



## Ken Field

Owner of Slate  
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### *Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*

Experience is a Good Teacher

I have been curious and inquisitive as long as I can remember. I have always needed to know how things work. Before I was a teenager there was only a limited amount of things I could tinker with. I jumped at every opportunity to dismantle anything that my parents discarded. Especially things with an engine on them like lawn mowers. I even got my hands on an old crank start tractor that was a homemade thing someone wanted to get rid of. I was about 12 or 13 then. It had sat outside for years unprotected and wouldn't even turn when I got it. It took me most of one summer but I took it apart and cleaned up all the rusty engine parts and eventually got it to run. I was barely big enough to crank it but wouldn't give up. The feeling of success after dealing with every obstacle under the sun and not having a single part or even gasket available, was something I have never forgotten.

There were failures and times when all I ended up with from a whole lawn mower was a coffee can full of hardware but taking something apart can also teach you how it was designed if you pay attention to every detail. Troubleshooting something mechanical is really just that in a nutshell. Step one is to determine what something should be doing that it's not but in a very specific and detailed way. Saying a car won't start is not troubleshooting. The same process for troubleshooting can be applied to nearly anything. Nothing can be assumed. You may have fuel in the tank but it may not be getting into the engine. You may have a good battery but something may be preventing that from creating the spark to ignite the fuel in the engine. From the outside most troubleshooting looks an exercise in futility but some of us take it as a challenge. Especially when my wife ups the challenge by saying "what makes you think you can fix that"? I don't say "hold my beer" because I don't trust anyone with my beer but I have shown her over the years that I can repair almost everything. I routinely surprise myself too but that's how you push the envelope. Starting with the thought that if I fail, I'm in the same place I started and need a new one, the pressure is off. Then it's game on. Thanks to the internet for parts breakdowns and availability, and even repair manuals, life is a dream now as compared to my 1970 exploits.

**Ken Field is the owner of Slate Belt Energy and Field's Service, Inc. As a certified energy rater and contractor, he is qualified to assess every aspect of energy usage and prescribe solutions to save energy. He can be reached at 610-759-6306 or email Ken@FieldsService.com**

## Quiet Valley's 2021 Summer Garden Party and Summer Tour Opening

By Deborah DiPasquale

STROUDSBURG - On Saturday June 19, 2021 Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm will open for their 58th Summer Tour Season starting with their 13th annual Summer Garden Party. Visitors coming to the farm for the historic tour will experience guides portraying family members going about a typical day on a homestead in the 1800s. In addition to the tour, folks will have a chance to involve themselves in a variety of garden-related activities. Tour a typical Pennsylvania German kitchen garden, get help with garden basics, sample yummy things made with fresh herbs and vegetables and take home some recipes. At the outdoor brick oven herb breads will be baked and samples shared.

This year there will be samples of lawn art made from found items. Flowers, bees, lady bugs and more can be created with recycled materials. This is a day full of gardening inspiration and fun in the outdoors.

All activities on June 15 are rain or shine and are subject to change. General admission for the Historic Tour is Adults \$12.00 and Ages 3-12 \$6.00 and includes both the historic farm tour and Summer Garden Party. The farm is open for summer tours Tues. - Sat. 10:00am - 5:00pm and Sun. noon - 5:00pm. Allow about 2½ hours for the complete farm tour. Visit our website at [www.quietvalley.org](http://www.quietvalley.org) for more information on Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm or call 570-992-6161.

Quiet Valley Living Historical Farm is a non-profit, educational corporation dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Pennsylvania's agricultural heritage. For more information call 570-992-6161 or visit us online at [www.quietvalley.org](http://www.quietvalley.org).



## Field Day at Grace Alliance Academy

By Paula Thrasher

SAYLORSBURG - Field Day at Grace Alliance Academy was a huge success! Thanks to Brad and Dorothy Horn of Mt. Bethel for hosting the students and their families from Monroe and Northampton counties on their beautiful farm. They celebrated the end of the year by participating in some good old fashion fun, such as: tie dying shirts, egg on a spoon and three-legged relays, corn pit play, and water games. Board member, Jennifer Smoke said a few words of appreciation to the board, administrators, staff and families for a successful year amongst a global pandemic. Phil Stettler gave a blessing and the families enjoyed a picnic lunch, followed by catch and release fishing in the pond. Every child caught a fish, received a toy trinket, and a field day ribbon.

Grace Alliance Academy is a Christian hybrid program inspired by the methods of Charlotte Mason. Their focus is to come along side homeschooling families and partner with them by providing two days of tutor-led, on-site learning and optional lesson plans for the days at home. They meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9am-3pm at Mount Eaton Church in Saylorsburg, PA. On-site days consist of shorter, age-appropriate class times with a push for educating the whole child through rich literature, character building, and many opportuni-



ties for outdoor play and learning. They offer multiple subject areas including Bible, math, language arts/phonics, history, science/nature study, artist/composer study, art and more during the days they are on site. Registration is now open for 2021-22. They would love to team up with you and support you on your homeschooling journey. Come check them out at the Information Night scheduled for June 10 at 5:30 PM at Mount Eaton Church in Saylorsburg, PA. Contact by calling (570)484-8258 or emailing at [info@graceallianceacademy.org](mailto:info@graceallianceacademy.org). For more information visit the website [www.graceallianceacademy.org](http://www.graceallianceacademy.org) or Facebook page, Grace Alliance Academy, where you can stay up to date with their latest happenings.