



1st Quarter 2017

# THE MELTMINDER

A PUBLICATION BY BENTON FOUNDRY, INC.

Web Site: <http://www.bentonfoundry.com>

## Congratulations - Employees of the Quarter



Congratulations to **Dave McLucas** (left), Benton Foundry's 1st shift Employee of the Quarter. Dave works in our Production Office and has been employed since 1996. He resides in Benton with his wife, Cheri. Dave and Cheri recently became empty nesters. "About time," Dave says. Dave enjoys warm weather, loves music and strums on the guitar & ukulele every now and then. He and Cheri enjoy spending time with their four grandchildren.



**Congratulations**



Congratulations to **Brett Katz** (right), Benton Foundry's 2nd shift Employee of the Quarter. Brett has been employed at the Foundry since 2011. He works in our Grinding Department as a cleaning machine operator. Brett lives in Berwick and in his spare time he enjoys watching dirt track racing and spending time with his girlfriend Veronica. Brett's father, Ray, also works at Benton Foundry as a forklift operator.

## Foxalls® Arrive

Two additional Foxall® finishing cells have arrived and are being installed. This brings our current total to six cells and will place about 70% of our grinding on automatic grinders. As previously stated, this has been a department typically dominated by males; however, since the installation of the automatic grinders, we have had a few female



operators and anticipate more in this area in the future. We are looking forward to getting these installed and up and running in just a short time.



## Ricketts Glen State Park

Ricketts Glen State Park is located within 5 minutes of Benton Foundry and is a National Natural Landmark. The photographs within this article were taken by one of our customers who was able to enjoy the area while visiting the foundry. The article and other information contained here can be found on the DCNR (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources) website. Please visit this website for further information.

[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)

You can hike the falls trail system and explore the Glen, which boasts a series of wild, free-flowing waterfalls, each cascading through rock-strewn clefts in this ancient hillside. The 94-foot Ganoga Falls is the highest of 22 named waterfalls. Old growth timber and diverse wildlife add to the beauty. Ricketts Glen State Park is one of the most scenic areas in Pennsylvania. This large park is comprised of 13,050 acres in Luzerne, Sullivan and Columbia counties.

The park is open year round from sunrise to sunset.

There are 26 miles of hiking trails, which vary from fairly level to very steep hills. Please visit

the DCNR website for guidelines provided for the falls trails. The 7.2 miles of falls trails are the most difficult hiking. The full loop of this trail is 7.2 miles if hiking both the upper and lower sections. To see most of the waterfalls, a 3.2 mile loop can be taken by going on Highland Trail and the Glen Leigh and Ganoga Glen sides of the trail. The trails follow along 22 beautiful waterfalls ranging in heights from 11 feet to 94 feet. The scenery is well worth the effort, however, the terrain is rocky, can be slippery and descends steeply on both the Ganoga and Glen Leigh sides. Hikers should take extra precautions with trail conditions, wear proper footwear, stay on the trail and be in good physical condition. The Falls Trail is closed in the winter except for properly equipped ice climbers and hikers.



Natural wetlands, old growth forests and majestic geological formations, which helped produce the 22 beautiful waterfalls, make Ricketts Glen an excellent choice for outdoor studies. From March to November, the environmental education specialist conducts hands-on activities, guided walks and presentations on the natural and historical resources for school groups, scouts, civic organizations and the general public.

Lake Jean is 245 acres located on top of the mountain in the park area and operates during the

summer season. Lake Jean offers a beach area with swimming, a concession stand/snack-bar, rowboats, paddleboats, kayaks and canoes. Fishing is also an attraction in this area, not to mention the beautiful colors displayed in the fall months. We are fortunate to live and work in such a beautiful area in rural Pennsylvania.

*Photographs compliments of Bob Hunt*



# Forklift Standardization

**B**enton Foundry has recently completed the process of standardizing our forklift inventory to all Toyota forklifts. It took approximately ten years to cycle all the old Caterpillar, Mitsubishi and other forklift makes out of our forklift inventory. This process was completed last year and has streamlined the inventory of parts, tires and the total ease of operation. This has been an efficient move for us.

Just like motorists we all share the highway with every day, some drivers/operators perform better than others. We have experienced forklift operators that have been on the job for a number of years. Bob Little, Albert Phillips and Mike Schumacher to name a few. We have also experienced some drivers that have been abusive with the \$25,000.00 units and those people have been removed from the approved driver list.

