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Wisp Resort's New Canopy Tour

Photo by Lance C. Bell ©

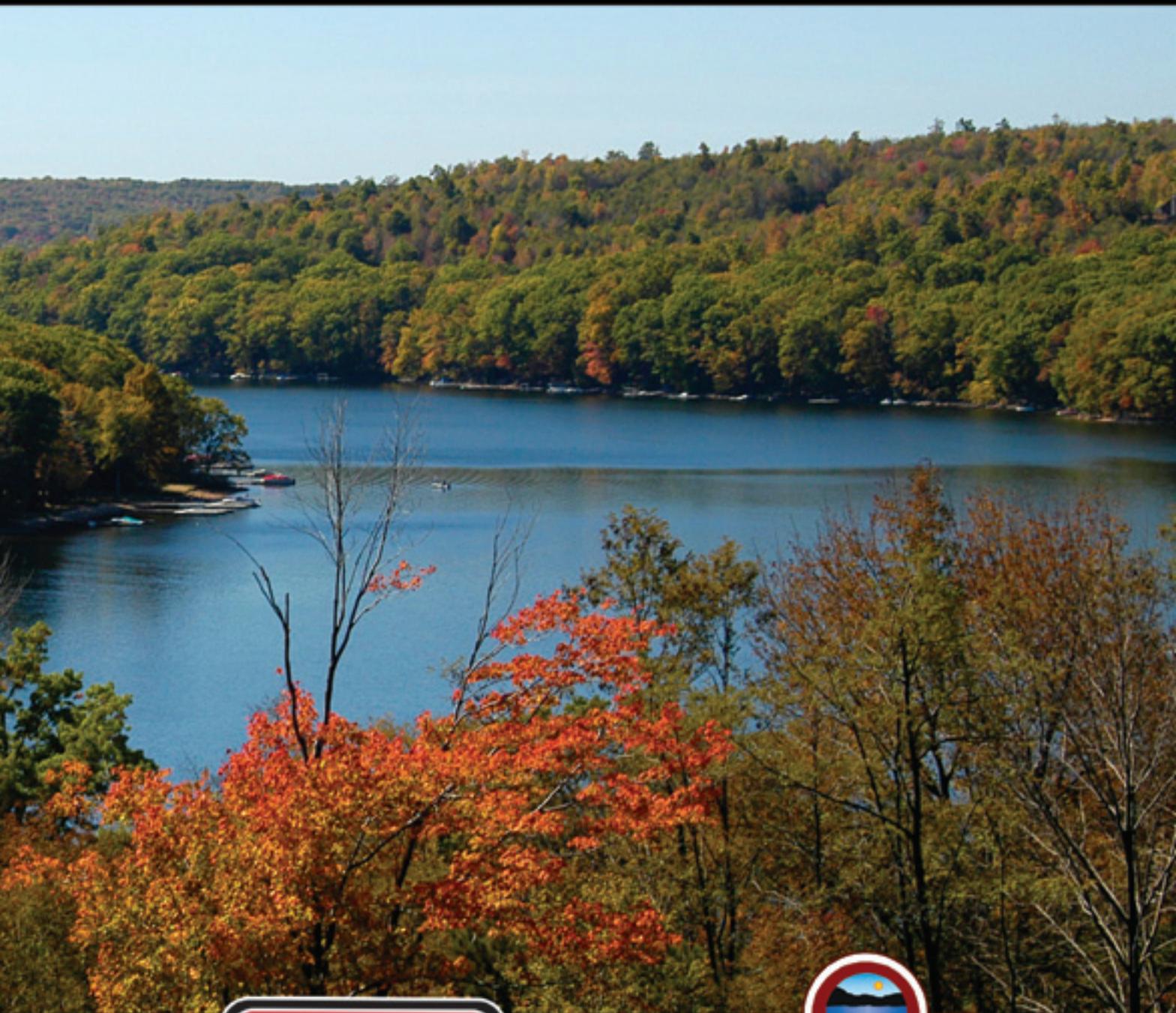
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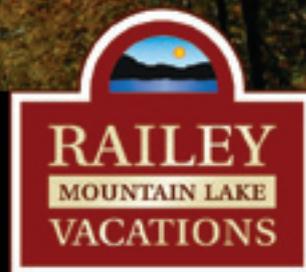
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Mountain Discoveries web site (www.mountaindiscoveries.com) is an active part of this publication, and is used to communicate and showcase feature stories and our advertisers.

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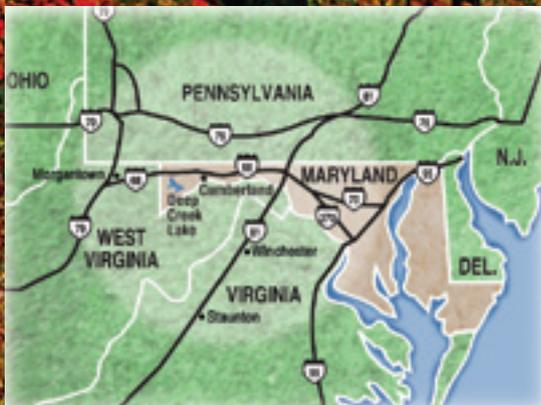
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Dorothy Andreas Tuel

THE SEWICKLEY SPA

Dorothy Andreas Tuel is president and founder of The Sewickley Spa Inc., a luxurious day spa with three locations in Sewickley and Ligonier Pennsylvania and at The Wisp Resort in Deep Creek Maryland.

Serving 10,000 guests a year, the spa has recently been awarded its 46th 'Best Day Spa' award, according to several newspaper reader polls. The Sewickley Spa has been featured several times as an outstanding business model in various international Spa magazines, as well as being the cover story for *Spa Management Magazine*.

Dorothy is the founder of SpaEdge Inc., and Egift technology, which allow businesses to sell instant printable gift cards from their company website. In addition, she is the founder of the time-management seminar series "Yes, There IS Enough Time" and W.I.L.L., the Women in Leadership League, which promotes female entrepreneurs, lecturers, writers and designers in the Beauty Profession.

She has earned a variety of awards and honors, including the Westmoreland County Winners Circle Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, the Pittsburgh Business Times' Top 100 Fastest-Growing Businesses Award for 4 consecutive years, Fast Trackers award, and Governor Ed Rendell's 50 Best Women in Business Award.

Dorothy is serving her second term as Chairman of the Board for The Dove Center and Shelter in Garrett County Maryland. She is also the 2010 President of the Western Maryland Health Planning Council, and is a member of Garrett County Memorial Hospital Foundation, Mountain Laurel Garden Club, American Forest Foundation Development Board, Women Presidents Organization, St. Marks Church Council and a past board member of the American Red Cross.

"Cooking and eating bring joy to my family. It is a generational pleasure, as well as premier family bonding time. It is an event for us, made even better if the ingredients have come from our own garden. We give thanks at every meal for our blessings, which are many," says Dorothy.

Risotto

- 2 cups Arborio Rice
- 1 stick salted butter
- 1 large onion, chopped finely
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1 cup white wine
- 4 to 5 cups of chicken stock
- 1 large pinch of saffron
- finely ground black pepper to taste

Melt butter in a heavy saucepan and sauté the onion until clear. Add the rice, garlic salt, and pepper, coating everything. Add the wine and sauté until absorbed. Slowly add about ½ cup of heated chicken broth at a time, stirring frequently, until the broth is absorbed. When all broth is integrated into the rice, add saffron and stir. The consistency should be creamy to taste. Add more liquid immediately before serving if necessary. Active time, about 40 minutes.

Hummus

- 1 can of Garbanzo Beans or Chick Peas
- 3 cloves of garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon of cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon of Kosher or sea salt
- 1/4 cup of olive oil
- juice from ¼ lemon, or lime
- Parsley and paprika for presentation if using as a dip.

Drain most thin liquid from beans. In a food processor, combine all ingredients and whip until creamy. Hummus can be used as a dip for vegetables, pita bread, chips, or served as a bed under grilled whitefish. Active time, about 5 minutes.

The meal was also served with Cajun style shrimp, a spinach salad including dried cherries, pecans, blue cheese and olive oil, and blueberry pie for dessert. We drank a white table wine from Argentina, which had notes of pear and oak.

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Wisp Resort's New CANOPY TOUR Open

Written by **Lori Epp**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

Wisp Resort in Deep Creek Lake,

Maryland, continues to expand on their already long list of recreational adventure activities offered through the Wisp Outdoors program. Wisp Resort is proud to announce the opening of the new Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour, located above the Wisp Outdoors Adventure Park. The new guided canopy tour is \$39 per person and reservations are recommended. The Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour is open daily during summer season from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm. This new participatory guided tour is a combination challenge course and zip line.

Phoenix Experiential Designs of Linville, NC was contracted to engineer and construct the guided canopy tour. Construction began on April 26, 2010 and after two months of construction, testing and training, on June 28, 2010, the Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour was passed by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations, who work closely with Wisp Resort on the Chairlift and Mountain Coaster operations. Wisp Resort's General Manager, Tim Prather, was among the first to try the newly constructed guided tour, "I thought it was going to be fairly tame but, oh man, it is NOT! I felt like an eagle landing on a postage stamp."

The Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour begins with gear preparation at the Wisp Outdoors Adventure Building. Two Wisp Outdoors Adventure Guides will outfit up to eight guests per tour each with a climbing harness, two safety tethers, a micro-trolley, safety helmet and gloves. The Adventure Guides will escort participants up the Bear Claw Conveyor Carpet to the practice area where guests will learn how to brake, steer and zip along the cables. The canopy tour starts with a scurry up the cargo net feature to the first platform. Once secured onto the 12-ft high platform, a 160-ft zip will transport guests to the next challenge – a Burma Bridge. Participants will navigate the 3-point rope bridge carefully to the next platform and prepare for the second zip over 150-ft of cable. A Plank Bridge, with a few strategically missing planks, must be crossed carefully to set up for the third zip of 180-ft to the 'Eagle's Nest' platform.

The 'Eagle's Nest' is the highest point of the canopy tour, towering at over 40-ft high with a view of McHenry Cove on Deep Creek Lake. Guests will then face the tour's longest zip of 400-ft across the Bear Claw Tubing Hill onto the seventh platform, known as 'Mallard's Landing.'



Above: Flying through the air on The Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour.

Below: Participants carefully navigate the Burma Bridge – a 3-point rope bridge.

A final zip of 400-ft back across the tubing hill will place guests onto the ‘Leap of Faith’ platform where the only place to go is down. After a deep breath, guests will ease themselves off the 30-ft high platform back down to solid ground to complete the Flying Squirrel Canopy Tour!

