

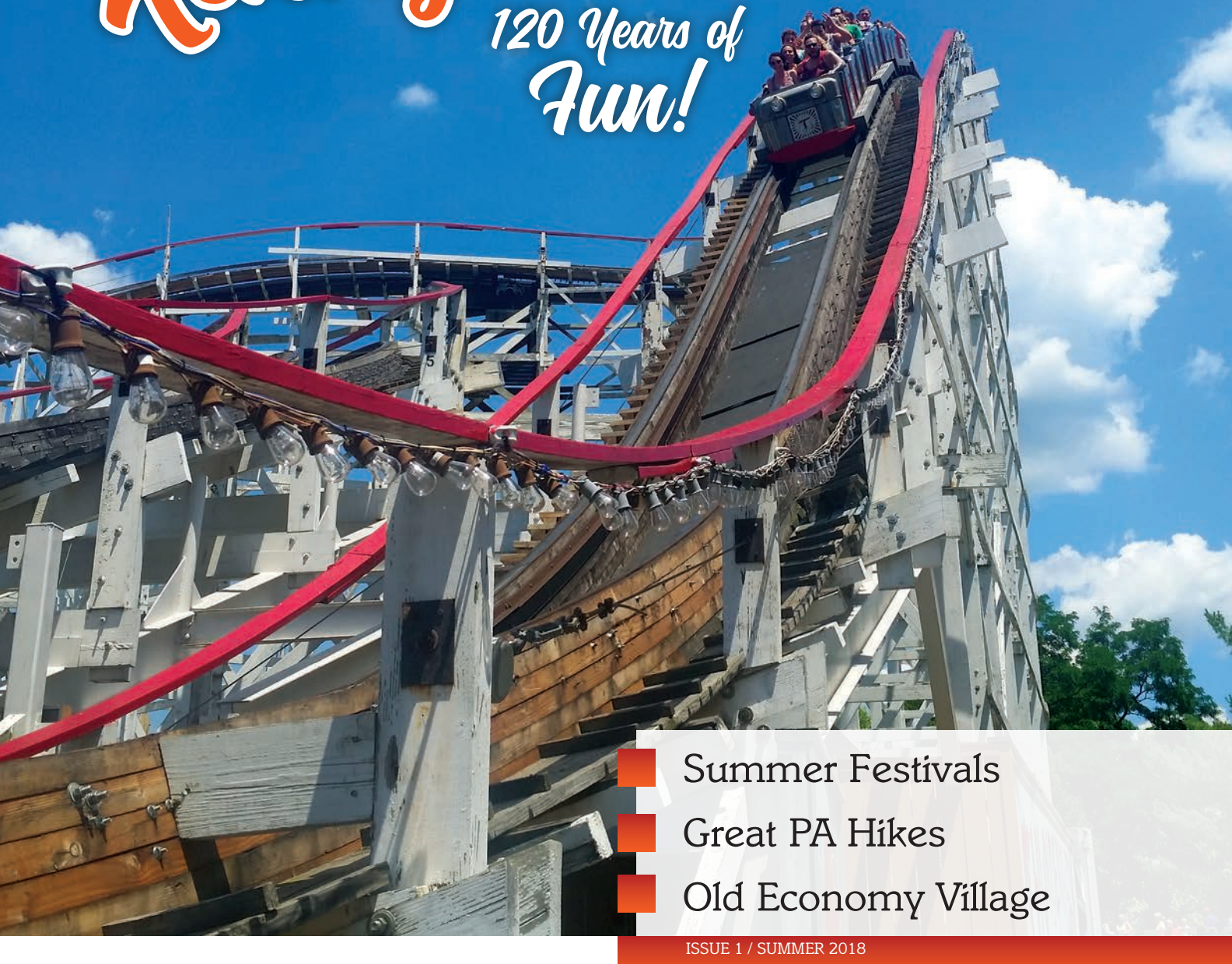


Pinpoint: Pennsylvania

A TRAVEL MAGAZINE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE

Kennywood

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Fun!



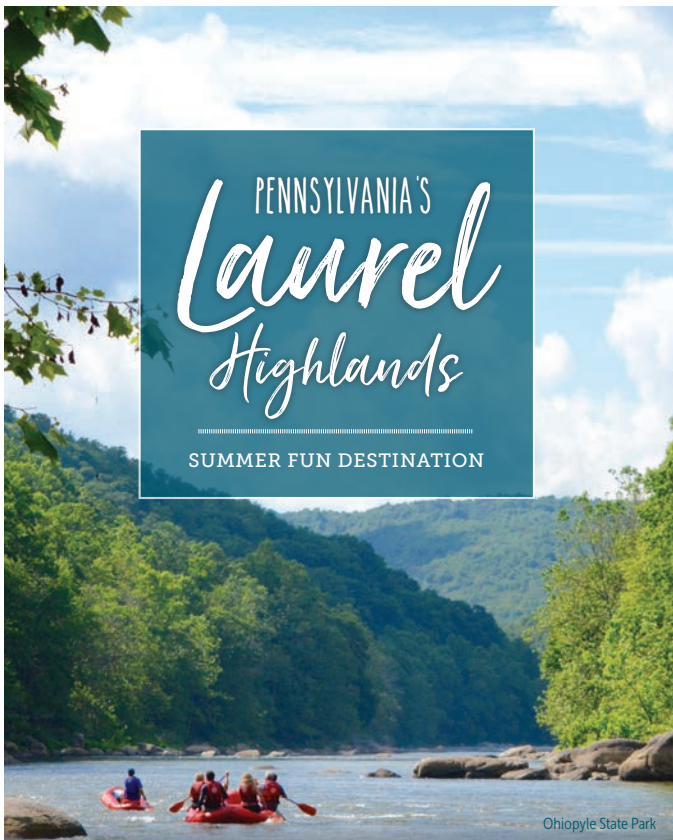
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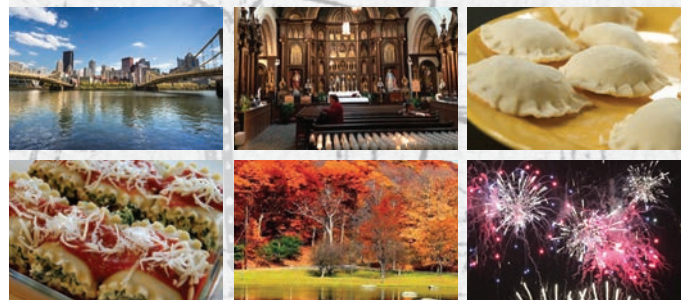
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Celebrating 120 Years of Kennywood

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 **Pinpoint:**
Pennsylvania

A TRAVEL MAGAZINE BY THE PEOPLE FOR THE PEOPLE



P.42

Have you ever had a moment of clarity when everything just felt right? Have you ever had all of the pieces fall into place even though they didn't look like they fit? Or, have you had a moment when an idea was so undeniably perfect that you had to do it no matter what?

For Lynda Stewart and Jason Krysinski, this magazine answers a resounding yes to all of those questions.

Lynda and Jason were both raised in Western Pennsylvania and love their state. Having spent the majority of their careers around the travel and tourism industry, they both love to explore new places. But most of all, they love sharing those experiences with others. And by doing so, they have found that others love to share their experiences with them.

This magazine is inspired by the conversations that they have had with each other, their friends, and their family. It's a magazine designed and written by the people who live here. By the people who love this state and all of its unique and beautiful destinations. From the historic sites, to the hip new local restaurants, this magazine has it all.

We welcome you to join them on this journey of discovery.

We welcome you to Pinpoint: Pennsylvania.

Vision

The vision of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania is to provide an entertaining and educational publication, while forming a community focused on sharing unique experiences in hospitality and tourism in the state. We seek to help gain increased exposure for these types of businesses and contribute to their success. As Pennsylvania natives, we are proud to not only play a part in stimulating the state economy by encouraging travel, but we are also enthusiastic about educating residents and visitors alike of the unique experiences that lie within the state.

Mission

The mission of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania is to provide a platform for Pennsylvania hospitality and tourism businesses, as well as aspiring content contributors, to have a public forum in which they can share experiences, information, ideas, and opinions.

By utilizing user-generated content, we will be giving exposure to businesses and contributors who may have otherwise gone unrecognized. Providing residents and visitors alike with this kind of insider information will help readers plan unique activities and trips within the state.



