





Our destinations offer exceptional surroundings to make your dreams of that special wedding day come true.



Issue 4 / Spring 2019

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Oak Lodge

Morris House Hotel, Philadelphia. Photo courtesy of Morris House Hotel.

On the cover: David L. Lawrence Convention Center, Pittsburgh. Photo by Lucia Cintra Photography.



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SPOTLIGHT ON:





Photo by Phil Balko. Courtesy of Johnstown Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Pinpoint: Pennsylvania is a publication of Pinpoint Publishing, LLC.

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Welcome

Vision

The vision of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania is to provide an entertaining and educational publication, while forming a community focused on sharing unique Pennsylvania experiences. We seek to help gain increased exposure for the lesser known and contribute to their success, and provide unique perspectives on the more familiar, while giving creatives a platform to share what they know and love.

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 content from readers and peers rather than staff writers, 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 throughout Pennsylvania.



Welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania. The birds are chirping, flowers are blooming, and trees are returning to their bright green splendor.

The staff at Pinpoint are working hard to uncover the most interesting places to visit in Pennsylvania this year. 2019 is going to be very exciting while we explore Pennsylvania wines in the summer and haunted trips in the fall. We are thrilled to share our findings with all of you.

This issue is not just about weddings. Have some free-form family fun while hiking in Ohiopyle State Park. Or take in the colorful scenery of Longwood Gardens. Do you enjoy visiting a quaint bed & breakfast? We found out that Centre County is filled with them, not to mention home to some amazing outdoor experiences in Bald Eagle State Park. You're about to find out all about it in this issue.

Now that we have all thawed out from winter, we would like to remind you to share your great experiences. We also encourage all the business owners and operators of the unique locations throughout the state to reach out to us. We would love to send someone your way to experience your location and share your story.

Additionally, we are looking for more distribution points throughout the state. It doesn't cost you anything and we would love for you to join the Pinpoint family. Those interested can contact us at: info@pinpointpennsylvania.com

With all that being said, Lynda and Jason, along with all of the staff at Pinpoint: Pennsylvania, encourage you to enjoy this Spring edition.

Go out and make some memories!

Contributors

Joanne Jamis Cain is a special event and wedding coordinator and lives in Clinton, PA. She shares her life with her husband of 37 years, and a golden retriever, many chickens, and several beehives. She adores her two adult children and two grandchildren. Visit Joanne's blog at KatherinesDaughter.com.

Melanie Fitzpatrick has been expressing her creativity in front of & through the camera lens since her college days at Point Park University, where she earned multiple BA's in the Performing Arts. She is an avid outdoor explorer & adventurer. A native Vermonter who lovingly calls Pittsburgh her home, she spends her weekends at her family cabin in the Laurel Highlands hiking, skiing, biking and enjoying nature's beauty in W.PA with her husband & friends. She's a published writer & photographer and currently Coaches Women in Life & Business, Visit her at LivelnYourTruth.life

Denise Ann Galloni loves trying different restaurants, accommodations and experiencing all the adventures Pennsylvania has to offer. She is the owner of DG Training Solutions Inc., and helps others find their voices to become better communicators. She is the creator, producer, and host of an award-winning TV show called Empowering Women. Learn more about Denise and check out her free resources at DGTrainingSolutionsinc.com.

Hailing from the Steel City, Gilbert Perkins is a Pittsburgh native. Although his preferred colors are black and gold, he dabbles in having a green thumb and an intricate eye for gardening and landscaping. He is a long-time barber in the Pittsburgh area and has 3 children. Although he seems to be a walking sports encyclopedia, Gilbert can hold his own in a conversation in horticulture and current barbering trends.

Andy Rupert is the Director of Marketing at the Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau, where he promotes all things Centre County. Andy has a lifelong passion for off the beaten path experiences dating back to his childhood filled with family trips in their pop-up camper. He has a journalism degree from Penn State University and a master's degree in sport management from the University of Southern Mississippi. He is originally from Cooperstown, PA.

Susan Walker, Owner/Partner in Whitehorse Brewing, manages sales & event coordination at the brewery & taproom in Berlin, PA. Once thought to be an introvert, she soon realized her skills could be used to sell product & has obtained a territory throughout four counties. In the Spring & Summer be sure to check out the "Beer Garden" in Berlin, where private parties & class reunions are held, and her love of plants is showcased. For more information please contact Susan at 814-279-8761.





CAN CONTRIBUTE TOO!

Do you like to write?

Do you take amazing photos?

Do you love Pennsylvania?

Share Your Passions and Become a Pinpoint Content Contributor!

Consider Pinpoint: Pennsylvania to be our state's travel journal. All of our content comes from people who love PA, including everyone from the amateur photographer out for a Sunday drive to the experts in the county tourism offices. We rely on our contributors to help us discover the best Pennsylvania has to offer.

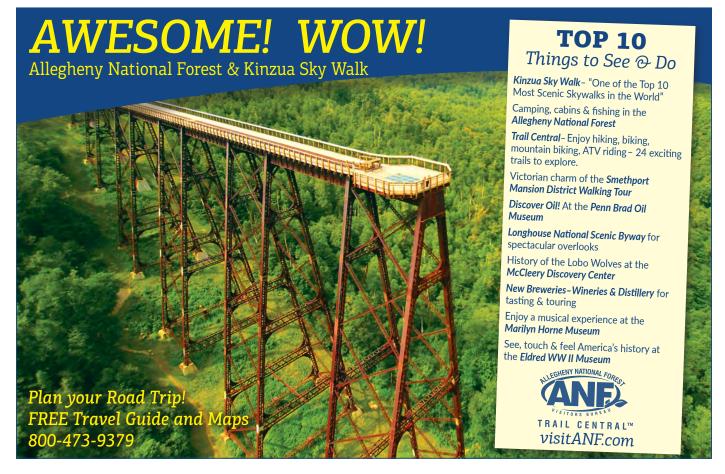
Looking for Hot Summer Stories and Cool Photos! Here's some of the things we are exploring:

Favorite Pennsylvania wines and wineries
Exciting outdoor adventures
Summer festivals in your area

Have an idea for our Summer 2019 issue?

Upload your articles and photos today at PinpointPennsylvania.com/share-your-story or send an email to info@PinpointPennsylvania.com





Spring is a time of renewal in Pennsylvania. Flowers sprout to welcome you as you stretch your legs on a hiking path along the Greater Allegheny Passage. Bright green trees now line the Pine Creek Gorge as you kayak through the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon. The fresh mountain air fills your lungs as the sun sets and the evenings are still cool. Sit back and relax by a campfire after a long day of activity. Ricketts Glen State Park, Luzerne County. Photo by Michael Yatsko.





travel typs

Honeymoons in Pennsylvania?

By Jason Krysinski

Believe it or not, Pennsylvania is a perfect destination for a honeymoon.

Many people, far and wide, travel to Pennsylvania to spend their first few married evenings together. The wide variety of locations, history, and things to do make Pennsylvania an incredibly attractive location.



Whether it be the Lake Erie Wine Trail or the Poconos, there's plenty to do and the cost is a fraction of many other trips, while the fun and memories are equal.

Take for example Centre County, Pennsylvania. There's a wide variety of choices. From the luxurious Reynolds Mansion to the more relaxed and country-style rooms of the Bed & Breakfast at Rock Garden you really can't go wrong.

A personal favorite is The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle. More than your average B&B, The Nature Inn is an experience that can be customized to your pace. If you prefer a more laid back stay, you can relax around the property during the day and enjoy some beverages fireside at night. Or you can plan a fast-paced day of activities like hiking and kayaking.

Jump ahead to page 50 for more on these unique locations!

Hotel Check-in/ Check-out Times (Part 2)

By Jason Krysinski

In the last issue, I briefly covered the complexities of check-in and check-out times. If you recall, there's quite a bit involved including efficiencies in payroll for the housekeeping department, but most importantly enhancing the guest experience.

The guest experience is enhanced by allowing a guest to have a timely check-in as early as 3pm as well as making sure their departure time is maximized to 12pm in most cases. But what if your flight doesn't depart until 5pm and you would like to check out later? Or what if you encountered no traffic and arrived at 10am?

You can ask for a late check-out or early check-in at the front desk. For the reasons we previously mentioned, most hotels will charge for these services. And if you don't mind paying for them, they should be readily available to you, but how can you get these services for free?

First and foremost, be nice. Kindness and information are your biggest assets in these situations. Personally, I would call the front desk and chat about how their day is going. Ask them how busy the hotel is and if they have a busy day ahead of them. The busier they are, the less likely you are to get this service for free, but if they say they aren't very busy, that's a different story. Ask politely if it would be possible to have a complimentary early check-in or late check-out.