For information call WISP at 301-387-4911

Tips for Canopy Touring:

- Close-toed shoes are required along with comfortable attire.
- Maximum weight of 250 lbs., minimum weight of 70 lbs.
- No maximum age, minimum 10 years of age.
- A liability waiver must be signed prior to touring. Anyone under the age of 18 needs a parent or guardian signature.



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Above: The “Deep Creek Boat Co.” was started by Matt Storey, the first builder of wooden boats at Deep Creek Lake.

Below: Skeeter Bowman, a native of Deep Creek and featured in this publication previously, is shown in this 1950s photo driving his new Chris-Craft.

Notice the undeveloped Wisp area in the background. Skeeter’s airplane, a Taylor Craft, can be seen on display at “Bear Creek Traders” at Market Square in McHenry along with his WWII story.



By the late 1920s, Chris-Craft extended its market to the middle class by introducing the mass production of wooden pleasure boats to lower costs, and by offering incentives like installment payment plans and a one-year guarantee. New design features included a double-planked hull bottom, forward steering and a windshield. Sales slid during the Great Depression and World War II, but came roaring back in the 1950s, when the company introduced a new lineup of pleasure boats – 159 models in all – produced at the rate of 1,000 per year. With its standardized design and reputation for top quality, the largest of these runabouts earned the “Chris Craft” nickname. By decade’s end, the company had reached the pinnacle of prestige in the small powerboat market.



In 1960, Chris-Craft headquarters moved from Michigan to Pompano Beach, Florida, under the leadership of Chris' grandson Parson. In 1971, the Constellation model became the last wooden Chris-Craft runabout to roll off the assembly line.

An era had ended, but numerous Chris-Craft boats are still afloat, lovingly tended by their owners. Among them are several residents of Deep Creek Lake with stories to tell.

One is Kim Brady, a Garrett County native and proud owner of a 1960 Continental since 1972. Not surprisingly, her father, "Skeeter" Bowman, played a critical role in the acquisition of this boat. Skeeter once ran one of the earliest Deep Creek Lake marinas, located in McHenry at the site of Bill's Marine Service North. He started the business with his dad and ran it until 1972. For a time, Skeeter sold Chris-Craft runabouts.

Thanks to her father's business, Kim recalls a childhood spent in what she calls "a world of water, where summer was about swimsuits and bare feet." A tomboy as a child, Kim wanted to go everywhere with her dad but recalls that she still had to wear a dress. Skeeter helped her find her first boat, a 16-foot Crown Line, but eventually she decided to trade up. So Skeeter took her to a building where he

"I was only six years old when the boat was delivered by Skeeter Bowman on July 4, 1959," he recalls. "My uncle would allow me to steer occasionally and I spent hours sitting in the boat making motorboat sounds." He describes his first solo trip in the boat, at age 12, as "my finest hour."

Time took its toll on the beloved Chris-Craft, and so it was traded for a fiberglass Century Ski Boat. Lou grew up and brought his children to enjoy Deep Creek Lake summers, but started thinking about that beloved mahogany boat. "I realized that there was going to be a part of Deep Creek Lake that my kids could miss, if they could never experience the same throaty sound of a mahogany wooden boat cruising down the lake in grand style," he says.

So, back at his office, he fired up his computer and began his quest. It ended on eBay, where he found "an identical replica to our old boat," a 1959 Chris-Craft Continental. Bidding started at \$9,000, and Lou joined in. Two hours later, the boat was his. Soon Lou and his son Brandon were off to Grand Haven, Michigan, to pick up the boat.

After a thorough inspection, Lou realized the scope of repairs required professional services. Via the Internet, he found the Antique Boat Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and



rented dry storage space to boat owners. Several boats were for sale, including the Chris-Craft that Kim selected. The size was 18 feet, the engine was a Chevy 287 with only 461 original miles, and it was hers for \$1,800. After restoring the interior, Kim was ready to go out on the water.

One of her most frequent passengers was Muttsy, her Norwegian Elkhound. "The dog was quite the fixture with her feet on the sides and back on the engine box," she recalls.

For Lou Battistella, acquiring his own Chris-Craft was the realization of a childhood dream. As a child, he spent summers at his family's Deep Creek Lake cottage, where he fell in love with his uncle's 1959 Chris-Craft Continental.

he was on the road, Chris-Craft in tow. After six months, the Continental sported all new varnish, bottom paint, chrome, fuel tank, ignition, carburetor and a gold leaf inscription saying, "Peaceful Easy Feeling." The boat's bottom was replaced about a year later.

Lou then decided to track down documentation of his restored runabout. He found the factory boat card with the help of the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, which maintains archives of the Chris-Craft Boat Company. He then enlisted the help of Skeeter Bowman to find documents pertaining to his uncle's beloved Chris-Craft. Skeeter found the papers and gave them to Lou. After comparing both sets of documents, he concluded



Facing page: Kim Brady glides across the lake in her 1960 Chris-Craft Continental, humming along to the unmistakable sound of an inboard V-8.

Above and right: Tim Joseph's fully restored 1952 Chris-Craft Riviera gleaming in the sunlight; boat and trailer are in pristine condition.

that the boats were equipped in similar fashion, and only nine hull numbers apart in the assembly line.

Despite Lou's description of a boat as "the big hole in the middle of the lake that you throw money into," he's happy that his children, now in their 20's, are having fun with the family Chris-Craft. And every ride is a trip down memory lane for Lou.

For Tim Josephs, his 1952 Chris-Craft Riviera has been a rather costly labor of love after a three-year, total restoration. He found this 18-foot runabout in St. Michaels, Maryland. A real estate agent who also designs and builds high-end homes, he has used the boat to show lakefront homes to clients.



Chris-Craft



Lou Battistella and son Brandon are great admirers of their Chris-Craft. Photo below demonstrates the solid, steady stance of the V-8 powered wooden boat when running at full throttle.

Lou's boat is a 1959 Continental that has been lovingly restored. The boat is kept at their home on Deep Creek and usually in Brandon's care, but the whole family enjoys spending time with the boat.





“I’ve had one foot in the boat and then my phone rings,” he says. “Now that it’s done, we’re looking forward to using it.”

Tim also owns a 1964 wooden boat, one of the last manufactured by Cruisers, Inc. Aptly named the Sour Apple for a color Tim describes as “seafoam green,” the boat is 20 feet long, with capacity for ten, and its own, original Gator Trailer. “Everything has been done to the hilt,” he says. He bought it at first sight, after getting a tip from the restorer of his Chris-Craft. “It was produced during the period when people began towing their own boats on vacations,” he says.

Now it’s a different era, a different world. “These boats take so much work, they’re disappearing from the lake,” Kim says. “You see few boats from the ’30s and ’40s anymore.”

So a glimpse of these gleaming, wooden beauties is a rare treat indeed, reminding us of a time when simple, elegant style reigned supreme.



Tim’s all original 1964 Sour Apple by Cruisers, Inc. is completely restored to the last detail including the Gator Trailer and original outboard motor.

Tim and wife Michelle, are real estate agents for Railey Realty at Deep Creek Lake.

Matt Storey, shown here in one of his original boats, was the first wooden boat builder on Deep Creek Lake. He started building his boats in a small chicken coop on the water’s edge. Mr. Storey stopped building boats and began selling and renting them. His marina was located along Rt. 219 in McHenry and after 20 years he sold the business because it was growing too quickly; see picture on page13.

The boat shown here can be seen on display at Bear Creek Traders at Market Square in McHenry, MD.

Thanks to Hugh Umbel for the use of this photo.





Paula Yudelevit

Marketing Consultant and owner of MarketWorks LLC

Paula Yudelevit loves being creative and helping to solve problems. Over the years, she has developed many skills working in retail, the arts, resorts and banking. As the owner of MarketWorks LLC, a consulting firm providing fully integrated marketing and communications plans to effectively build brand awareness and increase sales and profitability, Paula brings a wealth of knowledge to her clients.

MarketWorks helps small businesses find their look, tone & feel. “It’s about building the brand and sticking with it, Paula says. “It’s about creating a marketing plan that is consistent with their business personality, and helping the company become competitive and successful in their marketplace.”

A marketing professional with a successful track record, Paula has over 24 years experience in the development and execution of marketing, advertising, promotions, and public relations programs, as well as, providing tactical market solutions to consumer product and services promotions in support of the overall strategic plan. Her client list includes restaurants, real estate, amusements, health and retail establishments. Her career in brand marketing and communications has included management positions at Wisp Resort, Bank of America, The Kennedy Center, The Taubman Company, and The North Carolina Blumenthal Center for the Performing Arts, as well as AAD-INC and Mountain Discoveries. Paula is co-chair of the Deep Creek Lake Art & Wine Festival, and has served on various committees including chairperson of the Chamber’s Marketing Roundtable, GLAF, United Way and other non-profit organizations.

As part of her overall marketing philosophy, Paula believes that improving business relationships by appreciating customers and clients is key to building a brand. Paula lives in McHenry, Maryland with her partner, Steve, their dogs and cats. In addition to cooking, she enjoys water skiing, gardening, and snow shoeing.

301.387.7631 • paula@marketworksllc.com

Add crushed tomatoes and chicken stock. Cook for 5 minutes; add Tabasco, salt & black pepper. Stir in shrimp and cook until the shrimp turn pink.

Spoon some reserved grits in individual shallow bowls and top with shrimp and gravy mixture. Garnish with chopped scallions.

Paula Shares a Favorite Recipe

Shrimp & Grits

The creaminess of the cheddar grits mellows the spicy taste of the shrimp and gravy. Add a Chardonnay or Pinot Grigio and enjoy! Serves 8.

Grits

- 4 cups chicken stock
- 1 cup stone ground grits (some call it Polenta)
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 cup grated sharp cheddar cheese
- Salt & white pepper

Shrimp

- 2 lbs. large shrimp, peeled & deveined
- 1 large onion, diced small
- 1 green pepper, diced small
- 1 stalk celery, diced small
- 1 garlic clove, chopped fine
- 2 TBSP olive oil
- 2 TBSP flour
- 1 large can crushed tomatoes
- 1/2 cup chicken stock
- 1/2 tsp Tabasco sauce
- 2 tsp salt
- 2 tsp ground black pepper
- 1 bunch scallions, chopped

Grits — Place chicken stock in a saucepan and lightly season with salt and white pepper. Bring to a boil. Whisk in grits and cook for 20 minutes over low heat, stirring often. Add milk and cheese; stir to incorporate. Season to taste and reserve.

