



## DEP Starts Statewide Surveillance of Ticks

By State Rep. Joe Emrick

BANGOR - The Department of Environmental Protection is beginning a five-year environmental surveillance of ticks to assess the risk of tickborne illnesses across Pennsylvania.

The study is taking place in every county in Pennsylvania to track ticks' habitats, life stages and peak activity levels and to test them for human pathogenic diseases.

The surveillance will focus on collecting three tick species: the blacklegged tick in its immature nymphal stage, when it most often infects humans with Lyme disease, as well as human babesiosis and human granulocytic anaplasmosis; the adult American dog (*Dermacentor variabilis*) tick, which transmits Rocky Mountain spotted fever and tularemia; and the adult lone star (*Amblyomma americanum*) tick, which transmits ehrlichiosis and tularemia.

The project is being funded through the Department of Health.

The survey is taking place in every county in Pennsylvania to track ticks' habitats, life stages and peak activity levels and to test them for human pathogenic diseases. Additionally, 38 counties are conducting a specific survey of nymphal blacklegged ticks, which can transmit Lyme Disease to humans.

The spring and summer surveillance will focus on collecting three tick species: the blacklegged tick in its immature nymphal stage, when it most often infects humans with Lyme disease, as well as human babesiosis and human granulocytic anaplasmosis; the adult American dog tick, which transmits Rocky Mounted Spotted Fever and Tulameria; and adult lone star tick, which transmits Ehrlichiosis and Tularmeria.

## 'Rooster's' Trek

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started at Blairstown Airport at about 10 that morning – was made on those skis. All the same, by 2 p.m. sharp, Riecker and loyal trek buddies Russ Nee of Randolph and Tom Edmunds of Roxbury crossed the Delaware on the footbridge connecting Columbia, N.J., to Portland. Streaming the moments on social media, "Rooster," as he's known on the trail, crowed as he stepped off the bridge, where he was greeted by Portland Mayor Lance Prator and John Bermingham, chairman of Upper Mount Bethel Township's Board of Supervisors.

Riecker laughed as Prator asked him, "You tired?" "Of course. I'm 58 years young but I'm tired," he said. "Well, we're very proud of you doing this," Prator said.

Riecker said weather conditions along the trail were so challenging, "The only thing I didn't pull out of my quiver was the mountain bike. "I brought along snowshoes thinking I'd never wear them, but I did."

After posing for a few photos, Riecker, Nee and Edmunds were off to find a Chik-Fil-A for lunch before hiking another six miles along a trail extension that connects to the trail network within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. After that, it was back to Randolph.

### New Hike

But not for long. Riecker, who trekked the entire 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail to raise funds for Mr. Pierson two years ago, this Friday is setting out for yet another hike promoting ALS awareness.

This time, he's tackling the 340-mile Pinhodi Trail that stretches from northeast Alabama into southwest Georgia.

He called the Liberty-Water Gap hike "just a warm up" for that trip.

In a previous interview, Riecker said he initially wanted to raise \$100,000. Now, he wants to raise \$1 million.

The financial goal itself is a long haul, as Riecker's fund raising website, Hike4Roger, shows less than \$13,000 has been collected to date.

### Tourism

The Liberty-Water Gap Trail is a key component of the September 11th National Memorial Trail. When completed, it will connect the three national 9/11 memorials, from Shanksville, Pennsylvania to New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

It will also, hopefully, help generate revenue dollars for towns along the trail, like Portland and Upper Mount Bethel Township.

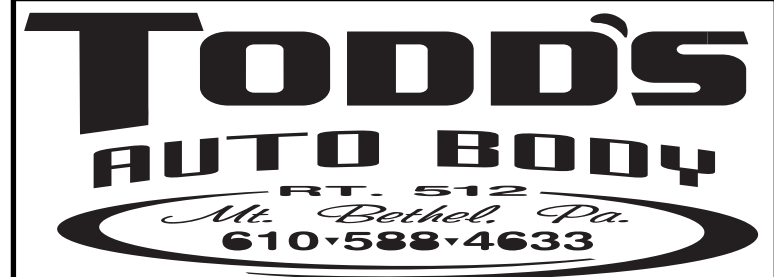
"We're big on eco-tourism here," said Bermingham on Saturday.

