

Spring-Summer Events | New Scavenger Hunt! | What's the Location? Photos | Cocktail Class Boat Racing
Accessible Nature: Everyone Can Enjoy the Outdoors | *The Pitt Show* | Book Reviews | Gourd Festival

Pennsylvania magazine

MAY/JUNE 2025 | VOL. 48, NO. 3



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Daily Stories of Pennsylvania

ABOUT THE COVER: In May 2023, Anne Duvall of Greencastle attended "Meet and Bleat" in Chambersburg, Franklin County. The borough had hired goats from FlockWorks for the month of May to clear the local rail trail of overgrowth, poison ivy and unwanted vegetation. At the end of the month, the public was invited to come and meet the now celebrity-status goats. This particular superstar posed quite happily for Anne while eating any branch of vegetation within reach. APPLE IPHONE XR, 4.3 MM, F/1.8, ISO 25, 1/439 S

THESE PAGES: After an extremely wet spring and an entire day of heavy rain, Marla Burke of Quakertown saw that the sun was finally going to show itself the next morning. She drove to the dam at Lake Nockamixon State Park and witnessed a tremendous amount of water thundering over the spillway. Amazingly, in the middle of the chaos, a great blue heron stood peacefully on a rock, waiting for a morsel to appear.

NIKON D500, 380.00 MM, F/7.1, ISO 125, 1/500 S







LOCATION CONTESTS

Rabbits, Pipes and Roosters

The 10 winners of the January/February 2025 issue's Rabbit Location Contest who were randomly drawn from all correct entries are Sharon Cossaboon, Parkerford; Betsy Davis, Kane; Cheryl Gleckner, Elizabethtown; Ginny Haskell, Nescopeck; Robert Humberson, Swissvale; Jerry Hutchison, Windsor, Col.; Kim Mummert, Fleetwood; Judith Ann Popivchak, Cambridge Springs; and Sandy Sherman, Bellefonte. Each will receive a one-year *Pennsylvania Magazine* subscription.

The March/April 2025 issue's pipe illustrations appeared on pages 14, 17 and 44. For this issue's object, one of the gardens in the Accessible Nature feature beginning on page 20 is Chanticleer, which is named

after the rooster. We have hidden three rooster heads: 🐓. To enter the contest, give your name and address and the page numbers where you found each of the roosters online at pa-mag.com/roosters or you may mail a postcard with that same information to Roosters, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001. Enter by June 22. From all of the correct entries, we will randomly select 10 winners, who will each receive a *Pennsylvania Magazine* one-year subscription.

We'll announce the locations of the roosters in the July/August 2025 issue and publish the names and hometowns of the winners in the September/October 2025 edition.

SUPER SUMMER Scavenger Hunt

SUPER SUMMER SCAVENGER HUNT RETURNS!

Gather Items in Our Contest and Enter to Win

Our 2025 Super Summer Scavenger Hunt

will have you searching for 15 items, most of which are photos of people (selfies) near specific objects. Some may be difficult to find/acquire, but you have all summer to complete them. The deadline to enter is the first day of autumn: September 22.

Enter the contest by downloading the complete list of items on our website (see pa-mag.com/2025scavenger). The entry form will be posted on Memorial Day, but you can go there now and sign up to receive an email notification. Some of the items include selfies with a steam traction engine, sports figure statues, Carnegie libraries and a letter from a local museum official.

Print the entry form booklet pages and keep the list with you throughout the summer, checking off the items as you complete them. By the end of the summer, you'll have a keepsake book (you'll need to make a second copy to enter the contest, or include postage and we'll return yours).

While this year's contest allows entrants to source most of the items in their own region (see our calendar map on page 42), the geographic distribution of the items is heavily weighted in our judging for the first-, second- and third-place awards. Efforts will be rewarded because every entrant who submits a complete entry will receive a completion certificate as well as be entered into a drawing to win one of 15 *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirts.

Sign up today so you can soon begin your summertime fun.

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MAILBOX



Feeding Time

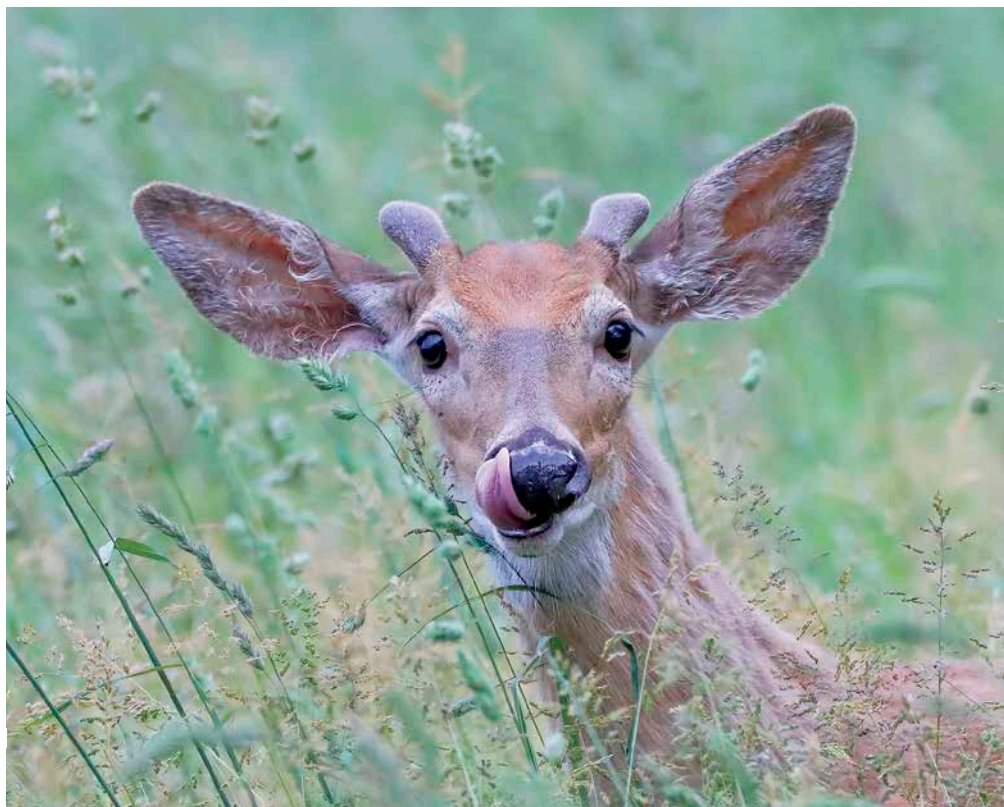
Charles Graham of Blue Bell, Montgomery County, was able to watch a pair of northern flickers that had built a nest in a hollow tree along a tree line on the grounds of the Normandy Farms Estate retirement community. He discovered it when he noticed a bird fly out from the tree and then observed them as they fed their young.

NIKON D7000, 400.0 MM, F/6.3, ISO 6400, 1/640 S

Hello There

Jeanne Farinelli of Mechanicsburg captured this young buck in May in a hayfield in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County.

FOR THIS COLUMN: Send your letters or photos by postal or electronic mail to either editor@pa-mag.com or *Pennsylvania Magazine*, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0755.





HOT SHOT: Editor's Choice

In Her Backyard Pond

On a June day, Doris Dumrauf of Coraopolis traveled no farther than her backyard pond in Allegheny County to frame this frog as it peeked out between the foliage.

CANON EOS R6, 560.0 MM, F/10, ISO 2000, 1/100 S



HOT SHOT: Editor's Choice II

A First-Time Family Portrait

Kyle Rose of Huntingdon Valley photographed a family of North American beavers (*Castor canadensis*) as they groomed each other in Montgomery County in early June. These animals have lived in this area since 2017, but this was Rose's first time capturing three of them together, in this case, two parents and a sub-adult, likely from the previous year's litter. NIKON D7200, 420.0 MM, F/4.0, ISO 1600, 1/160 S



Round Up

People | Places | Events | History



The Pitt

New Max streaming series focuses on an emergency room in Pittsburgh

by Kellie B. Gormly, photographs courtesy of Warner Bros. Discovery

IN THE OPENING MONTAGE OF *The Pitt*, a new series streaming on Max, the camera pans toward downtown Pittsburgh. Among bird's-eye views of skyscrapers, sports stadiums and bridges, Allegheny General Hospital—a tall, historic hospital more than 100 years old—looms ahead on the north side of the city.

Actor Noah Wyle, who plays a physician, walks down Cedar Avenue outside the hospital. He is on his way to what will become a 15-hour shift that makes up the entire season. Wyle gained fame playing Dr. John Carter in the '90s hit show *ER*. In his new series, which debuted in January, he portrays

Dr. Michael “Robby” Robinavitch, the chief attending physician of the fictitious Pittsburgh Trauma Medical Center.

Wyle’s Robby walks from the real-life Pittsburgh street into a packed waiting room, which is actually a studio in Burbank, Calif., where all interior scenes from the show are filmed. The set depicts a busy urban emergency room, where patients might wait more than eight hours to be checked out by a doctor after seeing a triage nurse. I cover my mouth at the sight of a mangled limb during a trauma scene.

Dr. Robby oversees the large staff of residents and student doctors, and just like Wyle’s iconic Dr. Carter char-

acter did, he has a passion for medicine.

“They are completely different people, but they both come from the heart and soul of Noah Wyle,” says Michael Hissrich, *The Pitt* producer and line producer. “He is so genuine in his love for the project and medical professionals. . . . Doctors come up to him all the time and say, ‘Hey, I got turned on to medicine because I watched you on the show.’”

Iconic Pittsburgh

WHILE WYLE IS THE main character on the show, one could argue that Pittsburgh—and, in a larger sense, Pennsylvania—plays a close second. Pittsburgh and Penn-





Jackson Kelly (far left) plays the character David Saunders whose mother (middle) Theresa (played by Joana Going) is admitted to the hospital. David's situation creates tension between a couple of the doctors, who predict what the teenager is going to do. Much of the show revolves around doctors trying to figure out what patients need both medically and personally (photo at right shows actors Noah Wyle, Shu Lan Noma, Taylor Dearden and Kayla Blake).

sylvania touches are everywhere, such as a storyline where a dying man being removed from a ventilator had worked for years on *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood* at the Pittsburgh PBS affiliate WQED. In one episode, the doctor break room has sandwiches from Primanti Bros., a major regional chain with numerous locations in greater Pittsburgh, along with Erie, State College and southcentral Pennsylvania.

Hissrich, who has worked on such shows as *ER* and *West Wing*, preferred Pittsburgh as the location of *The Pitt* for several reasons. He grew up in the suburb of Braddock and attended Carnegie Mellon University for film studies. Many western Pennsylvanians are involved in

filming *The Pitt*.

"I've been out here [in Hollywood] 35 years, but I still call Pittsburgh home," Hissrich says. "It's so great to come back and film there. It's a really beautiful, cinematic place to film."

Hissrich calls Pittsburgh a "perfect example of an all-American city, with blessings and curses in a tight little package. . . . Within 45 minutes, you're in rolling farmland."

Exterior scenes were shot on location in Pittsburgh, where most of the cast traveled to last September. Everything else is filmed in the California studio, although producers have made the set look similar to Allegheny General Hospital, which

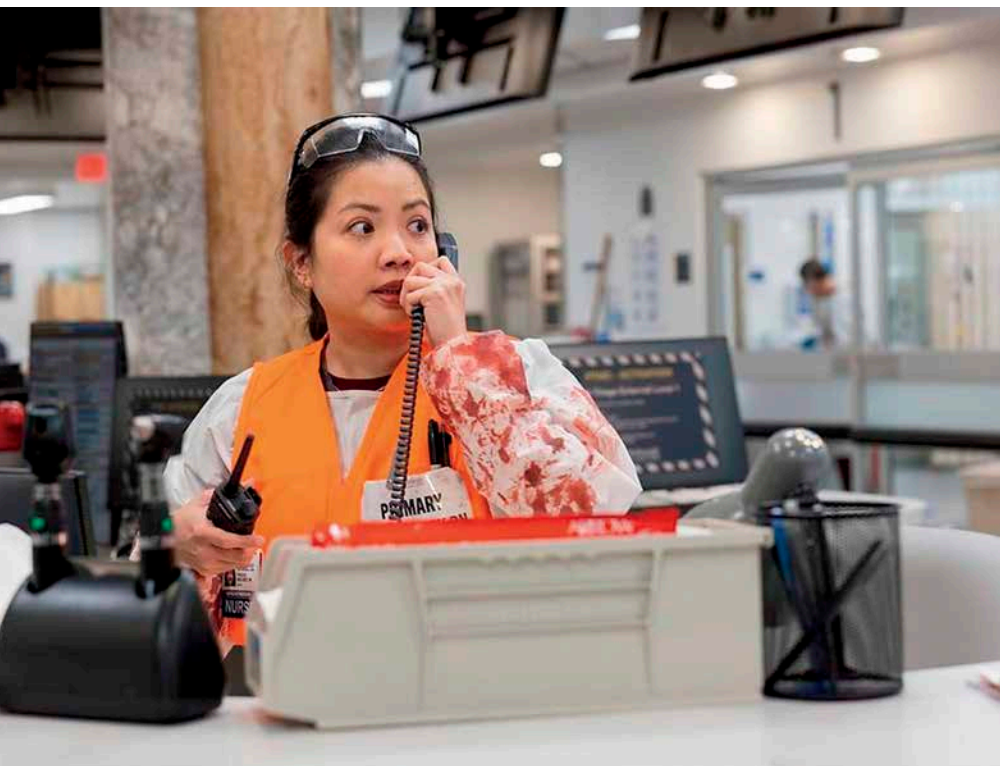
opened in 1885. Even the bricks and floor tiles are the exact same color, Hissrich says.

Stress of the ER

A UNIQUE TRAIT OF *The Pitt* is how each of the 15 hour-long episodes in the season covers one sequential hour of a 15-hour shift. The first episode starts at 7 a.m., and each episode picks up where the previous one left off. Between episodes, nothing changes on the set.

"We shoot in complete continuity, with scene one, two, three, four," Hissrich says. "It helps the actors tremendously to feel their way through the story. It's a lot to learn every day really fast, and that's a testament to how great these actors are."

Round Up



“It’s a newer way of telling the story, and I think it’s something we haven’t seen before,” he continues. “I think the audience can feel the pressure that is building throughout this day.”

The characters show viewers about the dedication of emergency room staff and the stress they deal with every day in caring for critically ill and injured patients.

“It’s the reason why television makes shows about doctors and nurses and police officers and firefighters,” says Hissrich, who once worked as a firefighter in the Pittsburgh suburb of Wilkins. “They see things day to day that you just don’t see all the time.”

Dr. Bobby Kapur, who is chief of emergency medicine at Pittsburgh’s real Allegheny General Hospital, calls the Max show “quite remarkable” and “extremely realistic.” The medical terminology and the overall feel of the ER are accurate.

“It does a really good job of bringing in the types of cases we see in the emergency department,” Kapur says. “There’s no music and no soundtrack. All you hear are the sounds of a real emergency department, which gives it kind of a documentary feel. You hear monitors, beeping and the movement of bodies.”

Nurses and physicians on staff at the hospital agree that *The Pitt* is “probably one of the most realistic trauma and emergency shows out there.”

With each episode depicting one hour of the same day, Kapur says, viewers are given a sense of the weight and pressure of time, and they get to know the progression of a disease and see a patient’s fate. He notes that viewers also gain an understanding of real public health issues, such as opioid use, gun violence and drunken driving.

“The emergency department, for most hospitals, is the front door of the hospital,”

Kapur says. “I’ve always said that our emergency department is essentially a view of all the public health issues surrounding us.

“People think that you’re just treating heart attacks and strokes,” he says. “Actually, we’re treating the whole gamut of patients.”

A touching scene that appears many times in *The Pitt* is the medical crew pausing for a moment of silence every time a patient dies. Kapur says it’s something the Allegheny General staff does, too.

It’s a heartwarming touch to the show, Hissrich says.

“That’s somebody’s relative or loved one, and there’s a story there,” he says. “It’s not just a patient.”

Season one of *The Pitt* can be streamed on Max. With a second season on order, the cast will be returning to Pittsburgh for filming soon. ♣

—Kellie B. Gormly writes from the Pittsburgh area.



(far left) **Kristin Villanueva** plays **Princess Dela Cruz**, a nurse working in the emergency room.
(middle) **Dr. Langdon** (played by **Patrick Ball**) treats patient **Walter Purnell** (played by **Craig Cacowski**).
(above) **Dr. Victoria Javadi**, a 20-year-old third-year medical student (played by actress **Shabana Azeez**), watches **Dr. Heather Collins** (**Tracy Ifeachor**), a senior resident.
(left) **Star of the show Noah Wyle** plays **Dr. Michael "Robby" Robinavitch**, who is the chief attending doctor in the ER. Wyle's a veteran TV doctor, previously playing **Dr. John Carter** on *ER* for many seasons.



Reverent Remembrance

County cemetery honors the unclaimed dead

Text and photographs by Michael E. DeSanctis

Show me the manner in which a [community] cares for its dead, and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals.

—Sir William Ewart Gladstone

The Almshouse Cemetery takes its name from the county's public assistance facility (operated from the early 1800s through 1920). The remains un-earthed at that site were transferred to this new cemetery.

ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF ERIE, NOT far from the shore of the great lake that gives the city its name, lies a modest swath of land known as the Old Almshouse Cemetery. It is situated amid what were once fields tied to the business interests of Albert Frederick Dobler (1844-1911), a local entrepreneur and brewery owner. Today, the site is marked by little more than a walking path extending from a parking

area to a roofless pavilion framed in steel I-beams.

The only features that distinguish the place from its surroundings are an I-beam entrance arch and a brick wall bearing the identities of some of those buried there. Rows of Austrian pines are arranged in such a way as to lend the place the appearance of an open-air sanctuary.

The cemetery takes its name from a public assistance facility that Erie County once operated from the early 1800s to about 1920. This so-called “almshouse” or “home for the friendless” provided housing for several hundred of Erie County’s poor; when necessary, the dead were interred in several unmarked gravesites on its grounds.

The cemetery remained relatively undisturbed until the mid-1970s, by which time any remnant



of the facility's campus and residential building had all but vanished from public memory. When contractors unearthed the burial site while preparing the ground for commercial development, legal wrangling began over what to do with the discovered remains of several hundred men, women and children.

Convinced that every county resident deserved a place and manner of burial befitting the dignity of their humanity, a group of civic leaders arranged to have the contents of the almshouse grave sites transferred to their current location in a corner of what was known as the "old Dobler farm" in nearby Fairview Township. In the ensuing decades, the group

The lengths to which Cook and his team go to attach an identity to the persons recognized during this service is reflected in the contents of the program booklet prepared for it. Its pages include brief but personalized remembrances of each person. The program for September 11, 2023, for example, noted that one of the 75 interred on that occasion "loved the hiking trails at [Presque Isle State Park] and bird watching." Another was remembered as assisting at a number of area animal shelters, while still others were recognized simply for the careers they'd maintained in life as truck drivers, cooks or homemakers.

At the September 11, 2023, Old Almshouse Cemetery Memorial and Committal Service, Erie County Coroner Lyell Cook speaks to the assembled members of the of the public. Joining him are city, county and state officials, as well as local Christian and Jewish clergy.