In addition, we put our forklifts in a tight turning radius, under load in some areas of the foundry. The plant expansion slated for 2018 should address the majority of the tight turning issues. To show you how this effects operations, take a look at the number of hours a set of tires lasted on the list of lift trucks.

**A set of four tires costs: \$1,071.00**

Same lift truck, same tires and the cost per hour varies from .18 cents to \$1.57 per hour.

These are some of the behind-the-scene costs that most people don't think about.

Lift Truck No.	Location	Hours	Tires: Cost per Hour
27	Core Room	5941	.18
19	Loading Dump Trailer	2311	.46
28	Plant Trash/ Landfill	1511	.71
29	Scales	682	1.57

## Pepsi

### PepsiCo Pledges to Slash Beverage Calorie Counts by 2025

As a part of a new sustainability initiative to significantly reduce the calorie count of the company's beverages, PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi pledged that at least two-thirds of the company's beverages will contain 100 calories or less per 12-ounce serving by 2025, reports [CNBC News](#) (Oct. 17, Daniels). The beverage giant is looking to counter growing health concerns about sugar-sweetened drinks. "Over the last decade, we have made progress in reducing sugar," Nooyi stated. "But there's a lot more we need to do because countries which loved sugar were growing faster than countries which were consuming lower-sugar products." In addition, Nooyi disclosed plans to redouble water efficiency companywide.

[Fortune](#) (Oct. 17) adds that PepsiCo expects to achieve its goals by reformulating existing drinks and introducing more zero and low-calorie products. The moves come as the company and its main competitor Coca-Cola indeed come under mounting pressure from government officials and health experts who blame them for fueling epidemics of obesity and diabetes. "PepsiCo says the new global target is more ambitious than its previous goal of reducing sugar by 25 percent in certain drinks in certain markets by 2020," according to the publication.



The International Business Times (Oct. 17, Pascaline), meanwhile, states that Pepsi's lower-calorie sodas are in the process of being launched in Mexico and the United Kingdom. "The company also sells 7-Up products with 30 percent less sugar content in China and India," the Times points out. "The new global target comes less than a week after the World Health Organization suggested that countries follow in the footsteps of France and Mexico and tax sugary drinks to curb obesity and other health problems." Most beverage companies have staunchly opposed this move. "The science has evolved," Mehmood Khan, PepsiCo's chief scientific officer of research and development, concluded. "It's not just about sweeteners, it's about understanding the *NACD* flavor ingredients and having proprietary knowledge and access to them."

*Directors Daily*

## Northern Columbia County Community Center

Benton Foundry supports our local community center. The Northern Columbia County Community Center holds an annual fund raising auction each spring. Benton Foundry donated a tour and learning event utilizing our Discovery Center. A local family (The Richard Kriebel family) that also supports the community center, was the successful bidder on this item. They recently scheduled their tour and learning event when their family



was home for the holidays. Other members of the community and NCCC joined them in this experience. Discussion and question and answer sessions were provided before and after their tour through both our Discovery Center and plant. This tour and learning experience was enjoyed by all members of the Kriebel family. Many have lived in the area all of their lives and never knew what we manufactured here or the extent of our state-of-the-art facility. They enjoyed seeing the molding, pouring and the finished products.



## Home-Schooled Students Visit Discovery Center

The Glad Tidings Assembly of God Homeschooled Students visited Benton Foundry February 7th, with over 30 students.



This group serves both Columbia and Montour Counties.



Their students range from Kindergarten through grade 12. They toured the plant, visited our training facility and our Discovery Center. They were an excited and enthusiastic group of young people, varying in ages from 8 to 18. Statewide, PA had about 21,385 home-schooled students last year.



## Safety and Health

### Pennsylvania Leads Nation in Lyme Disease Cases

Pennsylvania will once again lead the nation this year in Lyme disease cases, according to preliminary data released by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, and it's not even close. In 2016 there have been 12,092 reported cases of the tick-born disease in the state through December 24th. That's triple the amount of the runner-up, New York, which had 4,002 cases, followed by New Jersey with 3,850.

There were about 9,000 cases in Pennsylvania in 2015, according to the CDC.

A state Department of Health spokeswoman cautioned that the 2016 figures aren't finalized yet, but they still highlight the need for people to protect themselves from ticks, especially during warmer months.

"It's clearly an issue in Pennsylvania," said April Hutcheson of the Department of Health. "If you suspect you have Lyme disease, catching it early is really essential."

Churchill resident Chris Luedde suspects he contracted Lyme disease over the summer during frequent outdoor walks with this black Labrador Retriever. On several occasions he pulled ticks off the dog.

