

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Continued from page 1

The NPS encourages people who choose to visit Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area during this pandemic to adhere to guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and state and local public health authorities to protect visitors and employees. As services are limited, the NPS urges visitors to continue to practice Leave No Trace principles, including pack-in and pack-out, to keep outdoor spaces safe and healthy.

Updates about NPS operations will be posted on www.nps.gov/coronavirus. Updates on Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area can be found on our website at www.nps.gov/dewa and on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/DelWaterGapNPS.

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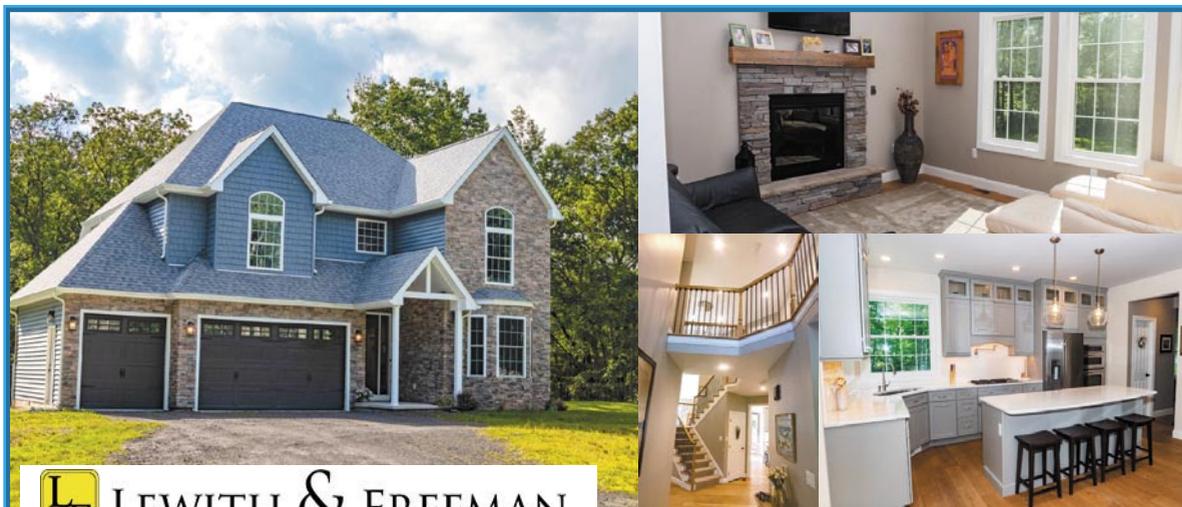
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Ken Field

Owner of Slate Belt Energy Services

Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times

Shining Some Light on Sales Tactics

I belong to several trade related organizations as well as many groups on social media that share information about tools and equipment and methods. Something upsetting has been happening lately and I'm not pointing it out here just because I disagree with it but because I think hope and fear make people do things that are irrational sometimes.

People who were born in the 1950s have seen a lot of improvement in medical science. There are now cures for childhood diseases that used to scare parents to death as well as medicines to shorten many of the illnesses that put large groups at risk. Mother nature is not to be outdone though and because of the way global travel had also advanced, you can cough on someone in Beijing today and sneeze on someone in New York tomorrow. I remember learning what the word exponentially meant and having to do some of the math associated with it. That is the slowest way a virus like COVID19 can spread. If everyone just gave it to 2 people that would be bad enough but in highly populated cities, it's not unrealistic for one person to infect 10 or even 20 others.

That lays the groundwork for my displeasure with some people in the HVAC trade selling UV sterilization units. There is data that shows these units will kill viruses when they are exposed to the light source. The sterilization unit is installed inside a duct system and kills any biological organism that the light comes in contact with for a long enough period. It will not make your house totally safe and it will probably not keep you from getting the COVID19 virus. But I have seen some outrageous prices for the installation of these units and they are out of stock everywhere at this time.

There seems to be a sales contest among several people to install these units all over the country. I find it to be opportunistic sales based on an irrational fear some people have.

The units are great but they are not made to do what they are being sold for by these people. That UV source only kills what goes through the duct system and that is a fraction of the air in your home. The chances of it being 100% effective is about the same chance you have of going to the Macys Thanksgiving parade and making eye contact with everyone in the parade.

I'm not judging the sterilization units or the data, just the salesmen who use fear as a tool.

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

The River Unites Us:

Stories about the Scenic Wild Delaware River by those who know it best

This week's column features Tammie Horsfield, President, New Jersey Sussex Skylands, Sussex County (NJ) Chamber of Commerce.

The River Unites Us (TRUU): Your organization was a founding partner in the Scenic Wild Delaware River (SWDR) geotourism program. What attracted you to the SWDR program?