Cook, local dignitaries and clergy representing various religions preside over the ceremony with considerable solemnity. The proceedings include music in the form of preludes, recessionals and hymns and a military honor guard to recognize any veterans among the dead. In what is seen as the highlight of the service, volunteers then silently commend the ashes of the deceased to a grassy area at the base of the pine trees. If a breeze should set in motion the natural canopy of the tree branches, the ceremony gains an element of spontaneous animation and a distinctive "whooshing" sound,

spearheaded efforts to enhance the appearance of the site and strengthen its legibility as a burial ground, albeit one free of headstones or similar monuments customarily associated with such a place.

In 1994, a dedication stone was unveiled to mark completion of the property's most extensive improvements. Its inscription describes the site as a "natural cemetery" intended to remind visitors that "all humans . . . no matter the race, religion, creed or station in life . . . are equal and share in the same fate."

Solemn Ceremony

TODAY, THE FACILITY CONTINUES to receive the remains of deceased persons throughout Erie County who are unclaimed by families or friends. The cemetery holds special importance to County Coroner Lyell Cook, an early participant in its planning and president of the association responsible for its supervision. Every three years or so, Cook and his staff stage a committal service at the location designed, in his words, to help county government "restore the names and faces to [Erieites] who could otherwise be forgotten."

which participants might easily take as the whisper of something transcendent.

According to Cook, no other county in Pennsylvania tends to the remains of its unclaimed dead with quite the same formality. Erieites, he says, should be proud of "this small thing [their county government] does" for the least of their neighbors. He admits to being saddened, however, each time his office is called upon to attend to the needs of one of the county's poor in place of some next-of-kin.

"In most of these cases," he says, "there are families [we can track down], but they choose simply to walk away."

His longstanding association with the Old Almshouse Cemetery, however, gives him comfort and hope. Gratified by these experiences, Cook continues to believe in the basic goodness of the community he serves, the value of every human person and the virtue of interring the dead with the reverence they're due.

The Old Almshouse Cemetery is located at 3351 Blair Road in Fairview, Erie County. ♣

—Michael E. DeSanctis writes from Erie.

Round Up



Keeping History Alive

College student embarks on a mission to record the stories of WWII veterans before it is too late

by Kellie B. Gormly, photos courtesy of Tyler Boland

THREE YEARS AFTER GRADUATING from high school, Norman Reifsnnyder, a native of Bernville, Berks County, joined the Army. He was eager to fight the Nazis and fascism in World War II, which in 1942 had been raging for three devastating years.

Following two years of training—and two months after the D-Day invasion on June 6, 1944—



Reifsnnyder's unit landed on the beaches of Normandy, France, to secure towns and continue liberating them from Nazi rule. Four months later, Reifsnnyder's unit fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Reifsnnyder's heart broke when his friend Paul Parsons of State Hill, Berks County, died in the battle. Reifsnnyder saw his friend's body after he was killed and helped to

(above, left) When Tyler Boland visited and interviewed Eric last June, the WWII veteran recalled his service in the 166th Combat Photo Battalion, where he was assigned to take photos of concentration camps, such as Ohrdruf. (left, bottom) Eric, who visited Paris during his tour of duty, was looking forward to celebrating his 105th birthday in the fall. (above, right) Boland took WWII veteran Paul (age 101) to the Air Mobility Command Museum in Delaware where he was able to see a B17, the type of plane in which he served.

bury him at a church.

“That was a sad affair, losing a buddy,” Reifsnnyder told his interviewer in a video posted on YouTube. Later in the video, he says, “I’m so thankful I was able to help win that war and do that for our country.”

Reifsnnyder died on February 24 this year at the age of 103, but thanks to Reading college student Tyler Boland, his story and that of many other World War II veterans live on in the YouTube channel that Boland has created.

Telling their Stories

BOLAND CAN TRACE HIS passion for allowing World War II veterans to tell their stories to his childhood, when his grandmother shared tales about her father (his great-grandfather) Charles Schaum, who fought against the Japanese in the Pacific. She showed Boland his military patches.

Then when Boland was 15, a veteran of the Iwo Jima battle was scheduled to speak to his high school class when the old soldier died the day before his visit.

“That made me realize that we don’t have a ton of time with these guys,” says Boland, now a 21-year-old student at Albright College.

Shortly after that, he reached out to a man named Joseph whose story was featured in the media for a D-Day anniversary story.

“I first met him when my mom and I went over to his house,” Boland recalls. His mother, Rebecca, spent some time as a history teacher. “I did not record him. I was super shy. He was the first World War II veteran I had met, and my mom did most of the talking.”

This event was such a moving experience that Boland started networking and reaching out to more veterans. After his father, Shane, who works in the videography field, asked him, “Are you recording these guys?” Boland borrowed his dad’s camera equipment and started making videos to share.

Over the past several years, Boland has interviewed more than 250 World War II veterans and posted many on his YouTube channel, Keeping History Alive. The documentary-style videos have opening graphics and background music and use stock footage from the military. Shane Boland works with his son to edit the

videos, in which the veterans are the only voice. Tyler’s questions are edited out.

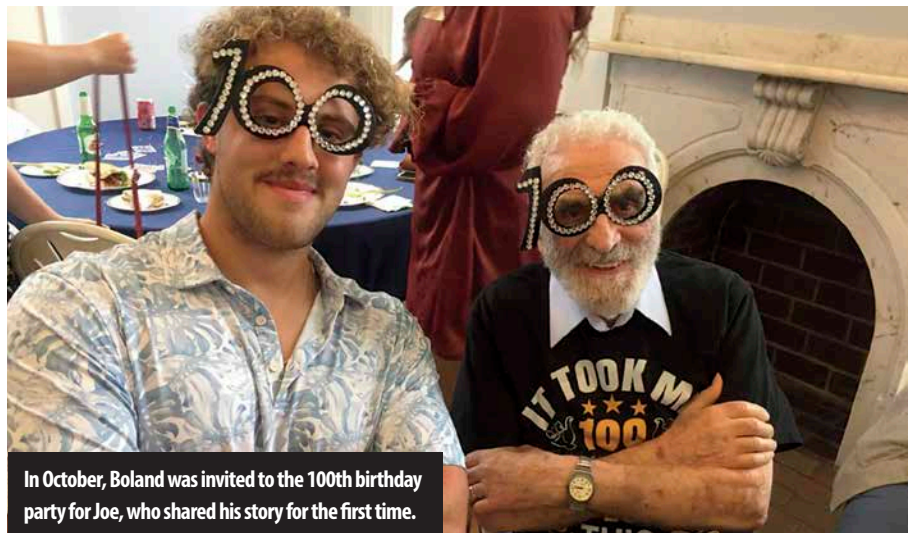
The videos show the veterans speaking to the camera as they share compelling, powerful and often heartbreaking stories about their experiences during the war in the 1940s.

“I really like those interviews,” Boland says. “Sometimes they’re not a great storyteller, but at the same time, these stories have been locked away for 80 years.

“About half of them have never even told their stories before,” he says. “Some families say, ‘I’ve never heard any of that from my dad.’ It’s been like therapy to them once they open up.”

A Rush to Interview

BOLAND HAS LOCATED MANY of his interview subjects via word of mouth, and



In October, Boland was invited to the 100th birthday party for Joe, who shared his story for the first time.

some people have reached out to him. He does about two to three interviews a week in person, about 90% of them in the state. According to the National WWII Museum in New Orleans, Pennsylvania ranked second among states in 2024 with the highest number of living veterans from that war. Boland has also traveled to Arizona and Massachusetts to conduct interviews.

Those who served during WWII were young adults in the 1940s. Boland recognizes that in less than a decade, they could all be deceased. He, therefore, feels a sense of urgency not experienced by many people in their 20s.

“I know in five years, I will never be

able to do this again,” he says. “These guys, they’re obviously heroes. They literally saved the world from the baddest of villains. Without them, I don’t think we’d be here. If I can interview them for an hour or two of my life, it’s the least I can do.”

When the time comes that there is nobody left to interview, Boland says he might donate his Keeping History Alive videos to the U.S. Library of Congress.

Boland’s connection with many of these men, and a few women who served as military nurses, has extended beyond the interviews. Despite a huge generation gap, Boland has become close friends with many of them. He regularly hosts social events, including luncheons for them.

“Half of my best friends are these guys,” Boland says. It makes him feel sad about

the inevitable loss in coming years.

Joseph D’Enidio, a lifelong resident of Bristol, Bucks County, turned 100 last September, 80 years after he and his Navy comrades served in an amphibious force on Higgins boats during D-Day.

D’Enidio relates how he enjoyed doing his interview with Boland. Coming from an era long before YouTube, he finds it amazing that people decades from now will still be able to hear his firsthand World War II story, thanks to Boland’s efforts.

“He’s doing a fabulous job trying to keep it together,” D’Enidio says. ♣

Kellie B. Gormly of Pittsburgh is a regular contributor.

Round Up

Nature's Canvas

Festival showcases artists who use gourds to create art

by James Rada Jr.

APPLE, BASKET, BOTTLE, DAISY, dipper, nest egg, penguin, speckled swan and sponge. What may sound like a list of unrelated words are the names of types of gourds that artists have used for centuries to create sculptures, paintings, carvings, musical instruments, string art and embroidery.

"You can do anything with them," says Claudia Hill, president of the Pennsylvania Gourd Society. "There's no form of art you can't do with gourds. It's nature's canvas."

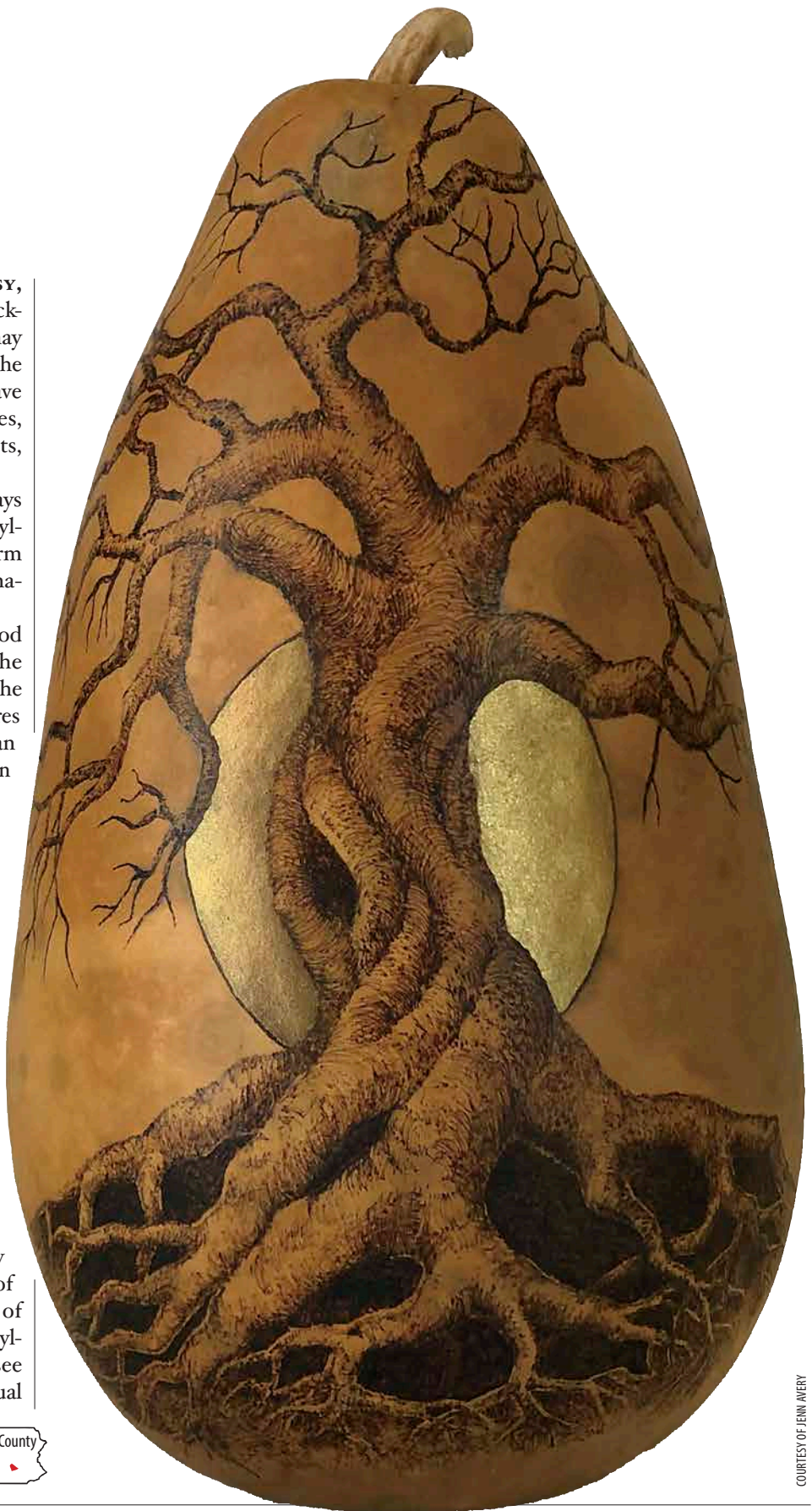
Artists paint, carve, embroider, wood burn and sculpt on gourds. Due to the gourds' unusual shapes and textures, the results are luminaries, pictures, sculptures and even musical instruments with an appearance that is slightly different than one would expect.

An Imperfect Backdrop

GOURDS ARE FRUITS THAT can be found in different varieties throughout the world. They have been used for more than food for thousands of years with examples found in prehistoric sites dating back to 13,000 BCE. The earliest gourd art discovered in China is from the Ming Dynasty.

Unlike an actual canvas, artists who use gourds find that each one is different and none are absolutely perfect. Part of a gourd artist's creativity is incorporating or working around these imperfections.

Today, gourd art continues to grow in popularity, thanks to the creativity of gourd artists and the outreach efforts of gourd organizations, such as the Pennsylvania Gourd Society. A good place to see some of this creative art is at the annual Pennsylvania Gourd Art Show and Festival in Lebanon. The three-day festival is the cen-



COURTESY OF JENN AVERY

terpiece of the Pennsylvania Gourd Society whose mission is “promoting the use of gourds in Pennsylvania, growing different varieties and using them in artistic and functional craft by providing a supportive and educational environment for our members and the community.”

The event, which has been going strong for two decades, showcases the work of gourd artists from around the country and Canada. It is one of roughly two dozen gourd festivals held each year throughout the United States, although you will also find gourd artisans displaying their works at local arts and crafts shows.

The main attraction of the festival is an art competition featuring dozens of pieces, all unique and handmade. The artwork is judged on overall appearance, originality, craftsmanship and the amount of effort required.

Last year, Aaron Letourneau of Maine took home a blue ribbon for a luminary that he entered in the competition.

“I like to come here because it’s close to me for a gourd festival, and I also like the gourd selection I can find here,” he says. “You don’t see a lot of gourds or people using them for art in New England.”

Crafting and Educating

MATTHEW GOEHRING, WHO LIVES north of Pittsburgh, began working with gourds four years ago almost accidentally. He could have been considered a poster boy for the 2024 PA Gourd Fest theme, which was “What’s in your garden?”

“I let my kids pick something to grow in our garden,” he says. “Then I had to figure out something to do with them.”

At that point, the only gourds he knew about were pumpkins, but with a little research, he found more interesting gourds to grow. Once he started exploring what to do with his bountiful crop, he discovered their artistic uses and a new hobby was born. The only difficulty he has encountered is that it is hard to grow thick-skinned gourds in Pennsylvania.

For festival attendees who want to improve their gourd art skills or learn new ones, the festival offers a variety of classes and workshops, many of which allow attendees to make their own piece of gourd art to take home. Some of the workshops include making a thunder drum; weaving

a gourd basket; designing giraffes, farm animals, or fish from gourds; woodburning on gourds; creating a pendant.

Besides the art exhibition and classes, the Pennsylvania Gourd Art Show and Festival offers artisans the opportunity to sell their pieces. Additionally, visitors can purchase gourds of all shapes and sizes from vendors for use in future projects.

The Pennsylvania Gourd Society has around 110 members: men, women and children who love working with gourds. Many also prioritize going out in their communities to spread the message that gourds are art through appearances at schools, garden clubs and local events. Pennsylvania’s organization is one of two dozen state gourd societies dating back to 1943 that make up the American Gourd Society.

“We’re not just about crafting with gourds,” says Hill of the Pennsylvania Gourd Society. “We want to educate people about everything that can be done with them.”

—James Rada Jr. writes from Gettysburg.

WHEN YOU GO

The **Pennsylvania Gourd Art Show and Festival**, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Gourd Society, will take place June 12-14 at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center at 80 Rocherty Road in Lebanon, Lebanon County. The theme for this year’s art show and festival is “Mystical.” In addition to featuring artists and their work, the event includes classes and workshops for visitors to learn more about gourd art and try their hand at making their own. For more information, contact Claudia Hill, president of the Pennsylvania Gourd Society, at Pagsgourds@gmail.com or 570-350-0231. pagourdsociety.org



(above) **Matthew Goehring** shows his award winning entry, “Amy’s Gourd.” The festival offers classes, workshops and an opportunity for artists to come together to share techniques and knowledge.

(facing page) **Gourd artist Jenn Avery of Lititz** uses a pyrography pen and other techniques to create her uniquely decorated gourds, including this one called the “Old Gnarled Tree.” She will be teaching this technique, but not this particular design, in two classes at this year’s festival.

(below) **Raw gourds and supplies** are offered for sale at the festival by **Smucker’s Gourds**.





Roosters are a common theme at Chanticleer Garden in Wayne, as the property takes its name from the legendary rooster. The garden features walkways and ramps with no more than an 8% grade to explore its offerings of plants and sculptures.



Accessible Nature

Helping people
with limited mobility
enjoy the outdoors again

by Cindy Ross

I never considered the challenges that people with physical limitations might have when navigating the outdoors until the truth of this reality hit home for me personally. A few years ago, my adventurous, athletic husband, Todd Gladfelter, suffered a spinal cord injury that transformed him into a quadriplegic.

Through this experience, I have met others in similar situations and quickly learned how common it is for people to believe it's too difficult to help their loved one explore peaceful, natural spaces. Fortunately, due to the efforts and investment by many people and organizations, this perspective has begun to change.

The Outdoors for All Act (which was passed into law as part of the federal EXPLORE Act in January 2025) aims to expand access to natural spaces for all people. The new legislation seeks to create high-quality parks and green spaces by renovating existing recreation facilities and developing infrastructure to support outdoor education and public land volunteerism.

One in four Americans (61 million people) lives with a disability that limits their mobility (1 million people require a wheelchair). So, while many may

feel more comfortable and safer in their homes, by staying indoors they deny themselves the experience of being immersed in the beauty and wonder of the natural world.

Studies—and personal experience—have shown that outdoor recreation enhances the physical, mental and social well-being of all members of a community. In working closely with returning veterans who have been affected by combat duty, I can attest to how spending time in nature helps to elevate the veterans' mood, as well as my husband's throughout his recovery journey.

In this article, I explore three different ways for people with disabilities to access nature within Pennsylvania: by viewing wildlife, visiting public gardens and exploring trails.

Viewing Wildlife

THE EASTERN ELK IS an awe-inspiring and majestic creature. Following the animal's extermination in Pennsylvania in the late 1800s, the Pennsylvania Game Commission started an effort in the early 1900s to repopulate the elk herd by bringing in elk from Yellowstone. After a series of intentional and unintentional circumstances, a herd was established

in Elk and Cameron counties by the 1980s.