Shrimp — Place a large skillet on stove and heat to medium high. Once the pan is hot, add olive oil. Then add the onions, pepper, celery & garlic. Cook for 2 minutes to soften the vegetables; turn heat to medium and sauté for 5 minutes. Add flour and stir into vegetables; cook for 1 minute.



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Inn at Deep Creek

Formerly Alpine Village

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

Alpine Village was one of Deep Creek Lake's best known landmarks for more than four decades.

The distinctive A-frame cottages were appropriately named for their design and easily viewed by motorists driving along Glendale Road at Maryland Route 219. Theodore "Ted" and Celeste Lascaris started the hospitality business in 1960, in a section of Deep Creek Lake referred to as Thayerville.

The four children of Ted and Celeste Lascaris, recall that the entire family was fully involved in the new enterprise. "We worked day and night to clear the land. My Dad worked as a carpenter's helper, we planted shrubs, cut grass and cleaned cottages. It was hard work."

The hard work eventually paid off when *Alpine Village* opened for business in 1961. The original village consisted of five A-frame units designed and supplied by Acorn Homes, a firm specializing in pre-packaged dwellings. Business prospered and the family embarked upon a major expansion in 1964 when they acquired property located in front of the original five units. Eight A-frame and twelve conventional units were subsequently built that featured air conditioning and color television.



Celeste and Ted Lascaris inspect their dream.

In 1974, an adjacent property was acquired that included a log building that would become known as the *Silver Tree Inn*. Two years of renovation on the rustic log structure known as Nemaocolin Lodge was necessary prior to opening under the *Silver Tree Inn* marquis. According to the Lascaris family, "Both the *Alpine Village* and the *Silver Tree Inn* were family enterprises—all the way." Over the



An early aerial view of The Alpine Village shows little development in the area. The Lascaris family were well ahead of their time in their planning.

years the *Alpine Village* and the *Silver Tree Inn* established themselves as two of Deep Creek Lake's premier hospitality enterprises.

In 2001, the *Alpine Village* was sold by the Lascaris family. The new ownership lasted until 2010 when Beechtree Properties acquired the property, renamed the inn, and began renovations. The Lascaris family endorses the recent improvements undertaken by Beachtree Properties. "The new owners have done a beautiful job and deserve accolades for the renovations."

Formerly the *Alpine Village*, the newly renovated *Inn at Deep Creek* features 29 large guest rooms, private suites with fireplaces, new beds, coffee/tea in each room, complimentary Wi-Fi, a large heated outdoor pool, a lakeside grilling area, and private beach facilities.

Anthony Flatt, General Manager, notes that "We have a perfect location at Deep Creek Lake because of our

proximity to nearby events. Since opening in July, 2010, we have been sold out every weekend."

Assistant Manager, LaDonna Stem, has 20 years of business experience at Deep Creek Lake, including working for the Lascaris family at the *Silver Tree Inn*. Being familiar with Garrett County makes her new job enjoyable. "I love Deep Creek Lake and meeting guests coming to the area and staying at the *Inn at Deep Creek*. I am also happy to guide them to all activities and restaurants they will enjoy. Our location is close to the town of Oakland and other major attractions at Deep Creek."

LaDonna's familiarity with the lake also provides for a unique perspective on the recent changes at the inn. "We were aware that *Alpine Village* was a landmark to residents, so its heritage was preserved during renovations. When we conducted tours this summer, the number of residents who attended surprised us. The tours brought back memories



Above: The Deep Creek Inn today with new log siding, new roof and new interior is comfortable, convenient and reasonably priced.

Right: A view of the lake and Inn docks.

Below: The Inn's heated pool is refreshing on a chilly day.



for residents and long time visitors; we have received positive feedback from both groups.”

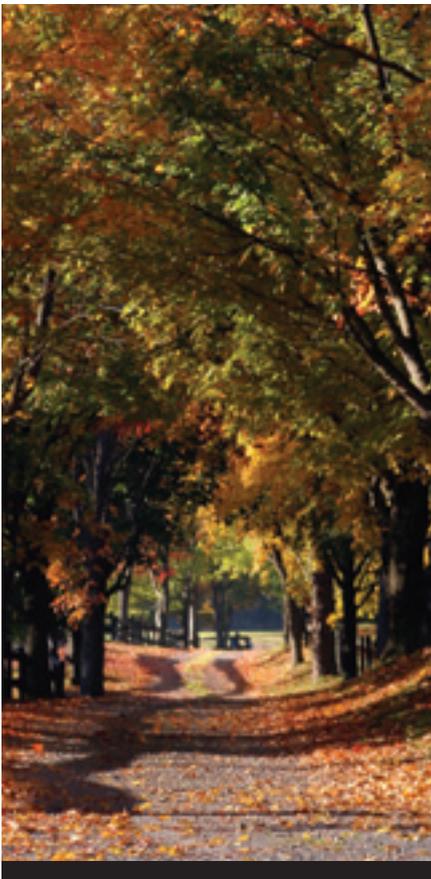
To date, the *Inn at Deep Creek* has proven to be popular with families. “With adjoining rooms, families can easily be together. They can also be together on the deck, patio, pool area, and beach. The facilities and amenities are really nice for small family reunions and weddings.”

The *Inn at Deep Creek* reminds visitors of Deep Creek Lake’s past while also providing enhanced amenities and services. In the words of LaDonna Stem, “The *Inn at Deep Creek* is preserving local heritage in a newly renovated setting. We encourage everyone to stop by and see us.”

For information call **301-387-5534** or visit us on the web at:
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Editor’s note: We deeply regret the passing of Celeste Lascaris as we were preparing this story for publication. Our condolences to her family.





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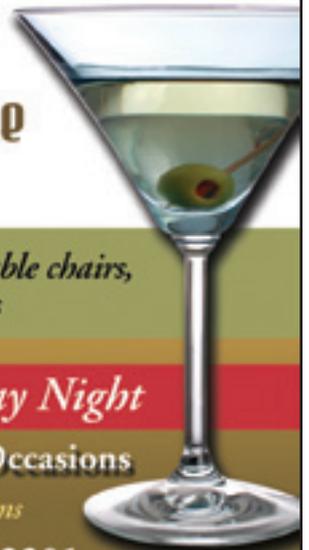
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Autumn Glory Festival

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

Every year since 1968, the Garrett County Autumn Glory Festival has celebrated fall foliage and attracted thousands of visitors to Western Maryland. The combination of scenic beauty, cultural events, and entertainment makes the fall festival a premier event. The festival's fame has spread beyond the region and now attracts visitors from across the United States.

The Autumn Glory Festival has its origins in discussions among Garrett County citizens who sought to showcase the scenic beauty of Deep Creek Lake, Swallow Falls, and surrounding areas as a means of promoting year round business. In 1951, the Deep Creek Promotion Council spearheaded the effort and decided that autumn would be the best season. Arrangements were subsequently made with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to offer scenic excursion train rides from the metropolitan areas

of Maryland to Oakland's train station; visitors would be transported by charter buses to locations around the county. Governor Theodore McKeldin cooperated in the venture by proclaiming October 12 – November 1, 1951, as "Autumn Glory Time." The Governor referred to Garrett County as being one of the country's most beautiful, scenic spots and suggested that "Marylanders should see the miracle of nature which will soon turn the mountain peaks from verdant green into a kaleidoscope mantle of beauty." A tour of the area for travel editors from large eastern seaboard newspapers was arranged and conducted by the Department of Maryland Information. Also participating in the first event was "Miss Maryland TV," Phyllis Maygers of Baltimore, who read Governor McKeldin's proclamation at a meeting of the Deep Creek Lake Promotion Council.

The inaugural event was deemed a success, so a second program was offered in 1952, called the Autumn Glory Turkey Festival. Announcement of the program was made in August, 1952, by the Mountain Top Chamber of Commerce. During the festival, turkeys were to be featured in all grocery stores and restaurants throughout the area, as a means of promoting the local industry. Charles Briner, secretary of the group, also announced that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad would run autumn excursion trains from Baltimore and Washington to the town of Oakland. Included in the package deal would be charter bus excursions to nearby beauty spots and a turkey shoot. One hundred seventy-six metropolitan residents made the trip to Oakland and visited Hubert Bowman's Turkey Farm, Point View, Stone Tavern, Cabin Lodge, and Thayer's Barn. Guests were also hosted at Hinebaughs, Wards, William James Hotel, and Bill's Barn where they were served a turkey dinner for \$1.50 per plate. A water skiing exhibition on Deep Creek Lake and square dancing lessons at Thayer's Barn were also added to the itinerary.



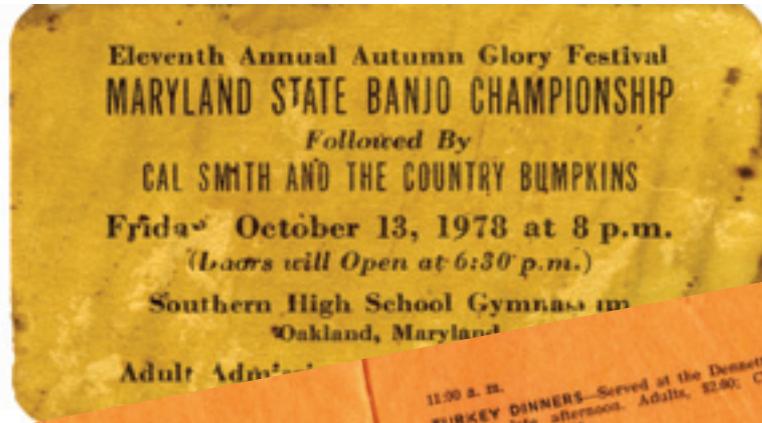
**Local fiddle
contestant,
Kathleen Myers.**



In 2007 popular travel website, MSM.com listed the Autumn Glory Festival “#1 Fall Festival in the World.” The 43rd Annual Autumn Glory Festival will be held on October 6-10, 2010 in Garrett County, Maryland and it is expected that 60,000 residents and visitors will attend the festival.

This year the annual Saturday parade will be held on October 9 — marching bands, floats, fire trucks and equipment, as well as various organizations are featured each year.





Left: Ticket from the 11th Annual Autumn Glory Festival (1978).

Below: Program from the "First Annual Autumn Glory Turkey Festival" — because of expanded programming the 1968 festival was billed as the "First Annual" even though previous fall foliage events had occurred.



The Garrett County Turkey Growers' Association acted as primary sponsors of the festival in 1954 and decided to name it the First Annual Turkey Festival. The key event was held at Deep Creek Lodge in McHenry and featured a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Members of the committee were Gerald Glotfelty, Roy Glotfelty, Marvin Beitzel, Blaine Glotfelty, and John Beckner, Jr. The turkey growers continued to be involved in promoting their industry through the years by hosting dinners in concert with other organizations.