After retiring from teaching to raise two sons, **Kim Adley** created her 23-year old professional storytelling business, Characters by Kim. She also engages audiences in her new business, Passport to Pittsburgh, LLC, a custom tour company for Pittsburgh and beyond. Most recently, Kim is writing a children's book series: "Passport to Pittsburgh for Kids". She is also a staff columnist for "Inspiring Lives Magazine".

Contributors

Linda Devlin moved to the Allegheny National Forest, Bradford, Pennsylvania over 30 years ago, and fell in love with the beauty of the forest. Devlin works as the Exec. Director of the Allegheny National Forest Visitor Bureau, where she can share her passion for the forest daily with visitors from around the world.

Dana Hardek is a western Pennsylvania native who fell in love with the Keystone State when her family went on a week-long vacation in the 1980s to see all the wonders of the Commonwealth. Now, she and her husband travel around the area with their teens, finding things to do that the whole family enjoys.

Deborah Herman is a marketing consultant and owner of Deb Herman Marketing Communications in Beaver County, PA. Prior to opening her business, Deb worked in corporate marketing environments for 30 years, including a seven-year stint at a convention & visitors bureau in Ohio. There she fell in love with travel feature writing and historical tourism. When she's not doing marketing stuff, Deb is usually bragging about whatever her four kids are up to these days.




Margaret Miller is originally from Huntingdon, PA and currently resides in the North Hills of Pittsburgh, PA. She graduated from Shippensburg University in 2014 with a dual major in English Literature and Communication Journalism. Outside of her day job, Margaret moonlights as a freelance writer for various newspapers, magazines, and blogs. You can find her at margaretwritesthings.wordpress.com.

Allyson Null is the marketing communications coordinator at the Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau. As the "content creator," she is the main contributor to the organization's blog and co-writes the annual Laurel Highlands destination guide. When she's not at work, and if she isn't hanging out with friends, she likes to attend concerts and binge watch Netflix with her cat.

Lauren Simko grew up in Munhall, Pennsylvania and currently resides in Bethel Park. Lauren attended Duquesne University where she received her Doctor of Pharmacy degree and is currently the President of Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association. Lauren has two children, Kealie & Layne, and she loves family adventures! Kealie is an avid photographer and contributed some of the Kennywood photos to Lauren's article in this edition.

Danielle Taylor is the marketing and member service coordinator at the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau, which promotes tourism in Jefferson, Elk, Clarion, Forest, and Cameron Counties in northwestern Pennsylvania. To learn more or to request free information about the region, go to VisitPAGO.com or call (814) 849-5197.

Become a Pinpoint Contributor!

-  Do your friends and family look to you for ideas about outdoor adventures?
-  Do you know where the best places are to get a 5-star meal, to get a handcrafted milkshake, or the best local wine?
-  Are you the master weekend road trip planner?

Share your passion by becoming a Pinpoint Content Contributor! Pinpoint: Pennsylvania is always on the lookout for new people with whom they can collaborate. Whether it be writing, photography, or simply suggesting ideas, we want to know your thoughts. Log onto PinpointPennsylvania.com today to submit your articles and photos.

We rely on our contributors to help us discover the best Pennsylvania has to offer. Send in your stories and photos today!



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The Pittsburgh Melanoma Foundation is a 501c3 charity that raises money for melanoma education and research. Founded by Jessica Rogowicz and Lauren Simko, the charity is 100% volunteer operated. For information on the charity and to support their cause, visit www.melanomaph.org or find them on Facebook.



Summer In Pennsylvania



Photo: Lynda Stewart

Kennerdell Overlook, Venango County

Summer in Pennsylvania is a time of discovery and exploration. It's a time of fun and education. You can hike your way across the 229 picturesque miles of the Appalachian Trail, or cool off on the natural water slides at Ohiopyle. Perhaps you prefer to keep the kids learning with a weekend trip to Gettysburg or let them relax on the beaches of Lake Erie. Whatever you choose, there's plenty to enjoy.

Practical Insider Travel Tips

Traveling can be tricky business and it's always good to be prepared. In each edition of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania, you'll find shared tips from industry experts that will help everyone become a more savvy traveler.

Financially Savvy Traveling

There are many benefits to having both a debit and credit card, as most consumers know. But how do you know when to use which one? As a general rule, when traveling or purchasing online, a credit card is the safest and most trusted option.

Here are some tips to make your vacation as smooth as can be.

1. Before heading out of town, contact your bank and credit card company to make sure that they have your cell phone number in case they need to contact you to verify a transaction as well as the dates and locations that you'll be visiting. This will delay any transactions being declined since they may appear suspect. It is also a great idea to download the bank or credit card company app to keep an eye on transactions that post in real time.

2. Know your transaction limits. Most debit cards have a daily point of sale limit amount. It is important to know

what that limit is, should you opt to use the debit card. If the current limit is not sufficient for what you need, contact the bank at least a week in advance to secure the amount needed. Credit cards are also limited to the available credit; ensure that there is sufficient availability.

3. Keep a buffer for hotel charges. As soon as you book the room, you'll be asked for a card number to secure the reservation. For example, when your debit card is processed by the hotel, you may see the amount of your daily rate, taxes, and incidental charges which are typically \$50 per day, will be immediately removed from your bank account. Upon check out, you may notice something that looks like a double bill posting to the account, but it is the final billing. This can be incredibly challenging if there are not sufficient balances to cover. For this reason, it is highly recommended to use a credit card for your room booking.

Following these tips will ensure a smooth check in an a much more relaxing vacation!

Be Nice to the Hotel Staff

You've been planning this trip for weeks, months, or even a year. You've driven a few hours and finally have reached your destination. It's getting late, but you easily find your hotel and you have a fantastic check-in experience. The front desk agent gives you your keys. Exhausted, you find your way to your room. You open the door to find out that the room is dirty. What do you do? This can be an infuriating experience for any traveler, but in this moment you have a very important decision to make. Do you march back down to the front desk and scream at the agent that just checked you in? Or do you take another approach?

If you stop to think a moment about it, you will realize that the person you are about to yell at had nothing to do with the room being dirty. Clearly there has been a mistake along the way that has told the front desk that this room was clean. The front desk agent didn't clean the room nor did they dirty it. Furthermore, how many times have they been yelled at this month, this week, or even today?

Take another approach and appeal to their empathetic side. The vast majority of staff you encounter sincerely want to take care of you and want to fix the problems you have experienced. Let them. Don't make a bad situation even worse with anger. Heck, if you are nice enough about it, you might even get more for your troubles.

Until next time...travel safe, smart, and efficient.



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2018 Pennsylvania Summer Festival Guide

By Dana Hardek



Photo: Laura Ackley

WaterFire Sharon, Mercer County

Summer in Pennsylvania is truly an experience for the whole family to enjoy, when arts, music, crafts, and food take center stage.

This year, load up the car and cross some of these events off of your bucket list. Here are some festival picks from Pinpoint: Pennsylvania that attract both local crowds and out-of-town guests.

All-Inclusive Arts and Music Line-ups

July 12-15. The People's Choice Festival of Pennsylvania Arts in Boalsburg attracts the top artists and craftspeople in the state, plus must-see musicians and entertainers. While enjoying the PA art scene, families can enjoy a large line-up of kids' activities. **Centre County**

July 20-August 4. Endless Mountain Music Festival, a classical music event set among the spectacular scenery of the northeastern part of the state, features world-renowned musicians. **Tioga County**

August 16-19. The Philadelphia Folk Festival transforms a working farm in Schwenksville into a magical, musical sound park. It's the oldest continuously-run outdoor music festival in North America. The lineup includes professional folk singers and up-and-coming acts, plus the best of pop, rock, and blues. Kids' activities feature jugglers, storytellers, and aerialists that make this weekend a family adventure. **Montgomery County**

September 29. This festival, which takes place at the Carrie Blast Furnace in Rankin, is pretty hot stuff. The Festival of Combustion includes American hot craft demonstrations like glass blowing, raku ceramics, and metal fabrication. **Allegheny County**

Food, Wine, and Good Times

June 22-24. The Greek Food Festival at Oakmont's Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church features dancing, live entertainment, and the best selection of Greek food in Pittsburgh. **Allegheny County**

June 23. June Bee Jamboree, in Easton, is a celebration of all things buzzy. Honey tastings for the members of your hive are a must. Bee costumes aren't necessary – but they're encouraged. **Northampton County**

August. If you've always dreamed of getting into a no-holds-barred tomato fight, then join the crowd at the Pittston Tomato Festival. After getting creamed (or, really, splatted), see who wins the most perfect and ugliest tomato contests, then sit down and enjoy live entertainment. **Luzerne County**

