

Trees to Textbooks Program awards \$1.7 million to local schools and communities

Eighteen rural Ohio school districts and their corresponding counties and townships will share \$1,765,245 from the sale of timber from Ohio's state forests. Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Director James Zehringer and Smokey Bear presented checks to the Vinton Local School District (Vinton County) and the Washington-Nile Local School District (Scioto County) during separate school assemblies.



"We are always eager to reinvest these revenues in our local communities and educate students about proper forest management," said Zehringer. "Well-managed public and private forests create diverse landscapes for wildlife, promote healthier lifestyles through recreational opportunities and allow forest product industries to contribute more than \$20 billion to Ohio's economy."

Through the ODNR Division of Forestry's "Trees to Textbooks" program, a percentage of the revenue generated from state forest management activity goes to the county, township and school district in which the activity takes place. The Vinton Local School District received Ohio's largest check for \$327,440.02. The Washington-Nile Local School District received a check for \$99,584.35.

Smokey Bear also treated the students to a special showing of his [new educational musical cartoon](#) and led them in a lesson about protecting our forests and preventing forest fires.

The ODNR Division of Forestry is responsible for the care of nearly 200,000 acres of state forests. State forestry experts manage these woodlands for overall health and diversity, soil and water conservation, improved wildlife habitat and a variety of recreational opportunities. Selected trees or areas of woodland are harvested through a competitive bid process that includes requirements for sound management practices. All work is conducted by certified master loggers under strict monitoring.

To learn more about Ohio's woodlands, visit the ODNR Division of Forestry's website at forestry.ohiodnr.gov.

Top Five Tips for Staying on Your Feet This Winter

One of the biggest risks from wintry weather is falling. Falls are the leading cause of injury-related emergency room visits, hospitalizations and death among older Ohioans. However, falls are not a normal part of aging, and most falls can be prevented.

With another unpredictable Ohio winter on its way, the STEADY U Ohio initiative offers this advice to stop the ice and snow from sending you slipping and tripping.



Dress the Part – Bundle up, but make sure you can see in all directions and move easily and freely. Wear sunglasses to reduce glare from the sun and snow.

Don the Right Footwear – Wear sturdy shoes or boots with treads, even if you will only be outside for a few minutes. Wear properly fitted shoes or slippers with non-slip treads indoors.

Pack a Survival Kit – Carry a small bag of salt, sand or kitty litter in your pocket or purse for traction on icy paths. Have a cleaning cloth on hand to immediately clean your glasses if they fog up going from outdoors to indoors.

Check Your Equipment – If you use a cane or walker, check the rubber tips and replace any that appear worn or cracked. Look for winter canes or cleats you can add to existing equipment. Dry off canes and walkers as soon as you get indoors.

Walk the Walk – If you can't avoid walking on icy or snow-covered surfaces, slow down, shorten your stride and walk with feet pointed out slightly and knees gently bent to improve traction and balance. Do some light stretching before you venture out; it will make you physically more able to prevent a fall.

For more tips on staying falls-free this winter, visit the STEADY U Ohio website (www.steadyu.ohio.gov). STEADY U Ohio is a comprehensive falls prevention initiative led by Governor John Kasich and the Ohio Department of Aging to ensure that every county, every community and every Ohioan knows how they can prevent falls, one step at a time.

Ohio EPA makes funding available to address Harmful Algal Blooms

Recreational and drinking water uses have been impaired by harmful algal blooms (HABs) in recent years. To help improve Ohio water systems, Ohio EPA has made \$1 million available to public water systems using surface water to purchase testing equipment. The grants will help public water systems increase their technical capacity to complete testing for the presence of cyanotoxins in water.

Grants will be issued in up to \$10,000 increments to public water systems using surface water. Satellite distribution systems **are not eligible** for these grants. The funds may be used for the purchase of equipment, supplies and training for analysis of toxins associated with harmful algal blooms (HABs). For conditions, allowable purchases, and details on how to apply for funding, [click here](#). Applications are due to the Ohio EPA by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2015, and award letters will be issued within two weeks of application. Priority will be given to water systems in the Lake Erie watershed and to those systems that have experienced an algal bloom or a detection of toxins.