The fall promotion continued into 1955, when the governor again proclaimed "Mountain Glory Time," and the B&O scenic excursions were enhanced to include two-day package tours. Visitors departed from Baltimore, Washington, and Silver Spring for their Oakland destination and expanded itineraries. Similar events were held each year into the 1960s with the Turkey Growers' Association, the Mountain Lake Park Lion's Club, and the Deep Creek Lake Promotion Council acting as key partners in organizing the events.

A major change in the fall foliage event occurred in 1968 when the Deep Creek Lake Promotion Council announced the First Annual Autumn Glory Turkey Festival would be



held October 10-12. The reason for the 1968 festival being the “First Annual,” even though previous fall foliage events had occurred, was the expanded programming; a variety of community groups volunteered their time and expertise. In keeping with previous festivals, however, one of the stated purposes was “to emphasize the importance of the area’s poultry production.”

The First Annual Autumn Glory Turkey Festival produced the “greatest display” ever seen in that area (Oakland). The parade included a United States Army band, drill team, and color guard from Fort Belvoir, Virginia, 24 marching bands, and 32 floats. Lonnie Marsh, state of Maryland Commander of the American Legion, held the title of parade marshal. Thirty thousand people lined the streets of Oakland to enjoy the parade.

Additional entertainment at the first festival included a performance by Billy Joe Royal of “Down in the Boondocks” fame, country music stars, Jim and Jesse and the Virginia Boys, and the Maryland State Fiddlers Championship. There was an antique car show, a moto-cross event, a turkey shoot, scenic ski lift rides at the Wisp Ski Area, a horse pulling contest, carnival rides and games at Southern High School, a horse show, a fireworks display, a rodeo at the Triple R Ranch, and a Turkey Bowl football game between Southern and Terra Alta High Schools. Lynn Beckman, Executive Director of the Deep Creek Lake – Garrett County Promotion Council, announced that organizers were prepared to serve 40,000 turkey dinners during the extended celebration with the help of area restaurants, churches, community groups, and street vendors. Tom Butscher of the promotion council and Art Naylor of the Oakland-Mountain Lake Park Lions Club were instrumental in organizing the inaugural event. The Lions Club and promotion council are credited as co-sponsoring organizations.

continued on page 46

Some of the many events held during the five days of the festival: Glorious Harvest Farmers Market & Craft Show, Oktoberfest Dinner & Celebration, Car Show, and Children’s entertainment shows.

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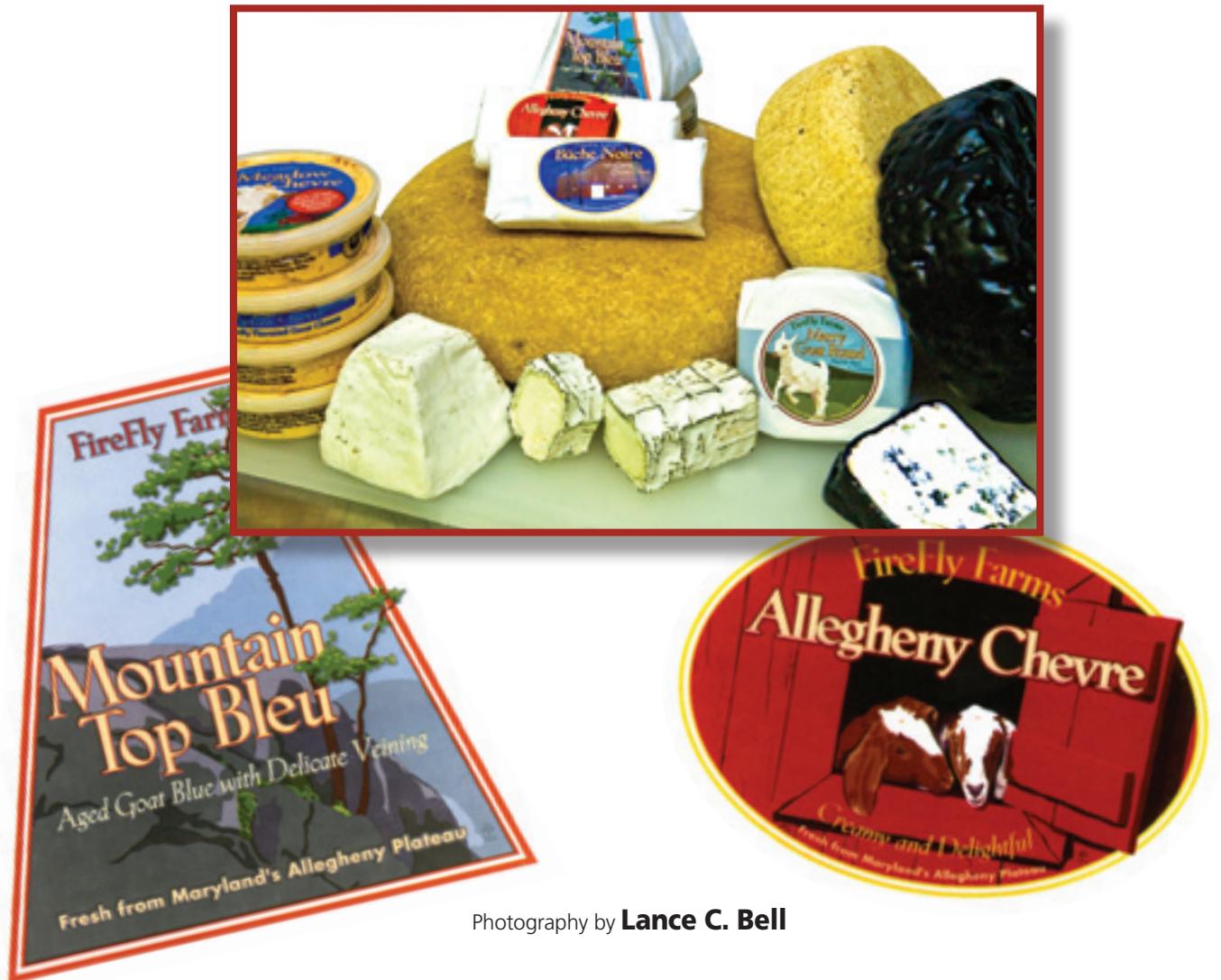
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FireFly Farms

Garrett County's Award Winning Goat Cheese Creamery

Goat's milk cheese, goats' cheese, goat cheese or chèvre (French for goat) is cheese made from goat's milk.



Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

When Mike Koch and his partner Pablo Solanet purchased their 130 acre farm in the town of Bittinger in 1997, they had intended to use the farmhouse as a quiet place to escape the city. As renovations to the farmhouse came to a close the pair began to look for their next project. With Pablo's passion for fine food and Mike's family history in dairy the two settled on their next adventure: cheesemaking.

Using goat milk as their base they began to experiment with fresh and aged varieties. On a whim Mike entered their creations in the annual American Cheese Society competition which was being held in Washington D.C.

The 2002 competition resulted in a huge surprise: two of their cheeses medaled! Mountain Top Bleu earned a gold and Merry Goat Round earned bronze medals. "We were shocked and thrilled" commented Pablo and he quickly decided with Mike to make a full time effort to develop FireFly Farms as one of the first artisan cheese dairies in Maryland.

The location for the creamery was chosen on a neighboring farm. Over the course of several months Mike and Pablo helped to build a 1,000 square foot facility. While Mike maintained his marketing executive position in Washington DC, Pablo devoted his days to cheesemaking



Left: Pablo turns cheese in the early stages before it works its way into the Aging Room.

Below: The first step for the goat's milk is to be placed in this 130 gallon Pasteurizer for two hours (a Maryland law) where it agitates, spins, and is heated to the proper temperature.



in their new facility. The demand for FireFly Farms cheese quickly grew and Pablo and Mike hired their first apprentice in 2003: Matt Cedro. Matt, a culinary school graduate and Pittsburgh chef was looking to move to Garrett County with his wife, Andrea. “We were attracted to Garrett County because of the pace and change from city life” comments Matt. “Our instincts told us to go for it and try this new adventure” echoes Andrea. The pair now both work full time at FireFly, Matt as the plant manager and head cheesemaker and Andrea as the Director of Sales and Marketing.

The last seven years have been a very busy time of growth for the small company. The line of products has grown from four varieties to ten and have earned thirty five national and international awards. “We are proud and inspired by the continued recognition of our cheeses in these competitions” adds Mike. “To medal alongside domestic creameries as well as international cheesemakers is quite remarkable for this small creamery in western Maryland.” Quite notable are FireFly’s blue and longer aged cheeses, “it is unusual to find 100% goats milk blues being made in the United States” states Matt and we produce two versions!” The FireFly cheese line varies from

fresh and flavored chevre, to soft ripened and washed rind cheeses to their longest aged cheese of 9+ months.

In a relatively small plant, FireFly Farms produces approximately four thousand pounds of cheese per month. Sourcing local goat’s milk from four neighboring farms in Springs and Salisbury, Pennsylvania – the team makes cheese daily. Even though the volume has quickly grown, the FireFly cheesemakers remain committed to the time honored tradition and art of cheesemaking. The milk moves through four stages: pasteurization (required by Maryland Dairy laws), cooling and culturing, cutting and draining and molding and aging. “Making cheese by hand takes time, commitment and passion” adds Matt – “it gives us control over our product and allows our craft and product to remain unique and recognizable.”



Andrea and Matt Cedro in the Aging Room with racks of Mountain Top Bleu cheese. The cheeses are very carefully managed in the Aging Room because they all age at different rates — from three weeks to nine months.

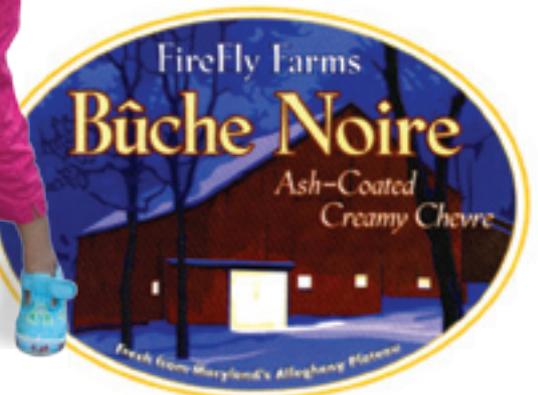
purchased property in Accident, Maryland. This will be the future home of the creamery and their first retail store. The design of the new building will encourage tours and interested cheese enthusiasts who can observe cheesemaking throughout the day. “We would like to start making cow’s milk cheese in addition to our award winning goat cheese — just thinking about the possibilities is exciting!” Matt adds.

