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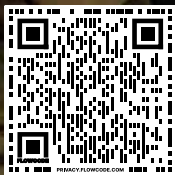
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A Message from The Editor



It's Spring. The time of year when everyone looks forward to warmer weather and resuming outdoor activities. This issue has some suggestions of new places to visit.

The Hocking Hills area has new accommodations in their rustic new lodge. With plenty of things to do in the area, an overnight or weekend stay would be relaxing. Try geocaching, which is a scavenger hunt using GPS devices and can be done by the whole family.

We discovered an exciting destination located close by in Pennsylvania. The Pine Creek Gorge, known as the Grand Canyon of PA, is located within the Tioga State Forest. Besides hiking the many paths for magnificent views of the area and many waterfalls, you can take a covered wagon tour to the bottom of the canyon. The area is rich with museums, and there are numerous choices of accommodations for an extended stay.

Explore the New River Gorge area of West Virginia and experience the colors of nature in the spring flowers. Traveling a bit further, you can play pro golf courses in the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region of New York. You might also want to try your hand at fishing in that area as it is known for great catches.

Whether you visit a familiar destination or venture out to experience something new, it's time to shake off the cobwebs of cold weather and go outside for some fun in the sun.

Douglas M. Kish, M.A.

Editor

Our Mission at Compass Media is striving to be a leader in Fitness, Health, and Recreation information that educates and inspires readers through print, web, mobile, social media events, and events in Ohio and beyond.

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Spring 2023

- 8 The PA Grand Canyon Offers History, Arts, and Recreation
- 12 Exploring the Spring Colors in The Gorge
- 15 A Mother-Daughter Duo Improving the Lives of Their Customers
- 18 Ladies: Why West Virginia is Your Perfect Spring Getaway
- 22 Spring into Fun at the Lake
- 25 Bike the Burg
- 27 A Fun Way to Get Outside When the Weather Warms Up
- 29 Discover the Hidden Trails Wine Cellar of Carroll County
- 30 Events for Every Season in Vermilion, Ohio
- 32 A Race for Every Runner
- 35 A National Forest 100 Years in the Making
- 36 Explore the Great Allegheny Passage
- 38 Trumbull County Showcases Italian Heritage Through a Food Trail
- 40 Opt Outside
- 42 Trail Running in Shores & Islands Ohio
- 45 A Symbol of Friendship Blooms in Athens
- 46 Vinton County to Host Wild Turkey Festival
- 53 Play Where the Pros Play: Golfing in the Chataqua-Lake Erie Region



- 56 Greene County, Ohio, Brings the Past to Life with Two Outstanding Museums
- 60 Stark Area Regional Transit Authority Is Essential
- 62 Hocking Hills Provides Rustic Lodging & Endless Adventures

In the Next Issue

- Rim to Rim in the Grand Canyon
- Visit Kelleys Island
- Ole Covered Wagon Tours

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The PA Grand Canyon

OFFERS HISTORY, ARTS, AND RECREATION

By Candy S. Collins, BS

The Pine Creek Gorge, commonly referred to as the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, is surrounded by approximately 165,000 acres of the Tioga State Forest, making it a perfect vacation destination. Embrace breathtaking views, culture, artisans, hiking, biking, hunting, and more.

"Potter and Tioga Counties have something for everyone, from outdoor adventures with stunning views to quaint shops, artisans, and activities," said Colleen Hanson, Executive Director of Visit Potter-Tioga, the area Visitors Bureau. "Be sure to stop at the full-service visitors center, five miles from Leonard Harrison State Park, to gather maps and brochures."

Located in the Tioga State Forest, the Pine Creek Gorge, also known as the Grand Canyon of PA, stretches for over 45 miles with depths of nearly 1,500 feet. It features exquisitely forested views and steep canyon walls. Leonard Harrison State Park offers must-see scenic vistas on the east side of the canyon. The park provides easy-to-navigate walkways to viewing areas where you will enjoy more canyon walls and waterfalls.

Colton Point State Park brings charm to 368 acres with its rugged pavilions and overlooks. It is full of the history and rustic charm of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) era of the 1930s. You will find interpretative signage and a statue of a CCC worker. The CCC work Statute is a series spread across multiple US States, intending to educate Americans on the legacy of the CCC and the value of natural resource conservation and stewards of public land.

One of the most popular attractions to the PA Grand Canyon is the Pine Creek Rail Trail, often called the "Jewel of the Gorge." This trail was converted from a railroad bed traveling along the Pine Creek Gorge at the canyon's floor. USA Today has named Pine Creek Rail Trail one of the ten great places to take a bike tour worldwide. The trail offers easy pedaling for low impact and is also a multi-use trail for hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.

Take a scenic tour along the bottom of the canyon on a large, covered wagon led by a beautiful and majestic team of Belgian draft horses and embark on a beautiful scenic ride to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. Close your eyes, take in all of nature's sounds, such as birds chirping and animals stirring, and then open your eyes and add beauty to what you hear. Listen as your tour guide tells of the history throughout this two-hour tour.

Sightseeing opportunities are endless on this trail, from dramatic rock outcrops, waterfalls, and wildlife such as coyote, deer, wild turkey, heron, river otter, black bear, eagle, and more. Several foundations from the CCC can be found along the trail, adding a touch of history.

Enjoy one of the eight Potter and Tioga County lakes, including Tioga, Hammond, Cowanesque, Hills Creek Lake, Hamilton, Lyman Run, Nessmuk, and Beechwood. The smaller lakes offer motorless boating and fishing. As where the larger lakes are known for boating, swimming, fishing, camping, hunting, and more.



Photos courtesy of Emily Kreider Photography, Grand Shanyon Photography, and Edge of the Woods

Explore Cherry Springs State Park and enjoy stargazing like never before. The park is rated as one of the seven best places in the world for stargazing. On a clear night, around 30,000 stars fill the sky. Keep your eyes open for a glimpse of Asteroids, Venus (the evening star), Aurora Borealis (the Northern Lights), Meteor Showers, and more. The discoveries are endless. Private guided star tours and photography workshops are offered.

Potter and Tioga counties offer more than just outdoor life. Take in a movie at the Coudersport Theatre or the Arcadia Theater. Both were built in the early 1920s and have an old-time theater feel but with an updated digital movie system showing newly released movies. In 1941, Joan Crawford visited the Coudersport theater on the same evening her film, "A Woman's Face," was showing.

Discover the Eliot Ness Museum, which celebrates his career as an American Prohibition agent known for his efforts to bring down notorious gangster, Al Capone. There is fun for the whole family.

A favorite destination since 1955 is the Black Forest Trading Post & The Deer Park. Visitors will find souvenirs, traditional Irish items, jewelry, Minnetonka Moccasins, gem mining, ice cream, gourmet coffees, and more. Find all your needs for cycling, archery, paddling, and outdoor adventure gear. The Deer Park does not carry the equipment, but they take the time to ensure one understands the use and is fitted correctly.

Visit other attractions such as The Coudersport Arboretum, featuring a botanical variety, and Veterans Honor Wall;

Draper's Super Bee Apiaries, where you can observe beehives and purchase honey and other products; The Gmeiner Art and Cultural Center highlighting local artists and more; Cream n Sugar serves Penn State Creamery Ice Cream, artisanal coffee, candy and more.

The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum is a fun and educational experience for the whole family. Step back in time and discover the courageous yet reckless spirit of PA's lumbering past. Interactive exhibits include swinging an ax, sawing a tree, piloting a log raft, and racing locomotives. Head outdoors to see the exquisite 10-acre campus including a re-created early 20th-century lumber camp, locomotives, and historic log cabins.

Stop by the Corning Museum of Glass and watch live glass demonstrations. Make your own glass and enjoy hands-on glass exhibits and stunning glass art collections. Kids are free.

Potter and Tioga Counties have plenty of lodging from camping, cabins, lodges, motels, and bed and breakfasts. Check out Sherwood Motel, located in the middle of the PA Grand Canyon, and the Canyon Motel, located within walking distance of Main Street.

Whether you are a hiker, biker, hunter, nature enthusiast, bird watcher, history buff, festival goer, etc., there is something for everyone (young and mature) in Potter and Tioga Counties.

For more information on Potter and Tioga Counties, the PA Grand Canyon, or the Dark Skies at Cherry Springs State Park, visit www.visitpottertioga.com.



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EXPLORING THE SPRING COLORS in the Gorge

Courtesy of New River Gorge
Convention and Visitors Bureau

Spring is just arriving and it will soon turn the vast outdoor landscape of the New River Gorge into a rainbow of vibrant color. Florals will be blooming in every shade of the rainbow, stretching out their bright petals to show off for the bees and other pollinators. Here are a few examples of the wide range of color you can find here in the spring.



Red - Wake-Robin - This robin-breast-red or burgundy trillium has three colored petals, with long, pointed leaves stemming out from behind. They're beautiful to look at, but because they're pollinated by flies, they also **smell repugnant**, earning them the alternative nickname of "stinking Benjamin."



Orange - Jewelweed - In the morning, dew droplets linger on the leaves and trumpeted orange petals of the jewelweed, which doesn't absorb it, giving the **shimmering appearance** it's named for. Later in the summer, a second flower pod on these tall herbs explodes to catapult seeds when touched, so you might hear them called touch-me-nots.



Yellow - Black-Eyed Susan - These vibrant golden flowers resemble daisies, with a bold hue on its long, rounded petals and a dark, black center, a lot like the doodles on your high school notebooks. It's a perfect example of the basic beauty of flowers. It's also notable because its **leaves and stems are fuzzy or bristly** to deter ants from the flower.



Green - Trust us, you won't miss the green trees, shrubs and other plants! From the top of the mighty hemlocks, down the streaming branches of the willows, to the full bustles of the bushes and on down to the grasses and leaves below your feet, the gorge will be bursting with every shade of green.



Blue - Wild Blue Phlox - Ranging from cerulean blues to pale lavender colors, the wild blue phlox pops up in clusters around the Gorge. Its 5 petals stretch out from a thin center and spread far apart, almost looking like they're each reaching away. They have a **light sweet smell** and a mildly sticky stem.



Purple - Catawba Rhododendron - The state flower is the rhododendron, and though it has several varieties, one of the most popular is the lightly purple Catawba shrub. The petals can be **patterned with spots or streaks**. You can see them by the hundreds, dotting the New River Gorge. Grandview provides a stunning panorama view of the Catawbas and other West Virginia wildflowers blooming along the river and mountainsides in the spring.

To see a list of some of the New River Gorge wildflower species, check the website www.nps.gov/neri/learn/photosmultimedia/wildflowers.htm.



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Gorge

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A Mother-Daughter Duo

Improving the Lives of Their Customers

By Trish Mann

Health and nutrition are on everyone's minds this time of year as summer vacations and swimsuit season are right around the corner.

In our hectic lives, we are so busy taking care of everyone and everything else we often neglect what is most important—our mental and physical health. But one mother-daughter duo is doing their best to ensure you are well taken care of when you walk in the door.

