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Minsi Lake Receives The Northeastern PA. Environmental Partnership Award



By Michael Ortoski / Co-Chair of Friends of Minsi Lake
 UPPER MT. BETHEL - Jim Wilson secretary of Friends of Minsi Lake (FOML) received a call last week from the PA. Environmental Council informing him that FOML are one of five winners for this year's Northeast PA Environmental Partners Awards.

The Awards are presented annually to recognize the achievements of individuals or organizations that, through partnerships, have achieved excellence in environmental protection or conservation.

This is the second award for Minsi Lake, National Fish Habitat Partnership recognized Minsi Lake as one of the nations' Top 10 Waters

to Watch in 2020.

One of the other four winners is another Northampton County organization, which is also represented on our FOML Committee by way of communications director Adrienne Fors: Grand Central Sanitation

The Awards are open to any group, individual, company, program, or organization whose work has had a positive impact on the environment in the following Northeastern Pennsylvania counties: Bradford, Carbon, Columbia, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montour, Northampton, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, Sullivan, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming.

During the past 30 years, more than 240 individuals and groups involved in agriculture, forestry, business, industry, education, science, environmental

awareness, community service, and government have been honored. Nominations may be made by a person or persons involved in the activity, or by a third party.

Due to Covid-19, there won't be a physical awards dinner this year, but there will be a live virtual ceremony of sorts on November 11. Additionally, PEC or perhaps WNEP TV will conduct video interviews with awardees at some point later this summer or early fall. FOML interview will most likely take place at Minsi Lake. The Blue Valley Times will have updates on this as we get them.

Continued on page

Northampton County Receives Federal Brownfield Redevelopment Funding

By Colin McEvoy
 NORTHAMPTON COUNTY - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced last week that Northampton County will receive \$375,000 in additional federal funding for use in the redevelopment of brownfield properties in Lehigh Valley.

"Cleaning up a brownfield isn't just important for public health," said Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure.

"Revitalizing properties allows them to be redeveloped, providing a boost to the local economy," McClure said. "The improvements made possible by the \$375,000 EPA grant will increase not only property values but tax revenue as well."

Continued on page 11 Northampton County Executive Lamont McClure



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A 'History of the Slate Belt Textile Industry' Donation

By Cheryl Statham

BANGOR - Curtis and Kelly Gaffney Parsons presented a check for \$2500.00 to Marc Blau, Slate Belt Heritage Center Board member and co-author of the book, "A History of the Slate Belt Textile Industry". Gaffney Parsons Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Inc. is the sole sponsor of the best-selling book.



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Warren County Hot Air Balloon Festival

Wednesday, August 19, 2020 to Sunday, August 23, 2020

By Art Charlton

WARREN COUNTY - The hot air balloon festival that happens each summer is moving to a new location for 2020 for a five-day event that will include drone demonstrations and more. Tickets are on sale now for the balloon festival, now in its 20th year, that has been held annually at the Warren County Farmers' Fair. This year's Fair was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on large gatherings, but the balloon festival is moving to Warren County Community College, a long-time sponsor which in recent years started doing drone demonstrations to highlight their new Drone Program at the College. The 2020 event will be held at the college's Drone Port at its campus along Route 57 in Washington Township. Learn more here or go right to their website for the link to buy tickets. <http://balloonfestnj.com/>.

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