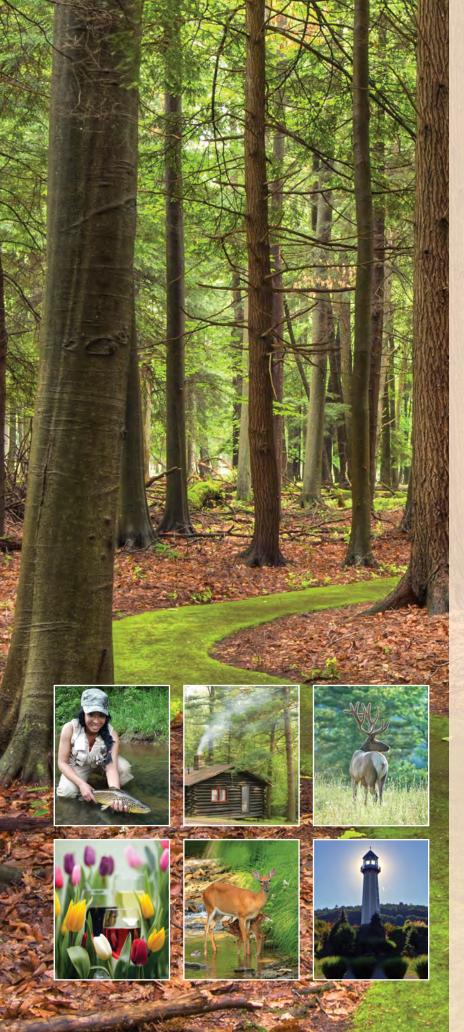
An early check-in will be easier to get. Most likely, they will tell you that if the room type you have requested is available and clean, they will get you into the room. They will probably tell you to check when you arrive.

The late check-out can be a little trickier. You might start by asking how late you could check-out without an additional charge. If the time they quote to you is good enough, then you're all set. If not, you may ask for additional time and if you have played your cards correctly, they may give you more time.

Overall, being well-informed, polite, and understanding is the best way to get what you want from your hotel stay.

If you are traveling soon and have questions, please feel free to reach out to Practical Insider Travelers Tips at info@pinpointpennsylvania.com. Until next time, be safe and happy traveling!





Endless Adventure

Spring is an especially beautiful and exciting season to visit the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors region. Watch as trees and flowers come into bloom as you explore more than a million acres of woodland, and cast your line or go for a paddle on two National Wild and Scenic Rivers or dozens of mountain streams and quiet lakes. Take a step into the past and experience live tactical reenactments of the French and Indian War, and enjoy the fun of family-friendly festivals that offer something for everyone.

Any time of year, you can witness free-roaming elk in the wild, visit a world-famous groundhog, hike beneath some of the tallest trees in the northeastern United States, find intriguing history throughout many charming small towns, and sample the area's unforgettable flavors at a wide range of wineries, breweries, distilleries, and restaurants. Come to the Pennsylvania Great Outdoors and find your endless adventure.



PENNSYLVANIA GREAT OUTDOORS VISITORS BUREAU

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Tapping the Local Resources: Whitehorse Brewing

By Susan Walker
Photos Courtesy of Whitehorse Brewing

There's only one microbrewery in Somerset County, Pennsylvania.

Founded in 2012, Whitehorse Brewing is a family owned,

10-barrel microbrewery located in the historic community of Berlin, set in the beautiful Laurel Highlands. Our Berlin taproom overlooks the entire brew house. Therefore, when you're having a tasty beverage we get the chance to educate you on the brewing process up-close.

food Edrink







In March of 2018, we opened a taproom in Washington, Pennsylvania. Located along Racetrack Road, the taproom features a rustic, industrial look with reclaimed barnwood, hand-crafted inverted wooden water buckets for light shades all with the detailed craftsmanship from Tall Pines Distillery owner in Salisbury, PA.

Here, we offer twelve taps, with an occasional "guest" tap. We also carry local wines and distilled spirits. We don't serve food at the taproom, but we do have a working relationship with the almost famous Primanti Brothers location. You can have their food delivered right to your table. Or if you prefer, you can even bring your own food with you.

We take great care when making our quality crafted beer. We use as many local ingredients as possible and we are a natural, fully sustainable brewery. Our bestselling Honey Lager uses 45 pounds of locally sourced honey. We even use fresh, local hops, when available. Our spent grains are given to a nearby farm to feed livestock.

In the Springtime, we open our outdoor canopy, which features a wildflower garden that surrounds the seating area. This also allows visitors to view the spectacular Whitehorse Mountain scenery. Food trucks are scheduled every Saturday beginning in May. Since we are pet friendly, bring your four-legged friend and enjoy the sights together.





WHITEHORSE BREWING FLIGHT (CIRCLE FIVE) Jack's Dry Hopped Cider - 5.5% ABV Elevation 2960 Lager - 3.8% ABV Whitehorse Pilsner - 5% ABV Buckwheat Honey Lager - 5.4% ABV Falls Cut Ale - 5.6% ABV Body Shop Bock - 7.8% ABV Pious IPA - 6.3% ABV Pit Pony Stout - 5.9% ABV Coffee Porter - 6.7% ABV Porter - 6.7% ABV

Behind the scenes, we recently added some serious talent. As with a lot of other brewers, Mike Fahy got his start homebrewing beer kits in his garage with a group of his friends in early 2014. It didn't take long before they were designing their own recipes, starting with extract



and then transitioning into all grain.

One day, while brewing, *Bad Moon Rising* by Creedence Clearwater Revival was on the radio. They had an idea. Bad Moon Brewing was born. Mike and the guys soon took this hobby and turned it into an obsession.

A big turning point came when Mike saw a raspberry jalapeno jam and decided to create a beer based on it. People were hesitant at first, but their reaction when they tried it and loved it ignited a fire for the Bad Moon Brewing crew. The experimental brewing has created everything from big, boozy bourbon stout to fun flavors like Kool-Aid sours and Oreo stouts.

Success at home-brewing competitions gave Bad Moon some recognition and a desire to grow. As luck would have it, Whitehorse Brewing's owner, George, had met Mike through mutual friends. The two quickly formed a friendship. Soon, the guys from Bad Moon were helping at Whitehorse. They've begun to craft new beers as well as revamp some of the current Whitehorse recipes. While Whitehorse favorites will continue to remain staples at the brewery, this addition brings bold new flavors as well as some of their much-loved homebrew recipes. It has been a dream come true for a homebrewer turned head brewer, but the best part has been becoming a part of a local business and finally being able to share Bad Moon's creations with the community.

Learn more about our craft beer selection at WHBrewing.com

Experience Lawrence County



Wine & Craft Beer Trail

Sip and savor each unique blend.



Tavern on the Square

Burger Trail Challenge

Eight restaurants. Eight burgers. One goal... Devour your way through deliciousness!



Mines & Meadows

Take it underground at the only underground ATV riding in the Northeast!



White Water Adventure

Enjoy guided white water rafting, canoe or kayaking tours on the Connoquenessing River.



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Opt for overnight stays, public investigations or guided tours. Do you have what it takes?

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Fred Rogers Center at Saint Vincent College. Photo Courtesy of Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau.



SPOTLIGHT ON:

In Spring, the Laurel Highlands region of Pennsylvania comes to life. Spanning over 3,000 square miles, the area has plenty to do for everyone.

Ohiopyle State Park awakens as trees bloom and water roars. Visit the Cucumber Falls or get swept away in nature while hiking the trails. Take a trip along the thrilling rapids of the Youghiogheny as millions of rafters have done before you.

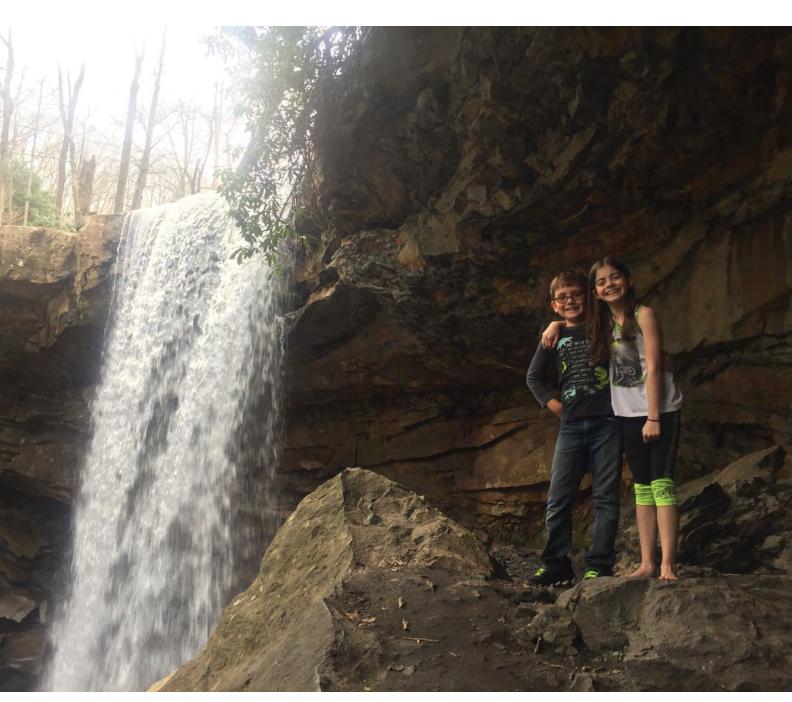
Family fun is right around the corner as you visit Mr. Rogers' neighborhood on the Fred Rogers Trail. Animal lovers can get up close and personal with wildlife at Living Treasures Wild Animal Park. Visit furry friends, including marmosets, fennec foxes, and a two-toed sloth.

