DER announces state park regulations

HARRISBURG - Memorial Day weekend marks the start of many summer activities in Pennsylvania's 117 state parks and William C. Forrey, director of the Bureau of State Parks, Department of Environmental Resources, emphasized the need for safety, especially around water areas.

"Swimming is permitted only in guarded areas and regulations state that all children nine years of age and younger must be accomplished and supervised in the swimming areas by a responsible person," said Forrey. "The regulations provide that one responsible person can supervise no more than 10 children."

Beaches- and pools in 54 state parks will open Saturday, May 23, for the three-day weekend and will be open on weekends only, until Saturday, June 13, when they will remain open through Labor Day, September 7. Swimming hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

There will be no swimming at Raccoon Creek State Park, Beaver County, and Greenwood Furnace State Park, Huntingdon County, because the lakes have been emptied for repairs.



Nockamixon State Park, Bucks County, will not offer swimming this summer because of major pool repairs. Lackawanna State Park, Lackawanna County, will not open the swimming pool until June 27 when repairs have been completed. At Presque Isle State Park, Erre County, swimming will be permitted from May 23 through Labor Day, between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. daily.

Four state park swimming pools will be operated for the first time this summer by private concessionaries.

The four pools are: Codorus, York County; Cook Forest, Clarion and Forest counties; Marsh Creek, Chester County; and Neshaminy, **Bucks County.**

"Having private concessionaries operate the pools will generate additional income from stateowned facilities, as the governor requested of all state agencies." said Forrey.

Family campsites at 34 state parks may be reserved this summer by telephone or in person. Reservations are accepted between May 20, the Wednesday before Memorial Day, and Sept. 7, the last day of the Labor Day holiday. Reservations will not be accepted more than 30 days in advance of the check-in date. Contact the state park directly to make campsite reservations.

Forrey said many of the overnight facilities are open from the second Friday in April to the third Sunday in October, this year from April 10 through Oct. 18. Some family campgrounds and organized group tenting areas are open year-round. Overnight facilities also include family cabins at 11 state parks and organized group camps at five state parks.

House inspections prevent costly mistakes

NEWARK, Del. - The most basic rule of house hunting is to follow the lead of your head, not your heart, says Delaware extension family living agent Mary Alice Morris.

Many an uninformed house buyer is motivated to purchase a house because of outward appearance or minor features such as carpet or paint color, or the attractive furnishings of the owner. But the outwardly attractive house could be in need of a new roof or be infested by termites.

On the other hand, a prospective

overgrown yard or unappealing wallpaper and focus on features such as a new furnace and water heater or energy-saving features.

In order to find the best house for you and your family at the best price, you should contact a detailed inspection of any property you are considering for purchase before you get into serious negotiations with the seller.

Keep in mind that there are two kinds of defects. Some defects, such as a leaky roof or an outmoded bathroom or kitchen, are not easily or economically corrected. Others may appear as defects to you but are actually buyer needs to look beyond an matters of personal taste and can

be corrected with a little elbow grease and a little money. A fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper can solve these problems. It's up to you to use your taste to make the house reflect you and your family.

An inspection should entail both structural and mechanical conditions. Inspection services are not available in all areas. Generally they cost \$75 to \$150. You might locate one through your lending institution, real estate agent or your local telephone directory.

If you decide to "do-it-yourself," you should be aggressive and thorough in your inspection and remember to take your time.

Keep in mind that there is no perfect house. Each house has strengths and weaknesses. Your evaluation of the house will help determine how well it meets your family's needs.



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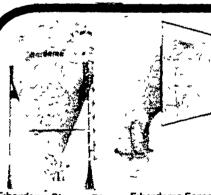
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