He said Riecker's hike will also help spur interest in the township and other local towns along the Delaware, which is the natural boundary between New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Part of the national trail also runs along Morris County's Patriot's Path in Randolph, where it is incorporated into the local trail network. That overlay trail in part was made possible by Nee, who is Assistant Superintendent of Trails and Special Projects for the Morris County Parks Commission.

In his role with the commission, Nee was essential in helping to build the September 11th trail. In 2018, the September 11 National Memorial Trail Alliance, of which is he a member, awarded him the distinguished Golden Spike Award from that group for helping blaze the trail through the county.

Those who would like to contribute to Steven Riecker's Hike4Roger.com campaign can do so by visiting <https://fundraise.als.net/hike4roger>. Proceeds benefit the ALS Therapy Development Institute.



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 Sun 10am Worship. Rev. Sukja Bang  
 (610) 588-7818,  
[www.ackermanvilleumc.org](http://www.ackermanvilleumc.org)

**Bangor Church of the Nazarene**  
**150 Bunny Trail, Bangor**  
 Sun 9:30am SS, 10:40am Worship  
 (Children's Church to grade 2), 5pm  
 Powerhouse Praise Practice, 6pm  
 Teen Straight Talk & Small Groups.  
 Kenneth L. Bean, Pastor  
 (610) 588-6929

**Belfast Bible**  
**483 Belfast Rd., Belfast**  
 Sunday School (all ages) 9:30am,  
 Worship 10:45am, Evening Service  
 7pm. Pastor Michael Yaworski.

**Belfast Wesley United Methodist**  
**607 School St., Belfast**  
 Children's SS & Adult SS 9am, Wor-  
 ship 10am, coffee fellowship following  
 worship. Pastor Paul Milligan. (610)  
 746-3652.

**Benders Mennonite Church**  
**975 Benders Church Rd., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun Worship service every Sunday at  
 10:10am; Food Bank 3rd Saturday of  
 the month 9-11am. 610-863-9114.

**Bethel Bible Church of Mt. Zion**  
**7742 N. Delaware Dr. (Rt. 611),  
 Martins Creek**  
 Free Bread Every Saturday, 3eryone  
 welcome, questions 908-483-8231;  
 Sunday School 9am, Sunday Morning  
 Worship 10am. Pastor Rick Tunis, 610-  
 250-9890. Learn about us online  
[www.bethelbiblechurchofmtzion.org](http://www.bethelbiblechurchofmtzion.org).

**Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**703 S. Delaward Dr. (Rt 611),  
 Mt. Bethel (Stone Church)**  
 Every Sunday- 9am Worship, Commu-  
 nion offered 1st & 3rd Sundays.  
 610-588-7056, [www.celcpa.org](http://www.celcpa.org)

**Clearfield Bible Holiness Church**  
**1502 Bushkill Ctr Rd, Wind Gap**  
 Sun- SS 10:15am, Worship 11:15am &  
 3pm. Pastor Donald Herrick.  
 (812) 653-3975.

**Community Baptist**  
**Weona Park Center, Pen Argyl**  
 Sun - Bible study 7pm. Separate  
 class for age 10 & under.

**Community Presbyterian**  
**1755 S Delaware Drive, Mt. Bethel**  
 Sun. - SS 9:15am, Worship service  
 10:30am, Coffee hour on last sunday  
 of every month following service.  
[www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org](http://www.mtbethelpresbyterian.org),  
 (570) 897-6766.