No matter what you choose, you probably won't be able to do everything this visit, so make another list for your next visit to the Laurel Highlands.





Traditionally, I am not the outdoorsy type of person. That's not to say I don't enjoy the great outdoors, it's not always my first choice when choosing an activity. One day, as I was trying to find something that would entertain a ten and eleven-year-old, I remembered a trip with my family to Ohiopyle State Park.



It was a vague recollection of the natural water slides and waterfalls, but we set out on our journey never the less. I figured that we could at least spend some time in the car together, maybe stop somewhere and get a bite to eat, and just generally have a random adventure.

Upon arriving to the area, the kids were both intrigued by the name Cucumber Falls. I noticed how hot day was as we exited the car and headed down the path to the falls. Closer to the water, under the shade of the trees, the environment turned much cooler. As we stood alongside the bubbling brook with Cucumber Falls rumbling in the background, both kids looked to me for guidance. I told them to go ahead and explore...and explore they did.

There's something special about the parental pride you feel as you put aside your fear of injury and watch your children push their own boundaries. I followed them as I watched. They climbed rocks and fallen trees as they worked their way towards the falls. It was fascinating to observe each of them take different paths to the same goal. When we had gone as far as possible, my daughter asked me to take a selfie of the three of us in front of the falls. Then my son, as usual, asked, "Now what?". Good question, I thought to myself as we worked our way back to the car.



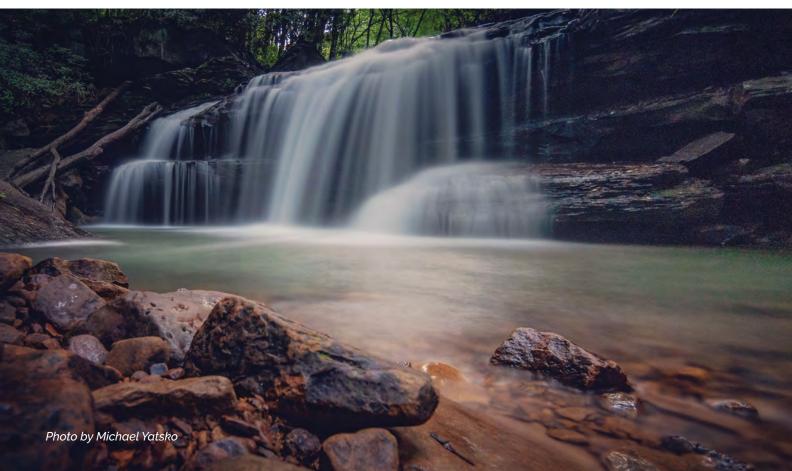
Both kids were drawn to the roaring water of the Ohiopyle as we parked and exited the car. Wandering toward the river's edge, we walked towards the restrooms and the visitors center. My son grabbed a hiking map and asked if we could go walking on some trails. I had no objection to this idea. So, we set out on our journey.

We had so much fun traversing the trails and different paths. The kids looked at trees, mushrooms, and other vegetation as we simply enjoyed nature. Even though I think we got off course a few times (somewhat intentionally), the trail map was easy to follow. At one point, I asked them if they wanted to turn around and go back or continue forward. They both wanted to continue forward despite the fact I could see they were both getting tired. Fueled by excitement and adrenaline, we kept going.

Upon completion of the trail, we were amazed to realize it had been three hours since we began our trek. We were all starving, so we stopped that Ohiopyle Old Mill General Store for a bite to eat before heading home.

Thirty seconds after starting to drive home, both kids were sound asleep. It afforded me some quiet time to reflect upon our day of adventure. I have come to realize that some days need no planning at all. All you need is one idea and one location. Get out there and explore our world freely and without restriction. Fun is right around the corner and personally, I cannot wait to do it again.







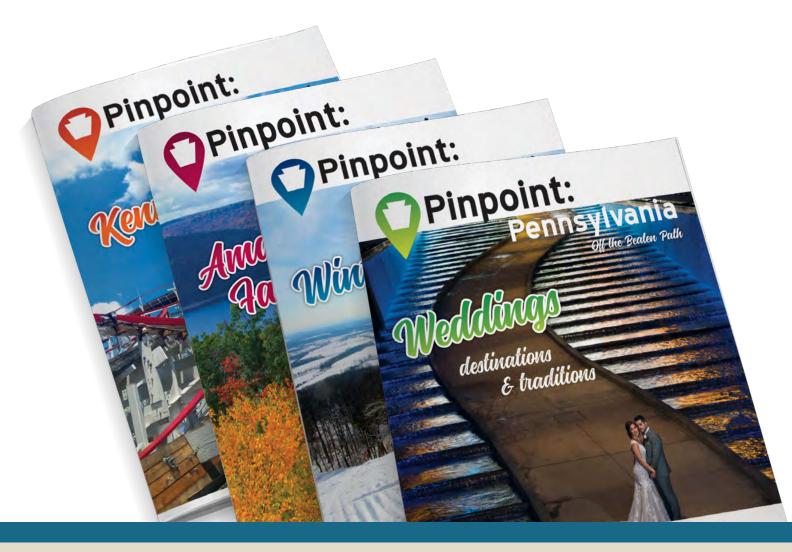
Plan Your Trip...

If visiting Ohiopyle in the Spring or Summer, take plenty of water. While the trees provide ample shade, you are going to expend a lot of energy and sweat more than you think. I recommend getting there early in the day so that you can get in the full experience. Plan to get wet and dirty. Maybe take a swimsuit and try out the natural water slides if weather permits. If you get hungry, the General Store has some excellent food, additional supplies and ice cream. Their fried pickles and club sandwich are some of the best that I have found at an off the beaten path location. Most importantly, remember to relax and enjoy yourself. If you have kids with you, let them be curious.



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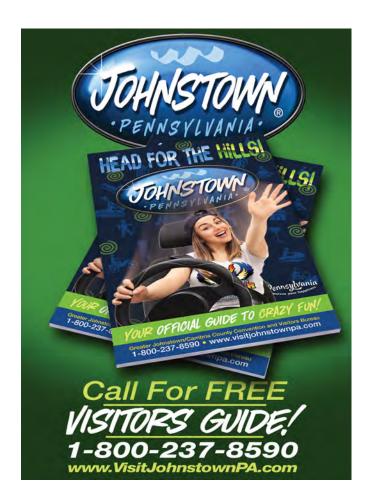


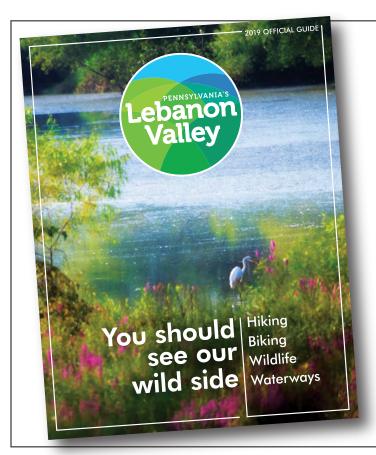
Get your message in front of Pennsylvanians with a passion for uncovering state culture through travel and exploration.

This summer Pinpoint: Pennsylvania will feature the Pennsylvania's Great Lakes Region and explore our state's vineyards and wineries. Our readers will experience unique and off the beaten path locations through the first-hand accounts of our contributors and the eyes of our photographers.

To advertise, contact: MC McKee at mc@mcmags.com or call 412-721-8491.



