-loaders, and other late-season hunters are reminded that more than 400 miles of normally gated state forest roads were opened for the late fall and early winter seasons to provide easy access to often remote areas. As much as 3,040 miles had been open to hunters, but openings and closings are at the discretion of local forestry officials and are weather-dependent. Hunters are urged to check with forest district offices about specific roads.

Several state parks have winter cabin rentals available. Cabin reservations can be made by calling the toll-free information and reservation line, 1-888-PA-PARKS (1-888-727-2757). It operates Monday through Saturday from 7:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle is one of Pennsylvania's great launching points for winter activities like cross-country skiing at Bald Eagle State Park, Centre County, or for those seeking outdoor adventures in the Pennsylvania Wilds.

The Nature Inn offers modern overnight accommodations and breakfast. Guests can relax in front of a large stone fireplace in the great room to warm up after outdoor activities.

For details on ice and snow conditions, or winter festivals at state parks and forests, visitors also may call the nearest state park or state forest district office.

For more information, visit [www.dcnr.pa.gov](http://www.dcnr.pa.gov) or call 717-783-7941 (Bureau of Forestry) or 717-772-0239 (Bureau of State Parks). To view scheduled activities around the state, visit <http://getoutdoor-spa.org/>.

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**Mission of Love Food Bank**

Looking for a used 10'-14' box truck. Call 570-807-7794. NEW drop off point for canned goods is at Time-share Oasis, 228 S. Broadway, Suite D, Bangor, PA. Every Tuesday-Food Bank Program 555 North Main St., Bangor, 10am-12pm. All are invited Bilingual Services. Pastor Frank Pons. (570) 807-7794

**Roseto Opens New Ice Skating Rink**

The Borough of Roseto has purchased and set up an outdoor ice rink at their Roseto Ball Park. Access to the rink will be through the park's main gate entrance located on Denisco St. in Roseto. It will be open Friday from 5:00 - 8:00pm, Saturday we will open at 9:00am - 12:00 noon for ice hockey and 12:00 noon - 5:00pm for general skating. It will also open on Sundays from 11:00 - 5:00pm. Weather permitting it will be open every weekend. There is no cost to come and skate, so sharpen your blades and join us for some old fashioned fun this winter. If your group or organization would like to rent the park for a winter ice skating fundraiser please contact the borough at their office at 610588-0695.

**Prescription Drug Take-Back Box**

The Slate Belt Regional Police Department has a prescription drug "Take-Back" box at their 6292 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth, Pa office (Plainfield Township Municipal Building). Contact information for the SBRPD is: 911 (Emergency), 610-759-8517 (Non-Emergency), 610-759-8523 (Fax) and 1-888-823-4978 FREE (Non-Emergency Toll Free)

**Musical Instrument Collection Drive**

The BAHS Alumni Association is running a drive to collect used musical instruments to be donated to Bangor's elementary band program. The instruments will be used as loaners for students who cannot afford to buy or rent them. They will take them regardless of their condition. If you have a musical instrument that is gathering dust, and you want to make a difference in a child's life, call 610-588-5198. We will pick them up or tell you where you can drop them off. Let's keep the music coming! Your donations may be tax deductible. Visit slateralums.com for more information.

**Jacobsburg Environmental Community Programs**

**Snowshoes and Hiking Poles Available-** When: Monday thru Fri-

day, 8:00 AM-2:30 PM. Where: Jacobsburg Visitor Center, 400 Belfast Road, Nazareth. Borrow snowshoe equipment to use on Jacobsburg's trails this winter! Snowshoes are available for folks of any age or shoe size, including small children. To borrow equipment, you must provide a driver's license or other form of state issued identification. For more information call 610-746-2801 or email jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. You can check our website for current winter conditions and snow depth. You can also view and register for community programs online at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>. If you need an accommodation to participate in a program please contact the park office at 610-746-2801 or jacobsburgsp@pa.gov. With at least three days notice, interpreters for people who are deaf or hard of hearing are available for educational programs. Winter Bird Count. **Saturday, January 13, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM:** Join us for our annual winter bird count as we search for as many birds as we can find within a five-mile radius of our Visitor Center. Participants should dress for the weather and bring a lunch and binoculars. Registration is required.