September 1. The 15th Annual Taste of Hamburg-er Festival is the East Coast's premier meat patty event, featuring a hamburger-eating contest, a wooden cow decorating event, and a mooing contest. What better place to host this event than in Hamburg? **Berks County**



*Pittsburgh Pierogi Festival at Kennywood Park,
Allegheny County*

September 23. The Pittsburgh Pierogi Fest is back again this year at Kennywood Park. Bring your appetite as you visit various food stands and trucks and enjoy their creative pierogi themed dishes. Bring your sense of adventure as several rides will be open for you to enjoy with friends and family. **Allegheny County**

Culture, Heritage, and History

June 1-30. Chinese acrobats, folk artist handicrafts, a beer garden, and lighted lantern sculptures make the Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival a sight to behold in historic downtown Philadelphia's Franklin Square. **Philadelphia County**

June 9-10. The Civil War Reenactment at Old Bedford Village this year commemorates the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. Hundreds of reenactors from across the state gather to show this historic clash, using cannon fire, horses, and period attire. **Bedford County**

July 18-22. That rumble you hear? It's more than 100,000 bikers and enthusiasts who meet in Erie every year for Roar on the Shore, a massive five-day motorcycle rally that draws big names in music and entertainment. **Erie County**

August 4-5. The Festival of Wood celebrates the heritage of the Pocono Mountain with wood crafts and workshops, plus beautifully crafted furniture and sculpture. **Pike County**

August 10-12. Celebrating the Italian heritage of the area's forefathers, Aliquippa's San Rocco Festa is now in its 93rd year. This popular event offers spaghetti sauce tasting, wine tasting, and a miles-long parade, plus live bands and the traditional Baby Doll Dance. **Beaver County**

August 18-19. Pennsylvania's Native American culture is celebrated at the Roasting Ears of Corn Festival in Allentown. American Indian drumming, singing, dancing, food, and activities. **Lehigh County**

August 18-25. The Bituminous Coal Show in Carmichaels embraces King Coal, the area's number one resource. In addition to a carnival, live music, ethnic foods, and entertainment, visitors enjoy coal souvenirs, coal jewelry, and coal exhibits. **Greene County**

September 8-9. The Endless Mountains Fiber Festival puts fiber animals, like sheep, alpaca, and llamas, front and center, while celebrating fiber products. Demonstrations and classes are available. (Knitting lovers, this festival is for you!) **Susquehanna County**

On the Water

July 21 and August 18. WaterFire Sharon, a unique art installation on the banks on the Shenango River, delights and amazes as floating braziers are lit at nightfall and float on the water. The festival also includes interactive arts experiences and live entertainment. **Mercer County**

August 4-5. Land and lake activities take center stage at the Regatta at Lake Arthur. This eco-recreational event includes catamaran boat rides, kayak eco-paddles, a DockDogs competition, family fishing, stand-up paddleboarding, boat parade, and a car cruise. **Butler County**

August 16-18. The Sunbury River Festival includes major water fun on the Susquehanna, like a cardboard boat regatta, but also offers on-land activities including a talent show, chalk walk, food, and live entertainment.

Northumberland County

All Creatures Great and Small

June 23. Whether you call them fireflies or lightning bugs, you'll enjoy the incredible glowing display put on by these friendly bugs at the Pennsylvania Firefly Festival in Kellettsville in the Allegheny National Forest. **Forest County**

July 1-7. Most people don't know that Phil the Groundhog prefers summer over winter. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Festival in Punxsutawney, PA brings together everyone who wants to celebrate all things Phil – because no matter what he says every year, eventually we get to summer!

Jefferson County

August 18-19. Want to learn the art of elk calling? Of course you do! Take a trip to the 2018 Elk Expo in Benezette. Elk tag drawings, horse-drawn wagon rides, animal track presentations, and kids' activities are just some of the events scheduled at this two-day festival. **Elk County**

Share an Event!

Is there a festival that you just can't miss year after year?

Are you organizing an event and want to help get the word out about it?

Share it with Pinpoint: Pennsylvania!

Visit PinpointPennsylvania.com to submit details on your event!



- **Bottle Works Summer Camps** – June, July, August
- **StudioWorks Exhibit** – June 29 – August 10
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- **No Tie Gala** – July 28
- **Ethnic Fest** – August 31, September 1 & 2
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Pennsylvania Great Outdoors BBQ Tour

By Danielle Taylor

Photos by Melissa Thrush Photography, taken at Devil's BBQ, Brookville

Thousands of family farms dot the rolling hills of the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors region, and as you drive the country roads crisscrossing the area, you'll see green fields dotted with cows, barns rustling with muddy pigs, and flocks of free-range chickens wandering through yards and gardens. In addition to enhancing the roadside scenery, the abundance of livestock here creates another local benefit: barbecue.



food & drink





To open as many eyes (and mouths) as possible to the wealth of smoked goodness found in this region, the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors Visitors Bureau has partnered with a number of local nonprofits, BBQ restaurants, community organizers, and folks with good taste to bring you the following BBQ-focused events.

June 22-23. Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Cook-Off Competition, features ribs, chicken, and beef brisket! This event is open to any team wanting to show off their grill skill! Benefits Fox Township Volunteer Fire Department.

Fox Township Volunteer Fire Company, Kersey

July 7. The Kill the Grill Smoke-Only BBQ Competition will be held at the Elk Country Visitor Center and features a BBQ contest, entertainment, and more! **Elk Country Visitor**

Center, Benazette

September 22. Cameron County Chamber is hosting All Fired Up and Kickin' Ash BBQ Competition, which is their 4th annual BBQ competition! Prove that you have what it takes to kick some ash in the following categories: Turkey, pork, ribs, brisket, chicken wings, sides and desserts!

Downtown Emporium

Whether you prefer fall-off-the-bone ribs, pulled chicken and pork, melt-in-your-mouth brisket and turkey, or the array of sides that accompany the main course, you'll find plenty to fill your belly and warm your soul. To get your tastebuds primed, check out Devil's BBQ in Brookville. An excellent treat for your belly and soul!

For more information, go to [VisitPAGO.com/BBQ](https://www.visitpago.com/BBQ) or call (814) 849-5197.

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A photograph of a dog sitting on a rock in a forest. The dog is white with tan patches and is looking to the right. The forest is lush with green trees and ferns. Large, moss-covered boulders are scattered throughout the scene, and a large log lies horizontally across the middle ground. The text "Enjoy the Fresh Air with a Hike Through Natural Beauty" is overlaid in white on the upper left portion of the image.

Enjoy the Fresh Air with a Hike Through Natural Beauty

By Allyson Null

Photo: Joshua Craig

Get outdoors, and soak up the sun on a trail this summer! The Laurel Highlands of southwestern Pennsylvania is home to more than 700 miles of hiking and biking trails. Every trail varies in length and difficulty, from a family-friendly walk with a stroller to an epic adventure.

One of the longest trails in the region is the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail, which stretches from Ohiopyle State Park to the Conemaugh Gorge near Johnstown. The backpacking and hiking trail is meticulously maintained by the Laurel Ridge State Park Complex team to keep the path open and clear year-round. The trail runs through numerous state parks in the Laurel Highlands, including Linn Run, Laurel Ridge and Laurel Summit. On your journey, you will see beautiful wildflowers, large rock formations and maybe even a white-tailed deer. You can start from anywhere, and regardless of where you start, you will find an overnight area every 8 to 10 miles, where you can rest and recharge among the towering trees with fresh water and shelter. The Adirondack-style shelters are equipped with tent pads, wood and pit privies. Reservations and a small fee are required per night. Where there is a shelter, there is a connector trail, marked with blue blazes, that leads to and from a parking area.

Hiking 70 miles is definitely not a cake walk. To see some of the best spots on the trail without big changes in elevation, take our advice with this day hike path. Park at Laurel Ridge State Park, just off of Route 30 between Ligonier and Jennerstown. This will have you at about mile 46 on

your LHHT map. Head south on the trail towards Forbes State Forest to Mile 40 where you'll be able to take in the breathtaking view at Beam Rocks and Spruce Run, two of the most popular stops on the trail. Short detours from mile 40 will take you to Spruce Flats Bog, home to insect-eating plants; Laurel Summit, which features a commanding view 2,739 ft. above sea level; and Wolf Rocks, a great spot for rock climbing. When you're done, hop back on the trail to hike back to where you parked, or call Wilderness Voyageurs or Maple Outfitters to come pick you up and take you to your car. If you're an expert hiker, the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail has plenty of ways to challenge you. See how well you can pack for an out-and-back and conquer 140 miles of terrain. Try trail running, where visitors run as much of the LHHT as they can in one day with little to no equipment.