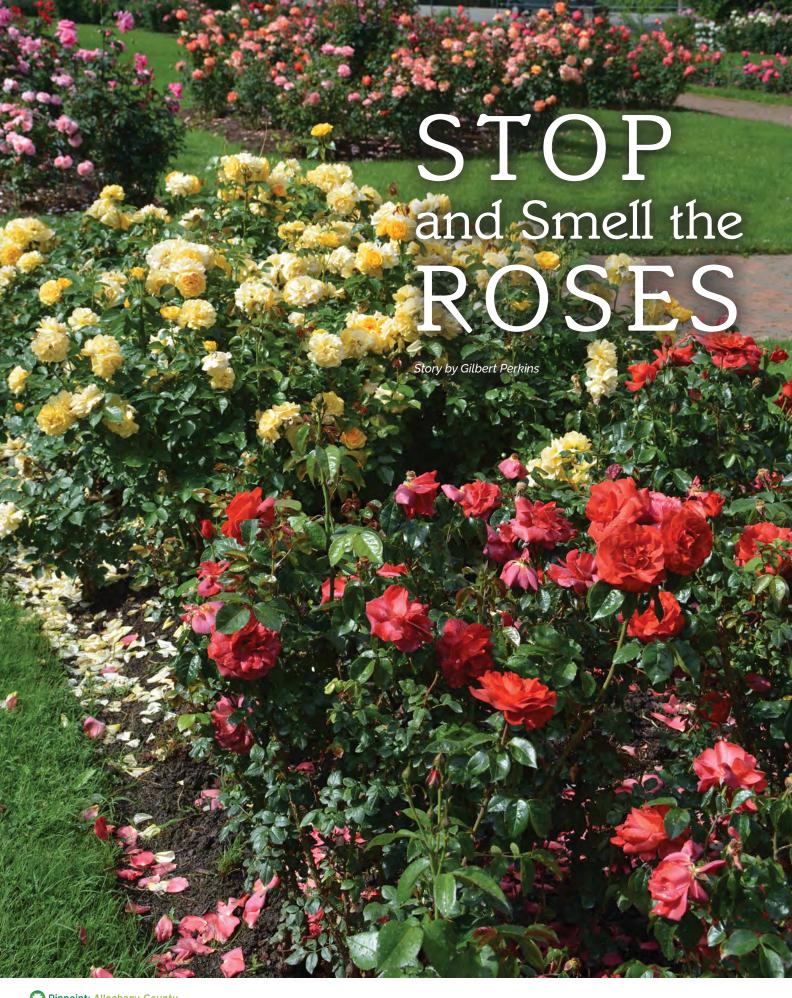




The Lebanon Valley is the premier destination for exploration and adventure. Located in the heart of South Central PA, we have the small-town feel but you can be sure there's plenty to see and do. With miles upon miles of trails for hiking and biking, and waterways galore, you can immerse yourself in our picturesque Valley that's home to various wildlife, including a few endangered species. Sample local craft brews and spirits with a side of foodie heaven. Our Opera Fudge is to swoon for! Or, shop 'till you drop at our many antique and boutique shops. We're proud of our history and heritage, and invite you to experience it for yourself when you visit the Lebanon Valley!

Lebanon Valley

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outdoors

For proof that the best things in life are free, it doesn't take more than a late spring or summertime visit to the magnificent rose garden at Renziehausen Park located in McKeesport, Pennsylvania just outside of Pittsburgh.

The three-acre garden houses a seemingly endless variety of roses, some which assuredly you never knew existed. The garden is cared for by passionate volunteers. Featuring a charming herb garden, a perennial garden coupled with a butterfly garden, a water pond, colors that defy what a rainbow has to offer and a centerpiece gazebo to cool you on summers most unforgiving day or evening.

An early June visit will greet you with over 2000 stunning roses in all of their glory. You will be spellbound as you stroll the brick path that ushers you through the garden. Most likely you will be intoxicated by the continuous fragrance given by the veteran roses with numerous petals. As you slowly step through the magical paradise, perhaps a variety named "Rio Samba" flirts with you by way of its transitional shades of red, yellow orange and white. Without a spoken word, it transmits an invitation to lower your face and breathe inward. You are speechless and properly inebriated. You truly know now what it means to stop and smell the roses.

Recognizing that you have singled out one of perhaps a thousand gems blooming, you come to terms with the realization that your visit will be much longer than you intended.

Invariably you will take notice of an elderly couple seeking shade. They may sit under the perfectly place gazebo on

that Sunday afternoon ruminating the day they were married. Perhaps they did what countless newlyweds do before they make their grand entrance to the reception and visit the rose garden to be photographed in a truly heavenly setting.

Thousands upon thousands visit this utopia yearly. The natural beauty you will encounter is endless and very memorable.

The garden serves as a backdrop for a bevy of late spring and summertime events. Most Sunday evenings are the perfect setting for local as well as high profile artists at the park's amphitheater. The Vogues and The Skylines have been regulars on the summer concert menu. Local talent performs at the shell-shaped stage. This includes the brilliance of Sal Ventura, founder of Dr. Zoot and the Suits. The weekly performances begin late in May and continue through Labor Day Weekend. The Labor Day weekend closes with an annual rib- fest next to the shell-shaped stage.

The garden awakens at sunrise 365 days a year and is free to the public. Its gates are closed at sundown. To be there at sunrise is priceless on a summer morning. You will see a vast variety of songbirds and other fowl native to western Pennsylvania. Blue Jays and cardinals along with gold finch add to the remarkable color that you will see at full bloom that only a sunrise can provide.

An early morning visitor is sure to find one of many places within the garden which block all view of the world's activities. The many adult-sized trees within the garden absorb the noise made by cars passing by on Eden Park Blvd. The sweet, high-pitch sound of the male cardinal coupled with the rising scent from dew drops upon the rose blooms will create a euphoric sensation that only nature can deliver.

A day that threatens rain should not stop you from visiting. In fact, cloudy day is truly better for viewing the color delivered by the garden. Colors are truly richer with less light and no shadows are cast with a cloud's cover. Ask any professional photographer and he or she will agree.

In addition to the better colors, a cloudy day may provide a brief shower that will dampen your shoes but will saturate humid air with fragrance. The Rose Garden becomes a perfume garden.

One last thought or tip to offer: Forsake your cell phone, you don't need distracted as somethings are better left to the senses. Your cell phone camera will not do the garden justice as your mind, memory and sense of smell will be more than enough. This experience is for your spirit, not 21st century gadgets.

Plan Your Trip...

Renziehausen Park (Renzie park, as the locals call her) offers a vast amount of ways to spend a summer day. Pack a tennis racquet in your car and serve a ball or two to your date or mate on some pristine public courts. Mario Lemieux's Foundation provided a 1-million dollar deck hockey rink for the park. Cool off at the wading pool if the heat is getting to you, or simply walk the trails that cover the scenic park.

Oak Lodge

Experience this Rustic and Luxurious Laurel Highlands Wedding Venue and B+B-We have it all- hospitality, new cabins, historic log chapel, pool, spa, farm-to-table breakfast + hiking-All nestled into 800 amazing acres- A true escape to nature! www. oaklodgepa.com









Spring Blooms at Longwood Gardens March 30—May 5

Photos by Larry Albee, Courtesy of Longwood Gardens.









During their peak Spring bloom, the historic property and it's 600-foot long Flower Garden Walk is home to more than 125,000 tulips and a kaleidoscope of seasonal blooms.

Peruse the grand treehouses, Topiary gardens, and historic Peirce's Woods, featuring azaleas and other spring favorites.

The experience is unparalleled as it pleases your visual and auditory senses and creates lasting memories.



Plan Your Trip...

If you decide to visit Longwood Gardens, we recommend checking out their website before your trip. There's more to Longwood than flowers and plants. They have educational programs, classes, and workshops for young and old. You might even stumble upon some excellent live entertainment. Most importantly, don't forget your camera!

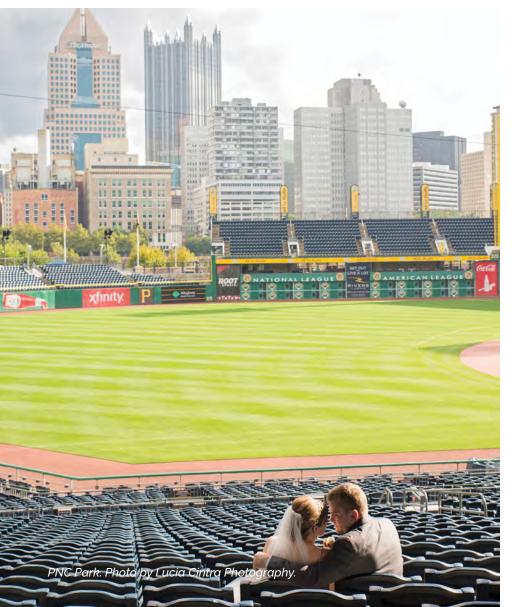


Petlect Pennsylvania Veddings









Buhl Mansion

A magnificent wedding venue that will make you feel like royalty, the Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa, located in Sharon, Pennsylvania, is the Castle wedding of your dreams. Built by Frank H. Buhl in the 1890s as a wedding present for his wife, the venue is sure to provide priceless memories for any couple. With a variety of breathtaking and inspiring locations throughout the property, there's something to exceed everyone's expectations whether it's an intimate elopement for two or an elegant "Castle for a Day" affair with the utmost in privacy. For more information on Buhl Mansion, visit Buhl Mansion, com.