Today, the statewide herd numbers around 1,400, and the sleepy village of Benezette in Elk County is the recognized epicenter of the herd's range. I recommend starting your elk experience at the Elk Country Visitor Center, where you'll find viewing blinds, walled viewing areas and walking paths, all of which are accessible and will aid in your enjoyment of this native animal. The best time to see elk is during the morning and evening hours when they emerge from the forest and go into open areas.

From the visitors center, you can access several short gravel trails that radiate out through three different environments: a hollow, a meadow and a vista. Each trail has benches and informational boards. Buckeneezer Hollow Trail, the longest at 360 yards, has many splits in the path that allow you to adjust the length of your hike. Vista Trail at 120 yards is a totally flat path that leads to a pavilion. Meadow Trail, which is the distance of three football fields, brings you to an elevated blind with low viewing windows at wheelchair height.

For additional information, check out the guide, "Wild Elk Country," which provides a history of Pennsylvania's elk herd and gives viewing tips. A large folding map shows driving routes and highlights locations, parking areas and the best times to see elk. The 127-mile Elk Scenic Drive, which encompasses five state parks, has 23 viewing areas.

Handicapped-accessible sites can be found at the Hoover Farm viewing area in Moshannon State Forest and the Hicks Run viewing area near Benezette. Sinnemahoning State Park contains a viewing pavilion along a nice section of the flat, smooth Lowland Trail, once a rail bed of the Baltimore & Ohio RR. If you have a wheelchair or walker, the best option is to leave from the northern trailhead since the first two miles of the five-mile-long trail are accessible and lead

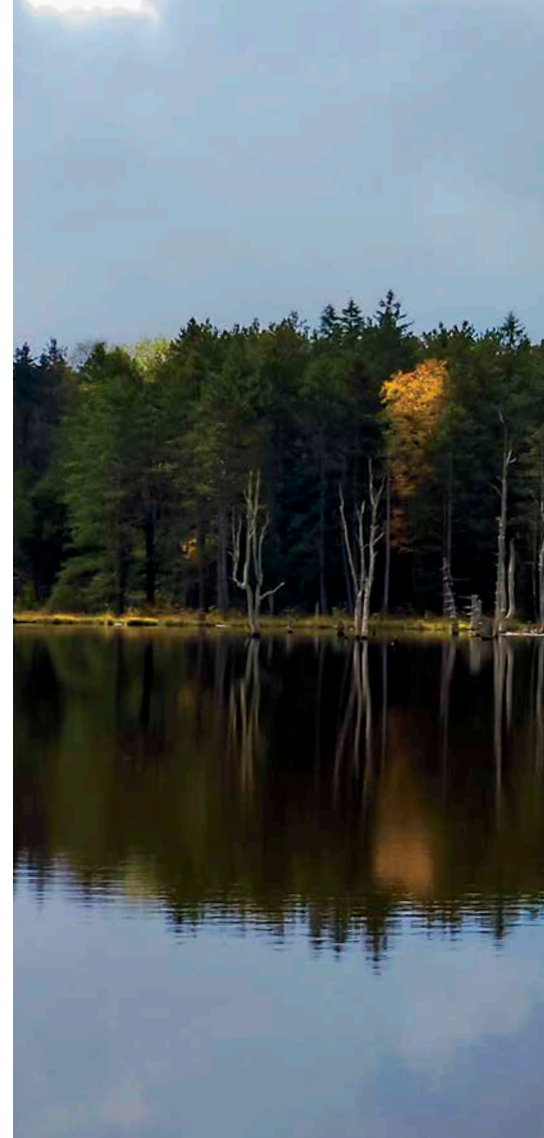
The Elk Country Visitor Center in Benezette, Elk County, has viewing blinds and walled viewing areas that are best used in the early morning or evening when the elk emerge from the forest and into more open areas.

to a wildlife viewing platform.

In addition to the Elk Scenic Drive, Pennsylvania has other wildlife viewing driving trails worth checking out. Audubon Pennsylvania has developed the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail. The Bucktail Trail Scenic Byway travels 100 miles through Sprout and Elk state forests using an old American Indian path. Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area in southcentral Pennsylvania also has a seasonal wildlife driving tour, and the 100-mile Discover Birds and Blossoms Scenic Driving Tour is located in the Laurel Highlands in the southwestern part of the state. See pa-mag.com/drivingtours for links to these and other trails.

Another awe-inspiring experience for viewing wildlife is to visit the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area during the snow geese migration in late winter. If you arrive at the peak of the migration (typically before dawn or at sunset in February), you are likely to hear the estimated 100,000 snow geese (and some tundra swans) that have gathered on the sheltered lagoon before you see them.

The security of being on the open water overnight and the food that can be gleaned in the surrounding farmland have made this Pennsylvania Game Commission 400-acre lake on the Lebanon-Lancaster county line a popular resting stop for geese migrating to their Alaskan mating and breeding grounds in the Arctic region. The blizzard of snow geese rising from



the water en masse and wheeling around your head in the morning or descending as a group in the evening provides a wildlife experience like no other.

At one time, the 0.4-mile trail from the parking lot to Willow Point was gravel



CINDY ROSS



PATRICIA FALCO, ORWIGSBURG

Many state parks have made accessible improvements. At Black Moshannon State Park, Shaggers Inn Pond is accessed from the parking lot and has an ADA-compliant fishing pier. There is also a boardwalk that leads to wetlands with sphagnum moss, sedges, rushes, carnivorous plants and lilies, as well as an accessible boat launch (#1).

and difficult to navigate with a walker. Today, it's paved and boasts a bench for resting part of the way. The viewing area has picnic tables.

During a memorable evening at the lake, Todd and I were mesmerized watching thousands of geese coming in from the nearby fields in great waves. Their honking and calling filled the cool air as the sky slowly darkened. We watched in awe as they rose up from the lake in a great sweeping wave that filled the air around us. Thousands of white birds, their brilliant bodies reflecting the setting sun, swirled around our heads in a united moving arch. Suddenly, they rearranged their flight and settled back down on another spot on the lake. We

were left earthbound and speechless.

Going to a remote spot like Middle Creek for the first time might feel intimidating to those with limited mobility. However, many improvements have been implemented to make the area more manageable for those with adaptive gear.

Public Gardens

PUBLIC GARDENS WITH ACCESSIBILITY can be found throughout Pennsylvania. Visiting these accessible gardens gives people with limited mobility the opportunity to immerse themselves in places of great beauty. As one garden curator said, "We want to help people fall in love with nature and plants."

Three such extraordinary gardens are located in the Brandywine Valley: Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer and Jenkins Arboretum and Garden. (See the sidebar on page 25 for other accessible gardens in the state.) Todd and I have visited these three gardens in Chester and Delaware counties using different adaptive means: a manual wheelchair, a scooter and a golf

cart. While Todd walked with his walker when he could, having alternatives allowed him to explore more of the gardens, conserve energy and experience more beauty.

LONGWOOD GARDENS, one of the premier gardens of the world, covers 1,100 acres of gardens, woodlands and meadows near Kennett Square in Chester County. A fifth of that is fully accessible.

A person with accessibility needs (and the person's caregiver) can obtain a free pass, as well as order up to five individual passes, for \$2 each with a Pennsylvania ACCESS Pass. Free wheelchairs and pay-what-you-wish scooters are available on a first-come, first-served basis. A supplied map shows accessible paths, which are wide and either paved or crushed stone.

By moving about in a scooter, Todd could enjoy the fresh air while taking in a variety of flowers and greenery at the gardens. His favorite experience, however, had to be the Lookout Loft Treehouse, which is one of three accessible tree-



Jenkins Arboretum and Garden features rhododendrons and azaleas planted in the rocky and acidic soil on a hilly landscape. Mobility challenged visitors can arrange for a docent-led golf cart tour.

houses in the state. (The other two are at Tyler Arboretum in Delaware County and Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, although the latter's treehouse is currently closed for repairs.) Being up in the trees above the garden floor provides a new perspective on the sights and sounds below.

If you can time your visit, you will find that exploring indoor spaces, like the conservatory, will be more enjoyable when crowds are sparser.

CHANTICLEER, a beautiful 50-acre garden on the Rosengarten estate in Wayne, Delaware County, features walkways and ramps with no more than an 8% grade. The paths are paved with an aggregate material that is fully draining. While not steep, an 8% grade can cause challenges for a wheelchair, so having friends or family along to take turns pushing might be helpful.

When you are ready to take a break, the garden has many places to stop and enjoy a picnic or read a book. A noted feature at Chanticleer is the furniture, which is handcrafted from trees harvested on the property's managed woodlot. Benches,

rockers, bridges, fountains and sculptures are tucked here and there throughout the garden.

An accessible restroom can be found halfway around the garden circuit. Note that visitors must bring their own wheelchair or scooter since none are available onsite. Call ahead to reserve a parking space, as parking is very limited. Admission is \$2 with a PA ACCESS pass.

JENKINS ARBORETUM AND GARDEN is a small but gorgeous property in Devon that was once the home of the Jenkins family, a Main Line couple. The featured plant collection at this Chester County site is rhododendrons and azaleas with 4,000 individual bushes, all members of the heath family. The rocky and acidic soil provides the perfect setting for these magnificent, flowering bushes. Around Mother's Day, the garden is a wall of color, especially the spectacular "azalea hill."

While much of Jenkins is located on a steep slope (and thus difficult for everyone to access), a new board member, who is in a wheelchair, has helped to transform the board's thinking about how to make the garden accessible. The property now features a docent-led 50-minute guided tour in a golf cart, which fits five people. Todd and I used this option to navigate the 15-acre garden. The tour is offered weekdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jenkins, which is community-funded, is open every day of the year and has free admission.

Accessible Trails

PENNSYLVANIA IS FORTUNATE to have many accessible trails or paths, which are great options for slow walkers (using canes or walkers), wheelers (in wheelchairs) and also parents with strollers. Since a person's ability to navigate a trail is personal, it's important to look at each destination and determine if it is a good fit for you. Consider the length of a trail, its grade and surface, the presence of benches and accessible bathrooms and parking proximity to a trailhead to determine how accessible a trail may be for you.

HAWK MOUNTAIN SANCTUARY, a world-class sanctuary for migrating birds, happens to be in my backyard. My favorite trail is



CINDY ROSS

Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square has free scooters to borrow on a first-come, first-served, pay-what-you-wish basis. The paths around the 1,100 acres of plants and buildings are mostly paved and easily navigated.

the accessible Silhouette Trail to South Lookout, which Todd has used to basically learn how to walk again. This 6-foot-wide, 900-foot-long trail has a grade of less

than 8.3% and a semi-smooth surface of pressed pebbles. Nine benches, with pull bars in the middle, are positioned at least 100 feet apart. At South Lookout, a large, smooth flat area with a bench can easily accommodate wheelchairs. The views are simply stunning.

The nearby accessible amphitheater (which contains 32 North American wildlife pieces that Todd had carved before

his accident) plays host to concerts and public talks. A wheelchair or walker can easily fit between the benches.

Some other accessible trails around the state include the following:

- The Karl Boyes Multipurpose National Recreation Trail is a paved 13.5-mile circuit around the perimeter of **PRESQUE ISLE STATE PARK** in Erie. Designated as a National Recreation Trail, the paved ADA-accessible trail is shared with bicyclists, in-line skaters and joggers.
- A 0.6-mile accessible loop trail in Philadelphia's **JOHN HEINZ WILDLIFE REFUGE** has an asphalt surface. Running between Darby Creek and a big manmade pond, it crosses the impoundment on a boardwalk before returning to the visitors center or parking lot through the woods.
- The 0.5-mile Bog Trail in **BLACK MOSHANNON STATE PARK** in Centre County features a boardwalk that leads to beautiful wetlands with sphagnum moss, sedges, rushes, carnivorous plants and lilies. There's a good chance you'll see waterfowl and other wildlife along the trail. Access the path at the state park's Boating Area #3.

• A 0.17-mile paved accessible loop trail in **COOK FOREST STATE PARK**, which is located in Clarion, Forest and Jefferson counties, winds through a mature hardwood forest with some gorgeous old-growth trees. Enter at the water tower access road at the entrance of the Sawmill Center for the Arts.

• Dingmans Creek Trail, a lovely 0.4-mile one-way boardwalk in the **DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA** in Monroe County, takes you past the 80-foot Silverthread Falls to Dingmans Falls, which drop 130 feet. Located in the Poconos region, the trail is stroller and wheelchair accessible.

• The Sensory Trail at the **POCONO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER** in Pike County has a 1/4-mile rope-lined trail for the blind or anyone who wants to increase their sensual awareness.

To find accessible trails online, check out AllTrails, which has a category called "the best wheelchair-friendly trails in Pennsylvania," and Trail Link, which is the app of the Rails to Trails Conservancy. ♣

—Cindy Ross of New Ringgold, Schuylkill County, is a regular contributor.

Other Accessible Gardens

Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, Allegheny County—The first ADA-accessible community flower garden in Pittsburgh (at Centre and South Aiden avenues) was specifically designed for people with physical challenges and disabilities. Six raised flower beds with wheelchair-accessible pathways as well as specialty gardening tools, including long-reach hoes and trowels and forks, enable volunteers with disabilities, arthritis or other physical limitations to work in the garden. The tools are also available for loan at any garden site in Allegheny County.

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden, Allegheny County—The paved, ADA-accessible Garden of the Five Senses at this Pittsburgh

landmark brings together multiple zones, each one focusing on a different sense: touch, sight, smell, hearing and taste.

Phipps Conservancy and Botanical Gardens, Allegheny County—Located in Schenley Park in Pittsburgh, this garden has more than 2,000 square feet of accessible, permeable pathways that lead to native trees, pollinator-friendly perennials, raised garden beds, accessible garden beds and many benches. Manual wheelchairs are available free of charge on a first-come, first-served basis.

Arboretum at Penn State, Centre County—The H.O. Smith Botanic Gardens features 10 acres of themed garden spaces and another 14 acres of rolling mead-

ows and walking paths. All of the major walkways are accessible.

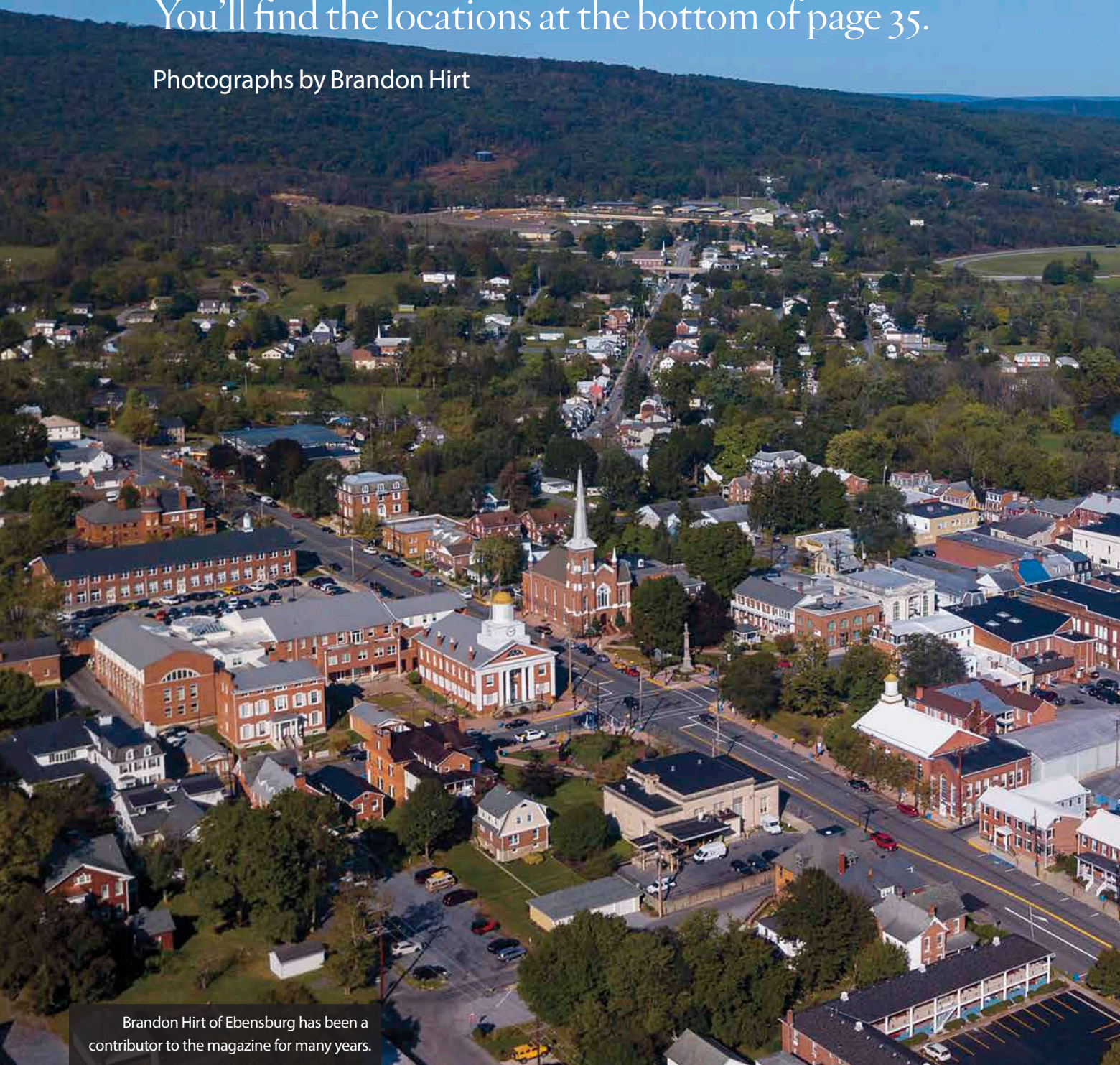
Hershey Gardens, Dauphin County—A mile-long accessible paved or brick walkway is suitable for those with mobility issues, as it requires only mild effort to navigate up and down the inclines. A map shows which pathways are intended for wheelchairs. Be sure to check out the Butterfly Atrium during your visit.