Josie and Nichole Bourquin are owners of Hartville Nutrition and Massillon Nutrition, respectively. If you haven't visited either location, you are in for a treat. Their shakes are not only delicious, but they also pack a nutritional punch. With a calorie count of only 200-250 calories, the shakes are intended to be a meal replacement and contain 24 grams of protein and 21 grams of vitamins and minerals.

Three types of shakes are available: Rebuild (muscle rebuild and recovery), Soy Shakes, and Vegetarian (does contain bee pollen). They also come in dozens of assorted flavors, and gluten-free is available on request. Each shake includes a flavored tea that offers clean energy and contains aloe, which helps digestion and bloating, while the mega tea has the addition of collagen. All the teas are thermogenic, meaning they

have natural supplements designed to increase fat burning and metabolism.

While they are known for their shakes and teas, there are other reasons they are building a loyal clientele. When Mom Josie opened her Hartville location two years ago, she believed in the shakes and the benefits they provide to her customers. What she didn't quite realize at the time was how not only were her shakes helping people, but so was she. When Nichole opened Massillon Nutrition a year ago, she was met with the same warm reception.

According to a report by Cigna, Americans face an epidemic of loneliness. As technology takes the place of our co-workers and remote jobs become commonplace, people need to find ways to connect. And the smart ones have discovered Hartville Nutrition and now Massillon Nutrition.

Nichole and her mother, Josie, are surprised by the public's response. Not only is delicious nutrition on their customers' minds, but they also find an increasing number of customers who also come for the atmosphere.

It is not just about shakes but the "vibe," as Nichole says, "We have the whole package."



It's a safe place to hang out with friends, chat with the staff, bring someone for a shake date or have a business meeting. Their clientele ranges from teenagers coming in after school to business people looking for somewhere healthy and positive to get work done. Nichole has even had people come in to chat and not order anything.

Josie and Nichole are passionate about their products, and they are passionate about people. Community is at the heart of what they do. The ladies love to host events such as yoga, supply raffle baskets to local non-profit organizations, and participate in fundraisers with their local schools. Their love for the business is growing. Nichole has opened a second location, Amor Nutrition, at 4166 S. Cleveland-Massillon Road, Norton, Ohio. Now, three locations to serve you, mind, body, and soul.





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Ladies:

Why West Virginia is Your *perfect* Spring Getaway

By Trish Mann

Ladies, looking for a short spring getaway? Perhaps you and a friend or two need a quick excursion to recharge yourselves before the crazy summer schedules take over. Look no further than the Northern Panhandle of West Virginia.

From Chester at the northern tip to Bethany, a quaint, historical town, the area has just what you are looking for in a quick trip. Take the road less traveled and discover the hidden gem tucked between Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Near the top of the Northern Panhandle, along the Ohio River, sits Newell, West Virginia. Since the 1840s, the area has been known for its pottery ware and is home to The Fiesta Tableware Company. No trip to the area would be complete without visiting the outlet store or taking a factory tour. Fiesta's long, colorful history of vibrant art deco dinnerware has been a favorite of generations of homemakers, and Fiestaware continues to be the most collected dinnerware in history.

Continue six miles south to Mountaineer Casino, Racetrack, and Resort, and try your luck at the slots or table games before stopping at the resort spa. Their exceptional services will make your worries disappear.

Then travel 13 miles south along the majestic Ohio River to the town of Weirton. This industrial town is home to charming shops, restaurants, and the Summit Art Gallery. Take a memory home by purchasing a unique handcrafted item at the gallery. Weirton is also a fabulous place to get a bite to eat. A delicious change of pace from

the chains, the Weirton restaurant scene is unique and diverse. For something exotic, there is Crazy Mexican and Theo Yianni's Greek, and for the sweet tooth, a stop at Gus's Goodies is a must.

The panhandle of West Virginia is also home to many lodging possibilities. Two delightful bed and breakfasts in Wellsburg, just 11 minutes south of Weirton, offer an inviting break from the usual hotel chains. The Barn with Inn is an experience like no other. A working farm, the owners have created a tranquil place for animals and people alike. Your stay here is a treat for all the senses with gardens, wildlife, walking paths, ponds, an inground pool, and delicious farm-to-table meals. The warm, inviting accommodations are only part of the story as you will meet some permanent residents like Coop the Potbelly Pig or Martha the Donkey.

The Sarah Miller House, located in town, is a historic home from circa 1840. Situated along the Ohio River, the B&B guest rooms are decorated with historical furnishings. Two rooms offer views of the river. While in Wellsburg, take time to visit Martha's Gallery. An extension of The Barn with Inn, the gallery is a family venture honoring nature-themed pieces from various local artists.

The Northern Panhandle is a quick getaway set in the tranquil hills of West Virginia. It is a place where time stands still, and people remember how to say "hello." Give yourself a treat and plan your trip today. Visit The Top of West Virginia CVB for more information.

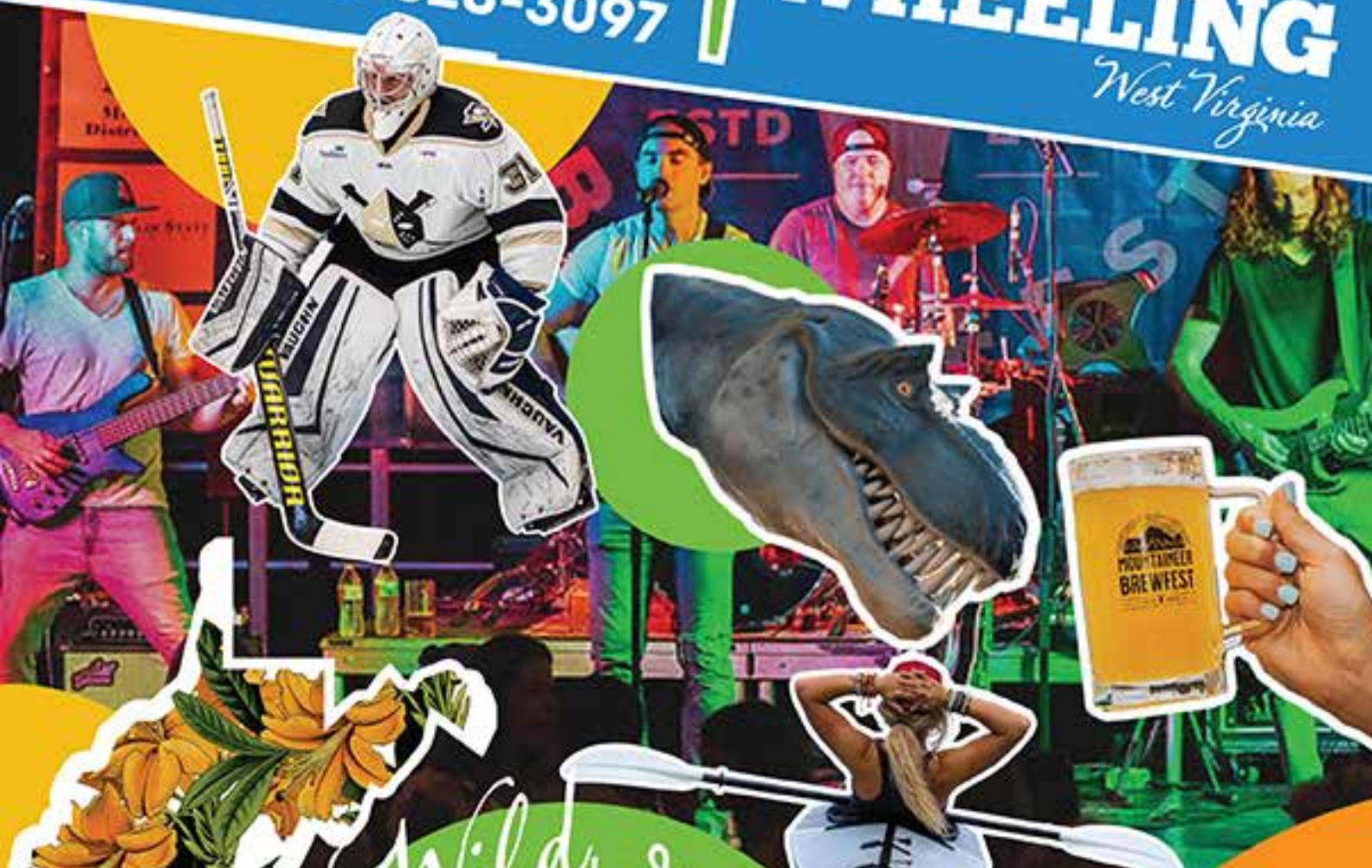




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Spring into Fun at the Lake

By Faith Saxton

Only a 30-minute drive outside of Columbus, Buckeye Lake brings the lake life right to central Ohio. Whether you're looking for a relaxing drink on the 35 miles of shoreline or a fun, outdoor adventure this spring, Buckeye Lake has it all. Offering three important features: lake, land, and leisure, you're sure to find something you love at Ohio's very first state park.

Lake

Are you looking for some excitement this season? Get your feet wet with multiple water-based activities like kayaking, jet skiing, tubing, and more on the 3,100 acres of water, or catch a ride with 3XP Tours that includes biking along the shore, kayaking across the lake, and refreshing drinks afterward. Already equipped with your gear? Strap up your kayak and swing by the newly completed Thorn Township Canoe/Kayak Launch Park, a self-launching ramp for those ready to get out on the water. The ramp is also wheelchair accessible, making it easy for everyone to enjoy a day on the lake.

For an experience that's a little more relaxing, climb aboard the Queen of the Lake III for a tour of the lake's history. This lake escape is the only sternwheel boat on an inland Ohio lake and offers special, ticketed events perfect for a group outing or date night. If you're seeking a different experience, set sail with Captain Buck for a private pontoon boat tour. Get closer to the water with public swimming at Fairfield Beach and Crystal Beach, and experience the perfect spot to sit back and enjoy the relaxing waters and beautiful views.



Land

When you're out and about, grab a coffee from Millersport Coffee or Coffee Shack Coffee Roasters & Cafe and take a stroll around Buckeye Lake State Park. For more fun outdoor opportunities, enjoy biking on the 4-mile shoreline path across the top of the dam, walking trails, year-round fishing, and the best birding spots in central Ohio. In need of a rental for you and your party? Stop by Lakebound Outfitters for all your outdoor gear needs, including kayaks, bicycles, camping gear, paddleboards, and more.

Take a quick break from the lake and shop locally at the many businesses around Fairfield, Licking, and Perry Counties. Spruce up your abode with Amish-made furniture and home decor at Oak Creations, or vintage home furnishings at Picadilly Vintage. Then, update your wardrobe with cute clothes and fun accessories at The Yellow Sundress Resale Boutique. With the myriad of shop options, you won't go home empty-handed.

Annual Events

JULY

4th of July Boat Parade - To celebrate Independence Day, decorated boats depart from Leibs Island and make their way along the lake, ending at Papa Boo's bar and grill.

Buckeye Lake Area Star Spangled Tradition - Watch Buckeye Lake's beautiful Independence Day tradition along the shoreline of the lake.