The new “project” Mike and Pablo started a decade ago in their farmhouse has quickly evolved into an exciting and viable business in Western Maryland. “We hope to attract cheesemakers to the mid-Atlantic region” states Mike. With many types of milks available, goat, cow and sheep, the possibilities are endless!

Right: Youngest cheesemakers, sisters Adrienne (left) and Evangeline, are the daughters of Andrea and Matt.

Aging cheese involves understanding the subtle chemical and biological reactions taking place on the surface and in the body of the cheese. Cheesemakers must manipulate these results to achieve the desired taste, texture, aromas and appearance. FireFly’s carefully constructed aging room requires daily maintenance of temperature and humidity. The cheeses are turned daily for the first week and then every other day. Depending on the type of cheese, the aging process can be as short as fifteen days to as long as nine months.

The FireFly team has grown to seven full time employees and several part time staff. Anxious for the next phase of the business they have recently



**WINTER SEASON
2010
GARRETT COUNTY
& DEEP CREEK LAKE
RECORD BREAKING
277 INCHES OF SNOW**



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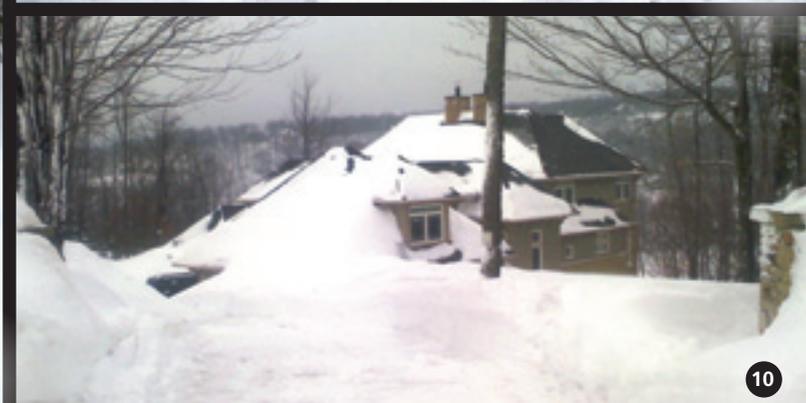
5

PHOTOS OF A MEMORABLE SNOW SEASON SENT IN BY SOME OF OUR READERS

Photos submitted by:

1. Lee Klug
2. Lee Klug
3. Ascanio S. Boccuti
4. Lee Klug
5. Sam Housley
6. Ascanio S. Boccuti
7. Sam Housley
8. The Offutts
9. Janis Bush
10. Home of Tony & Cathi Zenner
submitted by Ginger Deco

Mountain Discoveries would like to thank everyone for their contributions and we'll welcome more for next year.



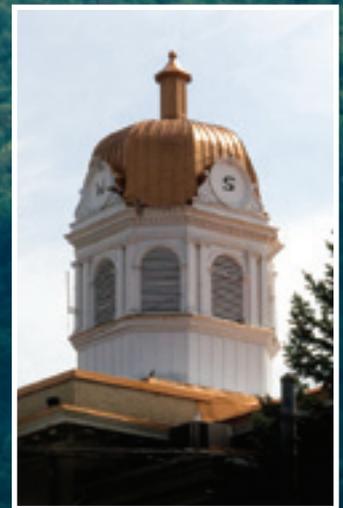
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY West Virginia



is the state's oldest county and one of its most historic. From Native American artifacts, to military conflicts during the 18th and 19th centuries, Hampshire County's past is deeply rooted in major events of American history.

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

Editor's Note: This is Part I of a two part story on Hampshire County and Romney. Part II will feature more history, old homes, activities and more scenic beauty from the area.







ROMNEY

Incorporated as a town, 1762. Owned and laid off as a town by Lord Fairfax. Named for one of the five English Channel ports. Not far away was Fort Pearsall, built, 1756, as Indian defense. Town changed military control 56 times, 1861-1865.



"STONEWALL" JACKSON

Jackson arrived here Jan. 13, 1862, after capturing Bath (Berkeley Springs). Leaving Gen. Loring, he returned to Winchester. Loring's protest caused Jackson to resign but he reconsidered and his Valley Campaign followed.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, 1988



ROMNEY IN 1861-1865

Sitting astride the natural invasion route from the Shenandoah Valley to the Potomac and B. & O. Railroad, Romney was scourged by both armies. No great battles were fought here, but during the War the town changed hands 56 times.

WEST VIRGINIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION, 1988

The area to be known as Hampshire County was first inhabited by Native Americans. Archeological evidence suggests the earliest habitation along the South Branch of the Potomac River occurred circa 8,000 BCE and the latest settlements around 1600 CE, about the time of England's first colony in Jamestown, Virginia. As European trappers and settlers migrated into the area during the 1730s, most Native Americans had already moved westward; villages were found abandoned. Continued westward movement by settlers increased the county's population by the late 1700s. A reminder of the area's prehistoric past is Indian Mound Cemetery, located along U.S. Route 50 near Romney. The unexcavated Native American grave site is one of the largest remaining mounds in the eastern panhandle of West Virginia.

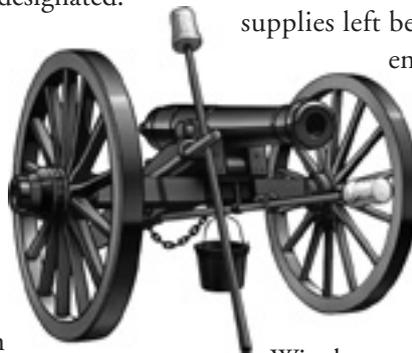
Facing Page: Bird's-eye view of the peaceful hamlet of Romney with an inset of the Courthouse dome.

Above: The stately Hampshire County Courthouse. Historic markers outside the courthouse share a brief history of the area.

European military and political conflicts played a major role in the subsequent development of Hampshire County. During the midpoint of the 18th century, Great Britain and France struggled for control of colonial America and the Ohio River Valley in particular. Both sides sought the support of Native Americans in a conflict that became known as the French and Indian War (1754-1763). Hampshire County, Virginia, which had just formed in 1754 when war broke out in America, became a gateway for the English forces moving west. Simultaneously, the region became a battleground, when Indians allied with the French conducted raids on local settlements. Colonel George Washington, Commander of a Virginia Regiment who had previous experience in Hampshire County as a land surveyor, was given the responsibility of building a chain of forts to protect settlers. Defensive measures required time and raids could not be prevented, so many farmers abandoned their dwellings and moved from the area in search of more peaceful surroundings. The end of fighting brought prosperity to the county and allowed for the incorporation of Romney in 1762, the first town in the state to be so designated.

The end of one conflict sometimes sows the seeds for future wars. Such was the case following the Revolutionary War when Americans disagreed over the practice of slavery. Southerners argued that slavery was an institution peculiar to their culture and must be maintained. As time passed, disputes over slavery and other issues broke into armed conflict in 1861. As part of the state of Virginia, Hampshire County joined the Confederacy during the Civil War, a decision supported by most of its citizens. Civil War events created an interesting chapter in local history.

Maintaining operations of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was a priority for Federal troops in the area. Brigadier General William Kelley, commander of Union troops in the District of Grafton which encompassed territory from Cumberland, Maryland, to Wheeling, West Virginia, was particularly concerned with Confederate raids at New Creek (Keyser) that disrupted Baltimore and Ohio rail shipments and damaged bridges. Most of the raids originated from the Romney area. To disrupt the raids and push Confederate soldiers from Romney, General Kelley decided to attack and occupy the town. The strategy proved to be successful, and Federal troops occupied Romney in October, 1861, causing many citizens to flee. Later events saw the convergence of famous Civil War personalities with the town of Romney.



Major General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson was headquartered at Winchester, Virginia, at the time of Kelley’s advance on Romney. Jackson’s response was to move his troops from Winchester for the purpose of capturing the Union garrison at Romney which, in turn, would likely force Union General George McClellan to order troops from their Washington, DC position. General Jackson believed this strategy would enable Confederate forces to secure valuable resources in northwestern Virginia that were being blocked by McClellan’s men (located in Washington) and disrupt Federal transportation links.

Jackson began his Romney campaign with a force of about 8,500 men on New Year’s Day, 1862. Despite bitter weather, the Confederates managed to approach Romney 10 days later causing the Union troops, who greatly overestimated the number of men that Jackson commanded, to evacuate the town. Two companies of the Virginia 7th Cavalry entered the town on January 10th followed by more Confederate troops on January 14th. The Southern troops claimed 500 tents and other valuable supplies left behind by retreating Federal soldiers. Upon

entering Romney, General Jackson resided in a brick house located on the south side of Main Street that belonged to the White family. Today, Mr. White’s House, known as Liberty Hall, is identified by a historical marker indicating that it was General Jackson’s headquarters. After a brief stay in Romney, Jackson returned to Winchester, placing Brigadier General William Loring in command. The strained relationship between Loring and Jackson that surfaced during the Romney campaign directly led to the latter’s famous offer to resign his command.

Liberty Hall was built in 1858 by Robert White, a clerk of the court and primary Confederate organizer in Romney. Impending Union occupation of the town in 1861 caused Mr. White and his family to move to Richmond, Virginia, where he worked for the Treasury Department of the Confederate States of American. Liberty Hall was the name given to the house following the Civil War; the title was a reference to Company I, 4th Virginia Infantry Regiment that originated at Washington College in Lexington, Virginia. Liberty Hall Volunteer Militia fought and served as part of the famed Stonewall Jackson Brigade in the Shenandoah Valley. Since 1981, Liberty Hall has been the private residence of Royce Saville, a local attorney with historical ties to Hampshire County.



“I was interested in Civil War history, so the house appealed to me. When we purchased the house in 1981, a lot of work was necessary. All the repairs we did were in keeping with how it looked originally; we didn’t want to alter it. There were lots of photographs to consult and that helped us know how the house looked over the years; we only added a bathroom and a porch in the rear.”

Mr. Saville’s residence is not open to the public but can be observed from along Main Street. Across the street from Liberty Hall is another private residence associated with the Civil War known as Boxwood. It was at Boxwood that hospital facilities were established during the war and, according to local lore (that has never been authenticated by historical research), the site of ceremonies marking the changing of military control in the town. This was significant because according to information recorded in the preface to *The Devastating Hand of War, Romney West Virginia in the Civil War* by Richard Sauers, the generally accepted number of times the town changed hands, 56, is underestimated. Sauer’s believes the actual number of times



Top: Liberty Hall, General Jackson’s headquarters in Romney, is now the home of local attorney, Royce Saville. Although a private residence, photos of the dining room and hall are shown at right.
Above left: Last photo of General Jackson and below, his widow Mary Anna and their daughter, Julia.