Tammie Horsfield (TH): Here in New Jersey, we are home to the "quiet" side of the park. We have great trails, a long history, a rich heritage, and a quality of life that is really hard to beat. We wanted to share these wonderful attractions and characters of place, including our environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being/quality of life of our residents. Many of us live, work and play here because we love the rural feel of the area, how beautiful it is here, the close-knit community and its people and the trails, the river, and the environment. Knowing that our communities and businesses could benefit even more from our National Park, with some targeted changes and greater collaboration, we decided to get involved in the SWDR program. A continual dialogue with the National Park & its partners and advocates was another reason we were attracted, with the hope it will bring greater involvement, partnerships and more access and activities on the New Jersey side of the river. This is why our local business and civic groups have worked with DEWA to advocate for a full-service river access point on the NJ side. The river access point is now a priority in DEWA's recently proposed visitor use management guide that lays out plans for park visitor improvements over the near and mid-range future.

TRUU: As stated above, the NJ side of DEWA is the quieter rustic side. How do you balance retaining those rural characteristics with accommodating increased visitation to the national park?

TH: With the opportunity for more access on the NJ side, I believe growth will actually alleviate some of the overcrowding on the Pennsylvania side, as visitors will have more destination options. I do think that in order to balance we will need continual improvement to infrastructure, ongoing maintenance and the right mix of recreational amenities.

TRUU: Geotourism encourages travelers to experience a region's traditional natural, historic and cultural assets. Do you see growth in that segment of travel?

TH: Geotourism, like all tourism in our SWDR region, continues to grow as more and more people want to get closer to nature and are interested in an authentic, enriching experiences that come with geotourism promotion. Because geotourism emphasizes local culture, products and traditions, and offers visitors multiple opportunities to explore an area's natural beauty and community, I believe it will continue to grow more each year.

TRUU: In 2018, 3.2 million visitors to DEWA generated \$113 million back to the local communities. As a destination marketing professional, please speak to the economic benefits that geotourism brings to your community?

TH: Geotourism encompasses a wide range of outdoor recreation activities with far reaching economic benefits. Outdoor recreation contributes annually to the DEWA's economy and its region and supports many jobs, not just in the recreational sector but in the lodging, eatery, grocery, gasoline and other service sectors. Geotourism helps to increase money flow into our local economy, while providing environmental and social wellbeing.

TRUU: What are some "must see" Sussex County sites on our website, www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com, that you recommend for travelers.

TH: There are numerous Sussex County "must see" sites on the SWDR website, all noteworthy. Sussex County is fortunate to be known as a four-season tourism destination. Sussex County, branded as the NJ Sussex Skylands, has six State Parks (one which has its own snow making capabilities) as well as the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, our national park. We have a network of numerous trails with a multitude of uses including horseback riding, birding, biking and more. In addition, it is home to two beautiful resorts, Crystal Springs Resort and Mountain Creek Resort, and is home to Peters Valley School of Craft, which enriches lives through the learning, practice, and appreciation of fine crafts. Sterling Hill Mining Museum, a mine which was once the world's richest zinc ore deposit and renowned zinc mine and is now a world-famous museum and attraction as well.

This column is syndicated by the **Blue Valley Times**

About The Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism Project:

Scenic Wild Delaware River Geotourism is one of only 23 geotourism programs created by National Geographic worldwide. Working collaboratively in the 3 states along the middle & upper Delaware River region, the Program promotes and sustains the region's resources for long-term economic and environmental vitality. NPCA helps staff this program. Visit the interactive travel website showcasing local experiences at

www.ScenicWildDelawareRiver.com



www.npca.org



For more information contact Sharon Davis, sdavis@npca.org or tel: 570.460.4468

Sierra Club Passes Resolution Requesting An EIS For The I-80 Rockfall Project

By Tara Mezzanotte

Del. Water Gap - Sierra club passes resolution requesting an environmental impact statement!

- may well be significant environmental, scenic, and historic impacts of the proposed I-80 Rockfall

- conduct a stakeholder-based charrette in order to investigate thoroughly all of the potential options

- 80 Rockfall Project will have a significant environmental impact on the Delaware Water Gap, Appalachian Trail, and neighboring environment

- Knowlton Township's letter dated March 12, 2020 has requested that the Federal Highway Administration require an EIS

- this EIS would substantially contribute to process of the suggested charrette

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT?

An environmental impact statement (EIS), under United States environmental law, is a document required by the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for certain actions "significantly affecting the quality of the human environment". An EIS is a tool for decision making. It describes the positive and negative environmental effects of a proposed action, and it usually also lists one or more alternative actions that may be chosen instead of the action described in the EIS. It is conducted by an independent party, and would likely take 2-3 years to complete.

The controversial, 5 year, \$58 Million NJDOT I80 Rockfall Mitigation Project, opposed by 23 PA and NJ municipalities, NJ Congressman, PA and NJ Senators, Assemblymen and Representatives, is exempt from NJ Governor Murphy COVID-19 stay at home order