If a public water system chooses not to purchase a test kit and has a bloom of concern in its water source, Ohio EPA will sample per the Public Water System Harmful Algal Bloom Response Strategy. [Click here](#) for a copy of the strategy.

If you have any questions about the programs, contact the Ohio EPA Public Interest Center at (614) 644-2160 or SWPWSfunding@epa.ohio.gov.



State Senator [Troy Balderson](#) (R-Zanesville) honored Heidi Jo McGrady, a sixth-grade student in the Logan-Hocking School System, at the Ohio Statehouse. McGrady, then a fifth-grader, led the school's archery team to place fourth out of 30 teams in the elementary-school division of the 2014 National Archery in Schools Program World Tournament in Madison, Wisconsin.



Ohio Veterans Bonus

If you served in Iraq between March 19, 2003 and Dec. 31, 2011, you only have until Dec. 31, 2014 to apply. Don't miss out on this thank-you from Ohio voters.

Find out more at:
https://veteransbonus.ohio.gov/odvs_web/



OhioMeansJobs

Looking for a job?
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to find job opportunities and
skilled workers across Ohio

Students interested in applying for the Governor's Office of Appalachia internship should send their resume and cover letter to appalachia@development.ohio.gov or call 614) 644-9228.

Decorate Safely for the Holidays

Many of us will be decorating our homes for the holidays, and State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers wants to offer Ohioans some tips that can help keep families throughout the state safe during this time of the year.

“Used properly, these can be important family traditions. Make sure the decorations you put up in your home are fire safe and properly hooked up,” says State Fire Marshal Larry Flowers. “While Christmas tree fires are not common, when they occur, they often become deadly.”

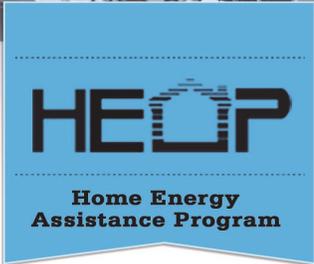
Marshal Flowers and the U.S. Fire Administration offer the following tips:

Decoration Safety

- Purchase lights that bear the label of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), and use the lights according to the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Outdoor lights are specifically labeled for outdoor use. Outdoor lights should be fastened securely and placed on a ground fault interrupter circuit.
- Do not connect too many light sets together and never use extension cords that are worn or cracked. Do not run them under rugs or over sharp objects.
- Turn off lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Live Christmas trees should be as fresh as possible. Make a fresh cut at the base of the trunk, and place the tree in a sturdy stand; water it daily. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly.
- One in five holiday fires occur because a heat source is too close to the tree. Locate the tree as far away from heat sources as possible. Never place lighted candles on or near the tree, or where the tree may fall if knocked over by a pet or child.
- Do not block your primary or alternative escape routes with a tree, decorations or presents.



In addition, Marshal Flowers encourages Ohioans to have a working smoke alarm installed on every level of the home and in each bedroom or sleeping area. Each member of the household should know two ways out of your home and practice those fire escape plans twice a year. Guests should be aware of the escape plan and the location of any fire extinguishers in case there is an emergency.



Need a little help staying warm during this winter?
Learn more about the Ohio Winter Crisis Program.

Visit energyhelp.ohio.gov to find out more about the Winter Crisis Program



DIRECTOR'S SCRAPBOOK



Governor John R. Kasich joined state and local officials in Waverly (Pike Co.) as Rural King CEO Alex Melvin announced the retailer will open a distribution center in Waverly in 2015.

The center is expected to bring up to 160 new jobs to the area.



Deputy Director Joy Padgett and Bret Allphin of Buckeye Hills-Hocking Valley Development District present a \$10,000 grant from GOA to the Village of New Straitsville.



Director Jason Wilson congratulated awardee Marianne Campbell at the Foundation for Appalachian Ohio's 2014 *I'm a Child of Appalachia* Celebration.

If you have a story idea for the newsletter, please send it to Penny Martin at Penny.Martin@development.ohio.gov.