FORT PEARSALL 1754

**“Fort Pearsall was on or in view of this site.”
Job Pearsall built a fort as protection against the
indians in 1754 on Lot 16 granted by Fairfax in
1749 containing 323 acres, including part of
Indian Mound Cemetary.**

**On May 14, 1756 Gen. Washington assigned
45 men and 5 officers, and later 94 soldiers to
defend Pearsall’s fort during the French and
Indian War.**



Confederate and Union troops exchanged control of the town is at least 60; however, the number of times Romney was actually occupied for an extended period of time by the opposing sides was less than 10.

Another written source of information on the Civil War in Hampshire County was published in 1994. *Hanging Rock rebel: Lt. John Blue’s War in the West and Shenandoah Valley* by Dan Oates was based on newspaper articles written in the Hampshire Review by Lt. John Blue. The articles summarized the exploits of Lt. Blue, including his daring escape as a prisoner of war from a house on Main Street in Romney. The John Blue Bridge that spans the South Branch near Romney is named in honor of the soldier.

During the Civil War, the Romney Classical Institute, now part of the West Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind, was a school under the direction of a Presbyterian minister who managed to successfully protect the building. Only the center section of the structure was present in 1861; both wings were added in the 1870s. Today, the campus encompasses 17 buildings and 70 acres of property, 180 full time students, and outreach programs for the deaf and blind throughout the state of West Virginia.

A log house on Main Street at Bolton, named after the Davis family, dates from the late 18th century. The Davis house, now



referred to as the History House, is open for a donation and displays Civil War artifacts from Romney residents. Another display of historical artifacts and changing exhibits may be found at Taggart Hall Civil War Museum which also serves as the Hampshire County Chamber of Commerce and Hampshire County Development Authority.

Romney is home to what is reported to be the first memorial dedicated (1867) to men who died for the Southern cause. There are 125 names of Hampshire County citizens engraved on the monument who died during the conflict. Nearby are 16 individual graves marked as “unknown” but are believed to be graves of Confederate soldiers. The Confederate monument is located in Indian Mound Cemetery.

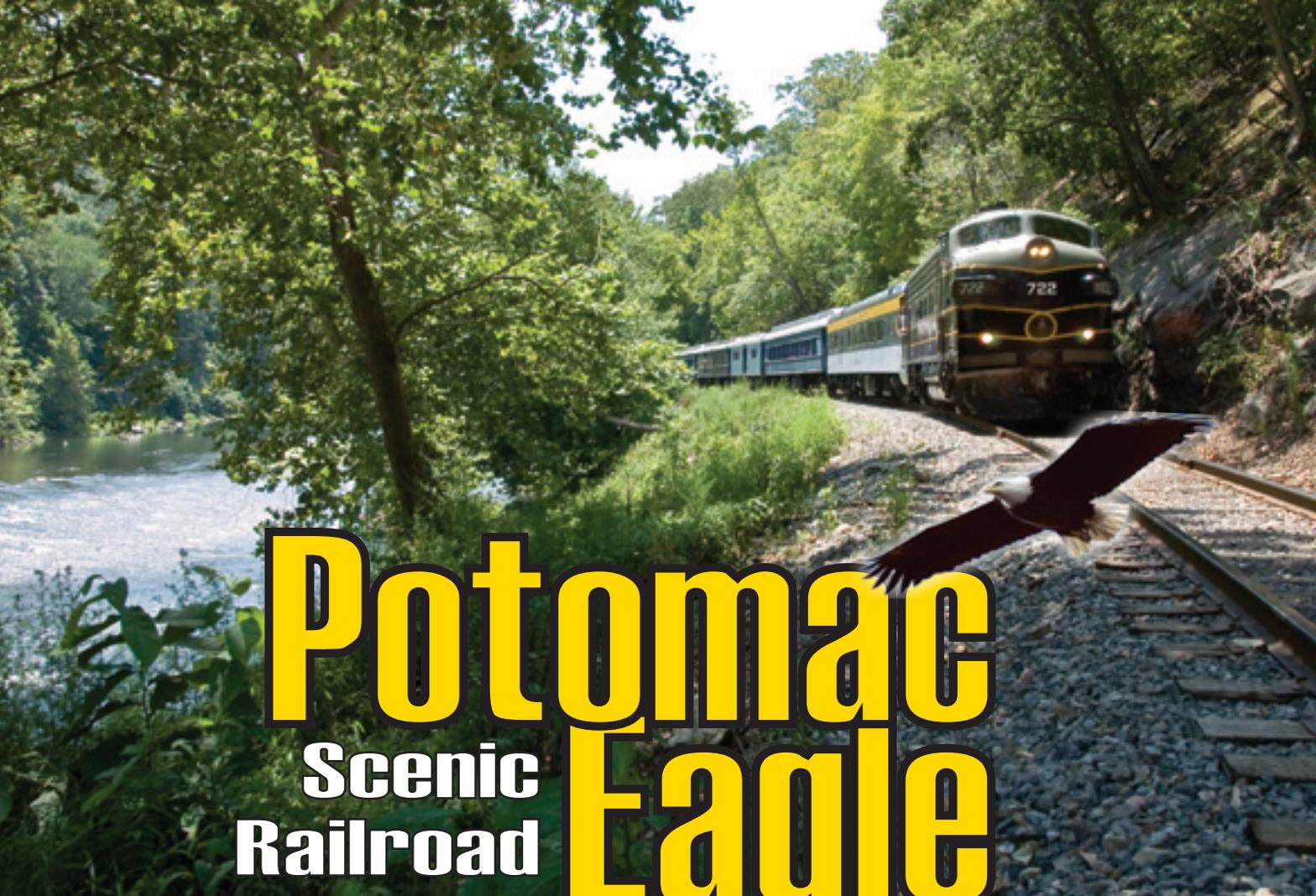
Another more recent building that has significance to Romney is the Bottling Works. Originally built as a Coca Cola bottling facility, the building was acquired through the Loy Foundation in 1998 and converted to a multipurpose cultural events venue. The Bottling Works hosts musicians, wedding receptions, private celebrations, retirement parties, and a wide array of community events. Also residing in the Bottling Works is the Hampshire Convention and

All are welcome; bring your instrument and chair and join in! Every Friday and Monday evening in fair weather there's toe tappin', strumin' and pickin' and some good old time fun right on Main Street. Musicians gather in front of Potomac Music, next to Sheetz Convenience Store.

Visitors Bureau that provides update information on local happenings.

While Hampshire County and Romney are well known for historical events, visitors will find a variety of shopping, dining, and lodging services to meet their needs. Visitors will find that Hampshire County residents are mindful of their 19th century heritage, yet ready to make visitors feel welcome in the 21st century.





Potomac Scenic Railroad Eagle

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

“Come and ride our train and see where the eagles nest. We have vintage railroad equipment and spectacular scenery.”

Potomac Eagle Railroad Conductor Rodney Matheny’s invitation provides an excellent description of the three and a half hour scenic excursion train that glides through the South Branch Valley of the Potomac River in Hampshire County, West Virginia.

The Potomac Eagle’s conductor since 1999, Rodney’s friendly invitations and conversations keep passengers entertained and informed throughout the adventure that begins at Wappocomo Station, just outside of Romney, West Virginia. On seasonal weekends, hundreds of visitors arrive at the station in anticipation of boarding vintage railroad coaches. The Potomac Eagle





Co-owner and engineer Dan Snyder at the throttle during a recent excursion.

Scenic Railroad has proved to be a popular destination point for visitors because it combines historical narratives, magnificent scenery, and a friendly atmosphere into one adventure.

The Potomac Eagle's historical narrative begins with the South Branch Railroad that completed a rail line from Green Spring to Romney in 1884. In the early 1900s, a rail line was extended south of Romney. Eventually the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad assumed control of the rail lines and provided both freight and passenger services along the valley for a number of years. When the Baltimore & Ohio abandoned the South Branch section of its railroad in the mid 1970s, the state of West Virginia assumed ownership of 52 miles of the newly created South Branch Valley Railroad. Today, the South Branch Valley Railroad provides five days a week freight service to Moorefield, Romney, and Petersburg while also offering a rail connection to CSX, one of the largest railroads in the United States. The West Virginia State Rail Authority (SRA) saved the South Branch Valley Railroad from abandonment and is given credit for expanding commercial opportunities along its route. Included in the expansion of business was the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad which pulled out from Wappocomo Station for the first time in 1991. The Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad operates on track owned by the South Branch Valley Railroad.

Spectacular West Virginia mountain scenery abounds throughout the 3-hour Potomac Eagle journey.





Passengers are offered a variety of choices when purchasing excursion tickets. First class reservations include a climate controlled dining car (above), lounge, and complimentary lunch.

Facing page: The Potomac Eagle rounds the bend at "Eagle Rock" during one of its regular trips providing beautiful scenery, as well as a chance to see eagles in the wild.

Railroad enthusiasts welcome the sight of two vintage diesel F-units and two GP-9 locomotives built by General Motors Electro Motive Division in the 1950s, and the equally aged passenger coaches and dining cars when they arrive at Wappocomo Station. Six coaches and three diners, also called table cars, are in service. According to Rodney, "We have table car service and coaches for 750 passengers."