AUGUST

Buckeye Lake Pub Paddle - Enjoy an annual bar crawl via your boat during this charitable event that supports local Buckeye Lake businesses.

Buckeye Lake Tour of Homes - Sit back and relax on a one-hour pontoon boat ride visiting homes and islands on the lake.

Tour de Buckeye Lake - Grab your bike and raise funds for trail development and bicycles for underprivileged kids with Tour de Buckeye Lake.

Millersport Sweet Corn Festival - Includes plenty of big-name entertainment, amusement rides, fair food, games, and of course... lots of sweet corn.

SEPTEMBER

Backwoods Festival - Just as it sounds, Backwoods Festival is held on a large farm in the woods with over 300 vendors, 30 different kinds of food, and 3 days of bluegrass.

JANUARY

Winterfest - Join Benny the Bass to see if he "takes the bait" and predicts an early spring or refuses, which means six more weeks of winter. Winterfest is celebrated with fireworks, activities around the lake, live music, art shows, food and drink specials, food trucks, and more.

Leisure

After your day of excitement at the lake, grab a bite at a local restaurant with waterfront dining and live music. Enjoy a craft brew at Buckeye Lake Brewery, a delicious burger at Horvath's Harbor, or a nice glass of wine at Buckeye Lake Winery with grapes from Napa Valley. Take a relaxing seat by the water or cozy up by the outdoor firepits. If you need a little refresher, stop by Weldon's Ice Cream Factory for a cool, homemade treat.

Ready to plan your trip? Whether it be a quick weekend getaway or your next family vacation, book your stay at one of the many unique short-term rentals (via Airbnb or Vrbo) near or on the water, and make Buckeye Lake your next vacation destination. Get ready to *Escape to Buckeye Lake*... We can't wait to have you! For more information, check out our website EscapeToBuckeyeLake.com, download our mobile app, sign up for our monthly newsletter and follow us on Facebook & Instagram.





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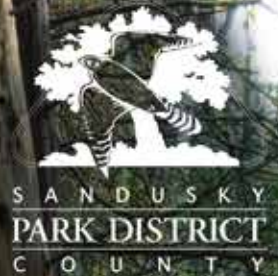
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BIKE THE BURG!

GIBSONBURG, OHIO



Waggoner's Run Mountain Bike trail, Gibsonburg Ohio

Mountain bike enthusiasts rejoice! A new mountain bike trail in Gibsonburg, Ohio offers a unique location that is fun for riders of all skill levels. Let's start with a little about Gibsonburg and the area around Waggoner's Run. Gibsonburg is a small rural northern Ohio farm town located in Sandusky County but very well known by outdoor enthusiasts for "White Star Park" which offers hiking trails, an inland quarry lake for SCUBA diving and now mountain bike trails. Gibsonburg is around two hours from Columbus, Cleveland and Detroit so getting there is not part of the challenge! So now that you know the area, let's skip to the good part...

Waggoner's Run Mountain Bike Trail was a collaborative project between the Flatlanders Bicycle Club and the Sandusky County Park District in 2019 and is located within SCPD's "White Star Park". The Flatlanders completed the trail and dedicated it in October of 2020 and appropriately named it "Waggoner's Run" after local cycling enthusiast and bicycle shop owner, Dan Waggoner. The trail features nearly 6 miles of twists, turns and exciting natural and man-made features, including the newest feature, a challenging teeter-totter placed right before one of the biggest drops on the trail.

The trail is open for mountain bikes as well as hiking; we recommend hikers hike the trail in reverse and stay alert for oncoming bike traffic. The trail is a one-way mountain bike trail, beginning at the parking lot next to the railroad tracks on County Road 65. Please no horseback riding, pets, or motorized vehicles. For those looking for more information, trail conditions and closures I recommend the Waggoner Run Mountain Bike Trail Facebook Page. Sandusky County has so much to see and do from Kayaking in the Sandusky River to Festivals and Farmer's Markets, there is always something fun to see and do in the area. For more information about the area, nearby attractions and events, visit: SanduskyCounty.org

Article by David Thornbury
Content and photos by: Doug & Kathy Metzger
Content and photos also by Dan Willis



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A Fun Way to **Get** **Outside** When the Weather Warms Up



By Jackee Pugh

Spring fever is officially here. Between glimpses of warm, sunny weather intertwined with moody, cooler days, most of us are itching to get back outdoors in some way or another. After the winter weather has kept us all inside more than we like, it is time to get outside again. And Belmont County offers an activity that will do just that... geocaching!

What is Geocaching? It is an outdoor scavenger hunt using GPS-enabled devices to locate hidden treasures in plain sight. Participants navigate to a specific set of GPS coordinates and then attempt to find the geocache hidden at that location. Geocaching is fun for everyone: families, retirees, sightseers, outdoor adventurers, tech-lovers, and explorers. You never know what you might discover, right here in *friendly, beautiful, Belmont County*.

Adventures await. From longhorn cattle to unique rock formations, from beautiful parks to historic scenery, geocache containers can be hidden anywhere, and will have you exploring surroundings of our county that you might have never experienced before. The Belmont County Explore More GeoTour (BCGT) has a total of 35 geocaches just waiting for you to find.

Want to play? The first thing to do is visit www.geocaching.com or download the official Geocaching

app and register for a free account to search for active caches near you. Search by "GeoTour" and enter "GT496" to see all 35 geocaches hidden as part of the Belmont County Explore More GeoTour. Once you have decided which cache you want to find first, download the cache's coordinates to your GPS or mobile device and navigate to the hidden treasure.

A typical cache is a small waterproof container containing a logbook and a pen or pencil. When you have found the cache, add your name in the logbook inside and copy the unique code. After signing the log, the cache must be placed back exactly where you found it.

If you find 30 of the 35 BCGT caches and submit the cache codes to Belmont County Tourism, you will be rewarded with a collectable Belmont County geocaching coin.

Now is the time to embrace the change of the seasons and to start exploring right here in our own backyard in *friendly, beautiful, Belmont County*. So, get outside, have some fun and happy hunting! Seek, search, and explore Belmont County while participating in the Explore More GeoTour.

To find out more about the Belmont County Explore More GeoTour and all upcoming events happening in Belmont County, go to our website at visitbelmontcounty.com.



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CONVENTION &
VISITORS BUREAU

DISCOVER THE *Hidden Trails* *Wine Cellar* OF CARROLL COUNTY

By Trish Mann

Wineries are popping up everywhere across Ohio. But one county has created a venue unlike any other. The Hidden Trails Wine Cellar at Bluebird Farm Park is a Carroll County Park District venture celebrating wines from around the world.

Bluebird Farm has served many purposes over the years, and in 2008 its owners donated the farm to the Carroll County Park District. This included scenic trails, historical buildings, and an amphitheater for summer concerts.

January, 2022 ushered in The Hidden Trails Wine Cellar at Bluebird Farm Park. A restored early 1800s barn provides the perfect atmosphere for guests to explore the subtle nuances and vivid notes of a collection of wines from around the world, all while savoring the intimate experience with family or friends.



Past themed events have included "Taste of Tuscany," "European Flights," and "Local Harvests," which featured Ohio wines. The Farm has exciting plans for the summer and hopes to expand seating to the porch and garden areas as the weather warms. While public events are scheduled, seating is limited. To plan an event, make reservations, or for information, call 330-627-8046 or email info@ccparkdistrict.org.

The Hidden Trails Wine Cellar is a distinctive and fresh way to expand your wine experience, but it's not the only winery serving up vino. Creekside Cottage Winery in Magnolia is family-owned and operated in a quaint property built in 1921. Casella Winery brings fresh and flavorful offerings from an old one-room schoolhouse in Dennison.

Carroll County is a small rural county in Ohio. A place where time slows down and people know your name. Visit Carroll County, hold up your wine glass, and make a toast to the relaxing side of life.





Events for Every Season in

Vermilion, Ohio

Article courtesy of Vermilion Chamber of Commerce

Visit Vermilion and experience a quaint New England-like town. Come for a day, a week, or a lifetime. Walk the beautiful beaches along Lake Erie, while attending all the seasonal events the Vermilion Chamber of Commerce has planned for 2023.

Spring ushers in the popular Annual Chocolate & Wine Walk. Grab your friends and make a day out of sampling chocolate and/or wine all while shopping and dining. Spring ushers out as we begin our 3rd Thursday series of music, flowers & a sunset. Enjoy an ice cream cone while listening to the many genres of music located in downtown Vermilion and end the evening with a beautiful sunset over Lake Erie. This event will run from May until September every third Thursday of the month.

Start summer with a bang as fireworks kick off the Annual Festival of the Fish held Father's Day weekend. This event offers FREE family fun all weekend long. It is a reunion of family and friends at the annual event. We will be celebrating 57 years this June at Festival of the Fish and have free live entertainment, lighted boat parade, crazy craft race on the Vermilion River, Father's Day parade, over 40 food vendors and over 80 marketplace vendors all over this fun packed weekend in downtown Vermilion.

Merchants will have fun festival specials as they too get into the weekend festivities.

We continue with our fun seasonal family festivities with "Live at the Lighthouse" concert series on Sundays in July and August at Main Street Beach. This event brings in many to enjoy an evening of great live music with the beautiful Lake Erie as the backdrop. Grab a bite to eat, bring your favorite chair or blanket and listen to live music and watch the glow of the sunset fall into the horizon. Don't forget Christmas in July, when we have another round of the popular Chocolate & Wine Walk with a Christmas twist.

In the fall 100,000 plus visitors come to town creating Wacky Woollybear memories. This FREE largest one-day event is something you do not want to miss. From there we roll into the annual Corks & Kegs where you can enjoy shopping while sampling wines and craft beers. Winter entices a taste of old-time Christmas as Santa rides into town on his big red boat followed by pictures in his house.

Whether you relax at the beach, stroll through town visiting unique merchants, or dine out, Vermilion is the place to be. Drop anchor for a day, a week, or a lifetime. Visit the website www.vermilionohio.com or reach out to info@vermilionohio.com for more information about 2023 events. The Vermilion Chamber of Commerce and the Vermilion Chamber Foundation are nonprofits that are dedicated to the betterment of the community and surrounding Vermilion areas to promote and encourage community engagement through free family events.





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When Jay Parks heard that his hometown, Coshocton, Ohio, was hosting its first ever half marathon in 2022, he knew he had to run it, even though he was scheduled to compete in a full marathon the following week. Parks, 54, is an avid runner, with more than 20 years' experience and countless races, including a dozen marathons and two full Ironman Triathlons. "I actually did not want to run this far a week before my marathon," said Parks, but he registered anyway to support the new fundraiser for the local parks.