Tyler Arboretum, Delaware County—The 1-mile, ADA-compliant Scenic Loop features paths into the 13-acre Wister Rhododendron Garden, including an ADA-accessible trail to a replica of naturalist and poet Henry David Thoreau's cabin on Walden Pond. 🍄

NAME THE

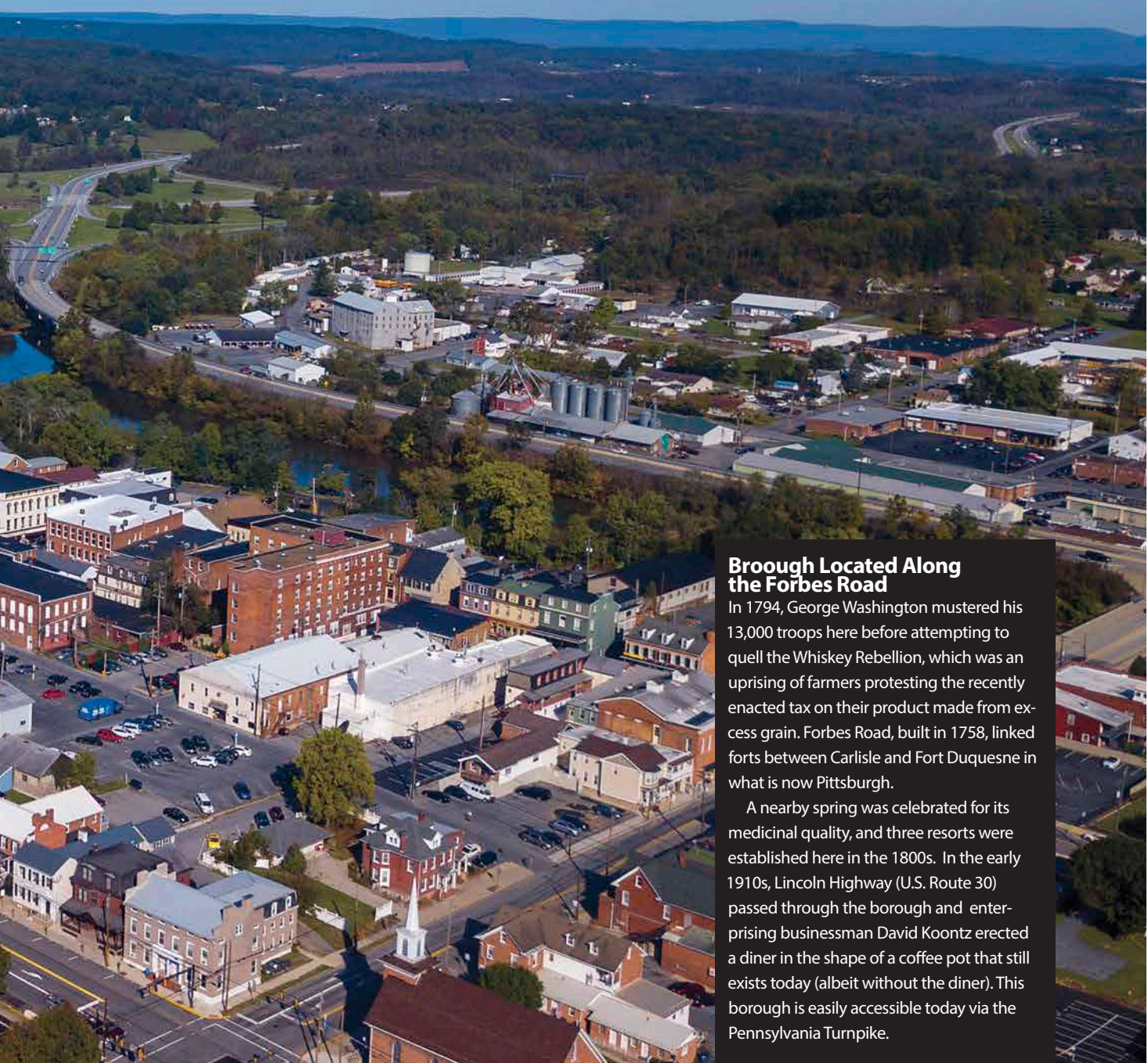
Can you identify where these scenes are in Pennsylvania?
You'll find the locations at the bottom of page 35.

Photographs by Brandon Hirt



Brandon Hirt of Ebensburg has been a contributor to the magazine for many years.

LOCATION



Broough Located Along the Forbes Road

In 1794, George Washington mustered his 13,000 troops here before attempting to quell the Whiskey Rebellion, which was an uprising of farmers protesting the recently enacted tax on their product made from excess grain. Forbes Road, built in 1758, linked forts between Carlisle and Fort Duquesne in what is now Pittsburgh.

A nearby spring was celebrated for its medicinal quality, and three resorts were established here in the 1800s. In the early 1910s, Lincoln Highway (U.S. Route 30) passed through the borough and enterprising businessman David Koontz erected a diner in the shape of a coffee pot that still exists today (albeit without the diner). This borough is easily accessible today via the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Fort Erected to Guard a Specific Mineral

Located near Altoona, this fort (now recreated on the original site) was erected during the Revolutionary War to guard and produce lead to make musket balls and rifle slugs for the Continental Army.

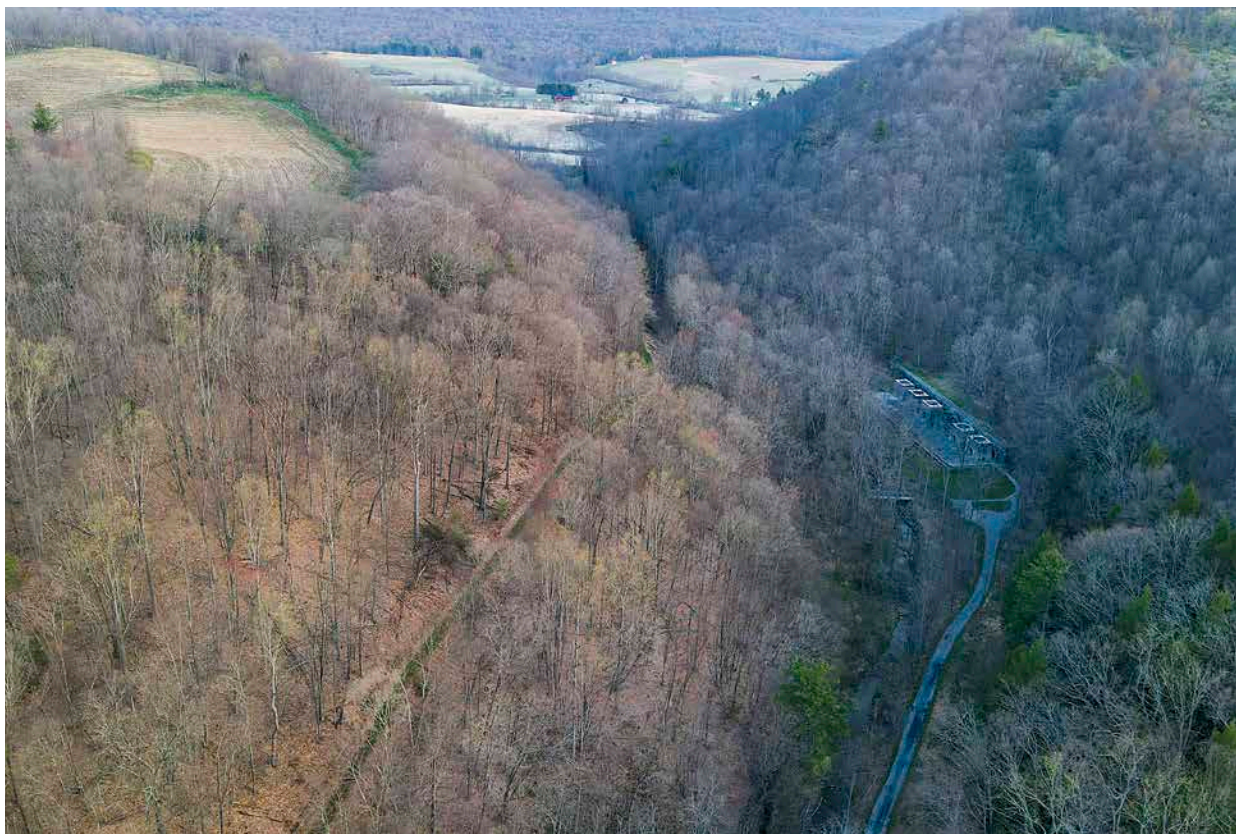
The fort is named for the Pennsylvania general who led the expedition to mine the lead. The walls of the fort are horizontally stacked on stone because of the stony ground at the site.

The fort is open from May through October. The nearby Mount Lion Observatory also offers public sky watch nights.



Lime Kilns Still Standing at this State Park

The Jones and Laughlin Steel Company of Pittsburgh used the limestone kilns that can be seen on the right side of this photograph. In an area of abundant limestone, the kilns were used to treat the stone for use in steel making. Today, this park has a significant colony of little brown bats, and many visitors gather during warm summer nights to watch them emerge from an old limestone mine.





**Steelmaking Powerhouse
Known for a Historic Flood**

The world's steepest vehicular inclined plane, with a grade at 71.9 degrees, brings both residents and tourists up from this city to the borough of Westmont on Yoder Hill. The funicular has been closed for repairs for more than a year but is expected to open this summer.

The funicular was originally funded by the Cambria Iron Company, a major producer of iron and steel that operated here from 1852 to 1992. Today, the steel operation is gone. However, its site has been redeveloped through a combination of state, federal and private sources, and the land now houses light industrial operations as well as the Center for Metal Arts, a school for forging located in the company's former blacksmith shop where some original equipment is still used.



A Ridge of Local Renown Associated with a University

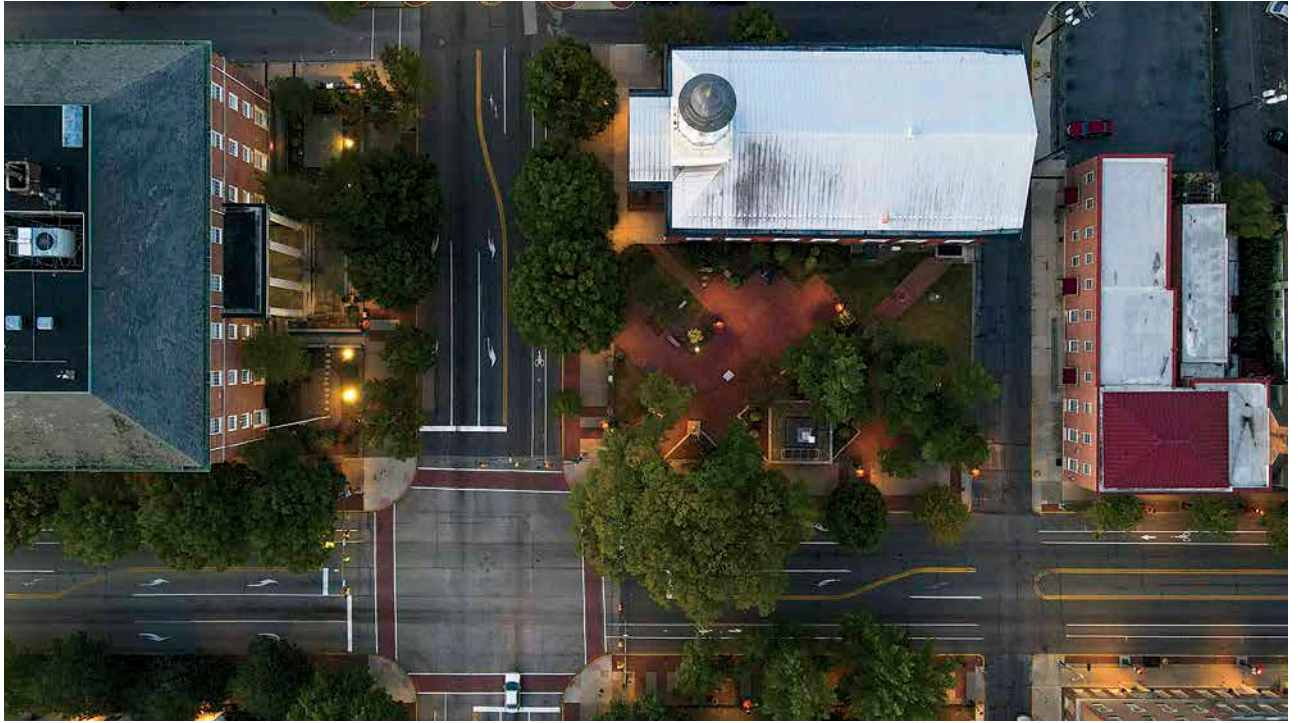
This ridge line runs between Big Mountain on the west and Big Kettle Mountain on the east side. At its base can be found Pennsylvania's largest university, whose mascot is known by the name of this ridge. Interestingly, the name of the university's football stadium, which is also an animal word, is actually named after a Pennsylvania governor.





Hard to Find Falls Rewards with Unique Site

This waterfall depends on rainfall and can range from a trickle to a multi-stream flow. It is located in the Allegheny National Forest, about a mile from a locked gate after traveling a rocky road. The surrounding boulders with their worn surfaces supply most of the interest to this site.

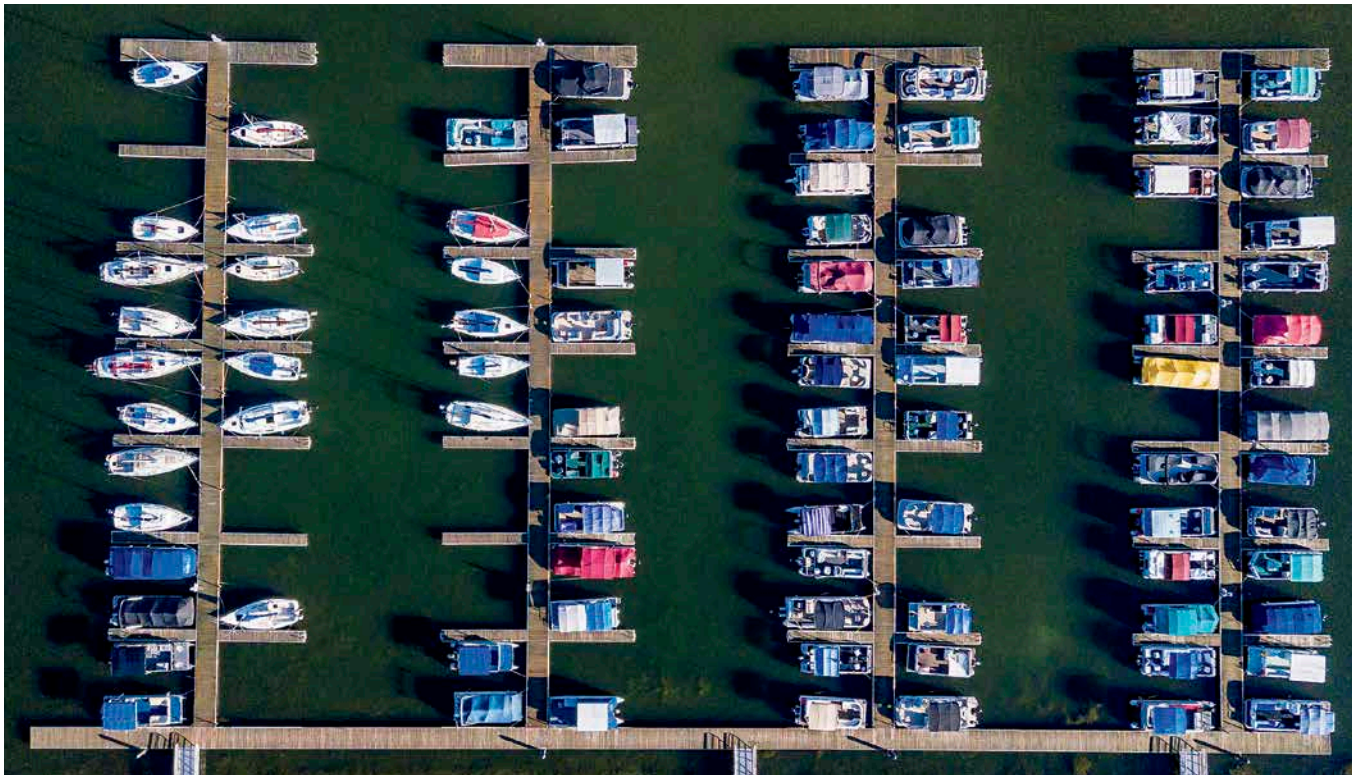


A County Seat Tells Tale of Two Courthouses

This location was the borough of origin for George Washington's effort to quell the Whiskey Rebellion and was the site of the Indian industrial school that bears its name. The old courthouse (with a steeple) has a mark in one of its columns that was made by a Civil War cannonball. A newer courthouse (across the street on the left) was built in 1960-61.

Lake Features Fishing, Sail and Pontoon Boats

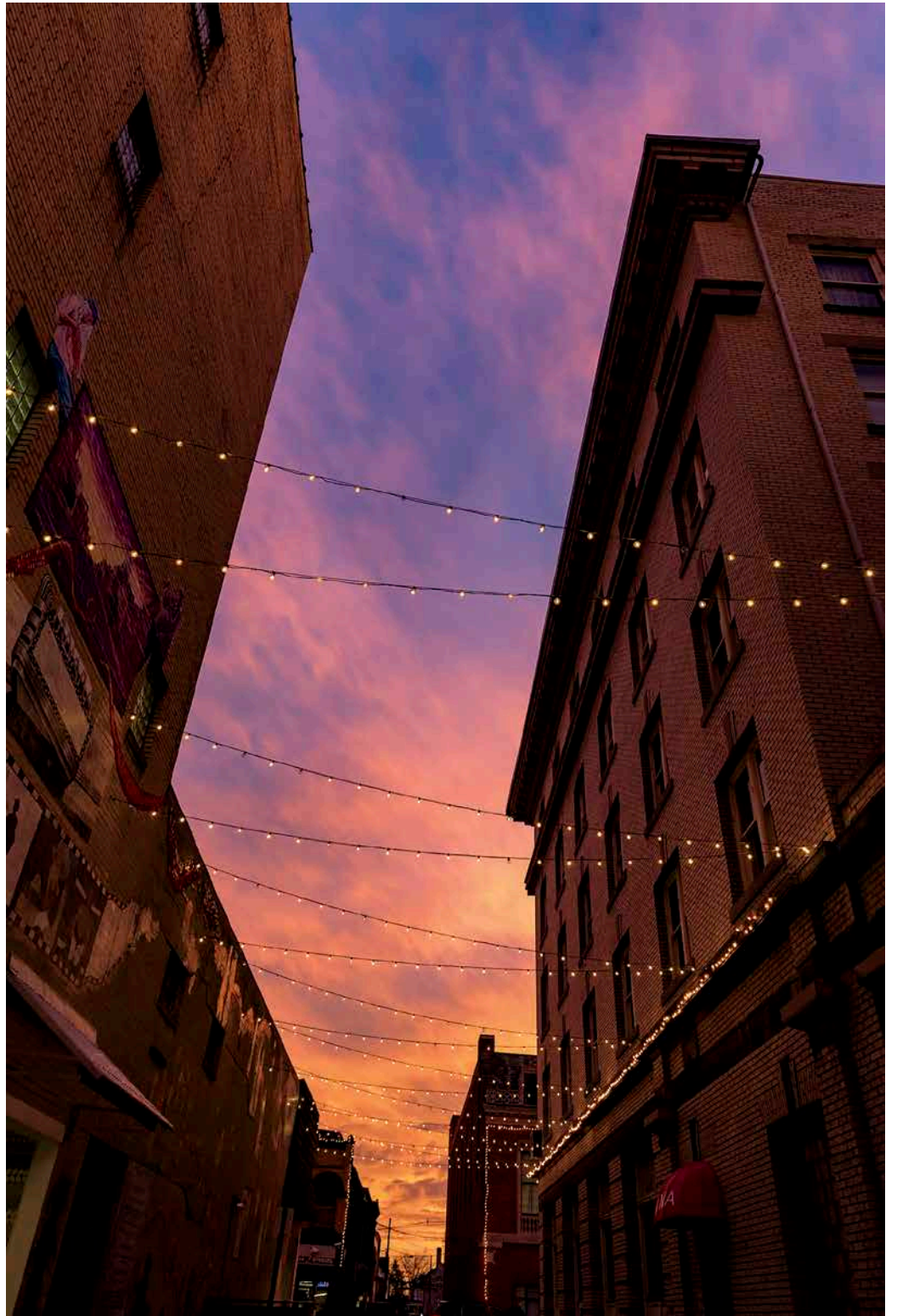
Located within Prince Gallitzin State Park, this lake spans 1,635 acres and has 26 miles of shoreline. The lake is home to a sailing club that holds races and conducts a week-long school in June. Kayakers and windsurfers have also made this lake their own.