WESTERN PA

Armstrong Farms

Saxonburg - Butler County ArmstrongFarms.com

Buhl Mansion Guesthouse & Spa

Sharon - Mercer County
BuhlMansion.com

Bramblewood

McDonald - Washington County BramblewoodWeddings.com

Chartiers Country Club

Pittsburgh - Allegheny County ChartiersCC.com

Circuit Center & Ballroom

Pittsburgh - Allegheny County FlutedMushroom.com

Concourse of Union Station

Erie - Erie County ConcourseOfUnionStation.com

Fox Chapel Golf Club

Fox Chapel - Allegheny County FoxChapelGolfClub.org

Irons Mill Farmstead

New Wilmington - Lawrence County IronsMillFarmsteadWeddings.com

Mansions on Fifth

Shadyside - Allegheny County MansionsOnFifth.com

Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

Oakland - Allegheny County Phipps.Conservatory.org

Pittsburgh Botanic Garden

Oakdale - Allegheny County PittsburghBotanicGarden.org

PNC Park

Pittsburgh - Allegheny County mlb.com/pirates/ballpark/events/weddings/receptions

Rustic Acres Farm

Volant - Lawrence County RusticAcresFarm.com

Tara - A Country Inn

Clark - Mercer County Tara-Inn.com

West Overton Village

Scottdale - Westmoreland County WestOvertonVillage.org

The White Barn

Prospect - Butler County WhiteBarn.us

Tara - A Country Inn

This 1854 inn, themed on Gone with the Wind, is the ideal location for intimate and personalized weddings. Acres of gardens, a picturesque gazebo and the iconic columned veranda offer you wonderful memories of a lifetime. The mouth-watering meals are prepared by the same chefs that oversee Tara's award-winning restaurants, and the 27 guestrooms provide your guests with overnight luxury. Perfect memories begin with the perfect venue, and what better way to start your life together than at Tara - A Country Inn. For more on Tara, visit Tara-Inn.com.





CENTRAL PA

The Bond

York - York County TheBondEvents.com

The Booking House

Manheim - Lancaster County
TheBookingHouseManheim.com

Battlefield Bed & Breakfast Inn

Gettysburg - Adams County GettysburgBattlefield.com

Christian W. Klay Winery

Chalk Hill - Fayette County CWKlayWinery.com

Cork Factory Hotel

Lancaster - Lancaster County CorkFactoryHotel.com

Country Barn

Lancaster - Lancaster County
CountryBarnWedding.com

Earlystown Manor

Centre Hall - Centre County
EarlystownManor.com

The Farm at Eagles Ridge

Lancaster - Lancaster County FarmAtEaglesRidge.com

Gateway Lodge

Cooksburg - Jefferson County GatewayLodge.com

Green Gables

Boswell - Somerset County GreenGablesPA.com

The Hayloft

Rockwood - Somerset County BLSHayloft.com

Ironstone Ranch

Elizabethtown - Lancaster County IronstoneRanch.com

Lauxmont Farms

Wrightsville - York County lauxmontweddings.com

Linwood Estate

Carlisle - Cumberland County LinwoodEstate.com

Moonstone Manor

Elizabethtown - Lancaster County MoonstoneManor.com

Mulberry Art Studios

Lancaster - Lancaster County MulberryArtStudios.com

Pheasant Field Bed & Breakfast

Carlisle - Cumberland County
PheasantField.com

Yorktowne Hotel

York - York County yorktowne.com

FASTERN PA

Ash Mill Farm Bed & Breakfast

Holicong - Buckingham Township AshMillFarm.com

Bally Spring Inn

Barto - Berks County BallySpringInn.com

Bear Creek Mountain Resort

Macungie - Lehigh County BCMountainResort.com

Cairnwood Estate

Huntingdon Valley -Montgomery County CairnWood.org

Camp Timber Tops

Greeley - Pike County WeddingsAtCamp.com

Fairmount Park Horticulture Center

Fairmount Park - Philadelphia County HortEvents.com

Faunbrook Bed & Breakfast

West Chester - Chester County FaunBrook.com

Friedman Farms

Dallas - Luzerne County FriedmanFarms.com

Fox Hill Farm

Honesdale - Wayne County FoxHillFarmExperience.com

Glen Foerd on the Delaware

Philadelphia - Philadelphia County GlenFoerd.org

The Inn at Grace Winery

Glen Mills - Delaware County GraceWinery.com

James John Audubon Center at Mill Grove

Audubon - Montgomery County JohnJames.Audubon.org

Morris House Hotel

Philadelphia - Philadelphia County MorrisHouseHotel.com

Mountain Springs Lake Resort

Reeders - Monroe County MSLResort.com

The Olde Bar

Philadelphia - Philadelphia County TheOldeBar.com

Pearl S. Buck Estate

Perkasie - Bucks County
PearlSBuck.JHollanderGourmet.com

Philadelphia Magic Gardens

Philadelphia - Philadelphia County PhillyMagicGardens.org

Rodale Institute Farm

Kutztown - Berks County RodaleInstitute.org

The Stone Barn

Kennett Square - Chester County TheStoneBarn.com

Reading Art Works

Reading - Berks County ReadingArtWorks.com



Morris House Hotel

Located just a few blocks away from Independence Hall in Philadelphia, the Morris House Hotel was built in 1787 for the Morris Family who occupied the residence for more than one-hundred and twenty years. Now restored to its original glory, it boasts one of the most beautiful gardens in the city center. The 4,800 square foot colonial garden is a breath-taking wedding location for the couple wanting to exemplify class and union with nature on their special day. The in-house Chef will customize a menu of culinary treats that are sure to delight. For more information, visit MorrisHouseHotel.com.



By Melanie Fitzpatrick
Photos Courtesy of The Rustic Red Barn

Located in quiet rural communities where scenic pastoral vistas abound, is the spacious 18th century barn. It is here that you can enjoy gentle breezes sweeping though open barn doors while golden sunlight peers through weathered pine board walls and twinkling lights dangle from lofty wooden beams. Tin buckets overflow with colorful wild flowers perched atop fragrant hay bales and long wooden farm tables set with white linens and glowing lanterns made from repurposed mason jars, are just some of the charming accessories you'll find in the new nuptial destination, a rustic country barn.



This atmosphere is the hottest trend in wedding venues and primarily sought after by millennial couples who prefer to forgo the formality of traditional hotel and banquet facilities of the previous generation for something more laid-back and chill.

This unique party vibe ranges from kicked up country to romantic nuances from a by gone era, to a rustic elegant affair in a natural setting. The Barn wedding venue, surprisingly, offers so much variety and personal expression.

According to The Knot, an online wedding planning platform and magazine, 15 percent of couples chose a barn, farm or ranch for their wedding reception in 2017 and it continues to grow in 2019 primarily because young couples today, more than their parents or grandparents, see a wedding as an expression of their identity.

Trends show couples are choosing to get married later than previous generations, and know what they like and aren't afraid to express their personalities in their wedding venue choice. For couples who live in a rural area, they may find it to be an easy fit for their lifestyle while others who live in an urban setting, may feel drawn to nature and the more casual, laid back charm of a barn! Whatever the couples reason for choosing a barn wedding, there are many creative ways to express their personal style and taste in the food, music, decor and wedding day flow in a venue like this!

If this style of venue feels like your cup of tea or brew, you're in for a treat because there are some great rustic barns in Pennsylvania to host your nuptial dream ceremony in!

This past fall as I was meandering the country roads down around Rockwood PA, I discovered this big ole' red barn with striking white trim. There was no way you could miss it because it commands you to notice its bright red presence up on the hill of an old farmstead. I never gave much thought to what purpose, if any, the barn still served on the farm, but

one day at a wine tasting event at a nearby winery, I met a young woman who told me her family was associated with a wedding venue called The Rustic Red Barn. That rang a bell for me, and I made the connection! Turns out, that big ole' charming red barn does serve a unique purpose today, as a wedding venue that delivers on the quintessential ambiance one expects when rustic meets elegance!