Course developer Sherry Kirkpatrick always thought it would be great to have a half marathon in her hometown. "Like me, many local runners travel out of town to run half marathons, so as soon as I was asked to be on the *Friends of the Parks* volunteer board, I knew I wanted to create one. Planning started a full year in advance, as Kirkpatrick ran her favorite routes through Coshocton. "I wanted to showcase our beautiful park, the Downtown Historic District, and Roscoe Village," a restored 1800's era Ohio and Erie Canal Town. Both areas are filled with historic buildings, shops and restaurants. Kirkpatrick spent several weeks testing the route to be sure competitors would enjoy a great route that had some challenging spots, "but nothing over the top," she said. Kirkpatrick didn't stop with just a half marathon. "I truly felt that we could have a 5K and 10K race along with the half marathon right here in Coshocton."

The Route

It was important to Kirkpatrick to create an enjoyable route for all competitors. "The first 5.5 miles of the course keeps 10K and Half Marathon runners together, then the half marathoners split off into Coshocton's Downtown Historic District." The 5K route runs on flat, paved trails within Coshocton Lake Park, a familiar

A RACE FOR EVERY RUNNER

By Mindy Brems



path for 5K competitor Kaylee Kreis of Coshocton, who ran in several area races last year. Kreis placed first in her age group and loved the tee shirt she received for this race. "I'm a sucker for a good T," she said with a laugh. "Seeing the community come together to raise money for our park was something I definitely wanted to be part of." Kreis encourages everyone to participate, even if they are beginners. "At every race I've run, even if I don't know anyone, there are people there cheering me on; telling me not to quit."

Allie Reed typically runs half marathons, but in this race did the 10K, which was a first for her. "It's the perfect distance for runners looking for a little more than a 5k, but are uncertain about committing to the half marathon," she said. She and her husband, Evan, ran the race with family friend Kenzie Bice. They especially enjoyed the run through Lake Park with all the other racers. "It was very well organized," she said.

Because Parks was running the race as a warm-up for his upcoming marathon, he went out at a moderate pace, with no intentions of pushing to get first place. "At around the 11.5-mile mark, the leader began to slow, so I just held my pace and cruised to a first-place overall finish," he said. "It was just one of those days where everything fell together. An overall win was something I was not expecting." As for that marathon, Parks said he placed 11th overall and qualified for this year's Boston Marathon, which falls a week after the Friends of the Parks race. He plans to run it again this year as a "warm-up" for his run in Boston.

Everyone Welcome

Kirkpatrick wants everyone to know that this is a family-friendly race. "We welcome parents with baby-joggers, kids, leashed pets; run or walk, we just want you to have fun!" Competitive runners will be placed at the front of the pack so they can get a great start.

Kirkpatrick is thrilled with the results of the 2022 race. She recalls thinking that she would have been pleased with 10 entries for the Half Marathon, but instead registered 49. Altogether, 196 runners registered in the three races, ranging in age from 10 to 76. "I was simply blown away with the final results and number of participants," she said. "With the generosity of our sponsors and race registrations, Friends of the Parks was able to donate \$10,826 to the Coshocton Park District."

This year the race, which is officially named *Friends of the Parks Half Marathon 10k & 5K, Powered by Coshocton Regional Medical Center*, will be held on Saturday, April 8, 2023. Runners may register now at www.Dkraces.com.

Make it a weekend! Find lodging options, attractions, shopping and dining at visitcoshocton.com.



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A NATIONAL FOREST 100 Years in the Making

By Christopher Leeser, USDA Forest Service



Since 1923, the US Forest Service has been restoring and caring for the Allegheny National Forest, creating the perfect venue for your year-round adventures. With outstanding opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, riding ATVs, kayaking, canoeing, horseback riding, hunting, boating, fishing, camping, relaxation, wildlife watching, backpacking, outdoor learning, immersing yourself in history, enjoying scenic vistas, rejuvenating your spirit, or simply taking a drive through the woods, there is something for everyone in Pennsylvania's only national forest.

Just one hundred years ago, the 514,183 acres that became Allegheny National Forest were by and large a desolate, wildfire-ravaged landscape. Timber harvesting, the oil boom, and the subsequent railroad logging era had stripped the mountains of their trees, leaving not much more than a brush patch and streams choked with mud. Gifford Pinchot, the Father of American Forestry, and other conservation pioneers had the vision to restore our Nations' forests for the benefit of future generations.

The Weeks Act of 1911 empowered the nascent US Forest Service to protect watersheds and produce timber through the purchase of forested, cutover, or denuded lands. The headwaters of the Allegheny River were chosen to become a national forest and the first parcel of land totaling 32,000 acres was approved for purchase in 1922, setting the stage for President Calvin Coolidge to establish the Allegheny National Forest on September 24, 1923. There was much work to be done, especially if the Forest was to realize the potential identified by L.L. Bishop, the first Forest Supervisor.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program brought the ingenuity and muscle to get the work of forest restoration moving forward. The CCC enlisted single men between the ages of 18 to 25 to work on improving America's public lands, forests, and parks. The second CCC camp in the Nation was established in the Allegheny National Forest. The Forest went on to host 16 camps from 1933 - 1942.

The CCC boys' legacy of recreation areas, buildings, roads, trails, erosion control, and reforestation work is evident throughout the forest

and are among the twenty points of interest related to their enduring work that await your discovery.

Over decades, forest service scientists investigated methods to overcome ecological problems and worked with foresters to implement plans that have resulted in the resilient second-growth forest that has reclaimed the once scarred mountainsides. Forest Supervisor Bishop's words in 1925 were prophetic, "With the further extension of the highway systems and the completion of the Allegheny purchase program, thousands will annually seek the region for pleasant and wholesome out-of-door recreation."

That is indeed what came to pass, as each year hundreds of thousands of people pursue their happiness through the outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities available to them in the now-reforested, northwestern corner of Pennsylvania.

The 100th Anniversary is the perfect time to immerse yourself in the diverse history and revel in the conservation success story that is Allegheny National Forest. To learn more about our history, our outdoor recreation opportunities, and special centennial events that you may wish to attend, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/ANFCentennial>.



EXPLORE THE

Great Allegheny Passage

By Trish Mann

As Mother Earth is awakening from her slumber, we can't help but get excited by all the possibilities the warmer months bring. Two popular hobbies many outdoor enthusiasts look forward to pursuing this time of the year are biking and hiking.

For those who love the outdoors, a must-do trail on our bucket list should be the stunning Great Allegheny Passage, or GAP, as it is known. The GAP is a 150-mile rail trail between Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and Cumberland, Maryland. Whether you walk, hike, run, bike the path, or are just looking for some time in nature, you are in for a grand adventure.

Although the GAP is 150 miles long, you don't have to make the entire trail at one time. Along the route, many trail towns and parking lots accommodate your needs. On the GAP, you are never more than nine miles from a trail town, and there are campsites along the way. But before you get started, it is essential to plan accordingly. The TrailGuide is the official, authorized guidebook for the GAP and can be found at <https://gaptrail.org/before-you-go/trailguide/>.

Several shorter hikes compose part of the GAP's route. The section of the trail between Ohio pyle and Cumberland is part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, which is one of only eight nationally designated scenic trails. Others include

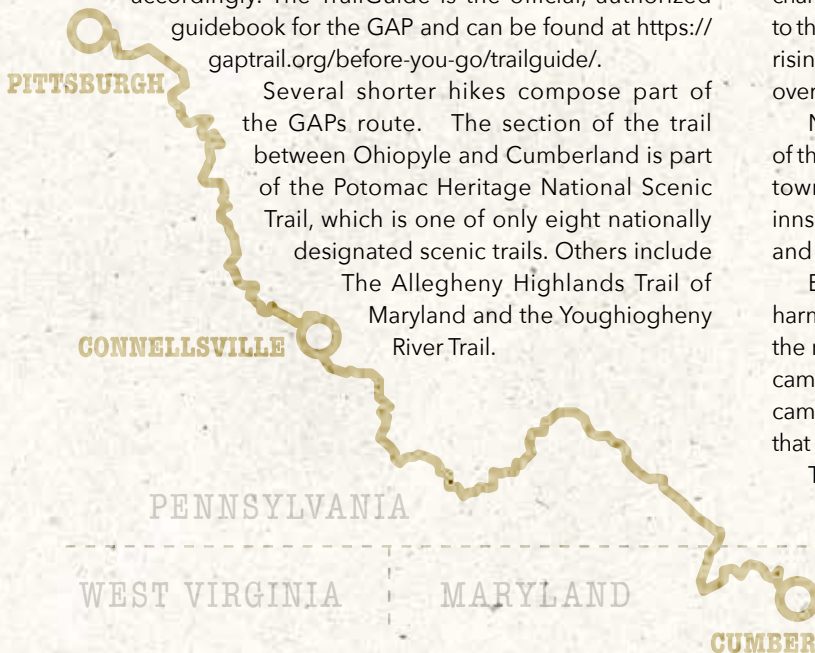
The Allegheny Highlands Trail of Maryland and the Youghiogheny River Trail.

The path is crushed limestone with only gradual elevation changes and provides a level surface. The section from Cumberland to the Eastern Continental Divide, 23.7 miles, has a gradual incline rising to 1,767 feet. After the Divide, the trail drops 1,680 feet over 125.1 miles.

No matter how you choose to travel, plan to stop by some of the friendly trail towns along the way. Many of these charming towns are situated on scenic winding rivers and offer cafes, inns, restaurants, and outfitters to make your journey enjoyable and memorable.

Enjoying the GAP during the day is glorious, but hearing the harmonious sounds of the night and viewing the magnitude of the night sky and stars is impossible to describe. If you want to camp along the trail, there are some free, first come, first serve campgrounds and a few reservation-only public campgrounds that charge a fee. Several private campgrounds are also available.

The Great Allegheny Passage is nature's playground. Come for the day, overnight, or take in all 150 miles of this scenic escape. Check out [Biking the Great Allegheny Passage](https://compassohio.com/2021/03/biking-great-allegheny-passage/) at <https://compassohio.com/2021/03/biking-great-allegheny-passage/> to read a first-hand account of one biker's experience on the trail.





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Trumbull County Showcases

ITALIAN HERITAGE

Through a Food Trail

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Italian food is often described as Spettacolare! Trumbull County, Ohio, is known for amazing Italian foods prepared with love from recipes handed down from generation to generation. The Italians that settled in Trumbull County brought a love for hearty sauces studded with peppers and cured meats.

Over one hundred years have passed since the early European immigrants settled in Northeast Ohio. Today many third and fourth-generation Italian Americans still eat the foods of their ancestors. Some use recipes hand-written on pieces of paper, while others have the ingredients memorized, feeling, and tasting their way in the proper ratios.

An Italian Food Trail was established in 2018, promoting food sites. In addition to restaurants, the Trail highlights Italian bakeries, grocers, and wineries with Italian varietals.

Trumbull County was the first in the nation to create such a unique experience. It also aimed to increase the visibility of and visitation to the county and share the area's Italian heritage with a larger audience through this food experience.

"We're thrilled to showcase the rich Italian culture we have in our area to a wider audience through this Trail," stated Beth Carmichael, Executive Director of the Trumbull County Tourism Bureau.

The food Trail takes you through a wide range of tastes, from mouth-watering wedding soup and greens to pizza and pizzelles to the famous hot peppers in oil. There are over 60 food sites to leave you with a little taste of Italy. Most of the highlighted dishes did not start in a restaurant but were rooted in the traditions of the many Italian families who settled in the region in the late 1800s during the coal and steel boom.