One morning he noticed several circular rashes with red rings on his body. A subsequent blood test confirmed Lyme disease, and a doctor prescribed a 21-day course of antibiotics that staved off any major symptoms.

"Fortunately, I caught it early," Luedde, 43, said. "I didn't experience any of the flu symptoms that you hear about. I know somebody else who didn't catch it early and suffered symptoms for a long time."

Common symptoms include a fever, chills, joint aches, swollen lymph nodes, headache and fatigue and sometimes a rash that looks like a bull's-eye from the tick bite. Most people recover with antibiotic treatment. If untreated, the infection can lead to arthritis and other severe problems. Dr. Amesh Adalja, an infectious disease expert at UPMC, attributed Pennsylvania's high occurrence of Lyme disease to several factors.

"Pennsylvania is home to the requisite tick and the small mammal species that serve as a reservoir for the bacteria," he said. "Many people in Pennsylvania have exposure to these ticks through activities that bring them into wooded areas; and physicians are especially attuned to the risk of Lyme disease so testing has become almost routine in those with symptoms that could be attributed to Lyme disease."

Each year, more than 30,000 cases of Lyme disease are reported to the CDC. However, the CDC estimate the total number of people diagnosed with Lyme disease could exceed 300,000 annually.

"If you look at the entire Northeast region, there are high levels of ticks in the area and we are becoming more and more aware of Lyme disease transmission and the need for testing," Hutcheson said. "It's the nature of where we live and our environment."

### Preventing tick bites

- Avoid wooded and brushy areas with high grass and leaf litter.
- Walk in the center of trails.
- Use insect repellents that contain 20 percent to 30 percent DEET on exposed skin and clothing for protection that lasts up to several hours. Always follow product instructions. Parents should apply this product to their children, avoiding hands, eyes and the mouth.
- Treat clothing and gear such as boots, pants, socks and tents with products containing 0.5 percent permethrin. Its protection lasts through several washings. Pre-treated clothing is available and may be protective for longer periods.
- Check your body for ticks after spending time outdoors.



*Ben Schmitt Trib Total Media*

### Later Signs and Symptoms (days to months after tick bite)

- Severe headaches and neck stiffness
- Additional EM rashes on other areas of the body
- Arthritis with severe joint pain and swelling, particularly the knees and other large joints.
- Facial palsy (loss of muscle tone or droop on one or both sides of the face)
- Intermittent pain in tendons, muscles, joints, and bones
- Heart palpitations or an irregular heart beat (Lyme carditis)
- Episodes of dizziness or shortness of breath
- Inflammation of the brain and spinal cord
- Nerve pain
- Shooting pains, numbness or tingling in the hands or feet
- Problems with short-term memory

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



## Benton Foundry 401K Changes

### Growth Funds

AMCAP Fund  
EuroPacific Growth Fund  
New Perspective Fund  
New World Fund, Inc.  
SMALLCAP World Fund, Inc.  
The Growth Fund of America  
The New Economy Fund

### Growth-and-Income Funds

American Mutual Fund  
Capital World Growth & Income Fund  
Fundamental Investors  
International Growth and Income Fund  
The Investment Company of America  
Washington Mutual Investors Fund

### Equity-Income and Balanced Funds

American Balanced Fund  
American Funds Global Balanced Fund

### Fixed Income Funds

U.S. Government Securities Fund

## The \$100,000 Club

About one in 14 state government employees earned more than \$100,000 in 2016, with 12 of them coming away from the year with earnings of \$300,000 or more. The prior year, only four employees were compensated in that range.

However, the number of six-figure earners dropped by 116 from 2015, putting the number at 7,576. This the first time in the five consecutive years that PennLive has been tracking earnings records annually that the number declined from the previous year. That may have had something to do with the overall number of state government employees shrinking by more than 1,700.

A review by PennLive of 2016 earnings for the highest-compensated of the 107,151-member workforce in the three state governmental branches and independent state agencies shows 125 employees earned \$200,000 or more, compared to 112 the prior year, according to data collected from the governor's Office of Administration, the Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts, and the State System of Higher Education. Sitting at the top of the list is Dr. Chandresh Shah, a staff physician at Danville State Hospital who retired last year but came back to work for the state on a short-term basis as an annuitant in October, according to a Department of Human Services spokeswoman. A message left for Shah seeking comment was not returned. Shah and four other doctors at state hospitals or state centers were among those who's earning topped \$300,000. The employee who had the highest base salary on the list came in at the number two spot: James Grossman, chief investment officer of the Public School Employees' Retirement System. He had earnings of \$369,079.