Every year, the LHHT is host to a variety of unique events to challenge expert hikers or teach beginners how to get started! The Laurel Highlands Ultra is an annual 70 and a half-mile run for both individuals and relay racers. The Crucible is a three-day extreme journey through the LHHT with a gull gear pack through all 70 miles, with proceeds benefitting veterans.

Photo Ops

Don't forget your camera! The Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail offers some truly unforgettable sights. Hike to the appropriate mile marker to check them out!

Between miles 7-8:

Take in the view from Sugarloaf Knob, the third highest point in Pennsylvania.

Between miles 12-13:

See 112-acre Cranberry Glade Lake with a stunning view, especially in the fall.

Mile 21.5:

Check out the rock outcropping at Middle Fork for a beautiful panorama of the Laurel Highlands.

Mile 24.5:

Cool off with a quick dip in the stunning Blue Hole Creek.

Mile 27:

Snap a photo of the highest point of the LHHT at 2,961 feet.

Mile 29:

See a spectacular view of Seven Springs Mountain Resort as you cross the slopes.

Mile 36.5:

Take the bridge crossing the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Near mile 41:

Here you can find Beam Rocks, a favorite spot for rock climbing that rises 90 feet above the trail.

Miles 67-69:

There are multiple locations where you can see the Conemaugh River and Johnstown.





Photo: Clare Kaczmarek



Photo: Michelle Adams

For more information about the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail and the Laurel Highlands region:

Visit LaurelHighlands.org or call (724) 238-5661

Visit www.dcnr.pa.gov/Recreation/WhatToDo/Hiking/LaurelHighlandsHikingTrail

Call Laurel Ridge State Park at (724) 455-3744 to make shelter reservations

Contact Wilderness Voyageurs (800) 272-4141

Contact Maple Leaf Outfitters (814) 701-8080



Photo: Gabriel Faria

The Thousand Steps

By Margaret Miller

A quarry doesn't sound like a must-see tourist attraction but, smack dab in central Pennsylvania, the Thousand Steps hiking trail is just that and, carved into its sandstone deposits, is the history of small-town America's labor force.



Photo: Jeanette Oberholzer

Early last fall, I found myself at the bottom of the Thousand Steps with a water bottle in hand and a worse-for-wear pair of Pumas from college tied tightly on my feet. The steps are built into Jack's Mountain, a steep climb for even the most seasoned of hikers. The entrance to the trail is hidden and unassuming. Even though it sits along the busy William Penn Highway, the tree line envelopes you like a wardrobe into Narnia and the sound of cars whizzing by is muted. Instead, there is a cacophony of sounds from the crunching of leaves as you step, to the labored breath that accompanies you on your hike. It is truly a serene feeling to know that the only sounds you'll hear for the next hour or so will be your own, and that of the wilderness. Although the hike itself is beautiful, the history of this trail should give you an idea of the challenge is to come.

Jack's Mountain boasts an elevation of 2,321 feet and is one of the highest points in Pennsylvania's contribution to the Appalachian Mountain Range. It sits nestled between Huntingdon and Mount Union PA, both of which were built on the mining communities that helped them to thrive.

When the Harbison Walker quarry was in full function, each work day began when the sun was just peaking over the treetops and the

dew-laden grasses below were brushed by the boots of hundreds of quarry workers making their hike to the office. For the employees, the 2,000-foot ascent to the top of Jack's Mountain was the easiest part of their day. The job of a quarryman in 1936 was to excavate large slabs of stone and place them onto his own small railroad cart, called a dinkey. Each dinkey, once packed to the brim, was a solid 3 tons. When it was full, the quarryman would reach into his overall's pocket and pull out a brass tag, of which he had several. Adorned only with a number, the tag was placed at the front of his cart. This number indicated who filled the dinkey and guaranteed his pay, which depended solely on the weight of stone he moved. This was his job every day for hours on end and, when the callused hands of the worker had lifted their last slab for the day, the only thing separating him from much-needed rest was the trek back down the mountain.

Needless to say, the commute was a doozy and the only way to make it easier was for the workers to convert the rugged landscape into a more recognizable man-made construction; stairs. From this, the Thousand Steps trail was born.

When I finally reached the end of my hike, I came to a complete stop and

just stood there staring at my legs. The muscles in my calves had begun to shake uncontrollably and the only thing that prevented me from losing my balance was the support from a gnarled stick I managed to pick up along the way. Although I spent the next few days with Jell-O legs, I loved this trail. I plan on going again later in the spring with some friends.

For those interested in trying out this hike, I recommend a lightly packed backpack including water, a camera, and pepper spray (in the off chance you are confronted with some of the larger residents of Jack's Mountain). There are more trails that branch off from the Thousand Steps, so feel free to explore!

Although it is famous for its hiking trails, the Thousand Steps has much more to offer. It is a popular spot for geologists since the mountain was split in two by the Juniata River. It also is home to fossils galore and a wide range of wildlife. Best of all, the Thousand Steps is an impressive piece of history that still stands today. From the worn-down paths to the remains of the dinkey building; each step you make on this trail mimics the steps of that quarry worker who made his living walking up and down this stretch of land almost a century ago.



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109 West Overton Road
Scottsdale, PA 15683
724-887-7910
WestOvertonVillage.org

Hidden... deep within the forest of northwestern Pennsylvania...
an engineering masterpiece, the Kinzua Viaduct,
once soared 301 feet high and 2,053 feet across,
the highest and longest railroad viaduct in the world.



Walk the Tracks Across the Sky

By Linda Devlin

Photos courtesy of ANF Visitors Bureau

A Bridge Unlike Any the World Had Seen

In 1882, General Thomas Kane, a Philadelphia lawyer, decorated American Civil War Veteran, and president of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad and Coal Company, had rich coal deposits south of the Kinzua Gorge. But since his customers were to the north, Kane needed to cross the valley. Kane needed a bridge.

Paris-born Octave Chanute, chief engineer for the Erie-Railroad, rose to the challenge. The man who would later help the Wright brothers fly had a bold solution—a bridge unlike any the world had seen.

Chief Engineer Octave Chanute contracted the Pennsylvania firm of Clarke, Reeves & Company to design and fabricate the bridge. Adolphus Bonzano designed a wrought iron bridge using his “Phoenix Column,” an engineering breakthrough that enabled tall structures to resist vibration and buckling.

The bridge was pre-fabricated in Phoenixville, near Philadelphia, and transported to the site for erection. Once the sandstone foundation piers were in place, 125 men, working 10-hour days, completed the construction in just 94 days.

Standing 301 feet tall (24 feet higher than the Brooklyn Bridge) the Viaduct quickly became a tourist destination. Walking out on the bridge was the next best thing to flying.

But by 1900, the locomotives and railroad cars hauling coal and timber across the Viaduct became larger and heavier. A stronger steel bridge was required. Using 6.7 million pounds of steel, workers erected a new bridge to replace the original.

The Kinzua Viaduct

Not only was the Kinzua Viaduct successful in transporting Kane’s coal across the valley, it instantly became a

popular tourist attraction bringing sightseers from around the globe to visit. Since 1963, the bridge has served as the centerpiece of the Kinzua Bridge State Park. The Kinzua Viaduct was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, and the National Register of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks in 1982.

The Kinzua Viaduct spanned the Kinzua Gorge for more than a century before it partially collapsed under the powerful winds of a tornado in 2003.

The Power of Nature- Tornado Strikes July 21, 2003

Bridge designer C.R. Grimm predicted his creation would last 100 years. And he was right. Grimm’s design used roller expansion bearings where the tower legs were anchored to the masonry foundation piers. This design allowed lateral expansion in the tower legs under temperature loading. But his failure to replace the original 1882 anchor bolts would have catastrophic consequences.

In July 2003, engineers and skilled bridge builders were hard at work on a \$12 million repair project to reinforce the aging structure. The workers decided to call it a day when the sky went black and the winds rushed in. A tornado tore through the forest heading straight for the Viaduct. Hundreds of trees were ripped from their roots and 11 of the bridge’s 20 towers were lifted, twisted and thrown onto the valley floor. Six towers remained standing on the south end; only three towers remained upright on the north end.

Engineers later confirmed that winds attacked in three directions. The original 1882 anchor bolts and collar coupling assemblies, which mated the old bolts to the later 1900 construction, had failed.

Within 30 seconds, nature had brought the mighty span to its knees.