"I am from NYC, and it's fun to visit these family-owned businesses. The pride in their food shines, and using the pass has encouraged me to experience what makes Trumbull County unique. I've discovered wedding soup, Italian greens, and hot peppers in oil. I'm a fan! Also, I can't stop going to Sunrise Inn for its delicious pizza," said Alyssa Seda, Marketing Manager of Trumbull County Tourism Bureau.

Not only does one enjoy the pasta and pizza, but one savors regional specialties like Italian green (escarole) wilted with olive oil and garlic served with Hungarian pepper on top, Chicken Francaise, with the meat dredged in eggs and flour and sauteed in lemon butter. If pizza is your guilty pleasure, try the original white pizza invented locally at Leo's Ristorante or another regional variety Sunrise Inn known for its delicious Old World and specialty pizzas and other delicious foods. Buena Vista Café established in 1956 started as a bar but has grown into one of the finest restaurants in the city of Warren, Ohio.

For more information on how to participate in the 2023 Italian Food Trail, go to www.ItalianFoodTrail.com. You will also find a digital map and a downloadable sheet with a list of all the locations, making it easy to note your favorites.



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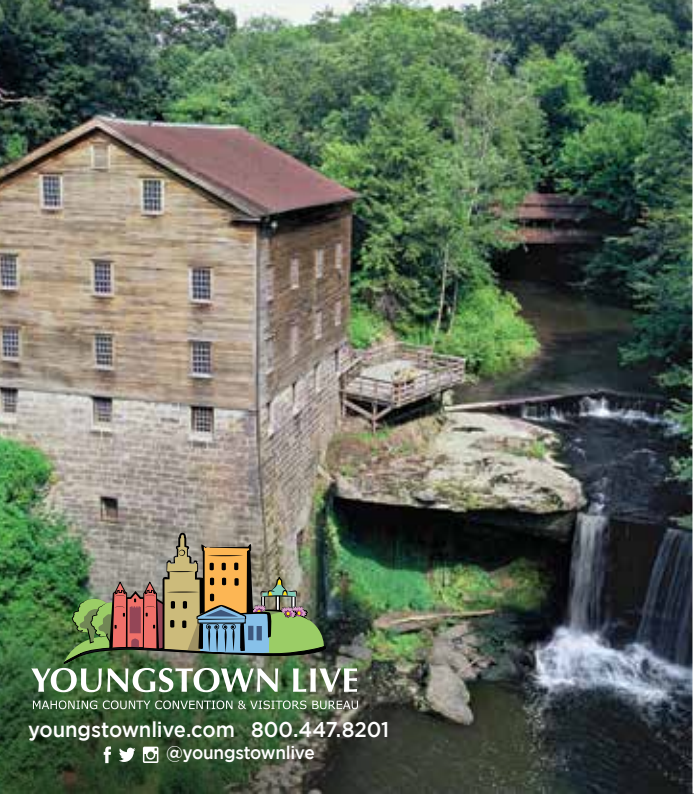
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Opt Outside

YOUR ADVENTURE STARTS IN YOUNGSTOWN!

As the weather warms, it's time to Opt Outside! Plan a weekend getaway close to home in the Youngstown area and enjoy plenty of outdoor recreation options!

Mill Creek MetroParks offers an abundance of wide-open spaces. Explore 45 miles of trails—from rustic to paved—where you'll find hidden waterfalls, numerous species of birds, and incredible scenery. A downloadable trail map is available at millcreekmetroparks.org. Pedal the 11-mile Bikeway, then try a round of disc golf. Parking for both is available at the MetroParks Farm Bikeway Trailhead.

The springtime blooming of over 40,000 bulbs at **Fellows Riverside Gardens** is always a spectacular sight. This beautiful 12-acre display garden, part of Mill Creek MetroParks, is open to the public at no charge. Over 400,000 people visit annually to

see the wonderful plant displays, a wide variety of roses, and seasonal displays of annuals and perennials. Climb the observation tower for spectacular views of Lake Glacier. Enjoy the Davis Visitors Center, have lunch in the café and find unique gifts at the Shop in the Gardens. Mill Creek MetroParks also is home to **Lanterman's Mill** and **Covered Bridge**. This mid-1800s historic landmark still grinds wheat and corn today. Hike the popular East/West Gorge Trail, which begins adjacent to Lanterman's Mill, and you'll be treated to views of, Lanterman's Falls, the scenic gorge and the **Cinderella Suspension Bridge**.

Is mountain biking more your thing? Head to **Lake Milton State Park** and ride the highly-rated, twisty 10.5-mile Lake Milton Mountain Bike Trail. The Trail is completed as a full loop, and it features tight turns around

trees and very minimal rocks and roots, so it's great even for a beginner. The Osprey disc golf course is also located at Lake Milton State Park, a scenic, wooded course that winds around the lake.

Paddling the **Mahoning River** is becoming more popular now that low-head dam removal has begun. You can paddle without obstructions from the Struthers launch area to the Village of Lowellville's Riverfront Park (3 miles), or continue across the OH/PA state line for another 6 miles to New Castle, PA.

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TRAIL RUNNING

in Shores & Islands Ohio

By Christopher Lewis

Scenic communities and stunning views of Lake Erie have made the Shores & Islands region one of the most beautiful places to run in Ohio. While road running events, like 5k's and half-marathons, are prominent in the area, there has been an increase in popularity of trail running. Shores & Islands Ohio is home to dozens of miles of wooded trails that sprawl through many parks and adjacent waterways. Both new and experienced runners are starting to take to the trails as it can help you enjoy runs even more, protect from injuries, and also improve race times for the road runs. If you haven't tried trail running, you owe it to yourself to get out there.

Some of the best trails in the area can be found within Erie MetroParks which currently manages 13 different parks all within a few minutes of each other. Below are a few highlighted trails at popular parks.



Osborn MetroPark in Huron has a multi-use trail that is one of the most used in the area. A perimeter path lines the woods and offers scenic views and a winding trail. This trail is a little over a mile long. There is also the Meadow Trail that spans 1.5 miles. There are several other trails that are a half mile or under scattered throughout the park. These trails are often used by student athletes and other running groups, as well as hikers and local residents.

Castalia Quarry MetroPark in Castalia offers more scenic trails through an old quarry and surrounding woods. Slight inclines offer an extra challenge to runners of all skill levels. The Quarry Rim trail is around 2 miles and the Levee Loop is a tad over a mile. There are several smaller trails that combine for a beautiful experience.

Edison Woods MetroPark in Berlin Heights hosts miles of trails for both people and horses. The many trails, combined with installed walkways through wetlands, offer visitors a glimpse into the region's natural habitat. There are several trails and loops that are over a mile in length. Edison Woods has the most extensive trail system in the area with six trails being a mile or longer. There's also an old truck on the trail that runners will have to find for themselves, but all the trails are well-marked with maps.

Huron River Path MetroPark in Huron is another great spot. Directly off the Huron River, this path goes through a wooded area and is surrounded by wetlands. This is a semi-straight trail that

is roughly a mile long, but its beauty and peaceful surroundings make this trail worth a visit.

Hoffman Forest MetroPark in Berlin Heights has plenty of places to run with some more technical paths containing roots and rocks in the back part of the property. Runners here will also get some stairs in while doing some running. Keep an eye out for the Paw-Paw trees!

The Milan Towpath MetroPark in Milan is just under a mile, but runners like to park on the square in downtown Milan and run down the winding road to the trail entrance and back to get in a couple miles before running around the village that has some great elevation changes. Milan is also a great place to get a beverage and a bite to eat after a run.

The North Coast Inland Trail can be accessed via Depot Park in Elmore. This 28-mile inactive rail line was converted to a paved trail/bike path with Ohio Department of Transportation funding. The path is open year-round for runs and no motorized vehicles are permitted. Other portions of the incomplete North Coast Inland Trail go through Sandusky County, Huron County, and Lorain County.

Shores & Islands Ohio is also home to several state parks including Marblehead's East Harbor State Park in Marblehead. This Ohio State Park is situated on a peninsula of land stretching into the waters of Lake Erie. A 2-mile-long strip separates the harbor from the open waters of the lake. There are 10 miles of trails winding their way through boardwalks, meadows, and a beach for running.

For an island adventure, experience the great outdoors at Kelleys Island. Located just a few miles from the ferry dock, Kelleys Island State Park provides 677 acres with several miles of trails. The scenic highlight is the 1-mile North Pond Nature Preserve, which includes a boardwalk to an observation deck. For a longer run, the 5-mile networking trail of the East Quarry Trail loop is an ideal trail run course. The trails wind around the abandoned limestone quarry located at the interior of the island and take you through woodlands, around the flooded eastern end of the quarry, known as Horseshoe Lake, and down onto the largely barren floor.

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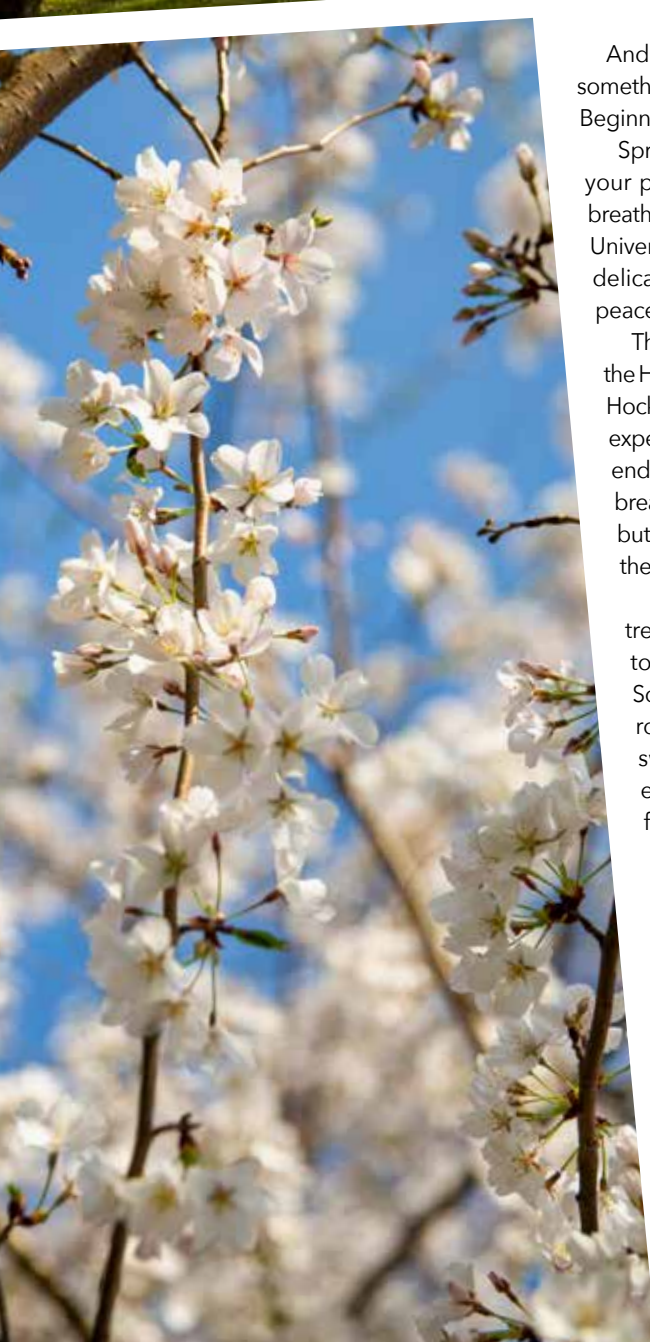
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A SYMBOL OF FRIENDSHIP

Blooms in Athens

By Candy S. Collins, BS



And suddenly you know it's time to start something new and trust the magic of...New Beginnings. Author Unknown.

