

Slate Belt Heritage Center Announces Upcoming Program

By Cheryl Statham

BANGOR - The Slate Belt Heritage Center will be posting their next program on their Facebook page on Thursday, August 13th. Marc Blau, Karen Brewer, Dan Carrescia and Fred Dereia will be presenting the Center's new book about the textile industries, "A History of the Slate Belt Textile Industry". All four authors will be talking about the research and hard work that went into the creation of this book, including discovering where all of the mills were located. The book includes maps of all the Slate Belt towns and the locations of the mills, a history of the textile industry in the Slate Belt and the stories of some of the mill owners. The authors will also show viewers some of the many items in the textile display currently at the Center, as well as a sneak preview of the new textile room. Visitors will be able to view this display for themselves shortly. Please join our presenters on the Heritage Center's Facebook page, at Slate-Belt-Heritage-Center-SBHC, on Thursday, August 13th for an interesting look at one of the premier industries in the Slate Belt area. The Heritage Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 education organization whose mission is to preserve and educate visitors about the local Slate Belt History.

Slate Belt Heritage Center to Open For the Season

The Slate Belt Heritage Center will be opening for the season, after a five month delay caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. It will be open to the general public for the first time on Saturday, August 15 and Sunday, August 16, from 12:00 – 3:00. The Heritage Center will then be open every weekend until the end of October. Our special exhibit this year is "The Enduring Thread: The Textile and Garment Industries of the Slate Belt." The exhibit features photos, fabric and stories about the local garment industry, as well as a model of a mill floor. The Center has been doing everything possible to make the building safe for visitors. Masks are required for everyone who enters and social distancing rules will be in effect. Hand sanitizers will be throughout the building for use by our visitors and the total number of people in the building at any one time will be set at 25. There will also be occupancy levels set for each room, since most of the rooms are quite small. Since admittance to the museum will be limited, it is recommended that you call ahead and make a reservation beforehand. Our monthly presentations will continue to be posted on-line for the foreseeable future. Please call the Heritage Center at 610-599-4993 to make a reservation. The Slate Belt Heritage Center is a not-for-profit 501©3 organization whose mission is to preserve and educate visitors about the culture and heritage of the different people who came to this area.

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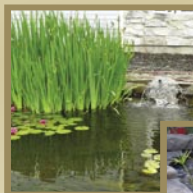
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By The Book

A week doesn't go by without someone asking me to install a larger air conditioner than they already have. Why don't I just say OK and sell them some the biggest one that will fit in my truck? Maybe because there are more problems created by an oversized system than an undersized one. Did anyone ever actually have an undersized system? I'm not aware of one but the fear of having one is obviously in everyone's mind. What are the problems that go along with an oversized system? The biggest problem is the failure to dehumidify the air. Dehumidification is as important as cooling and they go hand in hand. The cold coil part of the system is in the fan unit inside the house. All of the house air passes over that coil and because it is below the dewpoint, the warm moist air that enters the coil leaves as cool dry air. The coil is only cold when the outdoor unit is running. That only happens when the thermostat says it's too warm in the house. If you set the thermostat at 74° and the system runs constantly to hold it there on a 95° day, your system is sized correctly and the humidity is going to be under control. If your system runs for 5 or 10 minutes and then turns off because the house is at the setpoint temperature, no more dehumidification will take place. The air was cooled too quickly but there is a lot of air in the house and most of it wasn't run through the coil because the system is oversized. Unfortunately, there is no remedy for that. Some people turn the thermostat even lower to make the system run longer and then the air is clammy and the house is too cold. I have even seen homes where a dehumidifier was installed to remove the humidity left by the air conditioner.

A larger system requires more indoor airflow so taking out one size and adding a larger size without adding a place for that additional air to go is also a death sentence for new equipment. Almost all duct systems I see are inadequate to begin with.

Let me do my job. If I make a mistake, I will correct it at my own expense. That is my incentive not to make them. If you insist on having me do something that is wrong, I will let you know why it is wrong and then you can call someone else to build your Frankenstein monster.

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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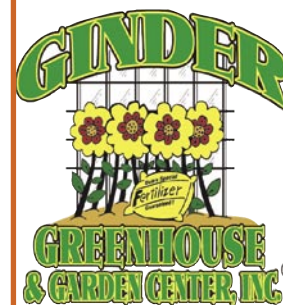
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