Area Settled by Renno Amish from the Big Valley

A group of Amish with black-topped buggies, coming primarily from Mifflin County, first settled in this area around 1988. They have many stores and produce stands throughout this valley, which is in Blair County, northeast of Altoona. The fort on page 28 is located in this area.



Borough Famed as Home of Movie Star

This photo was taken in the hometown of well-known movie star Jimmy Stewart, whose career spanned from the 1930s through 1991. His father operated a hardware store downtown, which is now a bank. Across the street is a museum dedicated to the silver screen star. The borough is also home to a university that shares its name.

Locations by page:

- 26-27: Bedford
- 28, top: Fort Roberdeau
- 33, top: Carlisle
- 33, bottom: Glendale
- 28, bottom: Canoe Creek State Park
- 29: Johnstown
- 34: Sinking Valley
- 35: Indiana
- 30-31: Nittany Ridge

Racing Runabo

Cocktail class wooden boats offer fast, safe way



Boats

by Cindy Ross

to zoom on the water



CINDY ROSS

“Believe me, my young friend, there is nothing—absolutely nothing—half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.”

So says Ratty to Mole in Kenneth Grahame’s classic novel *The Wind in the Willows*

In the 1930s, the idea for a new type of wooden racing boat was born around the table of the MacGregor family who lived on the Connecticut coast. They wanted to put aging Pops MacGregor back on the water but safely and in a boat he could manage.

Since the Haskell Boat Company began manufacturing plywood canoes in 1930, this type of material had a new use in watercraft. In 1939, MacGregor’s children remarked, “Let’s take a 4 x 8 sheet of plywood, cut the center into a boat shape and make an 8-foot boat that Dad can handle.”

Named the Skua, after a predatory water bird in Alaska, Charles MacGregor’s design was published in the August 1939 issue of *Rudder Magazine*. The little boat appealed to both old and young who were looking to compete in powerboat racing where engine sizes are restricted to keep participants safe.

Fast forward nearly 70 years to 2007 when four families from northern Virginia on the Chesapeake decided to build and race old outboards. They chose MacGregor’s Skua design as it was easy to build and looked great. Modifying the 1939 design, they adapted the boat to use a modern motor.

Following an inaugural race attended by family and friends, the plans were finalized and distributed so others could build the vessels, too. The boats were

The mostly homemade racing boat evolved from a 1939 plywood model designed by the MacGregor family on the Connecticut coast. Today, plans and kits are available. Note that helmets are worn by boat pilots when racing.



CINDY ROSS

exhibited at the 2009 Wooden Boat Show in Mystic, Conn., as part of the “I built it myself” display. Many found them to be the perfect fit for a family boat building initiative.

In 2010, six members from the original families formed the Cocktail Class Wooden Boat Racing Association to encourage the building and racing of what they had renamed the “cocktail class racer” in honor of the cocktail hour where the idea was first conceived.

Today, some 350 boats of this class — many named after a cocktail — exist in the world, with some as far away as Germany. Sanctioned boat races are held in five Eastern states: Florida, Maryland, Tennessee, Virginia and Pennsylvania, whose chapter is located in the Lehigh Valley.

Fast and Faster

I AM AT HAYCOCK LANDING on Lake Nockamixon in Bucks County to meet Fred Allerton, the commodore of the Cocktail Class Wooden Boat Racing Association, and Tom Kerr of the Lehigh Valley Chapter, who have agreed to show me these boats in action.

Kerr built his first cocktail class boat in 2013, but his love of boat building reaches back to his childhood. When Kerr was 13, his family moved to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., so his father could pursue boat building after leaving a job as a tool and die maker. Although his business ultimately failed, he instilled a passion for boat building in his son.

Kerr backs his boat down into the water, and as he prepares it for launching, he explains the mechanics of the vessel.

“The steering operates on a non-stretching rope cable,” he says. “There is a gear shift and a gas-controlling handle. It has two speeds, fast and faster.”

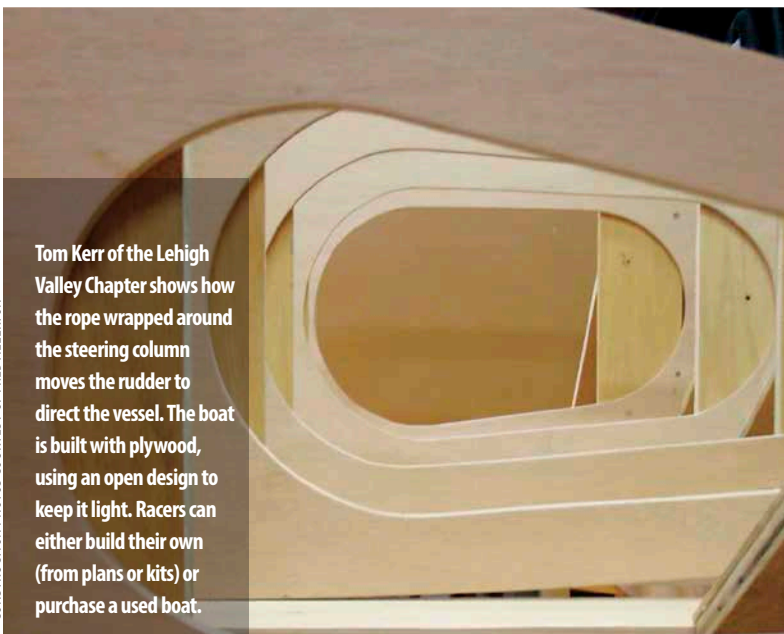
Allerton, who is setting up his boat nearby, tells me, “You can either build these boats yourself, as many people do, or you can search for a used one.”

The association encourages its members to build the craft that they will race. Boats must be constructed to exact specifications (a building manual can be purchased for \$30), and each is inspected prior to racing. A boat costs about \$2,500 to build using wood, fiberglass and epoxy, paint, varnish, hardware and basic steering and rigging parts. Another option is to purchase a cocktail class racer kit, which is sold by Chesapeake Light Craft in Annapolis, Md.

The boat’s plywood bottom is flat at the stern before forming a V at the bow. It has a 1-inch keel to help keep it on a straight course. The motor, whose lower portion is planted in the water, propels the boat forward while acting as a stabilizing rudder to allow the boat to make sharp turns.



Most of the motors used on the boats are 20 to 50 years old and can



Tom Kerr of the Lehigh Valley Chapter shows how the rope wrapped around the steering column moves the rudder to direct the vessel. The boat is built with plywood, using an open design to keep it light. Racers can either build their own (from plans or kits) or purchase a used boat.

CONSTRUCTION PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRED ALLERTON

cost \$400 to \$900. The motor, of which there are 6- and 8-horsepower options, dictates the boat's speed, and the size and age of the motor determines the race class. Kerr will change out three different motors on his boat, which allows him to enter more heats. His oldest motor is from 1966, but he likes the faster, newer motors the best. With a slower motor, a boat travels 17-18 miles per hour while newer 8-horsepower motors provide speeds of 27-28 mph.

"In each race, five or six boats navigate through and around buoys, similar to barrel racing with horses," Kerr explains.

The course, about a half-mile long, is displayed on a chart, which must be memorized before the start of the race. A heat is made up of three races, each about three minutes long. The race begins with a rolling start as boats approach top speed and are up on plane by the time they cross the starting line. Despite the boats' speed, cocktail class races promote sportsmanship and safety above all else.

"Sometimes boats do make contact with each other in tight turns, and occasionally a boat turtles and someone ends up in the water," Kerr says.

His advice for winning a race? "Make a good start and clear turns and avoid penalty points, which are assessed by colliding with a buoy or another boat or leaving the designated course," he says.

Zooming on the Lake

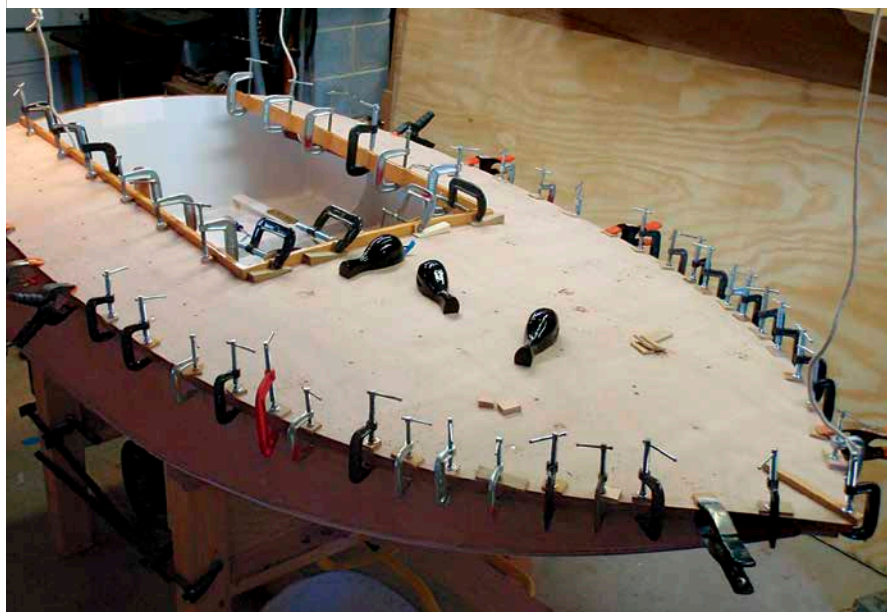
KERR AND ALLERTON TAKE off down the lake, picking up speed and making banked turns before returning to where I am standing and taking photos. Then, it's my turn to go for a ride. Allerton brings his boat to the shore and shows me how to board.

The boat is narrow and can only fit one person, allowing me to reach across to the far gunwale and stabilize it as I climb aboard. I liken it to entering a canoe. There are low foam blocks in the bottom of the boat for me to kneel on and a higher one in the middle for my rear. From this kneeling position, I will be able to shift my body weight to help the boat turn.

Allerton instructs me to always keep one hand on the steering wheel and use the other hand to either work the throttle or rest it on the boat's deck. Kerr shows me the kill switch, which is attached to me on a cord. If I find myself in trouble, I can pull on the cord to shut off the motor.

I snug up my baseball cap and pull it down low. "Ready!" I yell.

As I ease the throttle up, the front of the boat lifts in the air before settling down about halfway. Starting off can be a shock as the boat can skim across the water at about 22 mph. To plane the boat across the water's surface, I lean forward over the front deck before settling back to enjoy the wind in my face. I follow Kerr down Lake Nockamixon,



The boat is driven from a kneeling position and will come up on plane as it reaches maximum speed. The racers will move their bodies forward in the cockpit to balance the boat's weight and keep it stable. With 6- and 8-horsepower motors, speed is limited.



turning when he does and taking corners much wider than he would when racing.

"Tom is the best at cornering," his wife, Carla, tells me later. "He can turn his boat instantly."

I quickly relax as I drive and soon feel like I'm flying over the water. When Kerr takes a turn in front of me, I angle my boat and cut across the wake just as I would if I'm kayaking. After a few runs up and down the lake, I bring the boat back to shore.

"Ready to start racing?" Kerr asks. "It felt like you were going fast, didn't it? That's because you're so close to the surface of the water. Fast is 100 mph as in racing hydroplanes on the Chesapeake Bay.

"When a hydroplane racer grows older and maybe a bit wiser and doesn't want to do stupid anymore," he continues, "he might get into cocktail class racing, going slower and safer."

His wife teasingly says that Kerr has won so many races, his shelves sag from the weight of the trophies. I ask him how he wins so much.

"I build my boats heavier than others," he says. "When maneuvering around turns, the added weight keeps it more stable. Lighter boats get flipped around in the wind and the waves."

A boat has to weight at least 80 pounds, and a driver must weigh 165 pounds or more for the 6-horsepower class and at least 200 pounds for the 8-horsepower class. Because Kerr is slim, he must add ballast to the boat. He places a cloth bank bag with 20 pounds

of lead shot into the hull of his vessel.

Cocktail racing classes include youth and women's divisions, although women will often join with the men in a mixed class. Inexperienced racers tend to race motors with less horsepower.

Kerr's son Chris has two Skuas that he keeps at his parents' house. Last summer, he entered his first race, competing against his dad on the Lehigh River.

"When he circled around the one buoy," Carla says, "he cut the corner too close and cut off his dad, which is a penalty. Tom drove his boat right over top of Chris's boat, with no harm to the boat or the body, except for maybe a bruised ego."

While all racing involves some risk, cocktail class racing is historically safe. In 15 years of sanctioned racing events, there have been no serious incidents.

As Kerr takes his boat out of the water, an onlooker approaches and asks, "Is it fast?" "It feels like you are going fast, but it's like a go-cart in the water," Kerr responds with a laugh. The sport harkens back to his younger days, when he first learned how fun it is to just "mess around in boats."

The Cocktail Class Wooden Boat Racing Association racing season begins in early spring. The Lehigh Valley Chapter holds at least one race, typically on the first Saturday in June at Adams Island on the Lehigh River in Allentown. For more information, visit the nonprofit association's website, ccwbra.com.

—Cindy Ross, a regular contributor, writes from New Ringgold, Schuylkill County.

Contest



PRIZES

Enter at least eight correct items and you'll qualify for a drawing to win one of 10 *Pennsylvania Magazine* T-shirts.

First-, second- and third-place cash prizes will be awarded to the most complete/creative entries.

WILLIAMS GROVE HISTORICAL STEAM ENGINE ASSOC., MECHANICSBURG, IMAGE BY SAM ROB, BOILING SPRINGS

SUPER SUMMER Scavenger Hunt

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PENNSYLVANIA OUTINGS in 2025 by collecting items and selfies for our Super Summer Scavenger Hunt contest. We've made it easy for you by having multiple possibilities for many of the items.

Go to pa-mag.com/2025scavenger, where you'll find the complete list of items and the official entry form: a "scavenger hunt book" to download, print out and paste or tape your items on the pages.

Once you have all of your items in the "book," submit the entry via a USPS Priority Mail Flat Rate envelope. It's a great summer family and friends activity. When you're done, you'll have the entry form "book" as a keepsake, especially if you make an additional copy for yourself. Entry postmark deadline is September 22, 2025.

Note that when an item specifies "someone" or "entrant," that someone should be a member of the entrant's family or a personal friend. The entry form requires identification of all people in the photos.

Good luck and happy hunting in your travels this summer!

S EVEN OF THE 15 ITEMS IN the contest:

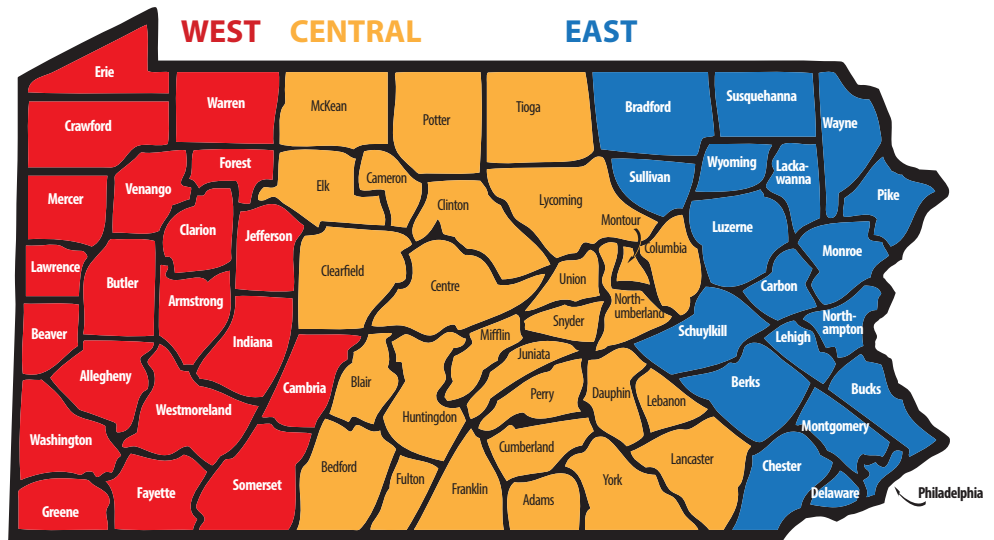
1. A **photo** of you/your family in front of a public sign for the town where you live.
2. A **photo** of the entrant with a steam traction engine (see above).
5. A **photo** of the entrant at a festival that celebrates a town's anniversary, heritage or unique quality. Include, for bonus credit, a town landmark in the photo (in the distance is okay). related element in the background, such as a sign or building—not just an open field).
7. A **photo** of the entrant with the facade of a Carnegie library in a county that is not your own. The library doesn't need to be currently used as a library.
8. A **letter** addressed to the entrant from an official with a local historical society (borough or county level, not state) indicating the person's position and original signature.
10. A **photo** of the entrant with a statue or monument for a sports figure who is identified with Pennsylvania (played for a Pennsylvania team, born here, moved here, etc.)
12. A **ticket or brochure** from a public garden in Pennsylvania in a neighboring region to your own as indicated by our events calendar map on page 42 in this issue.

Go to pa-mag.com/2025scavenger and enter your email address today. We'll email a link to you when the entry form and list of items is ready on Memorial Day.

Events

THESE EVENTS are from May through July. Please remember to confirm information by checking online or calling on a weekday before the event. You may find an event has been changed or canceled due to inclement weather or other reasons.

If your event fits our criteria, we may be able to include a listing of it in a future issue. Send your information (following our format) by mail to Events Calendar, *Pennsylvania Magazine*, P.O. Box 755, Camp Hill 17001-0755, or enter it online at pa-mag.com/send-your-event.



WEST

May 2
SPRING PLOW, PULL DAY & TRACTOR SHOW
Beacon Hotel Corn Maze, Renfrew, Butler Co. 724-799-0362

May 6-16
SENIOR GAMES
Mammoth Park, Greensburg
Westmoreland Co., 724-830-3000

May 10
SPRING FESTIVAL
Johnstown Christian School, Holsopple
Somerset Co., 814-288-2588

May 16-17
MAY MART FLOWER & CRAFT FEST
S & T Bank Arena, Indiana, Indiana Co. 724-541-4318

MUSIC FESTIVAL
Millvale, Allegheny Co., 412-281-7711

May 16-18
ART & MUSIC FESTIVAL
Downtown, Edinboro, Erie Co., 814-734-3777

May 17
WINE FESTIVAL
Shrine Ctr., Pittsburgh, 724-274-7000

250TH ANNIVERSARY OF HANNA'S TOWN
Hanna's Town, Greensburg,
Westmoreland Co., 724-836-1800

May 17-18
NAT'L PIKE STEAM GAS & HORSE SHOW
Fairgrounds, Brownsville, Fayette Co. 724-785-2605

SPRING GAS-UP
Portersville, Butler Co., 724-285-7038

TOUR-DE-FOREST BIKE RIDE
Marienville, Forest Co., 814-927-6609

May 18
ANTIQUÉ BOTTLE SHOW
Alpine Club, Washington Co., 412-405-9061

May 23-24
MAYFEST
Various locations, Fryburg, Clarion Co. 814-354-2620

JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL
Downtown, Indiana, Indiana Co. 724-465-2787

May 29-31
PAN COIN SHOW
Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co. 412-531-4600

WILD RIB COOK-OFF & MUSIC FESTIVAL
Perry Square Park, Erie Co., 814-899-5177

May 30-June 1
POLKAFEST
Johnstown, Cambria Co., 800-237-8590 x 31

June 1
MAMMOTH FEST
Mammoth Park, Westmoreland Co. 724-830-3000

June 5-9
THREE RIVERS ART FESTIVAL
Pittsburgh, 412-456-6666

June 6-8
HISTORIC CANAL DAYS
Canal Park, Saltsburg, Indiana Co. 724-639-9413

BIGFOOT FESTIVAL
National Forest, Marienville,
Allegheny Co., 814-849-5197

STRAWBERRY DAYS ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL
Memorial Park, Grove City, Mercer Co. 724-992-2089

June 7
GARRISON DAY
Central Park, Beaver Co., 724-773-6700

June 7-8
LIVING HISTORY WEEKEND
Cook Forest State Park, Clarion Co. 814-849-5197

THREE RIVERS COMICON
David L. Lawrence Conv. Ctr., Pittsburgh
3riverscomicon.com

June 7-10
SPRINGFEST
Quiet Creek Herb Farm, Brookville, Jefferson Co. 814-849-9662

June 7-12
BBQ & BREW FEST
Townsend Park, New Brighton, Beaver Co. 724-843-4600

June 7-September 6, Saturdays
GIBSON DAYS
Gibson Park, North East, Erie Co., 814-460-9550

June 12-15
HOT AIR BALLOON EVENTS
Allegheny College Sports Complex, Meadville
Crawford Co., 814-336-4000

PARTS-A-RAMA
Fairgrounds, Prospect, Butler Co. 412-366-7154

June 13-15
DIAMOND KLASSIC
Park West, Monroeville, Allegheny Co. 866-675-2955 x 706

BANTAM JEEP HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Bantam property, Portersville, Butler Co. 724-234-2291

June 14
HERB FAIRE
Dillweed B&B, Dilltown, Indiana Co. 814-446-6465

June 14-15
BLUES & BARBECUE FESTIVAL
 City Park, Franklin, Allegheny Co.
 814-671-1497

FRONTIER COURT REENACTMENT DAYS
 Historic Hanna's Town, Greensburg
 Westmoreland Co., 724-836-7800

CALL AHEAD! Many factors can cause an event to be canceled or postponed. Call ahead or search online.