**Egg-cellent 4-H Poultry Club**

Monroe County youth ages 8 to 18 are invited to join the Egg-cellent 4-H Poultry Club. Members do not need to own their own poultry to join the club. The club will learn about poultry breeds, nutrition & care, showmanship, and more! The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 18th, 6:00 P.M. at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church - Café (enter door from Route 209 entrance), Gilbert. To RSVP or for additional information call the 4-H office at (570) 421-6430.

**Pocono Writers Conference**

The 5rd Annual Pocono Writers Conference will be held Sunday, January 20th, 2018 from 9 AM to 4 PM at Hughes Library (Eastern Monroe Public Library), Stroudsburg, PA. Admission to the conference is once again free, but space is limited, so registration is required. As an added feature, our speakers will also host break-out sessions during which they will review and critique work for the attendees. The fee to enroll in these sessions a small fee per session. You may register for the conference and for the workshop by following the link to registration which appears on [www.poconoliarsclub.wordpress.com](http://www.poconoliarsclub.wordpress.com)

**Snow Ball Dinner Dance**

Families First presents 8th annual Snow Ball Dinner Dance on Sat. January 20th, 6-11pm at Weona Park Recreation Center, Pen Argyl, Pa. Music by DJ Joe Franco & Karaoke. Dinner by Just in Thyme. Basket Raffles, Door Prizes, Byob/ dress Casual. For Tickets Contact Spring Shank- Pen Argyl High School; Kate Marsteller- Wind Gap Middle School; Kelly Thomas- Plainfield Elementary. For information contact: Frank Jones 610-863-9095 Ext. 1387 or jones.frank@penargylsd.org. All proceeds help support families first free programs.

**January 2018 Breakfast**

The January Breakfast at the Lappawinzo Fish and Game will be held on Sunday January 21, 2018 at 25 Lappawinzo Rd, Northampton PA 18067. Open to the public

**Community Dinner**

Our Lady of Victory Church, located at 327 Cherry Lane Road, Tannersville, PA, will hold a free Community Dinner for those in need at the Church from 3:00pm to 4:00pm on Sunday, January 21st. The dinner will be held in the Church Hall. Directions - Route 611 to Cherry Lane Road. Follow Cherry Lane to church on left. Please call the church office at 570-629-4572 for reservations and more information.

**Pocono Winter Wine, Food and Spirits Festival**

Sun, January 21 from 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM at the historic Sherman Theater in downtown Stroudsburg, PA. The Festival is designed to introduce attendees to a variety of local wines produced in the heart of the Poconos, as well as select wineries from the Pennsylvania Wine Trail. Tickets are available online at [shermantheater.com](http://shermantheater.com) or at the door. Choose either Early Afternoon or Late Afternoon Sessions. All attendees receive a commemorative wine-tasting glass. Join us at the Pocono Winter Wine, Food and Spirits Festival to celebrate the finer things worth savoring in the Poconos. For more information or to purchase tickets, please call 570-420-2808 or visit [shermantheater.com](http://shermantheater.com).

**College within Reach**

The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope Initiative welcomes the Northampton Area Community College presenting College Within Reach: The Stepping Stones to Your Future. Questioning how difficult it would be to acquire your

GED. Wondering if college could be affordable and within your reach. Please join us and find answers to your questions from professionals willing to help their community! All are welcome on Monday, January 22nd at 6pm. The Pen Argyl Salvation Army 301 West Main St. Pen Argyl PA 18072. Please call Krista Nagy to reserve seating as space is limited! 610-863-9003. \*Next presentation: February 5th at 6pm- Steve Reider presents "Slate Belt Rising and How the Program Benefits the Community"

**Portland State Street Bridge Replacement**

On Monday, Jan. 22, PennDOT will hold a public meeting to discuss replacement of the State Street Bridge in Portland. The meeting will be held at Portland Borough Hall, 206 Division St., beginning at 7 p.m. Attendees will be encouraged to view the plans and ask questions. The plans will show the proposed bridge replacement project and proposed improvements at each end of the bridge.