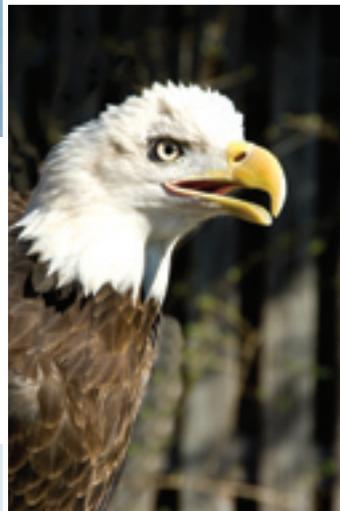
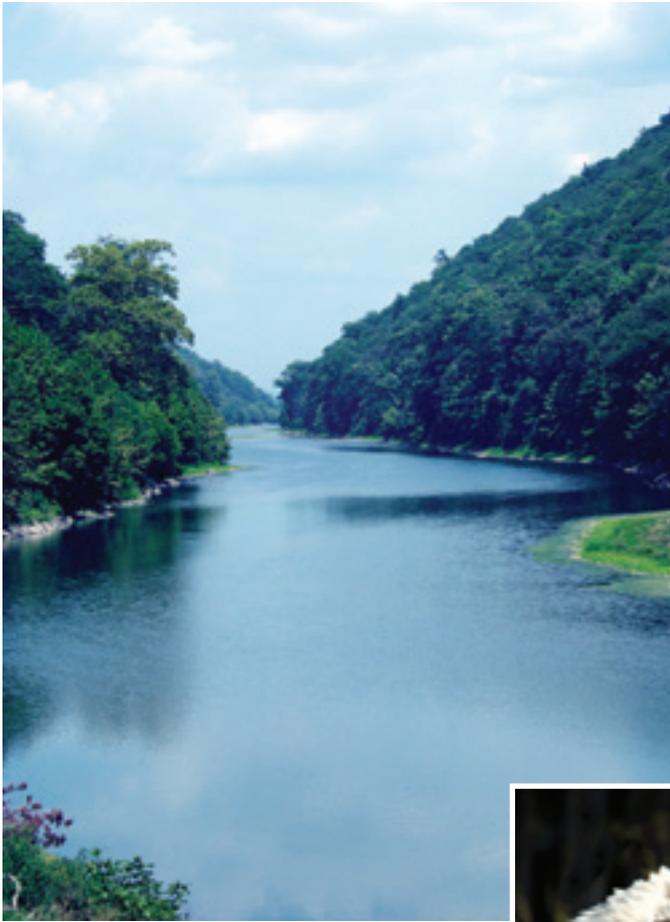
In addition to table car accommodations passengers have several choices of coach seating, including benches on an open air gondola when riding through The Trough, an observation car for panoramic photographic opportunities, and open window passenger coaches.

Historical narratives extend beyond the vintage equipment and are provided by an on-board narrator. As the train pulls from the station and the view becomes more expansive, the narrator identifies and describes Native American encampments, Revolutionary War era houses built by skilled German immigrants, early pioneer settlements, antebellum

plantations, and farms that range along the valley. Also included is the story of a Civil War encampment and rail-roading information from the 19th century.

The route leads into a six-mile narrow valley called The Trough, which is accessible only by rail or small boat. The train stops prior to entering the canyon, so that passengers may move forward into the gondola car for an unobstructed view of the river and mountains that abruptly tower above the train. The Trough is where river, sky, and valley converge into an area untouched by man. Only the train and an occasional boat are able to escort visitors into this remote section of West Virginia. The narrator also keeps a sharp lookout for our national symbol; when it is spotted cameras are called into action. American Bald Eagles can be observed resting on tree branches or swooping toward the river — passengers eagerly point in the direction of the birds. This section of the South Branch aptly provides the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad's subtitle — the railroad "Where Eagles Soar." Another bird often observed close





Top left: Scenic view of the South Branch of the Potomac River.

Top right: Passengers eagle watch from the open air gondola while riding through The Trough.

Below: During the Potomac Eagle excursion an on-board narrator identifies and describes various historical sites, such as the restored 1789 Isaac Kuykendall home.

to the water is the Blue Heron, whose slender silhouette contrasts with the larger and darker eagle.

Dan Snyder, co-owner of the Potomac Eagle Scenic Railroad, provides a summary of the adventures that passengers can expect. “We provide a vintage train, scenery that includes wide valleys and a narrow canyon, and friendly service. Catch the breeze and take photos from the coaches or gondola car. Feel free to enjoy the gift shop, snack bar, and other accommodations that we offer on the Potomac Eagle. And don’t forget that we also offer special excursion trains to Moorefield and Petersburg.”

Passengers are offered a variety of choices when purchasing tickets for regular or special excursions. First class reservations include a climate



controlled car, lounge, and complimentary lunch. Passengers preferring coach accommodations may pack a lunch or enjoy items from the reasonably priced on-board snack bar. A gift shop, ticket office, and restrooms are available at Wappocomo Station, located along West Virginia Route 28, one and one-half miles north of Romney. The town of Romney also offers amenities, services, and historical sites to visit.

The Potomac Eagle's once weekly Saturday runs begin in May and end in September. October marks the kick off of an expanded schedule; daily runs are scheduled Monday through Saturday and twice daily runs on Sunday for five consecutive weeks. Additional information on events and ticket information can be found by calling **304-424-0763** or writing to the ticket office at Potomac Eagle, Wappocomo Station, Route 28 North, Post Office Box 657, Romney, WV 26757, and consulting www.potomaceagle.info.

Conductor Rodney Matheny points out the Potomac Eagle's route through The Trough to passenger, Annie Whetzel.



Deep Creek Lake & Garrett County

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Autumn Glory Festival

continued from page 27

A “Friends of Garrett County” dinner held at the Wisp Ski Area featured noted syndicated newspaper columnist Jack Anderson; his appearance at the dinner helped to raise \$4,500.

The Autumn Glory Turkey Festival was declared an “overwhelming success” by the sponsors and has continued through the years. A couple of changes were noted for the second annual event when “Turkey” was dropped from the title, and the sponsors were listed as the Deep Creek Lake–Garrett County Promotion Council.

Noted entertainers have appeared since the first festival, including traditional country musicians Lester Flat, Grandpa Jones of “Hee-Haw” and Grand Ole Opry fame, Little Jimmy Dickens, Carl and Pearl Butler, Roy Acuff, Jean Shephard, Skeeter Davis, Kenny Price, Don Gibson, the Lewis Family, Ernest Tubb, Junior Samples, the Wilburn Brothers, Roy Dano, Rhonda Vincent, Billy Walker, Kitty Wells, and Charlie Louvin.

Grand Marshals of the parade have included Ted Koppel of ABC News and Art Rooney, Jr. of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Word of the festival spread beyond the region when in 2007 popular travel website, MSN.com., listed it as tops among fall festivals of the world, beating out the world famous Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany.

Plans are finalized for the 2010 event which will be held October 6-10. It is expected that 60,000 residents and visitors will attend the 43rd Garrett County, Maryland, Autumn Glory Festival festivities.

For more information, contact the Garrett County Chamber of Commerce, Inc., 15 Visitors Center Drive, McHenry, MD 21541 or info@garrettchamber.com or www.visitdeepcreeklake.com.

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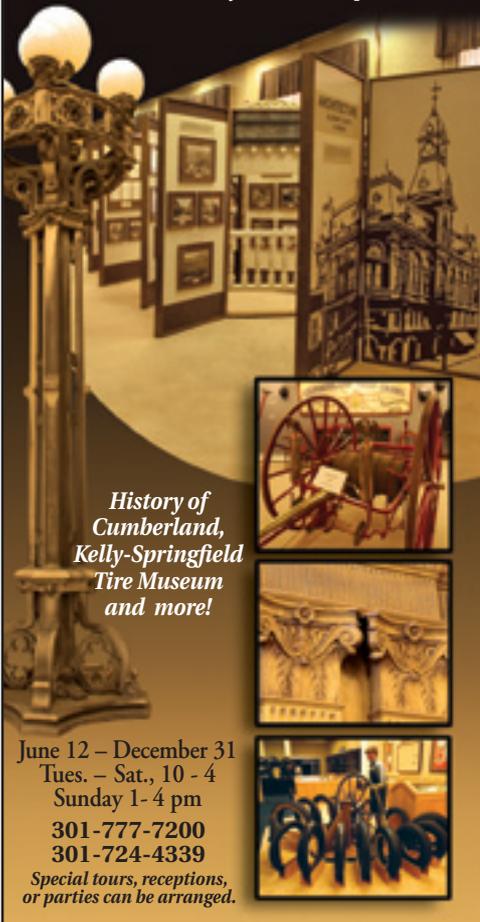
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www.alleganymuseum.org

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2010 Calendar of Events

- June-Oct. **Bus Tours** – *Allegany Museum, Gordon Roberts House, Castle, etc.*
- Sept. 18 **10th Annual Ford Model T & Model A Car & Truck Show**
Dash plaques, goodie bags, etc. 10 - 4
- Sept. 25 **GRAND OPENING** – 4 pm
- Sept. 25 **C&O Canal Fest/Rail Fest & 6th Annual Antique Car/Truck Show**
Rides, Tours, Crafts, Dash plaques, goodie bags, etc. 10 - 4
- Nov. 6-14 **Cumberland Goes to War**
Tours, Military appraisals 12 - 4 pm
- Nov. 26 **Holiday Open House**
Special decorations, quartet, carols refreshments 5-9 pm
- Dec. 31 **New Year's Eve Open House**
Ball drop at Town Center, music, exhibits, refreshments. 9 pm - 12 am



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CASS SCENIC RAILROAD

Cass, West Virginia

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**





Facing page: Cass Scenic Railroad's Heisler #6 departs from the depot for its journey to Whitaker Station. The four mile excursion to the station provides passengers with views of the wilderness area and a historical logging camp that was recreated by volunteers of the Mountain State Railroad and Logging Historical Association. The Heisler locomotive was built in 1929 for service in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and added to the Cass collection in 1968.

Above: Cass #11's whistle receives an adjustment before service to Bald Knob. The Shay locomotive originally saw service in Feather Falls, California, and was known as Feather River #3. The locomotive was added to the Cass collection in 1997 and renumbered.

All aboard!

The familiar railroad call rings out today just as it did a century ago deep in the forest of the Appalachian Mountains. Passengers responding to the conductor's call are not imagining historic surroundings, a vast wilderness area, or the sights and sounds of rail workers preparing the steam-driven Shay locomotive, for an arduous journey to the mountain top — not in this Appalachian town. Virtually every sight and sound that was typical in 1910 can be experienced at Cass, West Virginia, in 2010. The Cass Scenic Railroad offers an authentic logging railroad experience in a turn of the 20th century company town.

The town of Cass, West Virginia, is the result of West Virginia Pulp and Paper's (WVP&P) quest to access vast tracts of timber for its pulp processing plant. The lumbermen realized the value of the sparsely populated and rugged mountains, so a worker's camp was established in 1900 at Leatherbark Creek, a site that would later become

the location of the Cass Locomotive Shops. The workers blazed a rail bed from the camp into the forest at grades of up to 11%; this required laying tracks around ridges, completing two switchbacks to gain attitude, and enduring rugged living conditions. In 1901, a small town called Spruce was established in the forest above the original camp to host workers and their families. As the railroad pushed forward, the old town was moved to a new location also called Spruce. For convenience sake, the first camp was thereafter referred to as Old Spruce. At nearly 4,000 feet above sea level, the new town of Spruce became one of the highest towns on the eastern seaboard. From that location, the railroad eventually built 82 miles of mainline track and additional miles of branch lines that covered the region and provided access to the virgin forest. As the railroad became established, cut timber was hauled down the mountain to the town of Cass, where large pulp and planing mills operated six days per week.