The “Kinzua Sky Walk”

The remaining six towers of the original Kinzua Viaduct were stabilized and reinvented as the Kinzua Sky Walk. Towering over the Kinzua Gorge at a height of 225 feet, and 624 feet long, the new skywalk has a partial glass floor overlook at the end of the pedestrian walkway which features the historic railroad tracks. Views are breathtaking.

Opened to the public in September 2011, the Kinzua Sky Walk pays tribute to the past while emerging once again as an amazing engineering marvel.

One of the World’s Top 10 Most Scenic Skywalks

The Kinzua Sky Walk was recognized in 2016 by The Culture Trip, U.K. as “One of the top 10 most scenic skywalks in the world.”

Located at the Kinzua Bridge State Park in Mt. Jewett, Pennsylvania, the Kinzua Sky Walk is open to the public year round. Admission to the park and the Kinzua Sky Walk is free. The park includes tree shaded picnic areas, areas for biking and birding, and a park pavilion which can be rented. In addition, there are two trails, the easy 1-mile General Kane trail, and a second more challenging trail, the Kinzua Creek Trail which leads to the bottom of the gorge where the fallen towers of the original viaduct still remain.



If you go...



The park is open from 8 am to dusk. Driving address for the park is 296 Viaduct Road, Mt. Jewett, PA.

For additional information on the Kinzua Sky Walk, including historic photos and video, go to:

www.VisitANF.com

Kennywood



Photo: Kurt Miller; courtesy of Kennywood Park



*120 Summers
of Memories*

Nostalgia, Tradition, and Modern-Day Thrills

By Lauren Simko

During the day, the smell of popcorn and cotton candy, combined with the excited laughter of children big and small fill the air. In the evening, the colorful bulbs of the attractions give a warm and comforting glow. Kennywood Park has been a part of family adventures since 1898. The park has grown, changed and developed, thrilling families for over 120 years. This Amusement Park provides a unique experience of both nostalgia and modern-day fun. From the days of swimming pools and a dance hall, to the current fun of coasters and games, any family can find their thrill at Kennywood Park.

Modern rides like, the Phantom's Revenge and Sky Rocket are two of the biggest thrill coasters at Kennywood. Drops, airtime, and thundering turns thrill riders on their adventures. These coasters are not the only thrill rides the park has to offer. Kennywood hosts three of the most ridden and thrilling wooden coasters – Thunderbolt, Racer, and



Photos courtesy of Kennywood Park



Jack Rabbit. The Jack Rabbit has been the first coaster for children of all ages for generations. The well-known “double dip” lifts you out of your seat as the coaster rumbles along the track.

The Racer provides a unique experience of two coasters running at once, the ONLY single continuous track coaster in the United States. If your ride starts on the right, you will end on the left side of the platform. Many riders race against their friends, starting on opposite sides and racing to see who enters the station first.

The Thunderbolt, originally called Pippin, has been a unique staple of wooden coaster fans since 1924. The Thunderbolt requires two riders, no single-riders allowed on this ride! If you don't have a partner, the station attendant will double you up. This coaster has hills and turns that will ensure an amazing ride.

As part of Kennywood's continuous family traditions, Southwestern Pennsylvania has an interesting childhood experience called “Kennywood Day”, officially called “Community Days”. All schools local to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania have a day dedicated to Kennywood Park. Children all around begin talking about Kennywood Day months ahead of time... outfits are planned, new shoes bought, and friends discuss their day. This staple of childhood memories goes back many decades and continues today.

Kennywood offers “Kiddieland”, a section of the park dedicated to younger fans. This area of the park has rides specifically designed for kids, from The Red Baron airplane ride to Turtle Chase, the mini-version to it's mother ride, Turtle, found in the main park. A rite of passage for guests of the park is moving from the kiddie rides to the big kid rides, forever changing the way families visit the park.



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania has a vast cultural heritage, dating back to booming steel mill days that brought in immigrants to the area for jobs. Kennywood designates specific Heritage Days, that recognize the many cultures active in the community. Italian Day, Slovak Day, Asian Day, and more complete the summer season of Kennywood.

Cultural societies and families attend the heritage days, taking advantage of the pavilions and bringing food for delicious picnics. Families have reunions and invite friends of all cultures to join the fun.

A visit to Kennywood Park would not be complete without a taste of unique food and treats. Kennywood Park is well known for having a variety of food, and repeating guests have their favorite snack spots. A guest of the park cannot leave without smelling the delicious funnel cakes, corn dogs, and other amusement park foods. Kennywood is

best known, however, for their Potato Patch fries. Potato Patch fries have been a staple of Kennywood food for decades, being one of the most recognized park foods known in the industry. Guests can enjoy plain, cheese, bacon or a variety of salts or vinegar.

The Golden Nugget offers a sweet treat often reserved for the final snack of the night by guests visiting Kennywood for annual fun. A vanilla square of ice cream dipped in chocolate and sprinkles (with a cherry on top!) gives a cool, refreshing way to end the day.

Kennywood Park is a unique experience for the local community and visitors alike. A visit to Pittsburgh during the operating season is not complete without a trip to Kennywood. The distinct offerings of the park cannot be fully captured in one article...one must visit to understand the local flair, rides, food, and entertaining games and shows this park has provided for over a century.



An Amusement Park for the Ages

*By Jason Krynski
Photos by Lynda Stewart*

There are forty-five rides to enjoy, seven are thrilling coasters, but in many ways, the rides are the backdrop to the real story of Kennywood.

Some places are bigger than their physical location. Kennywood is a way of life, a rite of passage into adulthood and beyond.

In the Greater Pittsburgh area, the Kennywood memories start when you are very young. As you are riding in the car with your parents, the snow begins to melt, flowers begin to blossom, and bright yellow arrows on telephone poles show the way to

the park. The Kennywood sign is as iconic as anything black and gold in the City of Pittsburgh. It's a tradition that spans decades. At one time the signs were taken down during the winter months, but nowadays they remain up all year round.

As a young Pittsburgher, this is your first amusement park. A place of wonder and imagination that begins in Kiddieland. Here, you are eased into

the culture with helicopters, motorcycles, and space ships. Images and sounds that are forever etched into your memory. And don't forget Leo the Lion. If you ever wanted to teach a child about not littering, this is probably the best way to do it. He's a fancy trash receptacle that talks and sucks the trash out of your hand and into his mouth. At the age of eight, there's truly nothing better.





As you begin elementary school, the park takes on a new life with your annual Kennywood Day. This day signifies the end of the school year and the beginning of summer. It's time for your parents to take you shopping for that perfect Kennywood outfit. This specially selected attire is a tradition that has spanned generations of Pittsburghers. This outfit might be unique or it might match all of your friends to show best friend solidarity.



Leo the Paper Eating Lion was first introduced in 1964. He was retired in 2002. Recently refurbished, he was reintroduced but his voice is still the original recording.

Selecting a Kennywood partner is also very important to the enjoyment of the day. If you don't pick someone that enjoys the same rides, then you may have a very difficult day deciding what to do. And most rides are best enjoyed with even numbers of people. The Racer isn't the same if you can't taunt a couple friends riding in the other train. And you need a minimum of two to ride the World Renowned Thunderbolt.



In middle school, it's time to break away from the adults and venture out in packs of friends. There are usually four or more in these clans as you roam around the park, joining other clans for a quick stop at the Potato Patch to grab a bite of fresh pressed french fries, before heading off to the Phantom's Revenge or the Black Widow. The day turns into evening, the lights come on, and the park transforms. The coasters travel a bit faster and rides like Garfield's Revenge (also known as the Old Mill) are a bit more romantic if you have a special crush.

Once you have children of your own, the park takes on a whole new meaning. The nostalgia of times gone by are ever present as you take your kids to the same Kiddieland you enjoyed as a child. The joy in their eyes as they ride the Baby Whip or the Baby Swings is precious to you. You will look forward to taking off from work to take them to their annual Kennywood day in their Kennywood outfits, of course. When you show them the special aspects of the park, like sitting in the last car on the Jack Rabbit gives you a little more air when you go down the double dip. Or

you buy them a chocolate dipped ice cream cone. Do you want jimmies or nuts on that? These days don't last for long. Before you know it, they are off with their best friends, exploring and enjoying the park as you did a decade ago.