**'A Taste of Poland' International Dinner**

The High School Youth Group of Our Lady of Victory R.C. Church, Tannersville is sponsoring 'A Taste of Poland' International Dinner on Sunday, January 28th from 12-5pm. Come and enjoy a homemade dinner including salad bar, Halupki, Kielbasa, Pierogies and a Polish Dessert. Take out available. Directions - Route 611 to Cherry Lane Road. Follow about one mile to Our Lady of Victory, 327 Cherry Lane Road which is on the left side of Cherry Lane Road. Dinner will be in the Church Hall. Office phone number: 570-629-4572.

**Easton/Phillipsburg YMCA Celebrity Bartender Fundraiser**

Come see some of your favorite locals pour drinks. Monies raised go directly to support the Greater Valley YMCA Easton/Phillipsburg Branch scholarship fund. Lehigh Valley "celebrities" will be serving drinks. Basket raffle and 50/50. Happy hour drink specials and free hor d'oeuvres. Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 5:30-7:30pm at Mesa Modern Mexican Restaurant, 42 S 3rd Street, Easton, PA 18042

**4-H Seedling Tree & Fruit Tree Sale**

The Northampton County 4-H program is once again sponsoring the annual seedling tree and fruit tree sale. The sale benefits the 4-H youth in the county and sup-

ports various programs throughout the year including camps, fairs, trips, the annual achievement banquet and other club activities. The deadline for all tree orders is February 1, 2018. For order forms call 610-813-6613 or email [NorthamptonExt@psu.edu](mailto:NorthamptonExt@psu.edu).

**Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club Meeting**

Delaware-Lehigh Amateur Radio Club will hold its meeting Thursday, February 1, 7:30 p.m. in the Bethlehem Township Community Center, 2900 Farmersville Road, Bethlehem. Program: "Introduction to the Logger 32 (logging program)" - N3OW. Hams and others interested are always welcome. Directions: <http://goo.gl/maps/qKUJC>. FMI: [www.dlarc.org](http://www.dlarc.org). 610.432.8286.

**Slate Belt Heritage Center Events**

Sunday, February 11, 2 PM- "The History of Scouting"- Perry Morris will celebrate the founding of Boys Scouts and memories of "Camp Wygat". Sunday, March 11, 2 PM- "The Life of Blaine Reimel" - James Paynter relates the life of the Slate Belt's first fatality in World War II.

**Miller-Keystone Blood Center**

Blood Drive will be held on Friday, February 16th from 10am-3pm at Waste Management in Pen Argyl. For more information contact Adrienne Fors 484-472-2075. Online registration sponsor code 1015. Register online at [GIVEaPINT.org](http://GIVEaPINT.org).

**Comedy Night**

Stand Up Comedy Night featuring renowned Christian comedian Al Smith (with an opening act), hosted by Pastor Chris (clean comedy) Saturday, February 24, doors open at 5:30, show begins at 6:00pm. Tickets are available by going to [www.firstumcbangor.com](http://www.firstumcbangor.com)

**Bangor Slater Band Boosters' Cash Bingo**

Elks Lodge, 120 Broadway, Bangor, PA. Sunday, February 25. Doors open 2 PM, Starts 3PM. Refreshments available. For ticket information call Dawn 610-462-6432 or Linda 484-241-0146. Visit: [bahs-bands.weebly.com](http://bahs-bands.weebly.com)

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