

## KEYSTONE ELK COUNTRY ALLIANCE

Posted by Terry Babb on Jul 19, 2016



Through **Bob DeCamp**'s introduction we met Terry Bryant, who is owner and broker at Penn Oak. Terry came to speak about the Keystone Elk Country Alliance headquartered in Benezette, PA. Here are highlights of his presentation:

- Terry has served on the board of directors for the alliance for 5 of its 6 years; the alliance was founded in 2010.
- The website for the alliance is: <http://www.experienceelkcountry.com/home>. It also has a Facebook site that can be accessed here: <https://www.facebook.com/KeystoneElkCountryAlliance>
- The Elk Country Visitor Center is an educational facility which espouses conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on elk and elk habitat in the PA Wilds. The Center is run by the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, a 501©(3) non-profit organization that has partnered with the PA DCNR to construct and operate the building and grounds.
- The website for the visitor's center is <http://elkcountryvisitorcenter.com/drupal/>. The visitor's center has a nice theater providing the public a 4D experience of elk in the PA Wilds. There are many videos available for public viewing on the website.
- The alliance's new ECCO (Elk Country Outdoors Campus) was recently completed. This new state of art facility allows for up to 150 students to participate in educational activities. Solid glass walls allow for an exceptional view of Pennsylvania's Elk Country while you learn about elk, conservation and all forms of wildlife and habitat.
- From the website, "For more information, or to bring your group to Elk Country, call our Conservation Education Department at 814-787-5173 or email [info@keystoneelkcountryalliance.com](mailto:info@keystoneelkcountryalliance.com)".
- Terry said he had found a way to slow down his life's busy pace free of cell phone and job stress by being involved in the work of the alliance. He has watched the area around Benezette change and the Elk population increase.
- There are 1200 free-roaming Elk in Pennsylvania.

- Pa Wilds provides more than 2 million acres of public and private land in 12 counties.
- Among corporate sponsors of the alliance are: South Western Energy, W.G. Satterlee and Sons, Trickshot Starr Distributing, Stony North Tire, Northwest Savings Bank, TomBob Outdoors, and Shell. Others may be found on the "experienceelkcountry" website (above).
- The alliance is mainly about education and conservation and partners also with PA DCNR to provide education to the public.
- The alliance works closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry and the Pennsylvania Game Commission to enrich habitat for elk and other wildlife through mowing, planting and other projects; it looks forward to continuing and expanding these efforts in working with private land owners this year on a number of projects.
- The Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA) will complete its mission through:
  - Conservation Education at the Elk Center
  - Stewardship project
  - Permanent land protection
  - Cooperation with private land owners and state natural resource agencies
- There are 12 chapters of the KECA. If you want more information about how to start a chapter, see the FAQ section of their website by clicking here <http://www.experienceelkcountry.com/elk-country-faq>
- Terry said it takes about 2 hours to get to the KECA visitor's center, and he feels that the most scenic way to get to there is via Galeton and through Cherry Springs State Park.
- When asked about the state elk population and elk sightings, he said elk have been seen in the Renovo area and also Germania.
- Another question about natural predators evoked this response from Terry: black bear and coyotes are the main predators. Elk calves grow rapidly; on their 1st day a calf weighs around 35 pounds, by day 5 it has gained an average of 3 pounds a day to come in at 50 pounds.



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[CLUB NEWS, JULY 14, 2016](#)

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**President Mike Hummel** chaired today's meeting.

**Ardell Thomas** offered the invocation.

We sang, "My Country 'Tis of Thee," with **Pat Davis** accompanying on piano.

**Guests & Visitors**

**Caleb Williams** introduced his two guests, Leslie Wormser and Sheila Adleman. **John Johnston** introduced us to his guest, Chris Robinson.

**Secretary's Report**

**Jim Tutak** reported that our club will have table and display at the Senior Expo, Friday, August 5th, 2016. For more information, please see

<http://www.repbaker.com/NewsItem.aspx?NewsID=264230> .

**Jim** also informed us he had received several donation "thank you" notes and acknowledgements: Rotary International Foundation, the **Tioga County Homeless Initiative (TCHI)**, and the **Laurel Festival**. **Jim** said the club will begin giving program acknowledgement certificates to weekly program presenters from the community. To that end, **Jim** asked members to provide him, at least a week beforehand, the program presenter's correctly spelled name. **Jim** also stated that the membership committee will meet next week. He will send each member an email with an invitation announcement.

## **Announcements**

There were no new announcements this week.

## **Fines and Happy Bucks**

**TSAA Dick Ford** rose to explain that \$2 was "found on the barrel" last week. He said that money represented prepayment of fines from two members, Glenn Poirier and Carl Chambers. When they saw **Dick** come into Dunkin Donuts and walk up to their table, they just pulled out the money and paid.

**Tim McBride** then took over his primary **SAA** duties of collecting fines and happy bucks.

**Tim** paid **Dick** a fine (just because), then began collecting: **Chris Morral** and **John Johnston** were fined for texting each other (say what?!).

**Caleb Williams** was happy it rained today and announced the Tioga County Countryside Council is holding a Walking Forum Earth – A New Wild as part of our continuing series of Community Engagement on topics of Environment, Agriculture and Sustainability. This Walking Forum is a result of the 2016 Film Series that we did at the Victoria Theater in Blossburg from January to May of this year. I will be held at Colton Point this Saturday from 10 AM to 3 PM.

**Tim** coaxed **Greg Hinton** to say he was happy to be here; **Jim Meade** was happy about today's program about the Keystone Elk County Alliance; **Natalie Kennedy** was happy to report her son's wedding last weekend. **John Swanson** happily announced the upcoming Hamilton Gibson Productions' musical *Oliver* performances beginning tonight, July 14, through Sunday afternoon the 17th (John is part of a 50+ member cast!). **Jim Tutak** is happy to be going to State College this weekend for the annual Sidewalk Art & Craft Fair.

## **50/50 benefits HAVEN OF Tioga County**

This week the 50/50 winner was **John Johnston**. The Wheel Spin went to **Tim McBride**: "Greet all Rotarians as they enter the meeting next week."