Keep in mind, earnings can reflect more than salary in some instances. It can include such forms of compensation as unused leave payout, overtime, bonuses, grievance awards, longevity payment and more.

Regardless what form it takes,



state government employees are compensated with public money that comes from a variety of sources, including tax dollars, fees, agency earnings, federal funds, fines and more.

Some people tend to think Gov. Tom Wolf is the highest-paid state government employee but that is not the case. In fact, his gubernatorial earnings last year of \$180,413, which he donates to charity, ranks him at 255th on the list. That is a dramatic rise in the list from the prior year when he landed in the 439th spot on PennLive's 2015 rankings. It's not because he received a giant pay raise. In fact, he received no increase from 2015 but it's how the pay periods fell last year.

Wolf also is not the highest-paid elected official. That honor goes to state Supreme Court Chief Justice Tom Saylor, who lands as the 100th highest earner in all of state government in 2016, with his \$207,243 earnings.

Speaking of the top 100, 31 of those spots in the rankings belong to employees of the State System of Higher Education. The agency, under the governor's jurisdiction with the most six-figure earners, was the state police, which had 1,981. That is nearly a third of its salaried employees landing in the six-figure arena.

Seventy-three Senate employees had six-figure earnings while in the House, there were fifty \$100,000-plus earners. Only 18 of them were elected senators and representatives.

The highest-paid House employee was Anthony Aliano, chief counsel to House Majority Leader Dave Reed, R-Indiana County, who earned \$197,146, and the highest-earning Senate employee was Kathleen Eakin, a former counsel to Senate Republicans, with \$242,729.

The number of six-figure earners in state government in 2016 is nearly 14 times greater than 20 years ago (546) when one in every 186 state government employees earned six-figures.

*PennLive*

# Interesting Weather Facts

## Top 10 Cities with Least Weather Variety

\*This is based on temperature variation, precipitation, wind and severe weather.

- 1) San Francisco, California
- 2) San Diego, California
- 3) Los Angeles, California
- 4) Santa Barbara, California
- 5) Eureka, California
- 6) Long Beach, California
- 7) Honolulu, Hawaii
- 8) Santa Maria, California
- 9) San Luis Obispo, California
- 10) Kahului, Hawaii

## Top 10 Hail Prone Cities

This is based on frequency and severity of the hail.

- 1) Tulsa, Oklahoma
- 2) Amarillo, Texas
- 3) Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- 4) Wichita, Kansas
- 5) Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas
- 6) Arlington, Texas
- 7) Denver, Colorado
- 8) Colorado Springs, Colorado
- 9) Shreveport, Louisiana
- 10) Kansas City, Missouri/Kansas

## Top 10 Tropical Storm/Hurricane Prone Cities

- 1) Cape Hatteras, North Carolina
- 2) Delray Beach, Florida
- 3) Hollywood, Florida
- 4) Deerfield Beach, Florida
- 5) Boca Raton, Florida
- 6) Florida City, Florida
- 7) Grand Isle, Louisiana
- 8) Ft. Pierce, Florida
- 9) Miami, Florida
- 10) Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

## Top 10 Tornado States

\*This is based on average number of tornadoes per 10,000 square Miles, occurring 1953-2004.

1) Florida	9.4
2) Oklahoma	8.2
3) Kansas	6.7
4) Iowa	6.6
5) Illinois	6.2
6) Indiana	6.1
7) Mississippi	5.7
8) Maryland	5.7
9) Louisiana	5.6
10) Texas	5.2

## 10 Windiest Cities

\*This is based on average annual wind speed in mph.

- 1) Blue Hill Observatory, Massachusetts
- 2) Dodge City, Kansas
- 3) Amarillo, Texas
- 4) Rochester, Minnesota
- 5) Casper, Wyoming
- 6) Cheyenne, Wyoming
- 7) Great Falls, Montana
- 8) Goodland, Kansas
- 9) Boston, Massachusetts
- 10) Lubbock, Texas

## Top 10 Earthquake Prone States

\*This is based on the number of earthquakes in the last 30 years, centered in the state.

- 1) Alaska
- 2) California
- 3) Hawaii
- 4) Nevada
- 5) Washington
- 6) Idaho
- 7) Wyoming
- 8) Montana
- 9) Utah
- 10) Oregon



## Dave Laubach Retires



### Dave Laubach retires after 31 years of service.

Dave was a dedicated employee who worked in a variety of roles throughout his career. Those roles included core machine operator, core box setup/box changer and forklift operator.