But the fun and games doesn't end with your children's passage into High School. Eventually, your children will get married and have families of their own. Then you can enjoy the park as a Grandparent. At this point, the many memories of Kennywood are woven into your mind, heart, and spirit. You

don't need to run around the park to enjoy it. You can find some shade near the lagoon or cool off in the air conditioned Parkside Café with pot roast and mashed potatoes. This cafeteria, located in the heart of the park, has been around since the very beginning, opening in 1899. The best part of being a Kennywood Grandparent is spoiling your grand-kids with ice cream from the Golden Nugget. It's a large vanilla ice cream cone, dipped in chocolate, rolled in nuts, and topped with a cherry on top. A sure Grandparenting win!

As the evening comes and the hot summer air cools, you can find a bench near the music of the Grand Carousel. The beloved Merry-Go-Round was built in 1926 and the music is provided by a 1916 Wurlitzer #153 Military Band Organ. It's one of the oldest Wurlitzer's in existence and it's yours. Because Kennywood is more than just an amusement park. Kennywood has been part of your entire life. Kennywood is home.



Iconic Eateries

The Golden Nugget

The Golden Nugget takes half gallons of vanilla ice cream out of the carton and slices them to fit into a double cake cone. Once placed into the cone, they are dipped in chocolate and generously roll the cone in your choice of nuts or colored sprinkles. Topped with a maraschino cherry, this frozen treat is a delightful finish to any meal in the park.



From Carousel to Burgers and Fries

The location that currently houses Johnny Rockets was the site of the first Kennywood ride; a carousel. Eventually the carousel was relocated and the structure was converted to the open air Carousel Food Court. In 2014, Johnny Rockets moved in with it's 1950's style dining and air conditioned comfort.





The Potato Patch

A staple of any Kennywood Park trip, the Potato Patch has been serving fries for decades. Hungry visitors can gorge themselves on these fresh pressed and fried Idaho potatoes. Top them off with a variety of seasoned salts, bacon, cheese, or brown gravy.



Photo courtesy of Kennywood Park

Classic Coasters

Photos courtesy of Kennywood Park



Jack Rabbit

Many Kennywood enthusiasts will tell you that their first roller coaster was the Jack Rabbit. You only need to be 42 inches tall to ride this wooden thrill ride. Kennywood lore contends that the last car in the train is the best place to ride as you will get the most air on the unique double dip. For a different experience, ride this coaster at night and experience the pitch black tunnel on the coaster's back end curve.





Photo: Jason North, courtesy of Kennywood Park

Racer

While at first glance the Racer appears to be two coasters racing side by side to the finish line, it's actually two trains on one continuous loop track. The wooden coaster's facade has changed a few times since it's inaugural season in 1927, but in 1990, it was restored to it's original design.





Thunderbolt

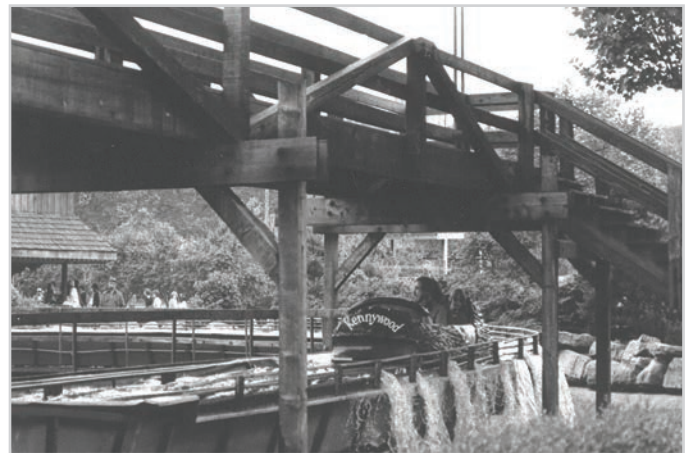
Originally built in 1924 and opened under the name The Pippin, the Thunderbolt was renamed and redesigned for the 1968 season. In 2018, Kennywood celebrates the 50th anniversary of this world renowned wooden beauty. The surprise first hill that flows with the park's natural topography is one of the many unparalleled features of this thunderous classic.





Log Jammer

While technically not a coaster, the Log Jammer was just as thrilling as any of the wooden and thrill rides in the park. It opened in 1975 and was always a great way to cool off. The log shaped cars floated gracefully through the wooded area of the park near the Racer. It was the park's first million-dollar ride that concluded with a splash down a fifty-three foot drop. Sadly, the Log Jammer's final run occurred on September 17, 2017, but endless memories will live on in the minds of Kennywood fanatics everywhere.

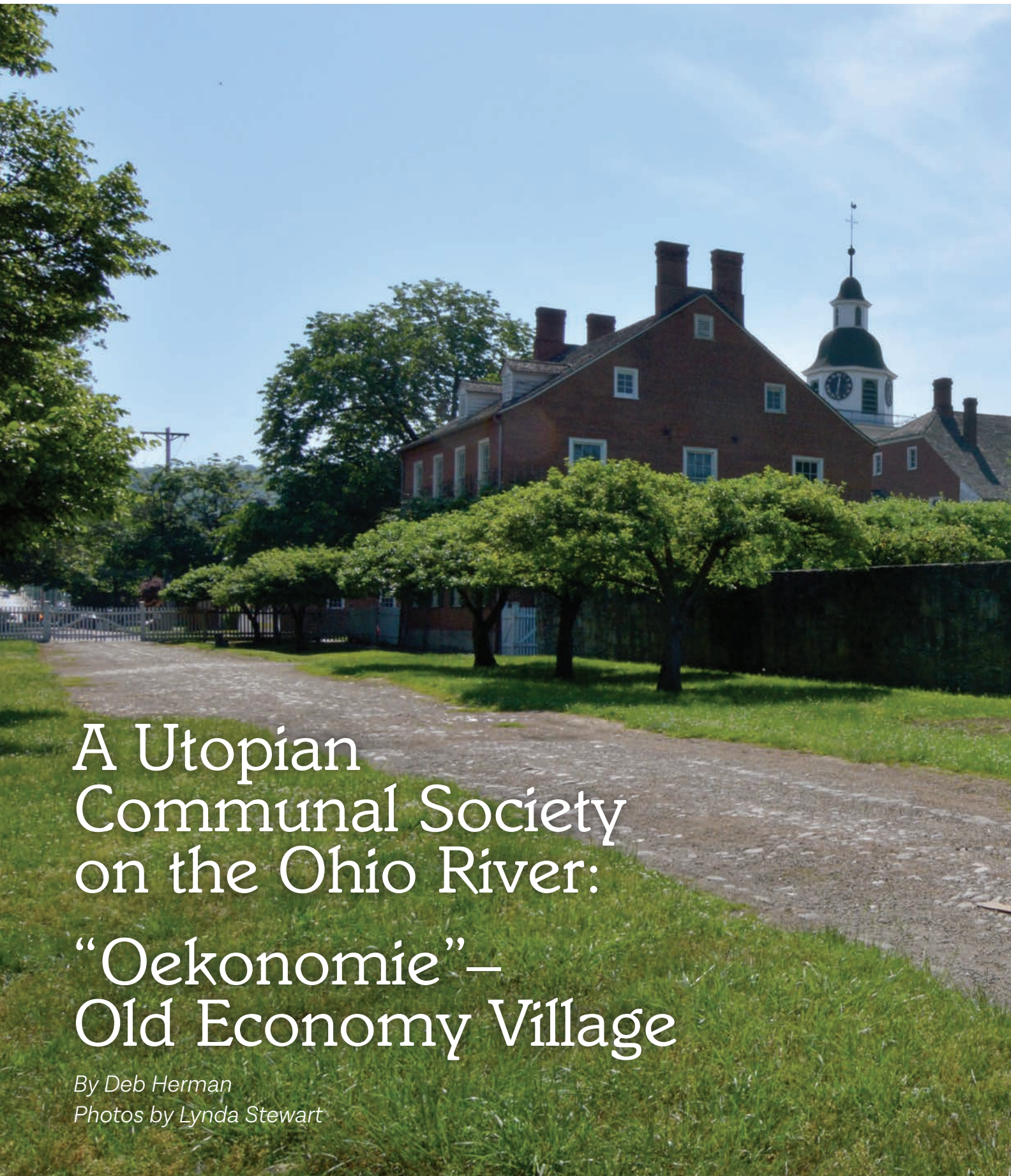


If you go...

*Kennywood is open throughout the summer
10:30am until 10:00pm.*

*Tickets can be purchased at the gate or online.
Season passes are also available. Children under 3
are admitted for free.*

*For special theme days and other events,
visit www.kennywood.com/events*




A Utopian
Communal Society
on the Ohio River:
“Oekonomie” –
Old Economy Village

By Deb Herman

Photos by Lynda Stewart

history

A large, leafy green tree stands in the foreground, its branches spreading across the middle ground. Behind the tree, a stone wall runs horizontally across the frame. To the left, a house with a grey roof and two chimneys is partially visible. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light, wispy clouds. The overall scene is a peaceful, rural landscape.