Spring is here, which means dusting off your picnic basket for a picnic under the breathtaking Japanese Cherry Trees at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. The explosion of delicate pale pink flowers is a symbol of peace, tranquility, and friendship.

These stunning cherry blossom trees line the HockHocking Adena Bikeway along the Hocking River bank and campus. You can expect the blooms to begin between the end of March to the middle of April. The breathtaking blossoms last for one week, but if the temperatures are cool enough, they may last up to two weeks.

As you are standing under the trees' blossoms, take in a deep breath to catch their faint yet pleasing smell. Some say you can catch a hint of vanilla, rose, and lilac. Others have noticed a sweet smell like fruit. No matter the exact smell, you are guaranteed to feel refreshed inside and out.

Experience a unique view of the blooms in the late evening as they are illuminated across from Wren baseball stadium. The light shines on and through the blooms leaving a beautiful ambiance setting to enjoy with anyone.

In 1979 President Kazoo Yamada of Chubu Institute of Technology presented 175 Japanese Cherry Trees to Ohio University in honor of the college's 175th Anniversary

and recognition of the exchange program between Chubu University and Ohio University. Chubu University gifted more trees to the university in 2004, celebrating its bicentennial.

Today 218 majestic cherry trees adorn the grounds allowing the students, community, and visitors to enjoy them. The trees represent the strong and growing relationship between the sister universities.

According to Ohio University's Ohio News, the trees are cared for by Ohio's Ground Services and landscape. They add to the grove each year in a tree loss and replacement cycle. The pattern of continual replacement preserves a healthy stand as opposed to having a group of trees decline at the same time due to their age. National Geographic named Athens in 2019 as one of the best places in the nation to see cherry blossoms.

The cherry blossoms are just part of the beauty of spring throughout the area. Phenomenal displays of beauty and rebirth are abundant and provide the perfect picture while biking the path. Mile marker 12 is where you will find Athens Conservancy Bluebell Preserve showcasing wild Virginia bluebells, blue-eyed Mary, and radiant trilliums. These wildflowers peak around mid-April. The preserve is also accessible by nearby parking.

For information on the blooming, visit Ohio University's web page, Cherry Blossoms at Ohio University. Visitors may park at metered parking near Peden Stadium and the Convocation Center on campus (or for free on weekends).

VINTON COUNTY TO HOST Wild Turkey Festival

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Festivals are starting to spring up and Vinton County, Ohio, is leaping into its annual Wild Turkey Festival May 4 - 7, 2023.

Eastern Wild Turkey was once prevalent throughout Ohio but had disappeared in the early 1900s due to extensive clearing of forests and the spread of agricultural land. According to www.vcwtf.org, efforts by the Ohio Division of Wildlife to reintroduce the bird began after World War II. Earlier attempts with farm-raised birds were unsuccessful as they were not "wild" enough and lacked the instinct to survive natural predators.

In the 1950s, the first live-captured wild birds arrived from West Virginia, with the rugged terrain of sparsely populated Vinton County as their destination. The birds thrived, and within a few years, the Eastern Wild Turkeys from Vinton County were being captured and transplanted to other locations throughout Ohio.

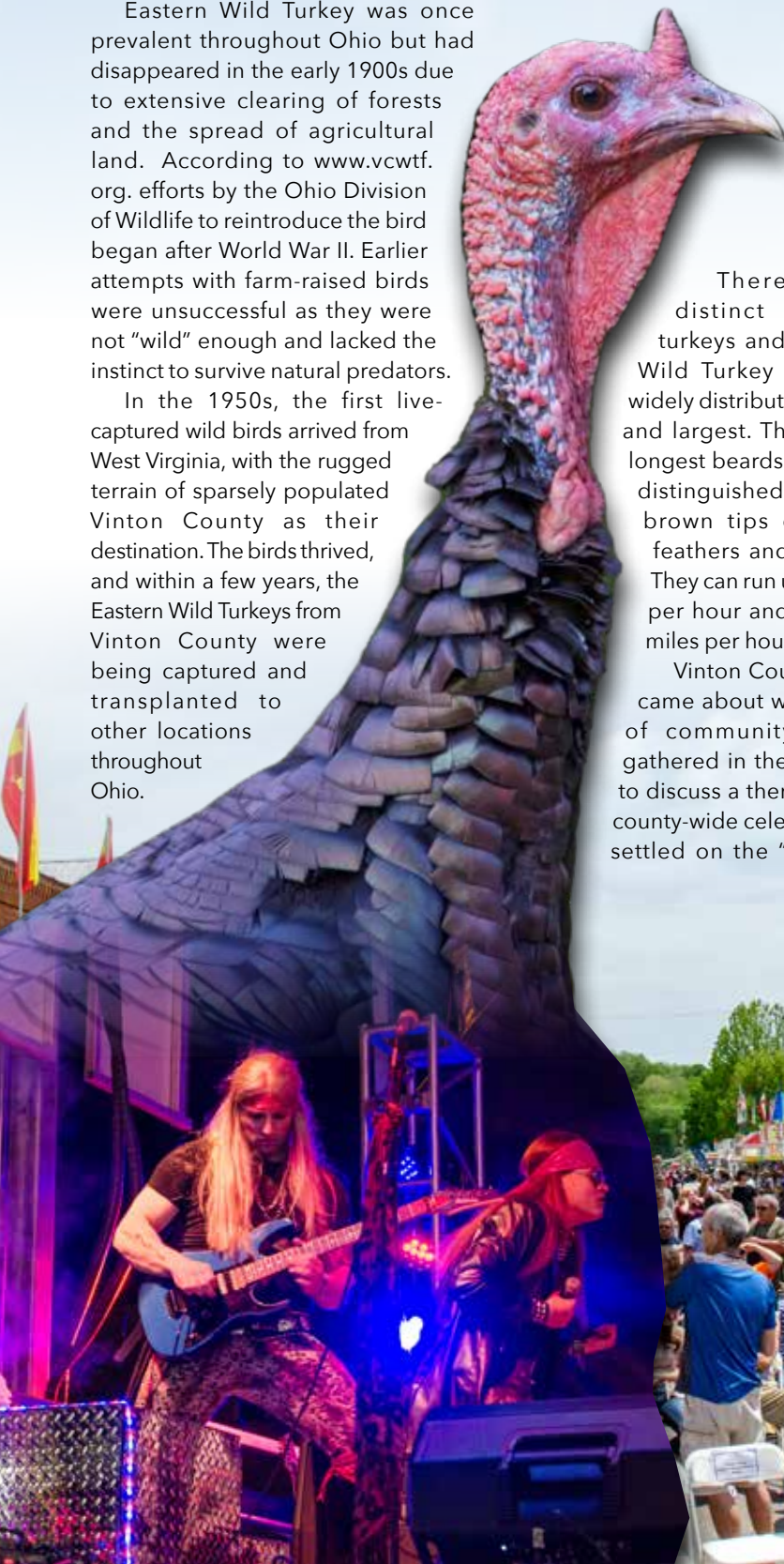
There are five distinct species of turkeys and the Eastern Wild Turkey is the most widely distributed, abundant and largest. They sport the longest beards and are best distinguished by chestnut brown tips of their tail feathers and tail coverts. They can run up to 25 miles per hour and fly up to 35 miles per hour.

Vinton County's festival came about when a group of community members gathered in the early 1980s to discuss a theme to build a county-wide celebration. They settled on the "Wild Turkey

Festival" to remember the vital role the county played in re-establishing the magnificent bird back to Ohio. Every year thousands of hunters, hikers, and vacationers visit the county in the hopes of getting a glimpse of an Eastern Wild Turkey.

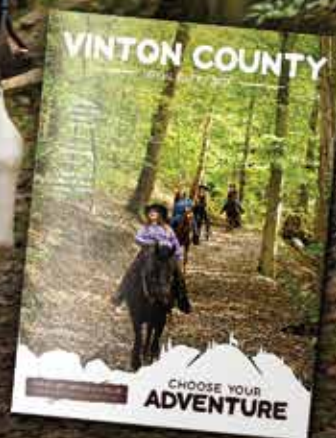
Since 1985 the Vinton County Wild Turkey Festival has been held the first full weekend of May in downtown McArthur, Ohio, at the intersection of U.S. Route 50 and State Route 93. The festival features amusement rides, a car show, a karaoke contest, a baby contest, and of course, delicious food. Make sure you attend the Grand Parade and check out the Wild Turkey Festival Queen and Little Miss Pageants.

For more information about the event and schedule, go to www.vcwtf.org.





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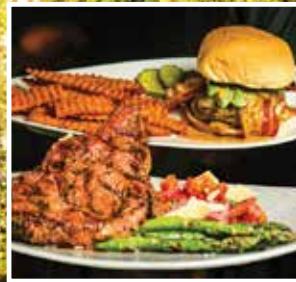
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PLAY WHERE THE PROS PLAY: Golfing in the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region

By Victoria Burch

The tradition of golf in the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region of Western New York began over a century ago. It started with the development of the Chautauqua Golf Club at Chautauqua Institution where the first round of golf was played on July 18, 1914. Since then, this top-rated golf club has hosted over 14 World Golf Hall of Famers and is one of only two 36-hole golf courses between Cleveland and Rochester. Visit their expansive Golf Learning Center with your group for range, practice holes and quality instruction. With this strong foundation, the sport of golf in Chautauqua County continued to grow and is now home to over a dozen public golf courses with options ranging from 9-hole courses to 18-hole courses.

Another noteworthy golf course in Chautauqua County is the Upper Course at Peek'n Peak Resort. This championship-caliber course is par-72 with yardages ranging from 4,800 to 7,000 yards to accommodate players of all skill levels with five teeing options. The course offers professional playing conditions such as bent grass and fairways. The course's unique terrain and natural features include rolling hills, deep sand bunkers, panoramic views and mature woods that create a spectacular atmosphere and unrivaled beauty.

Most golf courses throughout the region are open to the public but also offer membership options for both individuals and families. Courses are open for playing seasonally, usually beginning in mid to late May and stay open through the end of October, weather permitting.

After some time on the greens, grab a bite to eat and a refreshing beverage at the golf course's onsite restaurant such as the Bemus Point Golf Club and Taphouse that features a craft food style menu and over 20 beers on tap.