June 14-21 & June 26-28
LAUREL EYE MONSTER FEST
 Fairgrounds, Brookville, Jefferson Co.
 844-376-6061

June 15
GREENSBURG COIN SHOW
 Vol. Fire Dept., Circleville, Westmoreland Co.
 724-989-0365

June 15-21
AG & YOUTH FAIR
 Fairgrounds, Sykesville, Jefferson Co.
 814-894-7871

June 19-21
SUMMER EXPO & FLEA MKT.
 Coolspring Power Museum, Jefferson Co.
 814-849-6883

June 19-22
JUNETEENTH FESTIVAL
 Mellon Park, Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co.
 724-205-9376

June 24-28
MOUNTAIN AREA FAIR
 Farmington Vol. Fire Dept., Fayette Co.
 info@mtareafair.org

June 26
WHEELS & WINGS
 Downtown, Ebensburg, Cambria Co.
 814-472-8780

SUMMER NIGHT MARKET
 Downtown, Greensburg, Westmoreland Co.

June 27-July 5
FAIR
 Fairgrounds, Prospect, Butler Co., 724-865-2400

June 28-29
RIVERFEST
 Rices Landing, Lockwall, Greene Co.
 724-256-4050

June 28
BEAVER COUNTY BOOM
 Bridgewater, Beaver Co., 724-770-2091

SUMMER BIRD FAIR
 River's Edge VFD, Braddock, Allegheny Co.
 724-814-4702

June 29
CRAFT FAIR & CRUISE-IN
 Fairgrounds, Pittsfield, Warren Co.
 814-563-9386

June 29-July 5
WOLF'S CORNER FAIR
 Wolf's Corner, Tionesta, Clarion Co.
 814-755-4546

July 3
FESTIVAL IN THE PARK
 Barclay Square, Punxsutawney, Jefferson Co.
 814-849-5197

July 3-6
ARTS & HERITAGE FESTIVAL
 Twin Lakes Park, Latrobe, Westmoreland Co.
 724-834-7474

July 4
OLD-FASHIONED FOURTH OF JULY
 Brockway, Jefferson Co., 814-265-0628

July 4-5
FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION
 Betts Park, Warren Co., 604-688-0094

July 4-6
ARTS, CRAFTS & FOOD FESTIVAL
 Ewing Park, Elwood City, Lawrence Co.
 724-971-7784

July 5-7
RED, WHITE & BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
 Reynoldsville, Jefferson Co., 814-849-5197

July 9-12
GRANGE FAIR
 Fairgrounds, Mercer, Mercer Co., 724-748-4115

July 10-12
CRANBERRY COMMUNITY DAYS
 Twp. Community Park, Venango Co.
 724-776-4806

July 11-12
WHISKEY REBELLION
 Bradford House, Washington, Washington Co.
 724-222-3604

SUMMERFEST
 Emlenton, Venango Co., 724-867-5751

July 11-13
SLOVENFEST
 SNPJ Rec. Ctr., Enon Valley, Lawrence Co.
 877-767-5732

JACKSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL
 Veteran's Memorial Park, Mineral Point
 Cambria Co., 814-948-4444

July 12
HOPEWELL FEST
 Community Park, Aliquippa, Beaver Co.
 724-462-6236

July 12-13
STAMP SCRAP ART TOUR
 Convention Ctr., Monroeville, Allegheny Co.
 727-644-0590

WOODCARVING SHOW
 Sawmill Art Ctr., Cooksburg, Clarion & Forest Co.
 814-927-6655

HERITAGE DAYS
 Riverside Park, Greenville, Mercer Co.
 724-456-3180

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 Sunday 12pm-5pm

JULY JAMBOREE
 Geary Farm, McDonald
 Allegheny-Washington Co., 724-467-0978

July 13
FIREWORKS FESTIVAL FREEDOM FAIR
 Downtown, New Castle, Lawrence Co.
 724-652-5144

July 13-19
COUNTY FAIR
 Fairgrounds, Brookville, Jefferson Co.
 814-265-0640

DERRY TWP. AG FAIR
 Fairgrounds, New Derry, Westmoreland Co.
 724-561-6832

July 14-19
SEWICKLEY COMMUNITY FAIR
 Fairgrounds, West Newton, Westmoreland Co.
 724-872-8741

July 15-19
JACKTOWN FAIR
 Wind Ridge, Greene Co., 724-428-3842

July 17-19
HORSE TRADING DAYS
 Downtown, Zelienople, Butler Co.
 412-995-8401

SHANNOCK VALLEY COMMUNITY FESTIVAL
 Rural Valley Park, Armstrong Co., 814-229-5654

July 17-20
CRABTREE FESTIVAL
 Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Westmoreland Co.
 412-554-7313

TEKKO (ANIME CONVENTION)
 David L. Lawrence Convention Center
 Pittsburgh, registration@pittjcs.org

July 18
CHRISTMAS IN JULY
 Idlewild Park, Ligonier, Westmoreland Co.
 724-463-7505

DISCOVER OUR SUPER SUMMER Scavenger Hunt

FOR DETAILS, GO ONLINE
pa-mag.com/2025scavenger

ENTRY DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 22.

Events

July 18-20

STEAM & GAS ENGINE SHOW
Pioneer Show Grounds, Saegertown
Crawford Co., 814-663-1291

KECKSBURG UFO FESTIVAL
Vol. Fire Dept., Kecksburg, Westmoreland Co.
724-423-9540

WATERFORD HERITAGE DAYS
Downtown, Erie Co., 814-796-4817

July 21-23

MID-SUMMER FESTIVAL
Conneaut Lake Park, Crawford Co.
814-529-2267

July 21-27

PRESQUE ISLE DAYS
Presque Isle State Park, Erie Co., 814-838-5144

CALL AHEAD / Check Online

Some events may be changed, canceled, altered
or postponed due to weather or other reasons.

July 23-27

OIL HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Oil City, Venango Co., 814-676-8521

July 24-26

FLYING RANCH RODEO
Flying W Ranch, Tionesta, Forest Co.
814-463-7663

July 24-27

**ANTIQUE TRACTOR
& ENGINE SHOW**
Fairgrounds, Stoneboro, Mercer Co.
724-264-4274

July 24-August 2

COUNTY FAIR
Fairgrounds, Dunbar, Fayette Co.
724-628-3360

July 25

WORLD WAR II ENCAMPMENT
Historic Hanna's Town, Greensburg
Westmoreland Co., 724-836-1800

July 25-26

MUSIC FESTIVAL
Chaffee Campground, Girard, Erie Co.
814-434-2539

July 26

CHRISTMAS IN JULY
Perry Street Station, Titusville, Crawford Co.
814-676-1733

July 26-27

ARTS FESTIVAL
Rodney White Olympic Park, Hermitage
Mercer Co., 724-383-8191

July 26-September 20

WATERFIRE SHARON
Sharon, Mercer Co., 724-981-5882

July 31-August 3

FOLK FESTIVAL
Riverfront Park, Kittanning, Armstrong Co.
724-543-6363

CENTRAL

May 1

EGGSPLOSION CRAFT SHOW
Blue Heron Events, Greencastle, Franklin Co.
717-830-6337

May 2-4

**LOYALSOCK VALLEY ANTIQUE
MACHINERY SHOW**
Trout Run, Lycoming Co., 570-916-9155

May 3

MAYFEST
Maytown, Lancaster Co., 717-426-0225

SPRING FLING

Danville, Montour Co., 570-284-4502

May 3-4

ACROSS THE CENTURIES
Historical Site, Fort Loudoun, Franklin Co.
717-372-5945

May 9-10

HERB & GARDEN FAIRE
Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster Co.
717-581-0951

SPRING STEAM UP

Rough & Tumble, Kinzers, Lancaster Co.
717-442-4249

SPRING FLING CRAFT SHOW

Expo Ctr., York, 443-797-4632

May 10

HIDDEN SPRINGS FLING
Hidden Springs Farm, York, York Co.
717-676-5171

**SPRING EXTRAVAGANZA
CRAFT SHOW**

Recreation Drive, Williamsburg, Blair Co.
814-832-9443

COMMUNITY DAYS

Memorial Park, Duncansville, Blair Co.
814-695-5928

CRAFT SHOW

Way Fruit Farm, Port Matilda, Centre Co.
814-692-5211

RED ROSE CLASSIC DOG SHOW

Expo Ctr., Lebanon, Lebanon Co., 717-823-2501

PUBLICLY Tyme

Dill's Tavern, Dillsburg, 717-502-1440

ARTFEST

Englewood Barn, Hershey, Dauphin Co.
717-520-0748

OPEN HOUSE

Light's Fort 1742, Lebanon, 717-304-2093

May 14-17

MOUNTVILLE DAYS
Froelich Park, Mountville, Lancaster Co.
717-682-2369

May 15-18

OLD TRAIN DAYS / SPRING SHOW
Williams Grove Showgrounds, Mechanicsburg
Cumberland Co., 717-766-4001

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Granite Hill Campgrounds, Gettysburg
Adams Co., 717-642-8749

May 16

LOGS TO LUMBER
Curwensville, Clearfield Co., 814-236-1100

May 16-17

RHUBARB FESTIVAL
Kitchen Kettle Village, Intercourse
Lancaster Co., 717-738-8261

**IMPORT & PERFORMANCE
NATIONALS**

Fairgrounds, Carlisle, 717-243-7855

May 16-18

GREEK FESTIVAL
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral
Camp Hill, Cumberland Co., 717-763-7442

May 17

PETALOOZA FESTIVAL
Central Penn College, Summerdale
Cumberland Co., 765-426-9547

SPRING ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Graystone Road, Manheim, Lancaster Co.
717-898-6297

CAR & TRUCK SHOW

Waynesboro, Franklin Co., 717-762-0397

MARIETTA DAY

Marietta, Lancaster Co., 717-426-4350

UNION CANAL DAYS

Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon
Lebanon Co., 717-272-1473

FANDOM FEST

Downtown, Chambersburg, Franklin Co.
717-261-0072

BARK BASH

South Mall, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
272-200-8163

May 17-18

TROUT TOURNAMENT
Kish Creek, Reedsville, Mifflin Co.
717-667-6110

FIBER FESTIVAL

Fairgrounds, Hughesville, Lycoming Co.
207-240-4269

May 18-24

SOARING CHAMPIONSHIP
Airport, Reedsville, Mifflin Co., 717-248-6713

May 24

COUNTRY MEMORIES DAY
McVeytown, Mifflin Co., 814-207-5095

May 24-25

AIR SHOW AT HIA
Harrisburg International Airport, 321-395-3110

May 24-26

ARTSFEST
Riverfront Park, Harrisburg, 717-238-5180

May 25-26

ANTHRACITE HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Market Square, Shamokin
Northumberland Co., 570-850-9121

May 31

COMMUNITY DAYS
Adamstown Grove, Adamstown, Lancaster Co.
717-484-4973

CRAFT FAIR

Hufnagle Park, Lewistown, Union Co.
570-523-1743

May 30-June 1

ANTIQUE MACHINERY SHOW
Penn's Cave, Centre Co., 814-364-9340

COUNTRY S'MORE JAM FESTIVAL
Deer Run Camping Resort, Gardners, Adams Co.
717-486-8168

June 4-8

**MOUNTAIN LAUREL
AUTOHARP GATHERING**
University, Shippensburg, Cumberland Co.
844-994-9939

BRASS BAND FESTIVAL

5 Battalion Lane, Gettysburg, Adams Co.
717-334-7719

June 6

A TASTE OF LITITZ
Lititz Farmers Market, Lititz, Lancaster Co.
717-626-6332

June 6-8

STREET ROD NATIONALS EAST
Expo Ctr., York, 717-848-6736

FORD NATIONALS

Fairgrounds, Carlisle, 717-243-7855

June 7

GOD'S COUNTRY MARATHON
Galeton to Coudersport, Potter Co.
814-558-9739

ARTS & BREW FEST

Glen Rock, York Co., 717-676-1812

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Mt. Airy Orchards, Dillsburg, York Co.
717-432-2544

FOUNDRY DAY FESTIVAL

Boiling Springs, Cumberland Co., 717-245-9169

WINE FESTIVAL

Fairgrounds, Bloomsburg, Columbia Co.
570-784-4949

June 7-8

CIVIL WAR REENACTMENT
Old Bedford Village, Bedford, Bedford Co.
814-623-1156

OUTDOOR FESTIVAL

Codorus State Park, Hanover, York Co.
717-632-2916

FIBER FESTIVAL

Shupp's Grove, Reinholds, Lancaster Co.
717-484-4115

LANCASTER VEGFEST

Buchanan Park, Lancaster, Lancaster Co.
717-332-6891

June 8

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
Warrior Run Church, Watsontown
Northumberland Co., 570-490-8279

June 12-14
GOURD FEST
Expo Ctr. Fairgrounds, Lebanon, Lebanon Co.
717-586-8456

June 13-14
THE BELLEFONTE CRUISE
Downtown, Bellefonte, Centre Co.
814-355-2917

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL
County Courthouse, McConnellsburg
Fulton Co., 717-485-4064

June 13-15
SCI-FI VALLEY CON
Convention Ctr., Altoona, Blair Co.
814-410-7252

GEM MINER'S JUBILEE
Expo Fairgrounds, Lebanon Co., 301-807-9745

June 13-21
CARNIVAL/FESTIVAL
Mont Alto Fire Dept., Franklin Co., 717-749-5151

June 14
CRAFTS IN THE PARK
Spring Park, Lititz, Lancaster Co., 717-626-8981

FAIR
Hoffer Park, Middletown, Dauphin Co.
717-574-6716

OLD ANNVILLE DAY
Annville, Lebanon Co., 717-480-1584

SUMMER DAZE FESTIVAL
Downtown, Milton, Northumberland Co.
570-412-1653

DAY IN THE PARK
Conestoga Memorial Park, Lancaster Co.
717-327-4811

June 14-22
PA STATE LAUREL FESTIVAL
Wellsboro, Tioga Co., 570-724-1926

June 15 & 22
ROCK THE BLOCK
Downtown, Bedford, Bedford Co.
814-623-1771

June 17-21
SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY FLY-IN
Piper Memorial Airport, Lock Haven, Clinton Co.
570-893-4200

June 19
JUBILEE DAY
Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Co., 717-796-0811

June 19-21
SMOKE COUNTRY JAM
Quiet Oaks Campground, Cross Fork, Potter Co.
570-660-0562

June 19-22
AGAPE FEST
Agape Farm, Shirleysburg, Huntingdon Co.
800-327-6921

June 20-21
FOUNTAIN FESTIVAL
Newville, Cumberland Co., 717-776-7633

HERITAGE DAYS
Community Park, Intercourse, Lancaster Co.
717-768-8585

WHEEL HORSE SHOW
South Mt., Fairgrounds, Arendtsville
Adams Co., 717-266-2711

GM NATIONALS
Fairgrounds, Carlisle, 717-243-7855

June 20-22
MARKET FAIR
Fort Loudoun, Franklin Co., 717-372-5945

June 20-26
BLUEGRASS BASH
Fairgrounds, Bedford, Bedford Co., 814-623-9011

June 21
NATURE & ARTS FESTIVAL
Ned Smith Ctr., Millersburg, Dauphin Co.
717-692-3699

**THUNDER ON THE RIVER
CAR SHOW**
Downtown, Columbia, Lancaster Co.
717-684-5249

MARKET ON THE SQUARE
Center Square, New Oxford, Adams Co.
717-624-2800

SUMMER CRUISE-IN
AACA Museum, Hershey, Dauphin Co.
717-566-7100

PENN-MAR IRISH FESTIVAL
Markets at Shrewsbury, Glen Rock, York Co.
678-701-6114

SUMMER CRAFT SHOW
Expo Ctr., Lebanon Co., 570-573-5528

June 21-22
CRAFT FAIR
Foundry 48 Event Ctr., Lititz, Lancaster Co.
610-570-2343

June 25-29
BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL
Grange Fairgrounds, Centre Hall, Mifflin Co.
717-348-3537

June 27-28
ANTIQUÉ SHOW
Warwick Middle School, Lititz, Lancaster Co.
717-626-6332

BARBECUE FESTIVAL
Downtown, Delta, York Co., 410-877-5269

June 27-29
OLDE TYME DAYS SHOW
Fawn Grove, York Co., 717-818-7612

June 28
CHERRY FAIR & CRAFT SHOW
Schaeffer Farm, Schaefferstown, Lebanon Co.
717-949-2244

ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL
Community Park, New Holland, Lancaster Co.
703-282-6959

June 28-29
ART IN THE WILDS
Evergreen Park, Kane, McKean Co., 814-837-7167

WILD WEST WEEKEND
Old Bedford Village, Bedford Co., 814-623-0048

RIVERFEST
Columbia, Lancaster Co., 717-449-5607

LAVENDER FESTIVAL
Blue Sparrow Farm, Milton, Northumberland
Co., 570-989-0902

June 28-July 4
PINEKNOTTERS DAYS
King St. Park, Northumberland Co.
570-523-1691

July 5-6
BARK PEELERS' FESTIVAL
PA Lumber Museum, Ulysses, Potter Co.
814-435-2652

July 5-7
WEEKEND IN THE WILDS
Emporium, Cameron Co., 814-849-5197

July 6-12
COUNTY FAIR
Chambersburg, Franklin Co., 717-597-8178

July 6-7
**BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG
REENACTMENT**
David Lady Farm, Adams Co., 717-778-7760