**Cross Road Baptist Church**  
**201 Second St., Bangor**  
 Sun- 9:15am Praise Sing, 9:30am SS,  
 10:45am Worship; Wed- 7pm Prayer/  
 Bible Study. Rev. Jay VanHorn, Pastor  
 (610) 588-3966,  
[www.crossroadbaptistbangor.org](http://www.crossroadbaptistbangor.org)

**East Bangor United Methodist**  
**136 W. Central Ave., E Bangor**  
 Thurs., Mar. 21, 1:00 p.m. Bazaar  
 Workshop, 6:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal  
 Sat., Mar. 23, 8:00 p.m. AA Meeting  
 Sun., Mar. 24, 8:30 a.m. Choir Re-  
 hearsal 9:15 a.m. Worship Service  
 w/Children's Church 10:30 a.m.  
 Adult Forum Mon., Mar. 25 7:00 p.m.  
 Lenten Art Study. Pastor David Goss  
 610-588-4453 Dial-A-Message  
 610-588-3896 [www.ebumc.org](http://www.ebumc.org)

**Faith Alive Community Church**  
**10 Mechanic St, Wind Gap**  
 Tues- 6pm Ladies Prayer Meeting (2nd  
 Tues); Wed- 6:30pm Revival Prayer,  
 7:15pm Adult Bible Study; Sat- 10-2pm  
 Prayer Stop (1st Sat); Sun- 9:15am  
 Family Fellowship, 9:30am Interces-  
 sory Prayer, 10am Worship, 10:45am  
 Children's Church, Communion at  
 10:30am (1st Sun). Pastor Matthew  
 Whistler. (610) 863-6911,  
[www.faccpa.org](http://www.faccpa.org)

**Faith United Presbyterian**  
**Penna & Heller Aves., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- 9am Choir, 10am Worship/  
 Communion/Food Bank/Church  
 School. (610) 836-4447

**Family Life Community Church**  
**1115 Richmond Rd, Bangor**  
 Wed- Kidz Night Out at The Hub 6:30-  
 8pm (kids 6 thru 6th gr.); Thurs- Teen  
 Night Out at The Hub 6:30-8pm (gr.  
 7-9); Sun- 10am Celebration Service.  
 Pastor Mike Poppa. 610-588-3736,  
[www.flccbangor.com](http://www.flccbangor.com).

**First United Evangelical**  
**25 S 2nd St., Bangor**  
 Sun. - 7pm Prayer Meeting & Bible  
 Study; Jan 20- 9am Prayer Meeting,  
 9:30am Church School, 10:30am Wor-  
 ship. Pastor Ronald Shipman at  
 (610) 588-3226

**First United Methodist Church**  
**55 N. Third St., Bangor**  
 Worship every Sunday at 11am, Adult  
 and Children Sunday Schools 9:45am,  
 Communion first Sunday of month,  
 Wednesday evening Bible Study  
 6:30pm. Pastor Chris Hardy  
 (610) 588-4673.

**First United Methodist**  
**19 West & Water St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun.- 9am SS, 10am Worship/Commu-  
 nion, 11am Fellowship on 1st Sunday  
 of each month. Pastor John Vidal  
 (570) 426-0645

**Flicksville United Church of Christ**  
**1337 Lower South Main Street  
 Bangor, PA 18013**  
 Pastor Ken Hess  
 610-588-4648  
[www.flicksvilleuicc.com](http://www.flicksvilleuicc.com)  
 Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Worship  
 at 10:45 a.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
 March 6th at 7 p.m. All are welcome

**God's Missionary Church  
 of Northampton**  
**4965 Nor. Bath Blvd (Rt 329),  
 Northampton, PA**  
 Sun- SS 9:30am, Service 10:30 &

7pm, Youth Service 6:30pm; Wed-  
 Prayer Meeting 7:30pm. Rev. Rodney  
 Keister. (610) 262-4412.  
<http://GMC-N.com>

**Good Shepherd Evangelical  
 Lutheran Church,**  
**2904 Church Rd, Martins Creek PA**  
 Sunday Worship Service 9:00 am.  
 Adult Bible Study Following Worship.  
 Pastor Louise Williams.  
[www.goodshepherdmc.com](http://www.goodshepherdmc.com)