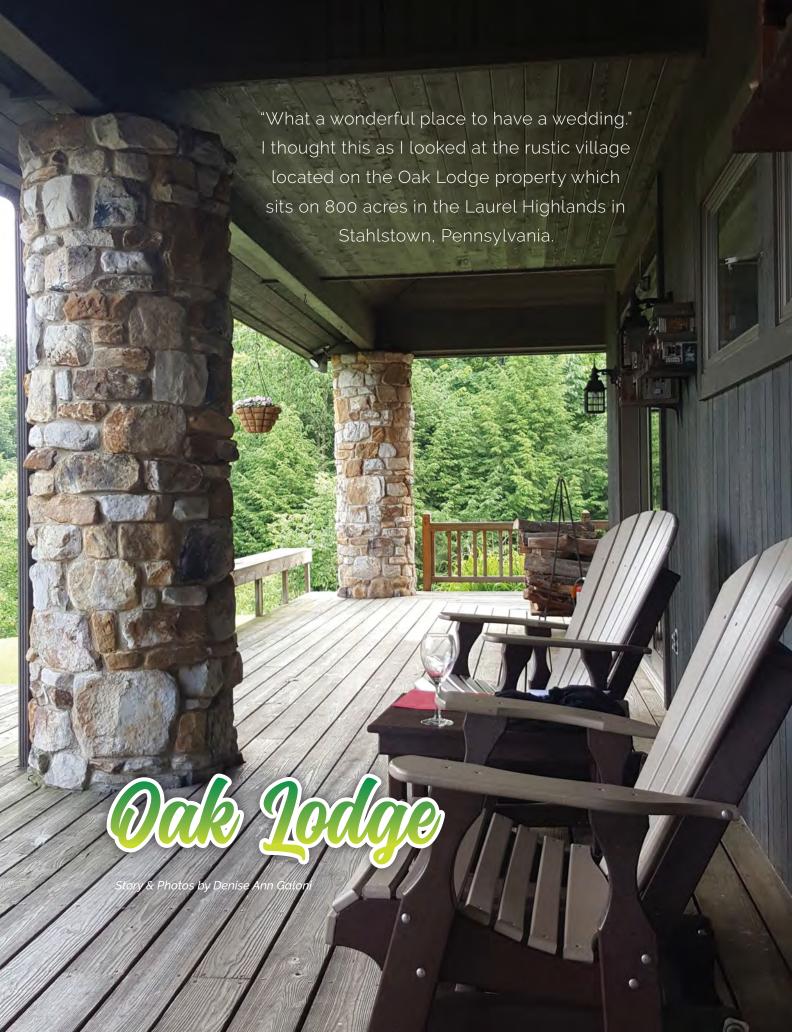
The Rustic Red Barn is considered a classic 19th century Pennsylvania barn and is located on the homestead of The Duck Down Farm. It was built in the 1800's as dairy farm and still operates as working farm today. The barn doors are open from May through October for all types of events, especially romantic lake side weddings and rustic barn receptions.

The Duck Down Farm holds many beautiful views of the mountainous Laurel Highlands and features a small lake with a charming boathouse that makes for a perfect wedding ceremony and photos. A hill to the West facing side of the barn is a popular spot for wedding party photographs too and if the bride and groom time it right, they could sneak away and enjoy a romantic moment together at sunset!

This darling spot effuses country charm, magical ambiance and good ole' downhome fun! I'm ready to say 'I do' all over again! Well, we'll see what my husband of 22 years has to say about that! If a wedding is in your future though, make some time to meander over hill and dale to Duck Down Farm and take a gander at the big ole' Rustic Red Barn. It's quite an experience!

Plan Your Trip...

The Rustic Red Barn is located at 701 Barron Church Road in Rockwood, PA. For more information visit RusticRedBarnPA.com, or contact Event Planner Georgia Harrold at 814-233-4476.



No, I was not there for a wedding, I was there for a writing retreat. We were fortunate to have the whole property booked for ourselves! You can reserve the entire property for your guests which will make your guests feel special that you did this for the them!

The reason why I went on the retreat was to get away from the craziness of life so I could clear my head and write. Sitting on the deck looking out into the distance, all I could see was trees and beautiful green scenery. The calm feeling of walking through the paths and around the village was a feeling not always realized in my daily life running a business and literally running from meeting to meeting.

I was surprised to learn the Oak Lodge is a private estate that became a bed and breakfast in 2006 and started hosting weddings a few years later. Walking around the property I was amazed at the feeling I had of being in a faraway destination on vacation and not an hour away from Pittsburgh. What a perfect place to enjoy beauty and tranquility! Upon checking in I was given a map illustrating the layout and log buildings in Jimberg village which is on the Oak Lodge property and is the home of an 18th century farmhouse. In Jimberg village you will also find rustic buildings to walk through, beautiful meadows and a running waterwheel. Don't forget to visit the sugar shack where their homemade maple syrup is made, where you can buy some to take home with you!

After a wonderful breakfast I decided to walk around on the trails. Oak Lodge has 15 miles of hiking trails you can use while staying on the property. If hiking is not your thing, you can take a leisurely walk and enjoy the beauty of nature. Still not your idea of fun? You can relax in the hot tub or swim a few laps in the indoor heated pool. Spa services at the Laurel Highlands Spa on the property include massages, facials and Reiki. Any of these services can also be arranged prior to your arrival.









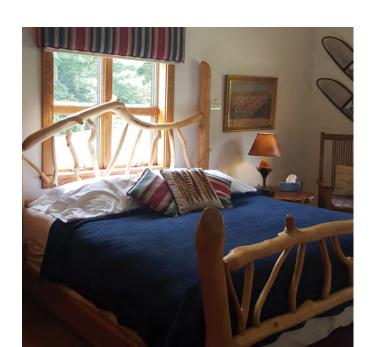
Above photos by Laura Ashbrook Photography, Courtesy of Oak Lodge.

When you walk into the village you will see a beautiful rustic chapel. I could picture a wedding being held there, and there are several weddings held at the Oak Lodge each wedding season. Oak Lodge hosts an average of 25 - 30 weddings a year during the wedding season. Imagine having your wedding at the Oak Lodge and having the whole village to yourself for your special day! Their wedding packages include the rehearsal dinner, the wedding, appetizers in a rustic tavern, dinner and so much more. How about dancing outside under the stars at your reception? Another great feature when you plan a wedding at Oak Lodge.

We spent a lot of time in the lodge in workshops sitting in the comfortable sitting area, eating our meals around the spectacular table, or spending time in our rooms. There are several rooms located in the lodge decorated with a rustic theme but each with their own southwestern flair. The room I stayed in at the lodge was very rustic and spacious with many modern amenities including a view of the waterfall on the property. The lodge has a modern kitchen to prepare your meals and it opens onto a deck overlooking a panoramic view of nature's beauty. If it's a little chilly out, there is a fireplace in the lodge you can relax in front of and read your favorite book.

If you don't want to stay in the lodge there is a 1,200 square foot, handicap accessible private suite on the property. Newly built luxury cabins have been added to sleep additional guests. The Oak Lodge can sleep a total of 42 guests. A complimentary signature breakfast is included with your stay. Everything is in within walking distance of all the rooms and the main office.

Whether you are planning your wedding or special event and want to reserve the village for guests, or maybe you just need to get away from the everyday hustle and bustle of life, this is the place to check out. Nearby are other local attractions in the Laurel Highlands to see when planning your visit. This makes the Oak Lodge a perfect solution for your lodging.





Plan Your Trip...

Additional information can be found on the Oak Lodge website at OakLodgePA.com.





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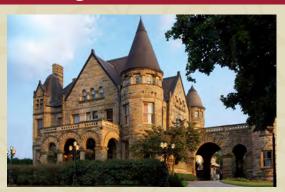
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If you've ever been to a wedding in the Western Pennsylvania or Youngstown, Ohio area, chances are you experienced a wedding cookie table. Platters of lady locks, buckeyes, peanut butter and chocolate chip cookies, and other wonderful specialities can typically be found adorning a long, decorated banquet table.



I was raised in a Greek family and it was common to see plates of baklava, kourambiethes, kataifi, and paximathia at all of our weddings. Sometimes, these cookies were in the middle of every table. We loved to sample each one, savoring the delicious family recipes that had been passed down through generations.

As a wedding coordinator, I have been witness to many fabulous cookie tables. Large and small, ethnic or traditional, they are always the hit at every wedding. Guests will line up to fill their small plates with wonderful cookies. Convenient containers are provided and guests are encouraged to carry home plenty of cookies to remind them of the joyous occasion.



Baklava: This rich, sweet pastry made of layers of filo dough filled with chopped nuts is sweetened and dampened with syrup or honey, although the numerous variants call for pistachios, almonds or other nuts.