July 9-12
HERITAGE DAYS
Phillipsburg, Centre Co., 814-342-3440

MASON-DIXON FAIR
Delta, York Co., 410-836-1353

July 10-12
**SUSQUEHANNA TRAIL
PERFORMANCE RALLY**
Wellsboro, Tioga Co., stpr.org

ART IN THE ORCHARD
Way Fruit Farm, Port Matilda, Centre Co.
814-692-5211

July 10-13
PEOPLE'S CHOICE FESTIVAL
Grange Park, Centre Hall, Centre Co.
814-692-1059

July 10-14
FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS
Downtown & Penn State Campus
State College, Centre Co., 814-237-3682

July 11-12
SIDEWALK DAYS
Greencastle, Franklin Co., 717-597-4610

July 11-13
4-WHEEL JAMBOREE NATIONALS
Fairgrounds, Bloomsburg, Columbia Co.
973-558-2000

JACKSON HERITAGE FESTIVAL
Veterans Memorial Park, Mineral Point
Cambria Co., 814-948-4444

CHRYSLER NATIONALS
Fairgrounds, Carlisle, 717-243-7855

July 12
SNACK TOWN STREET FAIR
Downtown, Hanover, York Co., 717-637-6130

CRAFT FAIR
Main Street, Hummelstown, Dauphin Co.
717-601-2009

BLUEGRASS ON THE GRASS
Dickinson College, Carlisle, Cumberland Co.
717-245-1900

July 12-13
MAPLE CITY CLASSIC TRACTOR
Fairgrounds, Meyersdale, Somerset Co.
814-629-6774

July 15-20
FRONTIER DAYS RODEO
Rodeo Grounds, Benton, Columbia Co.
570-925-6536

July 17-20
**TUSCARORA VALLEY
HERITAGE DAYS**
Rte. 75, East Waterford, Juniata Co.
717-248-6713

July 18
DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
Grandview Vineyard, Mt. Joy, Lancaster Co.
717-251-1016

July 18-19
ALL BREEDS JEEP SHOW
Fairgrounds, Carlisle, Cumberland Co.
717-309-0513

July 18-20
WWII WEEKEND
Test Track, Berwick, Columbia Co.
570-956-3630

July 18-27
YORK STATE FAIR
Fairgrounds, York Co., 717-848-2596

July 18-August 2
**ENDLESS MOUNTAIN
MUSIC FESTIVAL**
Various sites, Wellsboro, Tioga Co.
570-787-7800

July 19
BREWFEST
Ft. Hunter Park, Harrisburg, 717-599-5751

OLD MARKET DAY
Chambersburg, Franklin Co., 717-261-0072

BLUEBERRIES BLUEGRASS
Community Park, Mifflinburg, Union Co.
570-966-1013

CHRISTMAS IN JULY
Downtown, Mt. Carmel, Northumberland Co.
570-556-9851

July 19-20
CIVIL WAR DAYS
Landis Valley Museum, Lancaster Co.
717-581-0951

July 19-26
FAIR
Lebanon, Lebanon Co., 717-867-1924

Events

LEBANON AREA FAIR

Fairgrounds, Lebanon Co., 717-273-3795

July 20

ANTIQUES IN THE GROVE

Rotary Field, Selinsgrove, Snyder Co.
570-374-8992

July 21-26

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FAIR

Arendtsville, Adams Co., 717-677-9663

COMMUNITY FAIR

Fairgrounds, Shippensburg, Cumberland Co.
717-532-3800

CALL AHEAD / Check Online

Some events may be changed, canceled, altered or postponed due to weather or other reasons.

COMMUNITY FAIR

Montour-DeLong Fairgrounds, Washingtonville
Montour Co., 570-437-2178

July 25

DOWNTOWN SHUTDOWN

Downtown, Ebensburg, Cambria Co.
814-472-8780

July 25-26

FLOOD CITY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Johnstown, Cambria Co., 814-539-1889

SCRAPBOOK CONVENTION

Convention Ctr., Lancaster Co., 801-816-8331

JOHN DEERE DAYS

Rough & Tumble, Kinzer, Lancaster Co.
717-442-4249

July 26

EBENSBURG HOMECOMING

Lake Rowena, Cambria Co., 814-472-8780

OUTDOOR ART SHOW

Springs Park, Litzitz, Lancaster Co., 717-471-6946

July 26-27

ELK EXPO

Visitors Ctr., Benezette, Elk Co., 814-849-5197

WWII WEEKEND

Schaeffer Farm, Schaefferstown, Lebanon Co.
717-949-2244

July 28-Aug 1

MORRISON COVE DAIRY SHOW

Martinsburg, Blair Co., 814-793-5328

EAST

May 3

FOOD, WINE & CRAFT FAIR

Memorial Park, Macungie, Lehigh Co.
610-570-9825

COLONIAL MAY FAIR

Pottsgrove Manor, Pottstown, Montgomery Co.
610-326-4014

TOY, COMIC & CARD SHOW

Charles Chrin Comm. Ctr., Allentown
Lehigh Co., 610-573-3695

ART FESTIVAL

Glenside, Montgomery Co., 215-843-4462

SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK

Historic Dreibelbis Farm, Virginville, Berks Co.
610-488-7896

May 3-4

MINERAL & GEM SHOW

Farmer's Market, Leesport, Berks Co.
610-926-1307

VALLEY ARTS 4-ALL ARTS & CRAFTS FESTIVAL

Riverfront Park, Sayre, Bradford Co.
570-888-9102

SPRING CRAFT SHOW

Farmers Mkt., Quakertown, Bucks Co.
215-536-4115

May 4

SPRING CRAFT SHOW

Hometown Farmers Mkt., Tamaqua
Schuylkill Co., 570-943-2707

HOME AND GARDEN FESTIVAL

Chestnut Hill Visitors Ctr., Philadelphia
215-247-6696

May 4-10

PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

Wayne Art Ctr., Wayne, Delaware Co.
610-688-3553

Mar 7-9

PET EXPO

Expo Ctr., Oaks, Montgomery Co.
631-423-0620

May 8-10

APPLE DUMPLING FESTIVAL

Willow Glen Park, Sinking Spring, Berks Co.
610-777-6388

May 9-11

CRAFT FAIR

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia
717-431-8706

May 10

SPRING CRAFT FAIR

Farmers Market, Leesport, Berks Co.
610-926-1307

SPRING FEST 2025

Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, 215-508-2358

May 10-11

SPRING, GUN & MILITIA SHOW

Fairgrounds, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
610-438-9006

FINE ART & CRAFT SHOW

Historic Downtown, Bethlehem
Lehigh-Northampton Co., 484-838-3483

May 10-12

TOWAMENCIN TWP. COMMUNITY DAY

Fischer's Park, Harleysville, Montgomery Co.
215-368-7602

May 15-18

ARTS FIESTA

Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne Co.
570-236-6304

May 16-18

SPORTS CARD SHOW

Berkshire Mall, Wyomissing, Berks Co.
215-359-7789

May 17

SPRING WINE FESTIVAL

Skippack, Montgomery Co., 610-584-1155

CHOCOLATE & WINE FESTIVAL

Chestnut St., Montrose, Susquehanna Co.
570-278-1230

ARTS ALIVE

Downtown, Quakertown, Bucks Co.
215-536-2273

May 17-18

CHRISTMAS CITY WINE FESTIVAL

Downtown, Bethlehem
Lehigh-Northampton Co., 610-462-1780

TILE FESTIVAL

Moravian Pottery & Tile Works, Doylestown
Bucks Co., 215-348-6098

ITALIAN MARKET FESTIVAL

Ninth St., S. Philadelphia, 215-278-2903

May 21-June 1

DEVON HORSE SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR

Horse Showgrounds, Chester Co.
810-688-2554

May 23-25

MAY FAIR FESTIVAL

Cedar Creek College, Allentown, Lehigh Co.
610-740-3762

THE GEEKDOM CON

Greater Phila. Expo Ctr., Oaks
Montgomery Co., 609-350-2624

FARM ANIMAL FROLIC

Quiet Valley Historical Farm, Stroudsburg
Monroe Co., 570-992-6161

May 29-June 1

NEPA BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Lazy Brook Park, Tunkhannock, Wyoming Co.
570-721-2760

May 31

COMMUNITY DAY

Brown St. Park, Spring City, Chester Co.
610-970-0512

ART & FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Perkiomen Valley H.S., Collegeville
Montgomery Co., 610-489-1230

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL

Westward, Easton, Northampton Co.
484-264-6630

June 5-8

BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Mountain View Park, Wind Gap
Northampton Co., 973-584-2324

June 6-8

WWII WEEKEND

Mid-Atlantic Air Museum, Reading, Berks Co.
610-372-7333

FINE ART SHOW

Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia, 610-299-1343

June 7

IRISH FESTIVAL

Haverford Sch. Dist., Haverford, Delaware Co.
610-996-0841

OUTDOOR ARTS & CRAFTS

Whitefield House, Nazareth, Northampton Co.
610-759-5070

STREET FAIR

Phila. Ave., Boyertown, Berks Co., 610-307-2591

ARTS FESTIVAL & CAR SHOW

Downtown, Conshohocken, Montgomery Co.
484-532-8144

ARTS FESTIVAL

Main Street, Lansdale, Montgomery Co.
215-989-2262

June 7-8

WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

The Resort at Split Rock, Lake Harmony
Luzerne Co., 570-722-9111

June 8

CARS AND COOKIES

Memorial Park Bldg., Macungie, Lehigh Co.
610-439-2337

TURK'S HEAD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Everhart Hall, West Chester, Chester Co.
610-436-9010

June 12-14

KEMPTON FAIR

Fairgrounds, Berks Co., 610-756-6444

June 13-14

EDWARDSVILLE PIEROGI FESTIVAL

Main St., Kingston, Luzerne Co., 570-287-1597

ARTS FESTIVAL

Downtown, Amber, Montgomery Co.
215-646-1000 x 121

June 13-15

A FLY IN / DRIVE IN

Golden Age Air Museum, Bethel, Berks Co.
717-933-9566

PATRIOT DAYS

Daniel Boone Homestead, Birdsboro, Berks Co.
610-582-4900

BALLOON FESTIVAL

Willowdale, Kennett Square, Chester Co.
445-8915-2138

June 14

TASTE OF KUTZTOWN

Community Park, Kutztown, Berks Co.
610-944-5992

CAT CON 2025

Palmer Park Mall, Easton, Northampton Co.
272-200-8163

WEST PARK ARTS FEST

Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, 215-473-7810

June 16-21

PLEIN AIR 2025

Downtown, W. Reading, Berks Co., 610-375-9122

TOWN & COUNTRY

A TRAIL RUNS THROUGH IT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

Halfway Dam was the first place I visited for a hike. In 2019, 500 trees were struck down by a passing tornado, including 100 pine trees that had been planted by Civilian Conservation Corps members in 1933. Today, six years after the destruction, the park is filled with cool winds and the scent of pine. I continue to escape to this area at least once a year and have repeatedly retraced my steps on this section of the Mid State Trail.

As I enter Hills Creek State Park in Tioga County during the final leg of my journey, it's raining once again to the west of me. The air is warm, and the sun is golden. Even though my head is down and I am in pain, I use this quiet moment to reflect at the birthdays, holidays and overnight trips I have spent on the trail.

Having now completed my goal to trek all of the Mid State Trail, I am thankful for those who have hiked with me, shuttled me and taught me about this path. While I was determined and passionate about my trek, I learned to give myself grace during the difficult parts.

A popular saying among hikers is “the trail provides.” That expression has rung true for me throughout my time on the Mid State Trail. 🍷

—Kathleen E. Anspatch writes from Danville.

MORE ABOUT THE MID STATE TRAIL

The **Mid State Trail** is the longest and wildest footpath in Pennsylvania. More than 500 kilometers long, it stretches north from the Mason-Dixon Line, through the center of Pennsylvania, to the New York state line. The trail passes through state forests, game lands and parks on public land as well as private land by permission. The largely rocky ridgetop trail makes for a rugged and demanding hike with many outstanding vistas. Many points of the trail are accessible for day hikes.

The Mid State Trail, which is part of the Great Eastern Trail (an 1,800-mile trail stretching from Alabama to New York), is maintained by the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources in cooperation with volunteers from the Mid State Trail Association. To help guide the author on her hikes, she used AllTrails, Purple Lizard Maps and FarOut apps as well as guides provided by the Mid State Trail Association. [hike-mst.org; trails.dcnr.pa.gov/trails/trail/trailview?trailkey=5](http://hike-mst.org/trails.dcnr.pa.gov/trails/trail/trailview?trailkey=5)

BOOK REVIEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

porters. There are also many who still criticize Pratt for actions he took while in charge there.

The author has done a fine job in presenting a detailed overview of Carlisle and similar schools that worked to aid the American Indian in learning how to live in a nation that in many respects has never fully recognized the value and worth of Native Americans. The book is highly recommended. 🍷

PLACES TO PURCHASE BOOKS

Use the title and author to ask for books at a local bookstore or search for books online. You can also see our online listing of Pennsylvania bookstores and where to find Pennsylvania books at pa-mag.com/booksellers/. Shop local!

June 17-21
COMMUNITY FAIR
Schnecksville, Lehigh Co., 610-799-9467

June 21
FOUNDER'S DAY
Main Street, Tunkhannock, Wyoming Co.
570-687-1584

**ROOT & RHYTHM MUSIC
& ARTS FESTIVAL**
Central Park, Honesdale, Wayne Co.
570-253-4699

SUMMER CRAFT SHOW
201 Station Road, Quakertown, Bucks Co.
267-884-5956

June 21-22
ART FESTIVAL
Main St., Manayunk, Phila Co., 267-270-3082

June 27-28
ANTIQUES EXTRAVAGANZA
Renninger's, Kutztown, Berks Co.
877-385-0104

June 28
BERKS CELTIC FESTIVAL
Reading, Berks Co., 610-779-7648

June 28-29
PA BBQ FEST
Jim Dietrich Park, Muhlenberg, Luzerne Co.
484-529-0462

July 4
BBQ BASH
Peddler's Village, Lahaska, Bucks Co.
215-794-4000

July 6
PENNRIDGE COMMUNITY DAY
Lenape Park, Perkasie, Bucks Co., 215-453-7653

July 9
LATIN FUSION FESTIVAL
Courthouse Square, Stroudsburg, Monroe Co.
570-420-2808

July 9-12
COUNTY FAIR
Reading, Berks Co., 610-370-3471

July 10-12
BLUES FESTIVAL
Briggs Farm, Nescopeck, Luzerne Co.
570-379-3342

July 11-13
BLOB FEST
Phoenixville, Chester Co., 484-547-3042

July 12
SUMMER CRAFT SHOW
Leesport Farmers Market, Leesport, Berks Co.
610-926-1307

July 12-13
ARTS FESTIVAL
Tinicum Park, Erwinna, Bucks Co.
610-294-9420

SPRING WINE FESTIVAL
Montage Mt. Resorts, Scranton
Lackawanna Co., 570-969-7669 x 108

ART & ANTIQUES SHOW
Middle School, Honesdale, Wayne Co.
570-224-6240

July 13
HERITAGE DAY
Centre Square, Easton, Northampton Co.
heritageday.org

July 18-20
**ANTIQUE GAS ENGINE
TRACTOR & CRAFT SHOW**
Jacktown Grove, Bangor, Northampton Co.
610-588-6900

July 19
**FUN JAM & CONCERT
IN THE PARK**
Paddock Park, Havertown, Delaware Co.
610-804-5054

CRAFT SHOW
Union United Church of Christ Grove, Neffs
Lehigh Co., 610-393-6007

MUSIC IN THE VALLEY
Quiet Valley Historical Site, Stroudsburg
Monroe Co., 570-992-6161

TASTE FULL EVENT
Fairgrounds, Forksville, Sullivan Co.
272-202-0123

CAR SHOW
Central Park, Doylestown, Bucks Co.
215-340-9988

July 19-20
BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL
Burnside Plantation, Bethlehem, Lehigh Co.
610-691-6055

July 20-24
WOODCARVING ROUNDUP
Cherry Ridge Campsite, Honesdale, Wayne Co.
570-488-6654

July 21-26
FAIR
Fire Co. Fairgrounds, Kimberton, Chester Co.
610-935-1388

COMMUNITY FAIR
Montour-Delong Fairgrounds, Washingtonville
Montour Co., 570-437-2178

TROY FAIR
Fairgrounds, Bradford Co., 570-297-3648

July 22-26
FARMERS FAIR
Community Park, Nazareth, Northampton Co.
610-863-6816

July 25-27
SUPER CHEVY SHOW
Maple Grove Raceway, Mohnton, Berks Co.
610-856-9200

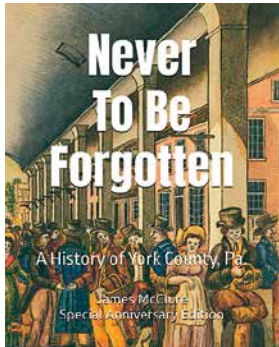
July 28-Aug 2
GOSHEN COUNTRY FAIR
West Chester, Chester Co., 610-430-1554 🍷

BOOK REVIEWS

Recent Titles of Note

by Publisher Al Holliday

Build your Pennsylvania library or look for these titles at your local public library. To order a book, take the review to a bookseller or contact the book's publisher directly.



Never to be Forgotten: A History of York County, Pa.

James McClure. 2024. Amazon Kindle Direct Publishing. Scott Mingus Enterprises. 440 pp. \$22.95 (Kindle \$5.99)

The land that became York County was carved from Lancaster County in 1749 as the fifth county in the state and the first west of the Susquehanna River. The author published a book with the same title 25 years ago. With the popularity of social media, there has been an explosion of local history resources, and this book, which contains a good deal of additional information, has been published for the 275th anniversary of the county.

The author has had a long career of writing about this area. He is the retired editor of the *York Daily Record* and *York Sunday News* and was USA Today Network's state editor for Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland. He is also the editor or co-editor of 10 books about York County's history. In 2026, he plans to issue a second volume in this series with an emphasis on "Why York County?" to explore what makes the county different from the 66 others in Pennsylvania.

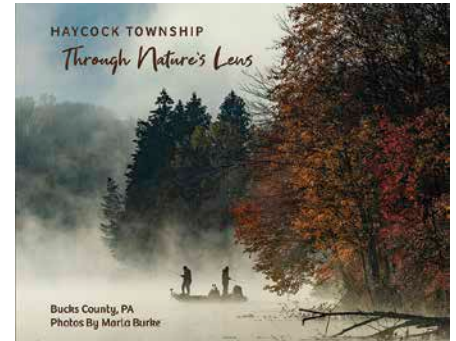
This book has 14 chapters covering the following time periods: before 1728, 1728 to 1773 (European settlement), 1774 to 1826 (British troops try American patriot souls), 1806 to 1880 (from town tillers to town toilers), 1861 to 1879 (Johnny Reb crosses York County soil), 1880 to 1919 (clearing a York Square as path for progress), 1920 to 1941 (riding north of the York County express), 1941 to 1952 (when GIs march), 1952 to 1969 (the earth moves under the feet), 1970 to 1999 (Chinese detainees tell story with scrap paper) and 2000 to present (21st century: big challenges, great promise).

The book also has special content dealing with the changing view of the county from 1999 to

2024, meaningful moments in its past, York County people who made history, black/Latino/women pioneers since 1970 and the 15-point "York Plan."