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
**5907 Sullivan Trail, Nazareth**  
 Tue. - 6:30pm Choir; Jan 20- 9am  
 Service/Communion, 10:15am SS,  
 10:30am Confirmation/Adult Forum.  
 (610) 759-9080, [www.gracebelfast.org](http://www.gracebelfast.org)

**Grace United Methodist**  
**404 Mountain Ave., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- 8:30am Contemporary, 10am  
 Blended, 10am SS. Nursery care  
 available at all services. Rev. J.  
 Timothy Fisher. (610) 863-4811. [www.worshipatgrace.org](http://www.worshipatgrace.org)

**Holy Trinity Orthodox Church**  
**1501 Trinity Court, Stroudsburg**  
 Divine Liturgy Sundays 9:30 AM;  
 Vespers Saturday 6:30 PM. (570) 421-  
 4455, [www.holytrinitypoconos.org](http://www.holytrinitypoconos.org).

**Hopesprings Community of Faith**  
**301 Market Street, Bangor**  
 Sun-Services 10am. Jonathan Alman-  
 zar, Lead Pastor. 855-INFO-HOPE.  
[www.hopespringscommunity.org](http://www.hopespringscommunity.org).

**Hope UCC**  
**2nd & Cherry St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun- 10:30am Worship (Communion  
 1st Sunday of the month). All are wel-  
 come! SS every other Friday. Pastor  
 Darlene K. Blocker. (610) 863-4474

**Living Waters Christian Church**  
**396 Sterling Rd. Unit D, Tobyhanna**  
 Thurs- 6pm Christian Edu Sun- 9:15am  
 Christian Edu, 10:30am Worship. Rev.  
 Dr. Jacqueline R. Walters  
 570-350-4710

**Mt. Bethel Church**  
**A Church of the Lutheran Brethren**  
**1270 Belvidere Cr. Rd, Mt. Bethel**  
 Sun.- 8:30am Traditional Service  
 including "Kids Korner" Children's  
 Sermon, 9:50am Confirmation & SS,  
 11am Contemporary Service including  
 Mt. Bethel Praise Team & "Children's  
 Church" during the sermon. Chris  
 Priestaf, Senior Pastor. Dan Chris-  
 tenson, Assoc. Pastor. Andrew Little,  
 Youth Director. Little Friends Preschool  
 (570) 897-7797. Visit our website [www.mountbethelchurch.org](http://www.mountbethelchurch.org) or call (570)  
 897-7142 for information or directions.

**Our Lady of Good Counsel**  
**436 South 2nd Street, Bangor**  
 Tue. - Mass 4pm; Jan 20- Mass  
 8:30am. Pastor Stephen L. Maco,  
 (610) 588-5445,  
[www.goodcounselrcchurch.org](http://www.goodcounselrcchurch.org)

**Portland Baptist Church**  
**601 Delaware Ave., Portland**  
 Sun- Sunday School 9am, Service  
 10:30am; Wed- Bible Study 10:30 with

Prayer Meeting to follow. Elevator and  
 rampsWe are handicap accessible  
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 restroom. (570) 897-6866  
[www.portlandbaptistchurch.com](http://www.portlandbaptistchurch.com)

**Presbyterian Parish of  
 Bangor-Roseto**  
**332 Kennedy Dr., Bangor**  
 Sun.- Worship 10:30am. Rev. Albert  
 Martin. (610) 588-4864, email presbyte-  
 rianbr@frontiernet.net.  
[www.facebook.com/Presbyterybr](http://www.facebook.com/Presbyterybr)

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**  
**2445 Lake Minsi Dr., Bangor**  
 Tue - Happy Quilters 9am; Jan 20-  
 8:30am SS, 9:45am Worship/Commu-  
 nion. (610) 588-2355, website  
[www.popbangor.org](http://www.popbangor.org)

**Richmond United Methodist Church**  
**8538 Delaware Dr, Bangor**  
 Sun.- Service 10am; 4th Sunday Fel-  
 lowship Hour; Christmas Eve Candle-  
 light Services 4pm and 7pm. Pastor Ed  
 Van Arsdale. (610) 588-7317

**The Roseto Independent  
 Presbyterian Church**  
**210 Garibaldi Ave, Roseto**  
 Sunday Worship Services 9:15am  
 Greeting/Welcoming, 9:30am Service.  
 All Welcome. Rev. Barry Eng. (610)  
 599-9949, [www.RIPC-OnlineToday.org](http://www.RIPC-OnlineToday.org).