Kourambiethes: This tasty cookie, pictured above, is heavy on almond flavoring and usually includes a shot of whiskey in the dough. It can be often be found in a crescent shape, heavily dusted with powdered sugar.

Kataifi: A special pastry dough in the form of thin threadlike strands, makes this cookie appear to look like shredded wheat. Kataïfi is assembled by placing filling at one end and then rolling up the dough. Like many Greek dessert recipes, a simple syrup is poured over after baking.

Paximathia: This hard cookie is often called Greek biscotti. It is baked in loaves, sliced when warm, and baked again briefly. The result is a buttery, delicious cookie that is perfect for dunking.



Modern cookie tables are often blended in color with the theme color of the wedding. Speciality heart shaped cookies, frosted in pink, can be found mingled with others. Thumbprints are also a great cookie that can be filled with icing that matches the wedding color.

Typically, relatives of the bride and groom will collaborate and decide who is baking which cookie. It is a wonderful family affair! Each aunt, grandmother, and cousin will get in on the act, baking whatever is their specialty.









The Pittsburgh Wedding Cookie Table is a Facebook page that has over 14,000 members. These cookie enthusiasts share recipes, ask questions, and even challenged the Hershey company over the removal of tips on their kisses! This community takes cookies seriously and loves to connect and share amazing pictures and videos of wedding cookie tables.











Trans-Sylvania Epic Mountain Bike Race .Photo Courtesy of Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau

Incline Mountain Bikers. Photo Courtesy of Johnstown Convention & Visitors Bureau.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

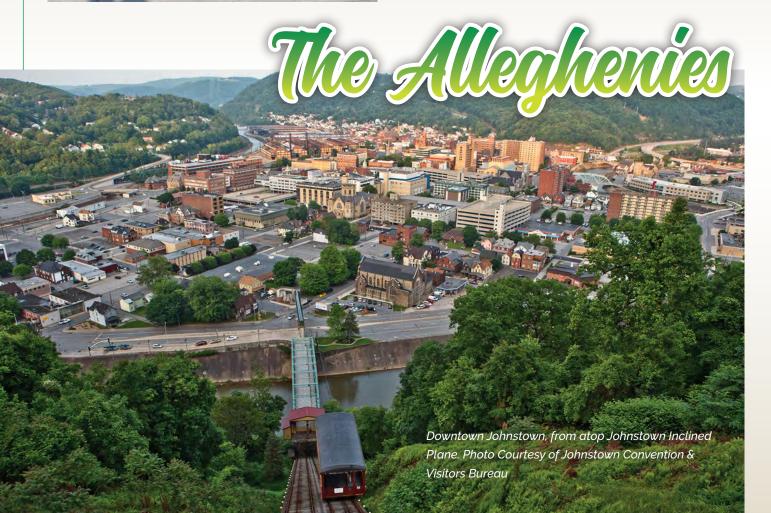
Outdoor adventure, history, and architecture are just some of the things that should draw you to the Alleghenies. Hike or bike your way through nature on the many trails and parks. Find your way to one of Pennsylvania's engineering feats at the Horseshoe Curve. It's a must see, not just for railroad fans, but all lovers of magnificent structures.

Visit Johnstown and get a taste of history while riding on the Johnstown Incline, one of the few remaining in the country. Visit the Johnstown Flood National Memorial and learn all about this infamous event.

If architecture is your thing, you won't want to miss Bellefonte.

There are over 400 structures that represent the Victorian style. Take your camera, there's a lot to see.

There is much more to do in the Alleghenies than you can imagine. Explore it all. Book a Bed & Breakfast and make the area home for a while.



Discovering Johnstown

Whether it be the infamous Johnstown flood or the 130-year-old Inclined Plane, when you hear Johnstown, PA, you think history. But there are some innovative non-profits working to ensure everyone knows what a vibrant, lively destination this historic town has become

Spring & Summer Community Events

Best known for their Christmas Tree @ Central Park and other Christmas efforts, the **Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership** has exciting events on deck for the warm weather, too!

April 13th. A hopping good time will be had at the 4th Annual Eggstravaganza. Over 700 kids will enjoy an Easter egg hunt, egg dying, and flower planting in Central Park.

May 19th. A yearly spring cleaning will occur during the 11th annual Operation Clean Sweep Beautification Day where local volunteers, community leaders, and business owners will plant flowers, spread mulch, and clean up the Central Business District in preparation for the summer tourist season.

May 25th. The 5th Annual Taste & Tour Rediscover Downtown event will take place in the Central Business District. 600 participants will visit over 30 businesses that evening and enjoy the tastes of Downtown. Tickets go on sale in March for Taste & Tour.

Starting in June. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy evenings under the stars with the Movies @ Central Park series.





The Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership is a non-profit organization actively working on several initiatives focused on making Downtown Johnstown a more inviting place to welcome and attract customers, businesses, residents and investors. The Partnership is governed by a Board made up of key business persons, professionals and other stakeholders in the Downtown community and all are volunteers.

arts & entertainment

Coming This Summer to a Rooftop Near You! The Green Roof at Bottle Works,

Arts on Third Avenue

This exciting new outdoor green space is the jewel of the **Bottle Works' Arts** campus, crowing the innovative arts facility with a state-of-the-art venue. Designed for eco-friendly storm water remediation, this urban green space includes a colorful live wall, plentiful floral gardens, bench and bistro table seating, outdoor bar, and a gazebo-trellis.

Take your event to the next level! Plan your reception, meeting, class or party solely on the rooftop, or use this beautiful space overlooking the river, a festival lawn and sprawling public art as a compliment to their indoor facilities. Bookings available now! Call 814-535-2020 or visit BottleWorks.org.





Centered in a campus consisting of two contiguous, complimentary arts and education facilities, Bottle Works is a unique destination on the local, regional and national scale. It is located within a historic corridor where artists can exhibit, create, teach and sell. Likewise, visitors can discover, explore and learn. Through its vibrant cultural programming, outdoor festivals, classes, workshops and concerts, Bottle Works is a key driver in the restoration of Cambria City and in sustaining Johnstown as a wonderful place to live, work and play.



Lives on in Central PA B&Bs

Story by Andy Rupert. Photos Courtesy of Central Pennsylvania Convention & Visitors Bureau.

Pennsylvania is a state that is rich with history, and some areas seem to add to that legacy more than others. Victorian Bellefonte, home to seven governors, and Boalsburg, birthplace to Memorial Day, are two such towns. Each has their own collection of unique bed and breakfasts that invite you to spend the night with history.

unique places

BELLEFONTE

Who knew that seven governors could come from one little town in central Pennsylvania? That is the case in Victorian Bellefonte, just a 15-minute drive from State College and the Penn State campus. That fact is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the history found in the region. Throw in the small town Americana feel of Mom-and-Pop restaurants, antique stores and picturesque Talleyrand Park and you will be in love. The only thing cooler than stopping in for a quick visit is staying overnight in a historic location.

The Reynolds Mansion (101 W. Linn St.) often creates a "wow" moment when you see the incredible architecture that went into this home built in 1885. What catches most visitor eyes is

the blue or purple color of the home, making it technically a blue brownstone. Those staying at the mansion are left wide-eyed by the lavish marble foyer greeting you just inside the door. If the incredible architecture does not do it for you, the three-course breakfast most certainly will.

Just down the street from the Reynolds Mansion is The Queen: A Victorian Bed & Breakfast (176 E. Linn St.) which is an absolutely stunning property of its own. A couple of neat features of the property are the fireplace in the foyer, which is perfect for reading a good book. The formal breakfasts are also an incredible bonus of staying at the Queen.





If you head down Linn Street a little more you will get to Our Fair Lady: A Victorian Bed & Breakfast (313 E. Linn St.). Slip into town early, then be sure to stay for the afternoon wine & cheese hour, which is a perfect warm-up before heading to several of Bellefonte's stores and restaurants. Our Fair Lady, like Reynolds Mansion and The Queen, are just a three-quarters of a mile walk from Central PA Tasting Trail locations Big Spring Spirits and Good Intent Cider.

If being a few blocks away from all of the shopping and restaurants is your goal, then check out Riffles & Runs (217 N. Spring St.) which is perfect for any fly-fisherman because of the owner's love affair with the sport and the tremendous world-class streams just a short drive away.

Jun Jact!

Seven governors have called the town of Bellefonte home. They are:

William Bigler

(1813-1880)

Governor of Pennsylvania, 1852-1855. Democrat.

John Bigler

(1805-1856)

Governor of California, 1852-1856. Democrat.

Robert J. Walker

(1801-1869)

Territorial Governor of Kansas, 1857. Democrat.