Farming the rich soil along the Ohio River in western Pennsylvania right next to humming cotton mills... Not your typical settlement on the American frontier. The village of Economy, founded in 1825 by German Lutheran separatist George Rapp, was home to the Harmonist Society. The Harmonists were one of the most successful religious communal groups of the era, building booming industries that not only sustained their society, but fueled the area's growth as a manufacturing mecca. What remains of their heritage is now a National Historic Landmark and State Historic Site, Old Economy Village in Ambridge, PA.

Harmonious Living

The Harmonists' religious devotion and economic prosperity were ingrained in their simple lifestyle, working together for the good of the community. True to the communal spirit, those who joined the Society gave over all their possessions and in turn, received everything they needed to live comfortably.

As you walk through this historic village, it's apparent that Economy was built for productivity. The leader's home (George Rapp House) was the heart of the village, with the community stores and gathering places close by. The members' homes circled the center of town; 80 of these still stand today. Families inhabit some, another is a bed & breakfast, some house small businesses.

Around the outskirts were the barns, mills, blacksmith shop and similar businesses operated by the men. Beyond that, a couple thousand acres of fields, where the Society's female members diligently worked every day for the good of the Society. Interestingly, the main thoroughfare (14th Street today) gave direct access to the Ohio River for shipping the Society's excess crops and goods manufactured.

The site that's open to the public features seventeen restored historic structures and George Rapp's garden, all built between 1824 and 1830, which was the center of "Oekonomie." Your journey starts at the Visitor Center, where you'll see a short video about the history of the Society and the village. There's also a small museum displaying artifacts from the Society.



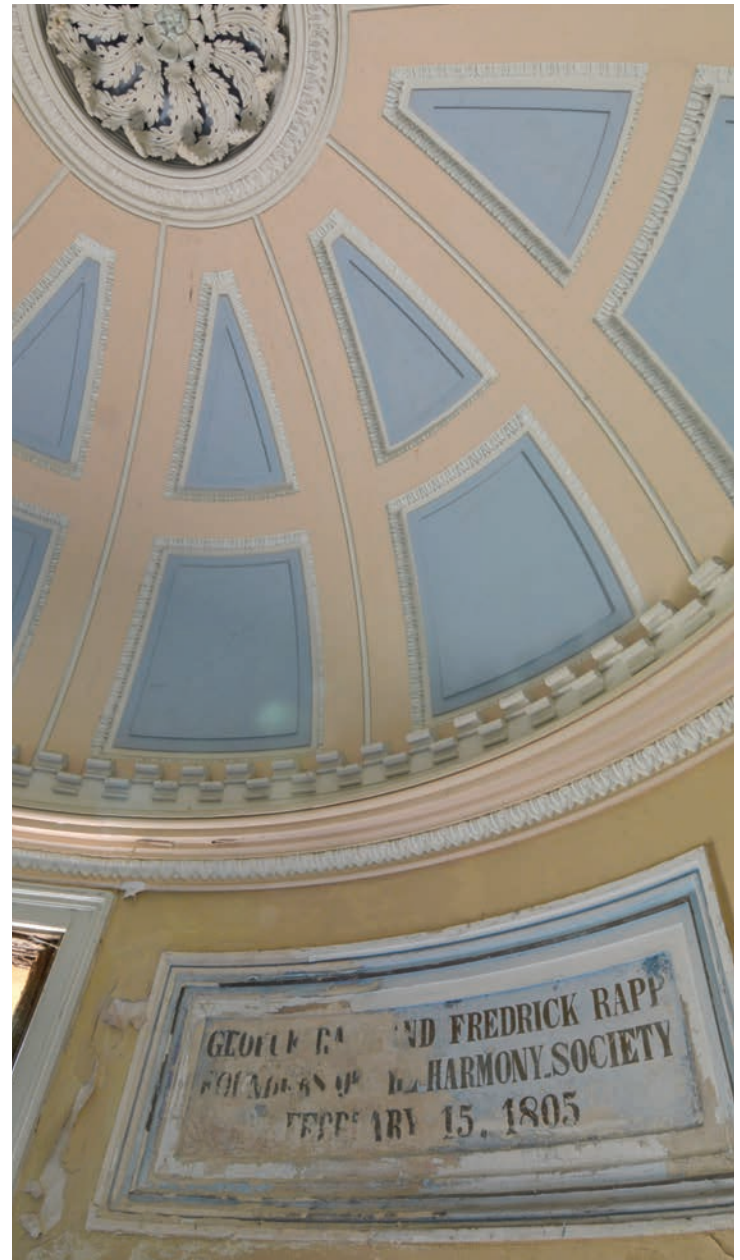
Let's Take a Walk

I was fortunate to get a personal tour from the site manager, Michael Knecht, who told me stories you won't find on their website or in brochures. (And yes, some of them are told here.)

We started at the George Rapp House, which was quite elegant compared to the other members' homes. A room-sized religious painting fills one wall of the parlor, where I also saw an obligatory harp. Rapp entertained and met with many important political and business leaders in his home, including German royals and President Zachary Taylor. They all came to learn about how the Harmonists built and maintained their successful community.

The heavy frame of the four-poster bed dominates the master bedroom, which also features what's most likely the first walk-in closet ever! (Secret about that closet ... there's a door that leads underground to a vault, where the wealth of the Society was stored until a separate addition was built for that purpose. Can't go down there, though.)







Outside, George Rapp's gardens take up a lot of real estate. In a hub-and-spoke design, arbors, lawns and flower beds all converge on a central pavilion. There's also an unusual Grotto featuring a thatch roof and a neo-classical interior (think Greek columns). To the Harmonists, the Grotto was a metaphor for their Society - rough outside, refined inside. Today, the gardens host weddings and special events.

The Feast Hall was just that ... a place for communal meals and musical performances. The enormity of the second-floor hall is impressive, but then there's this oddity: Doors placed high on the walls at each end of the room, with no apparent access. It's speculated that George Rapp addressed the gatherings from these vantage points, and that the doorways also provided ventilation for the large hall.

The first floor features recreated exhibits from the Harmonist's Natural History Museum, the first of its kind in the United States. Dozens of species of birds and creatures are on display, including many the Society acquired from faraway places. Society members could visit for free, but non-members had to pay ten cents. The first floor also housed classrooms including one for musical instruction.



The General Store carried all the goods that any Harmonist could get for free, and others could buy. In addition to the food and goods they produced themselves, there were supplies from around the country and the world such as tea, sugar and glassware. And wine. Lots of wine, produced by the Harmonists in their own Wine Cellar. Massive oak barrels held thousands of gallons of wine at any given time. The casks are still in the cavernous cellar, giving testimony to the Society's forward-thinking knowledge of mass production.







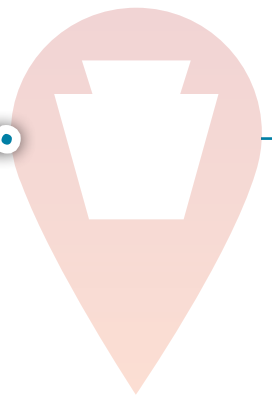
Down the street, the Baker House gives visitors a look at a typical Society's member's living space. Small but functional, this was home to storekeeper R. L. Baker, his mother and sister. The Baker House Garden and Family Shed are right outside. Even though food was provided by the Society, every family had their own small garden along with a shed to store wood, tools and supplies. Chickens and a cow lived there, too.



Many other buildings make up Old Economy Village... a cabinet shop, carriage house, blacksmith shop, and granary, to name a few. Most of Old Economy's buildings are open only with a tour guide, so you need to stop at the Visitor Center first to get checked in. Volunteers in period attire escort you through the Village buildings and grounds, taking you back to the Harmonist way of life.



If you go...



Old Economy Village

270 16th Street, Ambridge, PA

724.266.4500

OldEconomyVillage.org

Hours of Operation

April 1 - December 31

Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, major holidays and

January - March

Special events, demonstrations and classes take place regularly throughout the year. Check the website for details.

Harmonist Society History

George Rapp was a pacifist religious reformer in Germany. Believing that the German Lutheran church had become corrupt, he founded his Harmonist Society in 1785 based on his teachings and early Christian principles. He and his 800 followers came to the United States in 1803 and founded their first community – Harmony, PA (20 miles north of current-day Ambridge). Before building their third home in 1825 Economy, the Society moved west to Indiana and established another community there (New Harmony, IN) in 1814.