Local golf courses host a variety of golf tournaments throughout the season. Register for one and join in on the fun or partner with a Chautauqua County course and host your own. Many local courses offer discounted rates during the off season as well as golf packages that include lodging and dining options.

Mini Golf

In addition to the highly ranked golf courses, the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region is also home to several mini-golf courses that are great options for family fun. Midway State Park is one of the oldest consecutively operating amusement parks in the nation and features a mini golf course called Putt Around Chautauqua that highlights iconic Chautauqua County destinations throughout the course.

Webb's Miniature Golf is located near Webb's Year-Round Resort and Webb's Candies. This state-of-the-art course boasts challenging holes, beautiful landscapes, and a tranquil atmosphere. Don't forget to complete your game with an ice cream cone! Peek'n Peak Resort is also home to Peek'n Putt, an 18-hole mini golf course designed to test your skills with gently rolling terrain and water hazards.

Wish you could play a round of golf all year round? Mulligans on Fairmount is an indoor entertainment venue that offers digital golf all year long. Play at hundreds of famous golf courses or improve your game with a practice mode that provides feedback, data and videos.

Book your next golf getaway to the Chautauqua-Lake Erie Region. Visit TourChautauqua.com or call 866-908-4569 for more information about golfing and all your trip planning needs.

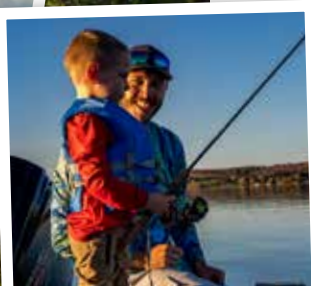
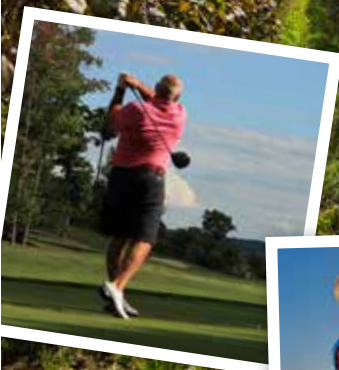


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Greene County, Ohio, BRINGS THE PAST TO LIFE WITH Two Outstanding Museums

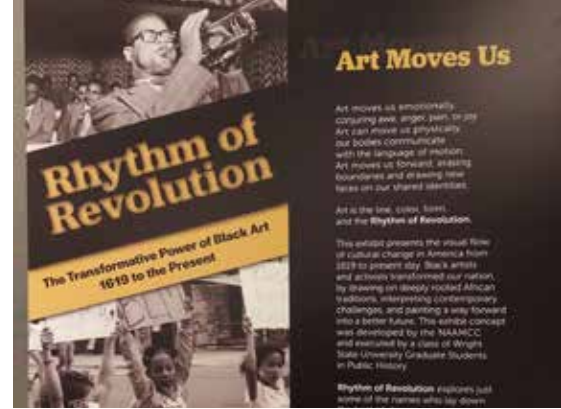


By Trish Mann

History is a gift that does not come in pretty wrapping. Instead, it comes through the blood, sweat, and tears of generations who dared to stand up and stand out. It is difficult and heartbreaking, yet exciting and triumphant simultaneously. Greene County, located in Southwestern Ohio, is home to two outstanding museums that pay homage to our collective past.

In 2023, the National Museum of the United States Air Force™ celebrates its 100th Anniversary. Since 1923 the museum has grown from a small engineering study collection to the world's largest military aviation museum. Located at Wright Patterson Air Force base, outside Dayton, the museum collects, conserves and presents the rich history of the U.S. Air Force (USAF). As stewards of this historical

collection, the museum seeks to share its diverse resources through educational outreach, exciting exhibits, and special programs demonstrating military aviation's global impact for over 100 years. From the Wright Brothers' legacy, which began on the base's land, to the over 350 aerospace vehicles and missiles on display, the museum pays homage to the past while embracing the future of flight.



Throughout the museum, collections and exhibits highlight the marvels and wonders of air power heritage from the earliest days of military aviation through modern flight and space exploration. Airlift has long been a part of the mission of the USAF. The Global Reach Gallery honors this with a display of the C-141, nicknamed the Hanoi Taxi, which lifted the first American prisoners of war out of Hanoi, North Vietnam, in 1973. Many of these men had been held captive for several years.

"It is so incredible! I was just in awe! Several things moved me to tears. My most memorable display is the Air Force One that carried President Kennedy's body. Jackie did not want him traveling alone in the bottom of the plane. They removed seats to allow the casket to fit in the passenger area. It was very emotional," said Holly Ellen Roby, a visitor.

Beyond the fascinating galleries, the museum also offers simulators, run by the Air Force Museum Foundation, that put you right into the action. The Movie Ride is a motion simulator that offers five different rides that can take you through the farthest regions of outer space, through aviation history, or flying through the air in the Red Baron. The I 360 Ride allows the pilot and gunner to engage in simulated air combat, while The VR Transporter with 3D goggles and motion platform puts you into the seat of a WWII Sherman tank at the Battle

of the Bulge. The simulators provide an experience like no other.

The museum's vision of honoring every Airman's story is palpable throughout the countless displays and memorabilia. While looking back, The National Museum of the Air Force is keeping its eye on the future of flight in America and beyond. The museum's vision of honoring every Airman's story is palpable throughout the countless displays and memorabilia. Admission and parking are free.

The National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center (NAAMCC), located just 30 minutes from the Air Force Museum, is home to one of the largest collections reflecting the African American experience. Artifacts, manuscripts, artwork, and personal items depict the comprehensive struggles and successes of those who have made history locally, nationally, and globally.

Opened In 1988, the museum established itself as a national leader in sharing the achievements and struggles of Black American people from enslavement to the present day. Current exhibits include diverse topics such as Black Protest Art, the history of the Wilberforce community, and the story of African Americans who have served our country for over 200 years. The NAAMCC archives and educational materials are used by researchers and museums worldwide and host educational programming, school field trips, and tours for local communities and organizations.

The museum's exhibits reflect its extensive collections, which include

over 9,000 artifacts. Using storytelling and eye-catching graphics, the museum encourages visitors to pause, reflect and connect with the pieces through text and imagery.

Contemporary, relevant, and unique exhibits appeal to visitors across all spectrums of interest. Three exciting shows on display include *African Americans Fighting for a Double Victory*, *Queens of the Heartland* and *Behind the Mask: Black Power in Comics*. Blacks have been comic book characters and creators for much longer than many realize. The first Black Panther comic book was released in 1966. *Behind the Mask* chronicles the painful and triumphant history of Blacks in comics. The exhibit closes February 25, 2023, but an updated version will open next year in March 2024.

Queens of the Heartland tells the stories of 30 women who have significantly influenced the suffrage and civil rights movement from the 19th century to the courageous women of today. The stories are vast and continue to create a path forward for women today.

As humans evolve, so does our understanding, leaving us responsible for preserving the facts and expanding our knowledge about history's impact on our future. Museums play an integral part in our future. These two museums and museums across the country are working to make history relevant to today's audience. "Real history tells the best stories," said Dr. Charles Wash, NAAMCC Director.

2023 brings many new and exciting programs and events for both museums. Please visit their respective websites, The United States Air Force Museum at www.nationalmuseum.af.mil and the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center at www.ohiohistory.org/naamcc for all the latest information and to plan your next great adventure in Greene County.



Historic Clifton Mill

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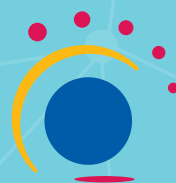
The Village of Yellow Springs – unique and unexpected is the norm in Yellow Springs. Over 50 specialty shops, boutiques, and galleries.

Little Miami Scenic Trail – No matter where you like to ride or hike, there's a place in Greene County to do it. Five trails in Greene County with four converging at Xenia Station, the Greene Trails rails-to-trails system reaches out in four directions on over 140 miles of paved trails.

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STARK AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

IS ESSENTIAL

By Leo Jennings

Webster defines essential as follows—*Essential: absolutely necessary; extremely important*. When COVID-19 struck, the Stark Area Regional Transit Authority (SARTA) was deemed an essential service by the federal government. Throughout the crisis our team took extraordinary—and extraordinarily heroic—steps to live up to that designation by transporting first responders, health care professionals and other essential employees to work and residents to essential destinations including health care appointments and the grocery store.

By any measure we were the definition of essential: we played an absolutely necessary and extremely important role in enabling our community to weather the coronavirus storm.

“While we’re proud of our performance during the pandemic, in reality, SARTA has been ‘essential’ from the moment our first passenger boarded our first bus on December 1, 1997,” CEO Kirt Conrad said. “That explains why people used our fixed route and demand response services millions of times each year pre-COVID and why ridership, which declined significantly during the crisis, is increasing rapidly as life returns to normal. I’m certainly not surprised by the rebound.”

According to Conrad, in the first eleven months of 2022 ridership is up on 18 of the system’s 34 fixed routes compared to 2021 and the total for the year, which stood at 1,008,330 at the end of November may exceed 2020’s when figures for December are added. ProLine, SARTA’s on-demand paratransit service, is also experiencing year-over-year growth.

“The 2022 numbers clearly demonstrate that people know our affordable, convenient, reliable, and safe service is a great way to reach thousands of locations in Stark County and beyond,” Conrad said. “And as has been the case over the past quarter century, we will make public transportation in this community even better in the years ahead.”

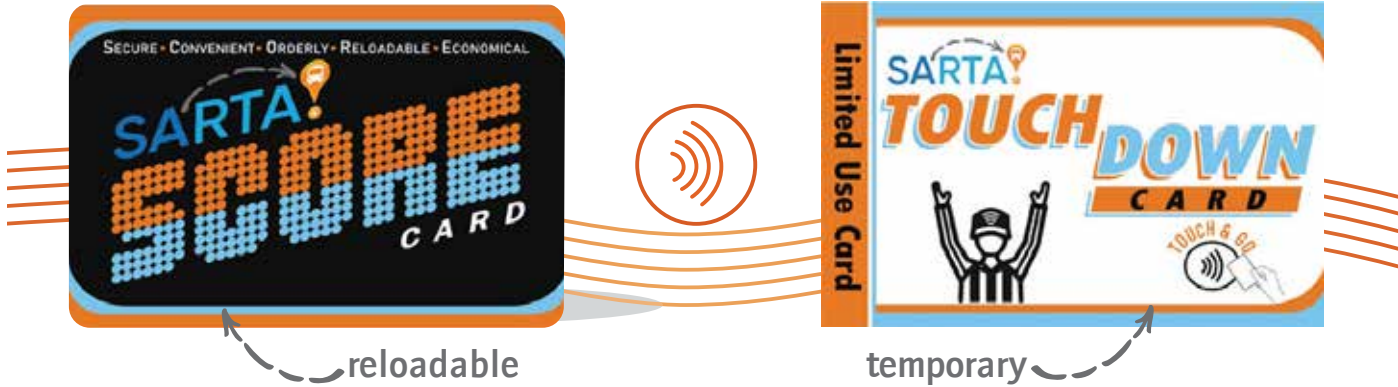
Conrad stated SARTA always has and will continue to utilize a multi-faceted approach to achieve that goal. “First, we constantly assess transit needs and then implement new and enhanced service to meet them,” he noted. “Along with driving decisions about routing, stops, and timing, our evaluation process led to the creation of the employment focused Massillon/Navarre ‘Success Express,’ the launch of our Community Circulator, and the development of the program that transports veterans to the Wade Park VA hospital in Cleveland for free. When we detect a gap in service, we do everything in our power to close it.”

