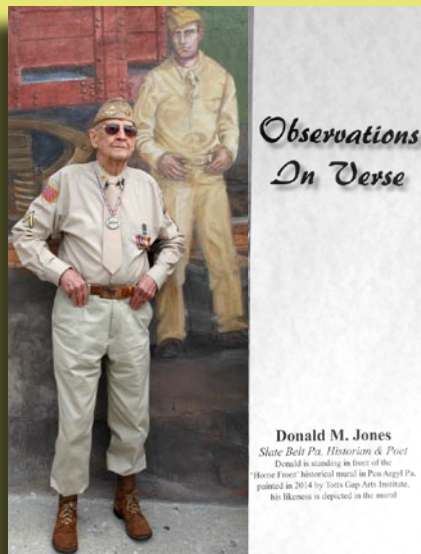


# A Poem from the Archives of Donald Jones

*Exclusively in the Blue Valley Times*



## Observations In Verse

Donald M. Jones  
Slate Belt Pa. Historian & Poet  
Donald is standing in front of the  
"Horse Foot" historical mural in Pen Argyl Pa.  
painted in 2014 by Arts Gap Arts Institute.  
His likeness is depicted in the mural.

## BACK TO SCHOOL

Youngsters getting ready with pencil box and rule,  
Wouldn't it be nice to go back to school.  
But maybe we wouldn't like the bus,  
For years ago we all walked; well, most of us.

But times have changed for the better,  
No walking in snow with feet getting wetter.  
Today's winter storms create snow days,  
Surely better than stalled buses or long delays.

Cafeterias would take getting used to  
For we went home for lunch and found things to do.  
For today's youngsters, they have a good routine,  
But it's fun reminiscing about a long ago scene.

## Bangor Elks Announce 2019 Halloween Parade

By Michael Jankowsk, Exalted Ruler

BANGOR - Bangor Lodge #1106 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks is pleased to announce the 2019 edition of the Bangor Elks Halloween Parade in the Borough of Bangor. The parade is scheduled to take place Thursday October 17, 2019 at 7:00 PM with no rain date. The parade theme for 2019 will be "A Mardi Gras Halloween".

Individuals and groups wishing to participate in the parade, can sign up online for free online at <https://forms.gle/XLfnWpgjPKyHK1hG9> or by visiting the lodge home page and clicking on the parade link. It will be necessary to include an email address for registration for further communications and on the parade. Online registration will be available until October 12, 2019.

The parade route will be the same as last year. Starting at Pennsylvania Ave (Near The Beehive/Merchants Bank) and then moving right onto N Main St past the CVS Pharmacy then making a right onto Broadway and ending at the Elks Lodge.

After the parade, the Bangor Lodge will once again host free hot dogs and soda at the lodge for the parade participants. Questions, comments, or concerns can be sent to [bangorelksparade@gmail.com](mailto:bangorelksparade@gmail.com).

We look forward to seeing everyone there!!!!

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10 A.M. CONTENTS consisting of Household Items, Antiques, etc. For complete list call Rob Reinhardt AU5161L 570-856-4666 or John Kintner AU1274L 570-421-0949  
Personal Property Auctioneer: Rob Reinhardt AU5161L 570-856-4666  
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11 A.M. REAL ESTATE: YEAR ROUND LAKE FRONT HOME: First Floor has Large Living Room with Fireplace, Kitchen, 3 Bedrooms, 1 1/2 Baths, Laundry Room & Screened Rear Porch. Second Floor has Bedroom with Shower Bath, Basement has 2 Car Garage, Finished Recreation Room, and Full Kitchen. This is a Lake Front Home with your own Boat Dock.

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## State's New Outdoor Recreation Plan Underway

By: DCNR

HARRISBURG - What does the future hold for outdoor recreation in Pennsylvania? How can outdoor recreation help address health issues and reduce health care burdens on society? What new and emerging recreation trends and technologies will require serious consideration? How can we ensure all Pennsylvanians have access to outdoor recreation opportunities? Is a rapidly changing climate going to change how and where we recreate? These and many other questions are being asked by a team of recreation leaders (led by DCNR) as they develop Pennsylvania's next Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan -- a federally required document that outlines strategies for outdoor recreation over five years.

### Teamwork is the Key to Success

One of the early steps in creating a state recreation plan is assembling a team of community, state, nonprofit, and citizen leaders who have expertise in outdoor recreation issues.

The Technical Advisory Committee for the 2020 outdoor recreation plan formed late last year; and has held three meetings to discuss current recreation needs and funding issues.

The team is helping to examine challenges and opportunities, and make recommendations for action around five theme areas for the plan:

- Health and wellness
- Recreation for all
- Sustainable systems
- Funding and economic development
- Technology

Lauren Imgrund, DCNR's Deputy Secretary for Conservation and Technical Services, says the committee is critical to the plan's development.

### Public Participation Vital to Creating Plan

A critical component of the plan is research to determine trends, interests, demographics, and attitudes.

Each five-year plan cycle includes an analysis of data from across the state and nation.

DCNR contracted with the Penn State Center for Survey Research in 2018 to conduct polls, surveys, and focus groups; and compare data to previous years to determine shifts in behavior and attitudes.

The data from polls in the fall and spring show that some things remain constant -- what people like to do and where they like to go.

Walking remains the top recreation activity, and half of Pennsylvanians choose a local park as their top place to recreate.

Yet surveys and data show that many people don't have safe and easy access to outdoor recreation, with 48 percent of survey respondents indicating that they can't safely walk to a public park.

However, 69 percent of Pennsylvanians agree they can safely access a trail within 15 minutes of where they live.

### What Do Outdoor Recreation Providers Have to Say?

In addition to collecting residents' opinions of recreation, the Technical Advisory Committee and writers of the plan are also gaining insight from the providers of outdoor recreation services.

More than 1,000 municipal park and recreation departments, multi-municipal recreation organizations, and county park and recreation agencies responded to a survey designed to gauge staffing and budgetary needs, management issues, and challenges facing the providers.

The majority of providers of recreation services say their top funding priority is maintaining existing park and recreation areas, followed by building walking paths and bicycle lanes, and building more greenways/trails.

Citizens agree that the top funding priority should be to maintain existing park and recreation areas; but they also thought Pennsylvania should be investing in protecting wildlife and fish habitat and restoring damaged rivers and streams.

### What Happens Next?

Pennsylvania's last two outdoor recreation plans were recognized as the best in the nation by the National Park Service and the National Association for Recreation Resource Planners.

The current 2014-2019 plan *Opens In A New Window*, which is still being implemented, outlines 20 recommendations and 83 action steps to help policy-makers and communities deal with issues focused in five key theme areas: Health and Wellness • Local Parks and Recreation • Tourism and Economic Development • Resource Management and Stewardship • Funding and Financial Stability

Draft recommendations about the new plan will be available for review and comment in October to allow citizens, providers, and interested stakeholders to give their input before a final document is presented to the National Park Service early next year.

More information about the 2020 plan's research and progress is available at the DCNR website: <https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/PAOutdoorRecPlan/Pages/default.aspx>

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