**Slate Belt - Nazareth Baptist**  
**1620 Church Rd, Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- 9:30am SS, 10:30am Worship &  
 Children's Church (nursery provided),  
 5:30pm Bible Study. Pastor Scott J.  
 Davis. (610) 863-9274.

**St. Brigid's Episcopal Church**  
**310 Madison Ave, Nazareth**  
 Sun- 9:45am SS, 10:45am Holy Eu-  
 charist. Rev. William Martin, 610-746-  
 3910, [www.stbrigidspa.org](http://www.stbrigidspa.org).

**St. Elizabeth's Parish**  
**300 West Babbitt Ave., Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- Masses 8am, 9:30am & 11am.  
 Rev. Msgr. Vincent P. York.  
 610-863-4777

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran**  
**12 N. Westbrook, Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- 8:45am SS, 10am Worship/Holy  
 Communion. (610) 863-4332

**St. Joseph's Episcopal**  
**1440 Verona Dr., W. Bangor**  
 Jan 20- Eucharist 11am; Christmas  
 Eve Service 4pm. Rev Joel Atkinson.  
 Coffee hour after service.

**St. Luke's U.C.C. Belfast**  
**471 Belfast Rd., Nazareth (Belfast)**  
 SS 9am, Worship 10:30am. Rev. Frank  
 Gassler. 610-759-0244.  
[www.stlukesuccbelfast.com](http://www.stlukesuccbelfast.com)

**St. Mary's Episcopal**  
**340 Lehigh St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun.- service 9am. Coffee hour follows  
 service. Rev. Joel Atkinson.

**St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran**  
**1422 Church Rd, Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- Bible Study 11am, Praise Band  
 7pm; Jan 19- Youth Choir 6pm, Adult  
 Choir 7:30pm; Jan 20- Services 8am  
 and 10:15am, 9am SS.  
 (610) 863-6859

**St. Vincent DePaul Catholic**  
**Delaware Ave., Portland**  
 Sat - Mass 6pm; Jan 20- Mass  
 10:30am. Rev. Stephen L. Maco  
[www.goodcounselrcchurch.org](http://www.goodcounselrcchurch.org)  
 (610) 588-5445.

**The Pentecostal Christian  
 Church the Truth**  
**(Iglesia Pentecostal La Verdad)**  
**4 Jory Ave Pen Argyl**  
 Sun.- Prayer 14- Sunday School  
 (Escuela Dominical) 12 noon, Praise &  
 Worrship (Cuho Evangelistico) 1pm.

**Mission of Love Food Bank**  
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 10am-12pm. All are invited Bilingual  
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 rim Party, Family Chanukah Menorah  
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 Social Gatherings. Contact: Dr. Sandra  
 Alfonsi 570-223-7062.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran**  
**404 Broadway, Bangor**  
 Thur - Christian Ed 6:30pm, Choir  
 7:30pm; Jan 20- SS 9am, Worship/  
 Communion 10am. Pastor Laine. (610)  
 588-2023, [www.tlcbangor.com](http://www.tlcbangor.com).

**Trinity United Church of Christ**  
**632 S. Delaware Dr, Mt. Bethel**  
 Sun.- Adult SS 9am, Worship  
 10:30am. Rev. Rodney W. Wells.  
 (610) 588-1989.

**Zion Presbyterian Church**  
**Water St., Wind Gap**  
 Sun.- Rev. Albert Martin will be speak-  
 ing at the 9:30am service. Children SS  
 during the service. Visitors welcome.  
 (610) 863-8896.

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