Agriculturalists and industrialists working alongside each other was very well-regarded during this era. Thomas Jefferson and other notable leaders believed this was the path that would make America thrive independently. The Harmonists created new manufacturing methods and perfected existing ones, making them extremely competitive in textile manufacturing—wool, cotton, and silk—and agricultural production.

They constructed textile factories powered and heated by steam engines. They built shops for all types of artisans including blacksmiths, hatters, wagon makers, cabinet-makers, and potters. In perfect communal form, they built a centralized steam laundry, bake oven and dairy for the community. Later, they perfected the technology of silk manufacturing, earning the Society worldwide acclaim.

Since they practiced celibacy to purify themselves for the Messiah's second coming (which they expected to happen pretty quickly), the Harmonists didn't marry. As the Society's numbers shrank, they began hiring non-members to work their fields and businesses. This was necessary to keep up with the far-reaching demand that they'd created for their unique and innovative products. Paid workers filled this demand in Harmonist textile and grain mills, fields, livestock barns, and in the many shops and service businesses.

Eventually, the mills stopped operating because there simply weren't enough workers. At that point, the Harmonists began investing in oil and the railroads. This financed the development of the city of Beaver Falls, several miles away on the Beaver River. The Society felt an obligation to residents in the region who relied on them for employment, investing in several factories in Beaver Falls for that purpose. Harmonist investments also helped re-establish Geneva College in this city.

The Harmonists had a lot of accumulated wealth due to their business ventures and investments. By 1900, only six members remained in the Society, and it was dissolved in 1905. That's when the majority of their land was sold to the American Bridge Company (thus the city's name – Ambridge). The Society's trustees willed its fortunes and remaining assets to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in case the last member's death preceded the Messiah's second coming.

The remaining six acres of Economy became Old Economy Village, a state historic site, in 1919.



Pick Your Pack



Grab a tin and fill it with crayons, markers or both!

Grab a tin and fill it with crayons, markers or both!

Grab a tin and fill it with crayons, markers or both!



Color Your World at The Crayola Experience

By Jason Krynski
Photos by Lynda Stewart

Crayons are simply paper covered pieces of colored wax but they have provided endless joy throughout the world. In Easton, Pennsylvania, nestled near the confluence of the Delaware and Lehigh Rivers, lies one of the most colorful places in the state. The Crayola Experience is an excellent place to visit for artists of all ages.



There's truly something for everyone in these four floors of colorful fun.

From the colorful pegboard of Toddler Town to the creativity station at Melt & Mold, where you can create your own souvenir out of your favorite color, *The Crayola Experience* is entertaining for kids of all ages. For the adults, it's an irresistible trip down memory lane that will leave you wanting your own fresh box of crayons.

On the first floor, visit the Crayola Store and see the World's Largest crayon "Big Blue". There's also the Crayola Café for a snack before or after your visit.

The second floor has a variety of interactive experiences including the live theater show where you can learn how crayons are made.





The Color Playground is located on the third floor. Here, kids can burn off some extra energy in a Crayola themed indoor playground. The Water Works 85-foot water table attraction is located here as well. Before heading to the fourth floor, slow it down in the Activity Studio. The themes of the Activity Studio project changes throughout the year.

The fourth floor is easily the most fun floor of them all. Melt the crayons back down to mold them into other shapes in Melt & Mold. Or create a work of art with drips of wax in Drip Art.



If you go...



The Crayola Experience hosts special events throughout the year and the hours of operation vary so be sure to check out their website for times and information when you are planning your trip.

The Happiest Place I Know... “Randyland!”

Story and Photos by Kim Adley

Tucked away in the historic Mexican War Streets neighborhood of Pittsburgh, Pa. is truly the happiest place I know. It sneaks up on you with unexpected surprise as you meander along treelined Arch Street and come to a corner filled with color, imagination and... yes, happiness.



unique places



This is Randyland, the creation of native Pittsburgher, Randy Gilson, a true master at making something worthless become something worthwhile.

In 1995, Randy purchased the dilapidated three-story property destined for demolition at auction for \$10,000 without even knowing what the place would become. He says, “he followed his heart” and the grounds soon became a place for Randy’s creativity to shine. He recycled, reused and repurposed materials found in dumpsters and while cleaning up the neighborhood he also created a community garden and art project. His colorful folkart installation has been named “the most painted house in America” and is sure to make you smile.

The courtyard and garden at Randyland are open to the public there is a steady stream of visitors daily. The large “Welcome Wall” along the back fence of the courtyard boasts 140 painted signs saying “welcome” in 140 different languages. According to Randy, “Randyland is OUR-land- it is the love, the joy, the happiness, the understanding of all who enter her gates.” If you are lucky enough to visit while Randy is working in the garden, he will greet you personally, tell you his story of inspiration and invite you to explore. At every turn guests will see color and things, once trash, now objects of art. Randy’s mastery of turning waste into wonder is a true gift that encourages visitors to look at “things” in new ways. Guests will also see messages of hope, love and self-expression. He urges others to ask themselves, “why aren’t we watering, feeding and weeding our dreams? Randyland is a place for renewing, replanting, recreating, and reimagining what we can be.” Oh yes, and a place to forget the worries for a little while and be happy!



If you go...

Randyland is FREE and open to the public daily from 1pm until dusk. There are places to sit and bring a snack, but Randy asks that you take your trash with you when you leave. There is a small welcome center with T-shirts, mugs and other small souvenirs for purchase. Donations are strongly encouraged and welcome in the donation box. All moneys are used for the purchase of paint and supplies for maintenance and future art projects. Coming this summer, a giant flower garden made from salvaged wood. Randy calls it his garden from the “land of the giants”! There is always something fun and new to see at Randyland... www.randy.land.com



Lynda and Jason would like to thank their friends, family, and contributors that helped make this magazine possible. And they would like to thank all the readers of this inaugural issue. Whether you purchased your issue online or are enjoying it while sitting in a waiting room, they appreciate your time. They hope that they have exceeded your expectations have inspired you believe in them and their vision.

This publication will continue to grow if people like you believe in it and support it. Lynda, Jason, and all of us at Pinpoint: Pennsylvania are committed to include everyone in the state in this endeavor. If you have knowledge of a secret spot that you love to visit, a local restaurant that you think deserves praise for what they do, or a unique business that is changing the world, please feel free to tell us all about it.

Visit them online at www.pinpointpennsylvania.com for more content, to order a subscription, and to become part of the Pinpoint: Pennsylvania community.

RELAX & ENJOY *Breathtaking Views & Adventure*



Shenango River Water Trail



John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Trail
at Maurice K. Goddard State Park



Mercer County Golf Trail



Wine & Brew Trail

Explore Mercer County PA's Exciting Trails!

Upper Shenango River Water Trail

The scenic Upper Shenango River Water Trail provides 23 miles of easy canoe and kayak paddling or inner tube floating. There are seven nonmotorized boat launches so paddlers can choose several different lengths for their float. To help visitors enjoy the river, two companies, Carried Away Outfitters and Pymatuning Rentals and Information Center, make planning your water adventure easy.

John C. Oliver Multi-Purpose Trail

Maurice K. Goddard State Park features a 12.2 mile scenic multi-use paved trail that loops around Lake Wilhelm. There is a lot of nature to view from this trail so don't be surprised to see Bald Eagles, Osprey or Trumpeter Swans.

For more information, go to VisitMercerCountyPA.com, then click on *Outdoor Adventure*.

Mercer County Golf Trail

Mercer County is one of America's Top Golf Destinations offering a great selection of middle to high end courses, low green fees and a variety of accommodations centrally located to the courses.

To request a golf package quote, go to GolfMercerCountyPA.com.

Wine & Brew Trail

For groups looking for a different and fun way to celebrate birthdays, bridal parties or other special occasions – or would just love a relaxing weekend away – Mercer County, PA offers a Wine and Brew Trail in picturesque settings. With eight wineries, five breweries and a distillery in the area, this Trail experience is tailored to each group's wishes and includes a customized itinerary, transportation, free wine tastings, entertainment and assistance in arranging an overnight stay and dinner.

Getaways to Mercer County mean leaving the city behind and enjoying the beauty of lakes and scenic countryside. Visitors can enjoy a unique experience on a Wine and Brew Tour, stay in fabulous lodgings and dine out at great restaurants.

For more information, go to VisitMercerCountyPA.com, then click on *Wine & Brew Trail*.

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