William F. Packer (1807-1870)

Governor of Pennsylvania, 1858-1861. Democrat.

Andrew Gregg Curtin

(1815-1894)

Governor of Pennsylvania, 1861-1867. Republican.

James A. Beaver

(1837-1914)

Governor of Pennsylvania, 1887-1891. Republican.

Daniel H. Hastings (1849-1903)

Governor of Pennsylvania, 1895-1899. Republican.

Source: ReadingEagle.com





Springfield House (126 East Main St.) is an eye-catching property with a wrap-around porch that allows you to enjoy a nice evening or a good book. It also happens to be just steps away from many boutique shops and a local favorite, Duffy's Tavern. The home was built in an 1840's Civil War era style, but it has all of the modern conveniences of the 21st century.

If you're looking for a more remote location to listen to the sounds of nature you might be better served at the Bed & Breakfast at the Rock Garden (176 Brush Valley) at the base of Mount Nittany. The Rock Garden also doubles as a plant nursery, so those visitors with a green thumb would find it delightful and a great resource to start their spring gardening.

Plan Your Trip...

To find out more about Bellefonte, Boalsburg, area bed & breakfasts or to book your trip visit VisitPennState.org.

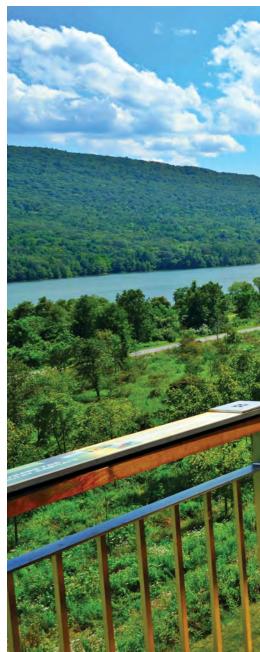


The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle: Central Pennsylvania's Best Kept Secret

By Jason Krysinski

I had never heard of the place, but when I saw
Cody Wolfe, I immediately knew he worked
somewhere special. When I first met him at the
AAA Pittsburgh Travel Showcase, he was wearing
a baseball cap with a full beard, sitting in his
booth, perched amongst the decorations and
photos of The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle.

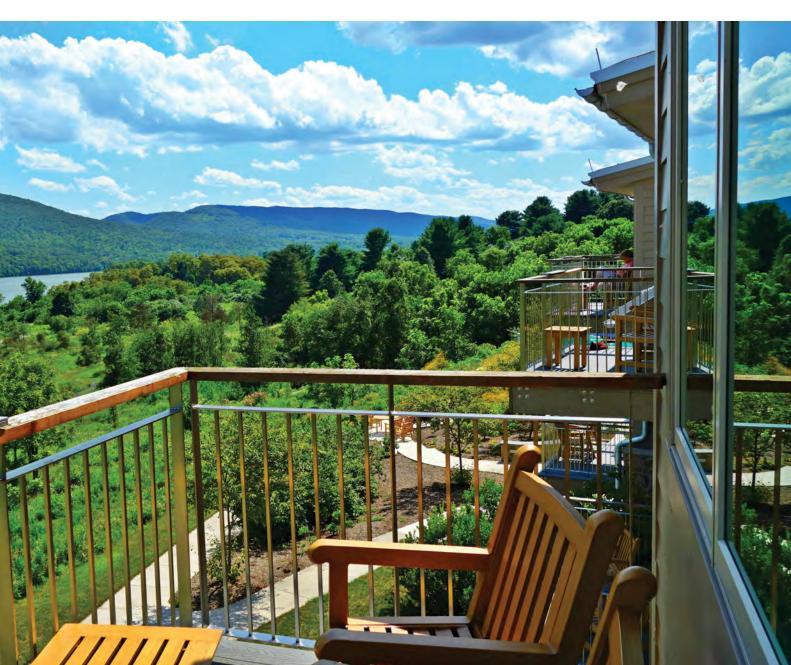


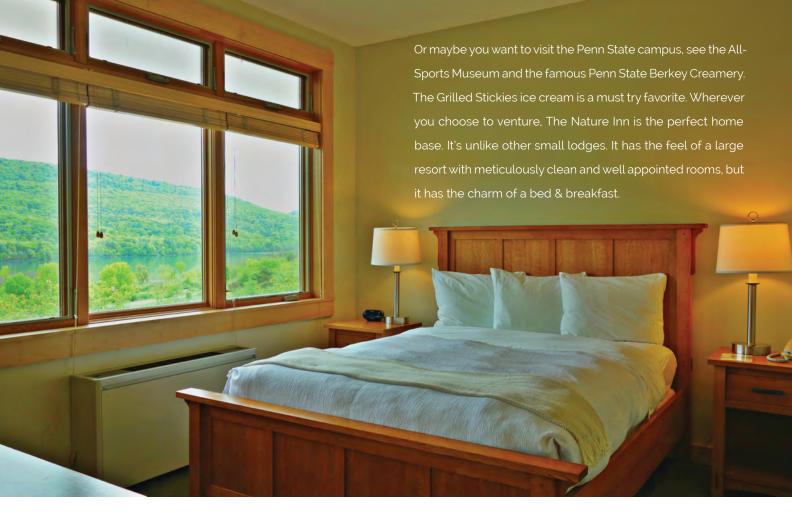




Cody is and avid outdoorsman and the Assistant Innkeeper at the Nature Inn. A 16-room lodge, located in Bald Eagle State Park in Howard, PA, the inn sits on a hillside overlooking the picturesque FJ Sayers Reservoir. Cody can tell you first hand of all the great fishing that happens locally. Come for the opening day of trout season and bring the family. There's plenty to do here including water sports or a visit to Penn's Cave.









Hungry? Start your day with a fantastic breakfast and order a boxed lunch to take with you on your daily adventures. There's plenty of places to eat dinner locally, you can ask Cody or one of his staff members for a recommendation. Or you can stop and pick up some steaks and grill them on the Nature Inn patios, then kick back and relax near communal fire pit.

The Nature Inn at Bald Eagle is a true hidden gem in our state that must be experienced.

Plan Your Trip...

As with all trips, do some research on the area prior to arrival. The more information you have, the easier things will unfold in front of you. As an additional source, the staff, including Cody, is one of the Nature Inn's biggest assets. Don't be afraid to ask for a restaurant or activity suggestion. They are all very knowledgeable and ready to assist you.

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PinpointPennsylvania.com features website-only exclusive articles and a collection of past favorites.

ARTISANS OF PENNSYLVANIA

From ancient crafts to modern art, our great state is overflowing with talented people. *Pinpoint: Pennsylvania* is proud to introduce our new *Artisans of PA* series highlighting these artistic individuals. Our first featured artisan is Jason Harper of Primitive Notions in Washington, PA. Here's a sneak peek at the article:

Jason Harper has always had an interest in primitive skills. He tinkered with flintknapping in college but found it a very difficult skill to master. After marrying his wife, Missy, and settling into his home in Pennsylvania, he found the long, cold winters the ideal time to perfect the craft.

Visit PinpointPennsylvania.com to read the rest of our profile on Jason and see additional photos of his beautiful work. We will be regularly sharing stories from other craftsmen and women through out Pennsylvania on our blog, so be sure to check back often and see what talent we find next.

If you or anyone you know would like to be featured in our *Artisans of PA* series, please contact us on Facebook or via email at info@PinpointPennsylvania.com.





PREVIOUSLY RELEASED ARTICLES

Have you missed a past issue of Pinpoint: Pennsylvania? Do you have a favorite article that you would like to be able to share online?

In addition to our exclusive website-only stories, you can now find many of our past feature articles on PinpointPennsylvania. com. Each day we are adding to our library of stories by posting favorite articles from our first three issues.

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PA Welcome Center I-80 West

PA Welcome Center I-81 South

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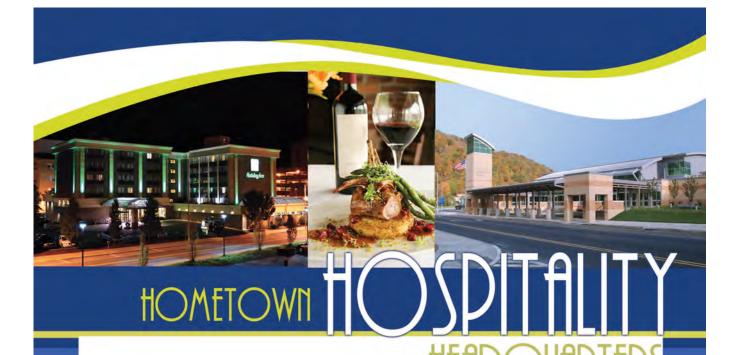
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