“Second, we are always searching for ways to improve the passenger experience,” Conrad continued. From tools like PinPoint and Google Transit to new, convenient ways to purchase tickets and fares including our Score cards and EZfare we want riding SARTA to be seamless and hassle free.”

“And, finally, we constantly invest in the community. Our new Massillon Transit Center and headquarters facility, zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell bus program, participation and involvement in a wide range of charities and organizations demonstrates our total commitment to improving the quality of life in Stark County and makes it easy to understand why SARTA is regarded as a valuable community asset.”



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HOCKING HILLS

Provides Rustic Lodging & Endless Adventures

By Candy S. Collins, BS

Spring wildflowers and stunning waterfalls are just a couple of reasons to plan a stay at Hocking Hills, Ohio this spring. April and May are perfect times to experience mother nature's wake from the winter months.

Begin your memories at the new Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center, opened in October, 2022. Enjoy rustic elegance surrounded by stunning nature views. The lodge is surrounded by hiking trails, caves, and waterfalls bringing its guests excitement and discovery.

The lodge offers 81 guest rooms full of rustic charm and most provide a partial view of the Hocking Hills State Park or outdoor pool. Many of the units adjoin the next room allowing family and friends to have an exceptional time together.

Dine indoors or outdoors at one of the three on-site locations each offering its own unique style. Rock House Restaurant offers a full-service menu where Café 22 is an easy-to-grab quick bite or take-it-to-go as you set out on your adventures. Kick back in the evening hours at the Rock House Pub which offers a cozy fireplace creating a relaxing environment while you enjoy your favorite drink and take in the breathtaking views.

Pack your swimsuit as you will want to take advantage of the indoor pool or relax in the all-season hot tub. An outdoor pool is available from Memorial Day to Labor Day. For those who want to continue their workout routines while on vacation, the lodge offers excellent equipment with amazing views. Outdoor fire tables and parlor games are also a fun addition to the lodge's amenities.

A ballroom and conference center make for a perfect wedding destination. Professional event staff are on hand to accommodate your unique needs during your stay. The Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center can host everything from wedding receptions and family reunions to corporate events, retreats, and more.

Trails

Hocking Hills is one of Ohio's most visited parks as outdoor enthusiasts enjoy over 2,356 acres of stunning natural scenery. There



are miles of trails, rugged cliffs, caves, sandstone gorges, and serene waterfalls. Due to the extra rain in the spring, the waterfalls have a stronger and more beautiful cascade.

Ash Cave should be on your itinerary as it is the largest recess cave east of Mississippi. It has a horseshoe-shaped rim spanning 700 feet, with a runoff waterfall. The cave can be accessed by a short hike along the lower paved trail making it handicap and child friendly.

For a more challenging hike check out Cantwell Cliffs. It is situated on a high outcropping of Black Hand sandstone making it one of the most remote areas of Hocking Hills. Hikers are given the best of two worlds. The high-rim trail offers far-reaching vistas of breathtaking beauty, while the valley trail makes the hiker feel incredibly small when walking at the base of the cliffs. Anyone who is up for the challenge will be rewarded with stunning views.

If you are looking for the best waterfall display in Hocking County head to Cedar Falls. The water plunges 50 feet down making it one of the most photographed waterfalls in Ohio.

Old Man's Cave is another must-see on your itinerary as it comprises the Upper Falls, Upper Gorge, Middle Falls, Lower Falls, and Lower Gorge. It travels along the magnificent gorge cut through the entire 150-foot thickness of sandstone. A little fun fact, Richard Rowe, a hermit who moved to the Ohio Valley in 1796, once called this area home. Deriving its name from the hermit, Old Man's Cave is the most visited park.

In 1977, Conkle's Hollow Nature Preserve was designated as a State Nature Preserve. It has sheer cliffs that rise nearly 200 feet above the valley floor. The deep, cool gorge is only 100 feet wide in places and is considered the deepest in Ohio. Conkle's Hollow has numerous waterfalls cascading over its sandstone cliffs and the



upper trail rim offers panoramic views as the lower gorge trail leads hikers into the valley floor covered with lush flora and soaring cliffs.

Another interesting spot to visit is the Moonville Tunnel. The community of Moonville sprung up around the railroad and principally housed miners and a few railroad workers. It had approximately one hundred residents at its peak in the 1800s. The community declined during the early 1900s as coal mines started closing. Today, only the foundation of the old schoolhouse, a train tunnel, and the community cemetery remain. Moonville still remains well known, due to its reputation of being haunted. Allegedly the ghosts of railroad workers who were killed by trains in the Moonville Tunnel still wave their lanterns in the abandoned tunnel.

Hocking Hills has something for everyone. Enjoy a day on the river while kayaking or canoeing. Take on the hills on horseback or camp under the stars. Feel free as you zipline from one tree across to the next. Grab a bike and discover over 50 miles of biking trails ranging from leisurely to difficult. Experience rock climbing and

repelling, take an eco/nature tour, or throw your line in the water in the hopes to tell the next "fish story."

Have little ones? Check out an outdoor adventure on the farm at Muddy Boots Farm. Enjoy petting animals from cute and cuddly rabbits to friendly camels. Children four and under are free making it a great and affordable family outing.

"A cozy Hocking Hills cabin or lodge is an ideal home base for an unforgettable spring break. Spring is one of the most beautiful seasons in the Hocking Hills with waterfalls thundering throughout the gorges and star-filled night skies," said Karen Raymore, Executive Director Hocking Hills Tourism Association. "You don't need to travel far to feel like you've been transported to a magical world of natural beauty."

Visit www.explorehockinghills.com to book your spring getaway and let your memories begin at Hocking Hills this spring. For more information about the Hocking Hills Lodge & Conference Center go to www.hockinghillsparklodge.com.

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RUBBERDUCKS BASEBALL 2023 SCHEDULE

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6 8:35	7 7:05	8 8:05
				ERI	ERI	ERI
9	10	11 6:35	12 6:35	13 8:35	14 7:05	15 8:35
		@BOW	@BOW	@BOW	@BOW	@BOW
16 1:05	17	18 6:35	19 6:35	20 6:35	21 7:05	22 6:05
@BOW		HBG	HBG	HBG	HBG	HBG
23 2:05	24	25 11:05am	26 6:05	27 6:05	28 6:05	29 1:05
HBG		@BNG	@BNG	@BNG	@BNG	@BNG
30 1:05						
@BNG						

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
2:05	1	2 6:35	3 6:35	4 6:35	5 7:05	6 6:05
		POR	POR	POR	POR	POR
7 2:05	8	9 6:00	10 11:00am	11 6:00	12 6:00	13 1:00
POR		@ALT	@ALT	@ALT	@ALT	@ALT
14 1:00	15	16 6:35	17 6:35	18 6:35	19 12:05	20 6:05
@ALT		@RIC	@RIC	@RIC	@RIC	@RIC
21 1:35	22	23 11:05am	24 6:35	25 6:35	26 7:05	27 7:05
@RIC		BOW	BOW	BOW	BOW	BOW
28 6:05	29	30 6:35	31 6:35			
BOW		HFD	HFD			

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1 6:35	2 7:05	3 7:05
				HFD	HFD	HFD
4 2:05	5	6 6:00	7 6:00	8 11:00am	9 6:00	10 1:00
HFD		@POR	@POR	@POR	@POR	@POR
11 1:00	12	13 6:05	14 6:05	15 6:35	16 7:05	17 7:05
@POR		@NH	@NH	@NH	@NH	@NH
18 1:35	19	20 6:35	21 6:35	22 6:35	23 7:05	24 7:05
@NH		BNG	BNG	BNG	BNG	BNG
25 2:05	26	27	28 6:05	29 6:05	30 6:35	
BNG			@ERI	@ERI	@ERI	

JULY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1 6:05
						@ERI
2 6:35	3 6:05	4 7:05	5 6:35	6 5:35	7 7:05	8 7:05
@ERI	@ERI	HBG	HBG	HBG	HBG	HBG
9 2:05	10	11	12	13	14 7:05	15 6:35
HBG					@BOW	@BOW
16 1:05	17	18 12:05	19 6:35	20 6:35	21 7:05	22 7:05
@BOW		RIC	RIC	RIC	RIC	RIC
23 2:05	24	25 6:05	26 11:35	27 6:05	28 6:35	29 6:05
RIC		@ERI	@ERI	@ERI	@ERI	@ERI
30 1:35	31					
@ERI						

AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1 12:05	2 6:35	3 6:35	4 7:05	5 7:05
		SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM	SOM
6 2:05	7	8 6:35	9 6:35	10 6:35	11 7:05	12 6:00
SOM		@HBG	@HBG	@HBG	@HBG	@HBG
13 1:00	14	15 6:35	16 6:35	17 6:35	18 7:05	19 7:05
@HBG		ERI	ERI	ERI	ERI	ERI
20 2:05	21	22 6:00	23 6:00	24 6:00	25 6:00	26 6:00
ERI		@ALT	@ALT	@ALT	@ALT	@ALT
27 1:00	28	29 6:35	30 6:35	31 6:35		
@ALT		BOW	BOW	BOW		

SEPTEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1 7:05	2 7:05
					BOW	BOW
3 6:05	4	5 6:05	6 6:05	7 6:05	8 6:05	9 6:05
BOW		@RIC	@RIC	@RIC	@RIC	@RIC
10 1:05	11	12 6:35	13 6:35	14 6:35	15 7:05	16 7:05
@RIC		ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT	ALT
17 6:05	18	19	20	21	22	23
ALT						
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

*ALL GAME TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

ACRONYM	TEAM
AKR	AKRON RUBBERDUCKS
ALT	ALTONA CURVE
BOW	BOWIE BAYSOX
ERI	ERIE SEAWOLVES
HBG	HARRISBURG SENATORS
RIC	RICHMOND FLYING SQUIRRELS

ACRONYM	TEAM
BNG	BINGHAMTON RUMBLE PONIES
HFD	HARTFORD YARD GOATS
NH	NEW HAMPSHIRE FISHER CATS
POR	PORTLAND SEADOGS
REA	READING FIGHTIN' PHILS
SOM	SOMERSET PATRIOTS

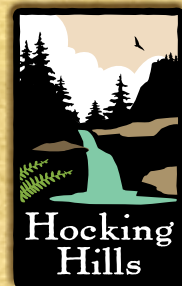
HOME	AWAY	FIRE WORKS
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