The Laubach name has deep roots in the Benton area and several of Dave's family members (including his father, his uncle and his two brothers) have worked at Benton Foundry at some point over the last several decades.

Dave has continued to enjoy his hobbies in his retirement. He's been interested in model railroading since he was 15 years old and has been actively designing and building railroad systems since 1993. He has expanded the railroading to airplanes, as well. His specialty is WWII fighter planes. During the Spring and Summer, Dave tends to his multiple flower gardens. We wish Dave a long and happy retirement!

### Record Snowfall:

On March 14th we received a record snowfall this was the most snow received in one day ever recorded in Northeast PA and the largest snowstorm since the March blizzard of 1993.

We would like to thank those individuals that braved the snow and came to work. We managed to continue to run on all shifts throughout this snow event. *Thank You!*

## Oxymoron

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

## Save the Date

### Our Annual Company Picnic

***Knoebels  
Grove***

Saturday  
August 12, 2017



## Trivia Question???

*When was Coca-Cola first introduced?*

Answer will be in 2nd Quarter 2017

*Answer from 4th Quarter question:*

*Our maintenance shop has been located and relocated many times, can you name the six locations they have occupied over the years?*

*The first maintenance shop was in a separate building in an old garage located on the north side of the main foundry in the 1960's. Some of these old photographs were shared in our last newsletter. The second location, which actually included some working space on the second floor, was where the current 14x19 patterns are stored. The third location was just outside the old pattern shop, which was the main office during the late 1970's & early 80's. Then later in the 1980's, they moved to the old pattern shop weld area and the current chapel room. The current pattern shop on the south end of the building was the fifth location and now the current location is in the back of the building.*

## Good Job

The last few quarters we listed employees with over 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 & 40 years of service.

Following is a list of Employees with 10-15 Years of Service:

<i>Keith Provine</i>	<i>J.R. Peterson</i>	<i>Mike McDonald</i>
<i>Sue Hanna</i>	<i>Joe Timko</i>	<i>Deb Fagan</i>
<i>Tim Miller</i>	<i>Brian Doty</i>	<i>Teresa Puderbaugh</i>
<i>Alan Wertz</i>	<i>Adolfo Barrientos</i>	<i>Mirian Magorga</i>
<i>Gary Younkers</i>	<i>Eric Piatt</i>	<i>Sherry Nerio</i>
<i>Len Shutta</i>	<i>Paul Oteiza</i>	<i>Colin Jandrasitz</i>
<i>Matt Lobos</i>	<i>Mike Mengine</i>	<i>Lynn Miller</i>

## Birthdays

### April

Ethan Fritz  
Ray Campbell  
Jared Whitmoyer  
Mike Machuga  
Mary Alice Green  
Chris Madl  
Sue Hanna  
Bob Little  
Della Norton  
Annette Brown  
Tom Kimble  
Ed Whitmoyer  
Paul Oteiza  
Mike Schumacher  
Len Shutta  
Dylan Swigart  
Mike Scherer  
Matt Hess

### May

Ed Posluszny  
Brian Newhart  
Mel Bartlow  
Marshall Straub  
John Hospodar  
Cheryl Brown  
Bo Boston  
Carl Stackhouse  
Brandon Van Harn  
Gary McCoy  
Lynn Miller  
Gary Younkers, Jr.  
Chad Davis  
Jared Fisher  
Jim Culver  
Derek Snyder  
Matt Kittle  
John Shipe  
Dylan Ashelman  
Deb Fagan  
Justin Lloyd  
Steve Farver  
Teresa Puderbaugh  
David Emmett  
Chris Martin

### June

Bill Furl  
Bryan Puderbaugh  
Hector Reyes  
Brock Smith  
Glenn Cregar  
Bob Houser  
Colin Jandrasitz  
Boyd Lore  
Brent Morphis  
John Harvey  
Caitlen Metzinger  
Deb Martz  
Dave Eveland  
Cody Bown  
Caroline Mengine



\$ **Want** \$

**\$250.00?**

**Company Referral  
Plan**

Refer a Potential Employee to Lou  
(Before They Come In)  
If Hired, After  
6 Months of Employment  
You Get \$250.00

\$ \$

**They  
Had  
One  
Job To  
Do**

**“The Wisdom Well”**

**“Quality it not an act, it is a habit.”**

~ Aristotle

**BENTON  
FOUNDRY, INC.**