What follows are excerpts to show the kind of content a book with so many pages has to offer readers. They are in no particular order, and years of their happening are included as needed:

- Lower Susquehanna residents seem like giants although only several inches taller; they were about 5 feet 7 inches (men) and 5 feet 3 inches (women), which were larger generally than foreigners who would follow from the old country.
 - In 1681, William Penn receives a grant from King Charles II and travels to "his" new area and creates the first three counties: Philadelphia, Chester and Bucks. Kings and queens believed they had the right to certain land area in the New World, and on occasion a king in one area would "give" land that a queen had already given. Disputes were later resolved by negotiations.
 - Sam Blaunston, a Lancaster County magistrate, issued legal licenses to settlers seeking land across the Susquehanna River. In 1736, he issued 280 licenses for 74,000 acres, and about 80 licenses fell within York County.
 - In 1842, author Charles Dickens passed through York County.
 - In 1916, thousands of people watched the movie *The Birth of a Nation*, which was a movie to glorify the Confederacy.
 - As the United States entered into WWI in 1917, some communities had a heavy German immigrant population. York County residents were in favor of the war, contributing more than its share of funds and bonds to support the effort.
 - In 1920, two matters confronted Americans: Prohibition and women's right to vote. Prohibition (18th amendment) forbade the sale and use of alcoholic beverages (it was repealed with the 21st amendment in 1933). The women's right to vote was enacted with the 19th amendment in 1920.
- The text has hundred of small notes about York residents and their accomplishments and problems. Readers of this book who live in other counties are sure to wonder how they can find a historian or writer to produce a similar kind of record for them. This book is highly recommended.



Haycock Township: Through Nature's Lens

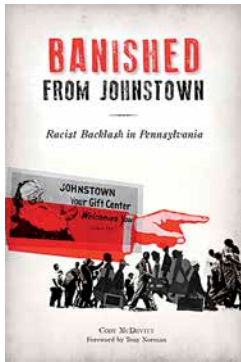
Photos by Marla Burke (essay by Bernie Rumbaugh DuBois). 2024. Haycock Historical Society, P.O. Box 715, Quakertown 18951. 160 pp. \$35

This oversized book contains 65 color photographs taken within and around Nockamixon State Park in Bucks County. In the book's opening, Pat DeWald of the Haycock Historical Society points out that this area was home to American Indians for hundreds of years. Construction for the state park began in 1958, and the park was opened in 1973.

Throughout the township and the park, deer, raccoons and squirrels are plentiful, as are birds, including bald eagles and blue herons. Coyotes and bear can be spotted, and the state Fish and Boat Commission release trout each spring. Although the lake was polluted when the park first opened, it is now closer to being a naturally clear water site.

Burke's photos illustrate what is now seen in the park. The well-composed and at times stunning photos show the wide variety of plant and animal life of the area. Each two-page spread features a full-size photograph on one side with descriptive text on the other. The middle of the book contains a four-page essay by Paul Teese, who tells why he and his wife decided to live in the township. He comments on the rich flora and fauna that they can see from their residence and writes of their neighbors: peepers, cooters, sliders, bats, flying squirrels and bellowing bullfrogs.

Burke shows a wide variety of scenes, including a portrait of her adopted rescue dog, Miss Shelby, that came from Animals in Distress in Coopersburg. The book concludes with Burke's essay acknowledging those who had a part in creating the state park and others who gave her details about the area that she used to supplement her photo captions. This book is very pleasing and highly recommended.



**Banished from Johnstown:
Racist Backlash in Pennsylvania**

Cody McDevitt. 2020. The History Press. 223 pp. \$23.99

On September 6, 1923, in response to a fatal shooting of four policemen, the mayor of Johnstown ordered every African American and Mexican immigrant who had lived in the city for fewer than seven years to leave. They were given one day to move or would face crippling fines or jail time. An estimated 2,000 people were uprooted in response to the racist edict.

Although area Ku Klux Klan members were happy with the creation of a “sundown town,” such notable figures as political activist Marcus Garvey spoke out in Pittsburgh against the action. Newspapers throughout the nation published condemnations of what was seen as a major civil rights injustice.

At the time of the incident, Johnstown was a city-on-edge as different groups and ethnicities had poured into the city in the decades following the Civil War. While the first settlers to the area in the mid-1800s were Welsh and Irish or came from other mid-European nations, African Americans and Mexicans began to arrive for work in the early 1900s as businesses and factories became part of the social-governmental development of the city. By 1920, the city’s population had reached 67,000.

A major employer in the area, the Cambria Iron Works became successful in those early days, and workers were housed in rough neighborhoods with poor living conditions. When the Johnstown Flood happened in 1889, many of them were killed and their houses destroyed.

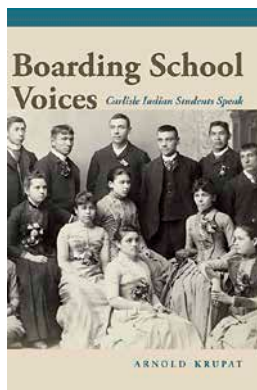
In the early 1920s, factories were in need of labor, skilled and otherwise, and many people flocked to the city from places where they had not yet experienced a workplace with mixed races and ethnicities. Conflict became a frequent occurrence, and gangs were formed for protection or to cause problems. The Klu Klux Klan also had a growing rebirth.

When a disturbance broke out in Rosedale, a small community in the area where tensions and

conflicts had occurred, police were called to the scene. Shots were exchanged, resulting in police and others being killed. Johnstown Mayor Joseph Cauffiel, who believed the source of the trouble were Blacks and Mexicans, issued his edict to evict them. What he saw as a simple solution to a serious problem, however, received little support from the media or the citizenry, except for KKK members who had long stated, without evidence, that problems in the city could be traced to Blacks.

Gov. Pinchot ordered an investigation into the matter. The state’s attorney general learned that the mayor’s order had never been carried out, and since no one was forced to leave, there was little the state could formally do. While the mayor was not forced out of his position, he was voted out in the next election.

Cauffiel would later be reelected to mayor, but when he was charged and convicted of extortion, perjury and other misdemeanors, he subsequently was removed from office and sentenced to prison for two years. After serving 18 months, he was pardoned by the governor. He became ill soon after his release and passed away in July 1932 at the age of 63. The author hosts a Facebook page, “Rosedale Oral History Project,” that might be of interest to those who want to learn more about the local history of this era.



**Boarding School Voices:
Carlisle Indian Students Speak**

Arnold Krupat. 2021. University of Nebraska Press. 402 pp. \$80

This book is an anthology of mostly unpublished writings from former students of the Carlisle Indian Industrial School and a study of their writings. From these accounts, one could conclude that while many students had wholly unsatisfactory experiences at the school, others viewed their lives as generally positive. The author transcribes the students’ writings literally and unedited. He emphasizes their evocative language and what they tell of themselves and their home

communities before being sent to Carlisle.

The Carlisle Indian Industrial School was established in 1879 by Civil War veteran Richard Henry Pratt. It closed in 1918. The school’s purpose was based on Pratt’s philosophy to “kill the Indian and save the man.” According to this thinking, the culture of the American Indian and how they lived before the white man came along was not worthy of saving. The author points out that a fair number of students had warm feelings about the school and Pratt himself.

In keeping with the title of the book, here are excerpts from some of the letters contained within:

- “I am married to Nancy Lee, an Arapaho, attended Reservation school, after leaving Carlisle, I attended Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas, nearly six months. I am employed as a farmer for the government. I have a home at Colony, Oklahoma. I have 336 acres. My salary as an additional farmer held since 1902 was \$600 a year. I have done all I could to uphold Carlisle in any breaks made by opposing Indians.” —Henry North, Arapaho

- “My wife and I live in Darlington, Oklahoma. We both attended the Carlisle school. I am clerking at Indiana trader store for last 28 years. I have 160-acre land, house on it, wind mill. I am one of a head chief of the Arapahoes. I am belong Baptist church.” —Grant Left Hand and his wife

- Grant’s younger brother, Ernest Left Hand, wrote in 1890 that he had “fallen back in Indian way.” He wrote again to the Carlisle school more than 20 years later to say he is “married to Crooked Star, daughter of Blackman (Arapahoe).”

- “I am now trying to answer your questions best I can: I am very busy working for my family for \$2 a day. I will never forget what I learned at Carlisle school. I am now government or Indian agent.” —Percy Kable at the Darlington Agency

- “In 1888, I married Nettie Aspehall, a Pawnee woman, at Carlisle chapel and the wedding took place and was reported in the ‘Indian Helper’ publication. After our marriage, we went to West Grove to live and work on the farm of William Harvey.”

- “Of my three daughters, one spent five years at Santa Fe Indian School and is now housekeeper at the day school here (Jemez Pueblo). I am a blacksmith and do all the work that comes here.” —Juan Antonio Chamon

- “I am pleased to say I received a good education when I was there (at Carlisle).” —James H. Miller, Pueblo Zuni

A reader with little prior knowledge of the Carlisle Indian School of the turn of the century may be surprised to learn that it does have its sup-

A Trail Runs Through It

A personal achievement reached: Completing our state's wildest and longest footpath

by Kathleen E. Anspach

LOOK TO MY LEFT AND SEE it is raining in the distance. As I walk the tree-lined path next to a field of tall grass and goldenrod, I notice a deer, which peeks up at the sound of my footsteps. The evening sun and distant raincloud highlight the glow of the farmland around me.

I am deep in the Tioga State Forest, backpacking the last section I need to complete a full hike of the Mid State Trail.

Two years ago, I began to hike what is called the “longest and wildest footpath in Pennsylvania.” Since other commitments didn’t allow me to take a full month for a thru-hike, I decided to take my time and hike it in sections. I found myself exploring the 327-mile path on snowy days, in hot weather and even through cold, pounding rain.

Today, I have begun the final countdown, just four more days until I reach the New York border. When it starts raining, I’m on the 14th mile of a 16-mile day. I cannot help but ask, “Why now?”

Isolation in the Wilderness

THE 526-KILOMETER MID STATE Trail runs from the Mason-Dixon Line near Flintstone, Md., to the New York border just north of Cowanesque Lake. Marked by orange blazes, it curves through the Appalachian Mountains and the Allegheny Plateau.

Tom Thwaites, architect of the trail, spent most of his life in the hills and valleys of Pennsylvania. He decided to calculate the Mid State Trail in kilometers, making it the only long-distance hiking trail in the United States measured with the metric system. He thought it would help alleviate our “cultural isolation.”

Running along rocky ridges starting in Everett, Bedford County, the trail doesn’t smooth out after State College. It follows old trails and road and railroad grades with the occasional hedgerow. Much of the trail is on public lands: state forests, game lands and parks. During my hikes north, I have traveled through five state



COURTESY OF KATHLEEN E. ANSPACH

forests beginning with Buchanan at the Maryland border, then Rothrock, Bald Eagle and Tiadaghton before ending in Tioga State Forest at the New York border.

Along the route, I also passed through seven state parks, which I hope to return to someday. The Mid State Trail, known for its many vistas and views, offers a fragile illusion of isolation and wilderness. It is rumored that “there are more bear than people” on the path. While the trail feels remote, it is rarely more than 2 kilometers from a road, and many points are accessible for day hikes.

Memories and Meaning

OVER THE TWO YEARS I have spent on this trail, I learned about many of its landmarks, including the Roman Tower, located

Kathleen A. Anspach at the Hubler Gap Vista along the Mid State Trail near Pine Grove Mills in Centre County.

on the mountain from Boalsburg in Centre County, and the Juniata River Corridor, which features a rail-trail that runs from Williamsburg, Blair County, to Alfarata, Mifflin County. I also walked through such fun sections as the “Scully squeeze,” north of the borough of Everett in Bedford County, and “quiet quarry,” located outside of Blackwell in Tioga County. Along the way, I stood on many vistas overlooking a sea of green Pennsylvania forests.

A special region that holds meaning to me runs through R.B. Winter State Park, west of Lewisburg in Union County. When I moved to the area almost 16 years ago,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 47



Daily Stories of Pennsylvania

Match the events with their dates

THIS ISSUE'S QUIZ comes from entries in Frederic A. Godcharles's book, *Daily Stories of Pennsylvania*, published in 1924. It consists of columns that he had published under the heading "Today's Story in Pennsylvania History" in newspapers on the anniversaries of the events he described. The book contains many stories of conflict between Natives and colonists as well as war happenings in the state.

Your task is to match the date to the correct event. Much of the text is taken from Godcharles's book, but some of it has been modified for readability or to improve context for today's reader.

The book can be found online as part of Project Gutenberg (a library of public domain books), or you can obtain a copy of the printed book from private booksellers.

1. ___ Act for purchase of Erie Triangle passes

Years after William Penn received the charter for Pennsylvania, he was engaged in controversies over the boundary line of his province. The boundary with Maryland wasn't settled until 1774. The state's western boundary, with then Virginia, was settled in 1786. The section of the state that bordered Lake Erie didn't have a harbor until the Erie Triangle, including Presque Isle, was purchased before this date for 75 cents per acre, totaling \$151,640.25.

2. ___ Reading Railroad incorporates by act

The charter of the Pennsylvania and Reading Railway Company allowed it to construct a railroad from Reading to Philadelphia. At Reading, it was to connect with the Little Schuylkill Navigation and Railroad (begun in 1827) to build a line from Tamaqua to Reading and extend its route from Reading to Port Clinton, where it connected to the Little Schuylkill operation. Its primary planned cargo was anthracite. The Reading Railroad also established the Lebanon Valley Railroad that extended from Reading to Harrisburg. They later added passenger cars, which began as bare bones operations but by the time Godcharles's book was published, had become supremely comfortable and luxurious travel.

Dates:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| a. June 2, 1753 | e. April 4, 1833 |
| b. June 14, 1777 | f. August 28, 1859 |
| c. April 23, 1791 | g. July 10, 1872 |
| d. April 3, 1792 | |

3. ___ James Buchanan, Pennsylvania's only president, is born

James Buchanan came from a little settlement called Stony Batter near Mercersburg, Franklin County. Among the Scotch-Irish, his father was from Donegal, Ireland, and had settled in Franklin County where he set up a store and married Elizabeth Speer, a daughter of an Adams County farmer. James Buchanan said about his mother: "She was a remarkable woman, who found time to read and forever remembered what she had read. For her sons, she was a delightful and instructive companion." His family moved to Mercersburg where Buchanan received his academic education.

4. ___ Liberty Bell hangs in old state house

Not the largest nor yet the oldest, but to all Americans by far the most celebrated bell is the grand old "Liberty Bell," whose tones on July 4, 1776, proclaimed the birthday of our nation. This bell was originally cast in London for the state house in Philadelphia. There it hung in the belfry of Independence Hall where it cracked while tolling the news of the death of John Marshall, chief justice of the United States.

5. ___ Congress adopts U.S. flag

The Continental Congress resolved "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white, in a blue field, representing a new constellation." The flag was a modification of the so-called "Great Union Flag," used since January 2, 1776, when it was raised in the camp on Prospect Hill. Before that time, different flags had been used under authority of the several provinces.

When the committee appointed by Congress to prepare a design for a new flag, consisting of General George Washington, Robert Morris and Colonel George Ross, called upon Mrs. Elizabeth [Betsy] Ross, at her home (239 Arch Street, Philadelphia), there was not much change in the popular ensign, only the displacement of the British union by 13 white stars.

6. ___ "Sawdust war" in Williamsport lumber region begins

Williamsport was the largest lumbering center in the United States. Everywhere, Williamsport was known as "the Lumber City." It was customary to send gangs into the woods in winter to cut down trees, saw them into logs and pile them on the banks of small streams. Later, when the water was at flood height in the spring, the logs were rolled into the streams whence they floated down the river to Williamsport, where they were caught in the big boom and rafted to the various sawmills. After the men were through with their work in the woods, it was customary to bring them to Williamsport and place them in the mills to help saw up the logs. As the season was short and it was important to clean up the work of sawing before the next winter, the mills operated 12 hours a day.

The "sawdust war," as it was called, was a strike on the part of the workmen in the mills for a 10-hour day instead of 12. Many of the mills were compelled to shut down. Parades and marches by the strikers were held every day. Williamsport was placed under martial law. Many were arrested and charged with inciting to riot. [The attempt to organize lumber workers failed and wasn't attempted again until the 20th century.]

7. ___ World struggle for oil begins at Titusville

The gigantic struggle for oil began in Titusville, Venango County, when Colonel Edwin L. Drake struck oil in the world's first well. This small hole drilled through the rock so peacefully opened the way to wealth hitherto unknown. It yielded about 40 barrels per day, but the precious fuel was now produced in commercial quantities. It also opened the most important natural production for Pennsylvania after iron and coal.

This first well was in Cherry Tree Township, on the Watson Flats, on the bank of Oil Creek, about two miles below the thrifty borough of Titusville. Oil was first transported in wagons and boats. The railroads were laid out to Oil City six years later. The Pennsylvania grade of crude oil is the best lubricant that man has ever found. And since refineries can add nothing to oil that was not present in its crude state, Pennsylvania grade of crude oil is still supreme.

Answers:
1. d
2. e
3. c
4. a
5. b
6. g
7. f

Fun Spring Events



Indiana County
PENNSYLVANIA
The Christmas Tree Capital of the World™

GARDENING EVENTS

MAY 16 & 17: May Mart Garden & Vendor Expo
A variety of plants, gardening items, vendors & food at S&T Bank Arena.

JUNE 14: Pick-A-Dilly Herb Faire at Dillweed B&B
A garden party featuring this year's herb of the year - Chamomile.



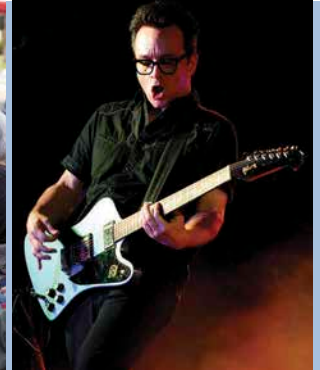
LIVE MUSIC & CONCERTS

May 15 & June 19: 3rd Thursdays in IRMC Park
An evening of live music & local eats in downtown Indiana, PA.

May 23 & 24: Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival
Friday evening concert & concerts on Saturday in downtown Indiana, PA.

June 7: Tracy Byrd
A night of classic country music at the Rayne Drop in Marion Center, PA.

June 7: Summerfest 2025
Festive fun, delicious food and fantastic music at Levity Brewing Company.



SPECIAL EVENTS & FESTIVALS

May 16 & 17: Jimmy Stewart Birthday Celebration
The celebration also honors the Museum's 30th anniversary with special guests.

May 17: Blairsville Food Truck Festival
Food trucks, vendors, games & more in downtown Blairsville, PA.

June 6 - 8: Historic Canal Days
Family fun includes games, free concerts, parade & fireworks in Saltsburg, PA.

June 7: Strawberry Saturday in Smicksburg
Travel through Amish countryside to Smicksburg for all things Strawberry.

June 7: Ethnic Food & Music Festival
Food trucks, vendors & musical entertainment in Indiana, PA.

June 15: Downtown Indiana Car Show
A showcase of classic and custom cars in downtown Indiana, PA.

June 21: Summer Fun in the Park
Vendors, food trucks, fireworks & more at Saylor Park in Black Lick, PA.



ARTS & CULTURAL EVENTS

May 24: Westsylvania Arts Festival
Visual & performing arts street festival in downtown Indiana, PA.

June 7 & 8: Indiana County Art Studio Tour
All styles & mediums of artwork showcased in downtown Indiana, PA.



DISCOVER MORE EVENTS

www.VisitIndianaCountyPA.org

724-463-7505  @IndianaCountyTouristBureau