Shay locomotives are known for their ability to climb steep grades and successfully navigate sharp curves. The Shay's performance was made possible by a system of vertical cylinders, a crankshaft, and geared trucks that are shown in this view of Cass #11.

The town of Cass, named after Joseph K. Cass, Chairman of the Board of West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, was established to support the timber and sawmill operations that were constructed on the site. According to railroad historian, Roy Clarkson, the company employed between 2,500 and 3,000 workers, so housing and a company store were necessary in the remote location. The Pocahontas Supply Company store, small dwellings, and other necessary structures were built by the company and remain nearly the same as they appeared in 1910. Today, the railroad and town are part of the West Virginia State Park system, and visitors are welcome to tour the community and lodge in a company house.

To those interested in railroad history, the town of Cass is synonymous with the workhorse locomotive designed by Ephraim Shay in the 19th century—the Shay Locomotive. Nowhere else in the United States can visitors routinely see so many Shay's under steam and on display at the same time. Logging operations called for a rugged locomotive that could handle steep grades, navigate sharp turns, and

maintain reliability. Shay's design, featuring distinctive side-mounted drive shafts, met the demands of Cass' loggers and other timbering operators around the United States and world. Shay Numbers 2, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are included in the Cass collection of logging locomotives. Shay Number 6 is especially significant because it was the last one to be manufactured. Placed into service in 1945, "Big 6" was the second largest Shay ever built and the largest one in existence today. Originally purchased by the Western Maryland Railway for service in the rugged region of the upper North Branch of the Potomac River, Number 6 arrived in Cass in 1981; visitors can get a close-up view of its rugged exterior and distinctive side rod action. Competitors of the Shay locomotive during the peak of Appalachian logging operations, the Climax and Heisler, are also on the roster of Cass locomotives. The combination of authentic locomotives in an historic logging community makes Cass unique.

A large diorama is also offered for visitors to enjoy. The display is called the Showcase at Cass Scenic Railroad

and features an HO scale layout of the town as it appeared in 1910, the height of West Virginia Pulp and Paper's operations in the region. Bruce Elliott, Manager of the Showcase and Cass Scenic Railroad enthusiast, provides the historical narrative that accompanies the diorama. Bruce also provides a perspective on the town where he lives. "The town and railroad are tied together. Many visitors come to ride the train and then learn about the town after they are here. Cass is a destination where people come to relax, to escape from the business of everyday life; it is very tranquil." In referring to the railroad operations, Bruce comments, "In 2008 we had six steam locomotives under power and operating at the same time. Fifty years ago that would have been a challenge; in the 21st century, it is really unusual."

Keeping steam locomotives under power is a labor intensive task that requires specialized skills. Railroad employees do not enjoy the convenience of ordering spare parts from online catalogs or visiting nearby showrooms to purchase new ones. Machinists restore, maintain, and repair the roster of steam powered locomotives in a shop that is within walking distance of the town. The skills on display at the Cass Locomotive Shops span three centuries of time and are available for observation during guided tours.

Other activities and offerings include the Cass Museum, a children's playground, self guided tours of Cass, interpretive tours of the mill site, and meals at the Last Run Restaurant. Special train events include the Rail Fan weekend in May, Trout Specials for fishermen in April and May, Fiddles and Vittles and Murder Mystery trains throughout the rail season. Regularly scheduled daily trains offer service to Whittaker Station and Bald Knob, while Spruce is a Friday choice.

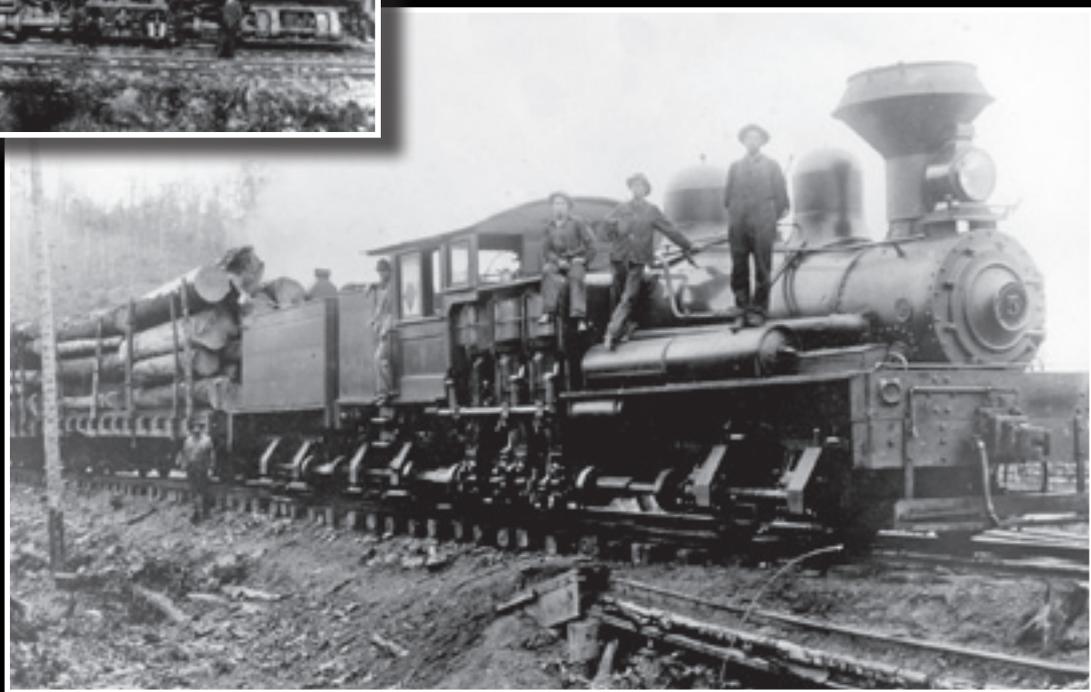
When the "All aboard" call rings out at Cass, be prepared to board the train that combines past achievements with current adventure.

For more information consult www.cassrailroad.com.



The Cass Locomotive Shops restore, repair, and maintain the locomotives and passenger cars to precise standards. Shay #2, shown in the photograph, is currently undergoing extensive servicing that is expected to be completed by summer 2011.

Cass Shops and Shay Engines at Work Circa 1915



Top Photo: The G. C. & E photograph caption refers to the Greenbrier Cheat and Elk River Railroad that was formed in 1915. The railroad shops shown in the photograph were located near the depot and town of Cass. The railroad was affiliated with the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company.

Inset Photo: A Shay locomotive appears to be descending Cheat Mountain toward Cass in this circa 1915 photograph.

Bottom Photo: Shay # 5 has been toiling up Cheat Mountain for 100 years. Built by Lima in 1905, Shay # 5 is one of the oldest engines in continuous service on its original line in the United States.

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Town of Oakland Receives Major Grant to Benefit Dove Center

Mayor Peggy Jamison on Friday, August 13, announced to staff and board members of the Dove Center that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded the Town of Oakland a Community Development Block Grant.

The grant of \$800,000 ensures that the Dove Center's dream of a new facility will be a reality in less than eighteen months. The facility will provide storage space, private offices for administrators and counselors, and safe, secure shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

Criteria for the grant included demonstrated need and community support for a new facility. Demonstrating need for the facility was relatively easy. That the current shelter, with one bathroom, sometimes houses as many as fifteen people is clear evidence of need.



Showing evidence of community support figured to be the more difficult task. Two years ago the Center under the leadership of Edna Forsyth organized Capital Campaign II, setting a goal of \$200,000, a quarter of the amount applied for in the grant. Everybody set out to ask friends, family, neighbors, and businesses for anything they could give. Garrett Countians came through and then some. To date, according to Capital Campaign II chairman Pam Trickett, the total campaign effort has raised about \$289,000 with donations still coming in.

At a brief celebration on Friday the 13th (with nobody missing the irony of the date), board chairman Dorothy Tuel said, "This was truly a community effort. We couldn't have made it without help from Peggy Jamison, Duane Yoder, Kristan Carter, and Cherie Ross. We can't thank everybody enough." Dove Center executive director Heather Hanline, who spearheaded much of the effort through grant writing and record keeping, simply said, "We did it."

Garrett County will have a comfortable, much needed facility in which to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault put their lives back together.



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Collecting From The Past

A Family Tradition

Written by **Dan Whetzel**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

John Domenic, Collector of Native American Artifacts

John Domenic is a self described collector of Native American artifacts. Such a brief description of John's hobby does not adequately describe the quality and quantity of artifacts that he has acquired over a lifetime of collecting. An afternoon visit with the gentleman reveals a quiet passion for finding and interpreting objects that were part of Native American occupations in the region.

His hobby began on the family farm located near McCoole, Maryland. "My dad started finding artifacts when he was a boy working on the farm. Then, dad got me started when I was about 12 years old. Next, my mother started to hunt with us. We all enjoyed finding artifacts and our farm was a good place to look because it was a Native American camp."

The Domenic family collection spans more than eight decades and includes thousands of local artifacts. "Over the years I found celts, grooved axes, points (arrow heads), pottery, flint awls, scrapers, pipes, hammer stones, cup stones, stone and shell beads, beaver tooth chisels, atl-atls, shell pendants, necklaces, and even a bone fish hook." In the process of finding Native American artifacts, John also located interesting items of general interest, including old coins, buttons, tools, Civil War bullets, and gun flints.

Some of the artifacts yield information about the commerce of local Native Americans. Glass beads, manufactured in England, were initially traded with the Susquehannocks, who subsequently used them in bartering with other groups. The glass beads eventually made their way to Western Maryland prior to arrival of white settlers. John's discovery of marginella, marine shells from the Gulf of Mexico used in making necklaces, indicates that a far reaching network of trade was established hundreds of years before Europeans arrived. Varieties of flint and other more exotic materials not found in the region also identify trade patterns.

While some artifacts identify places, others establish time periods. John's collection spans the full range of Native American occupation in Western Maryland, from Clovis to Late Woodland, a time frame of about 10,000 years. According to John, the more exotic materials such as Jasper were more typical of early inhabitants, while the more common materials such as chert are likely to be dated later. "When someone finds a small crude arrowhead, they sometimes assume it is really old. That usually isn't the case.

Facing page: John with his fluted Clovis spearpoint.

Below: Some of the many stone tools in John's collection – Celts, Grooved Axes, Cup Stones and Scrapers.





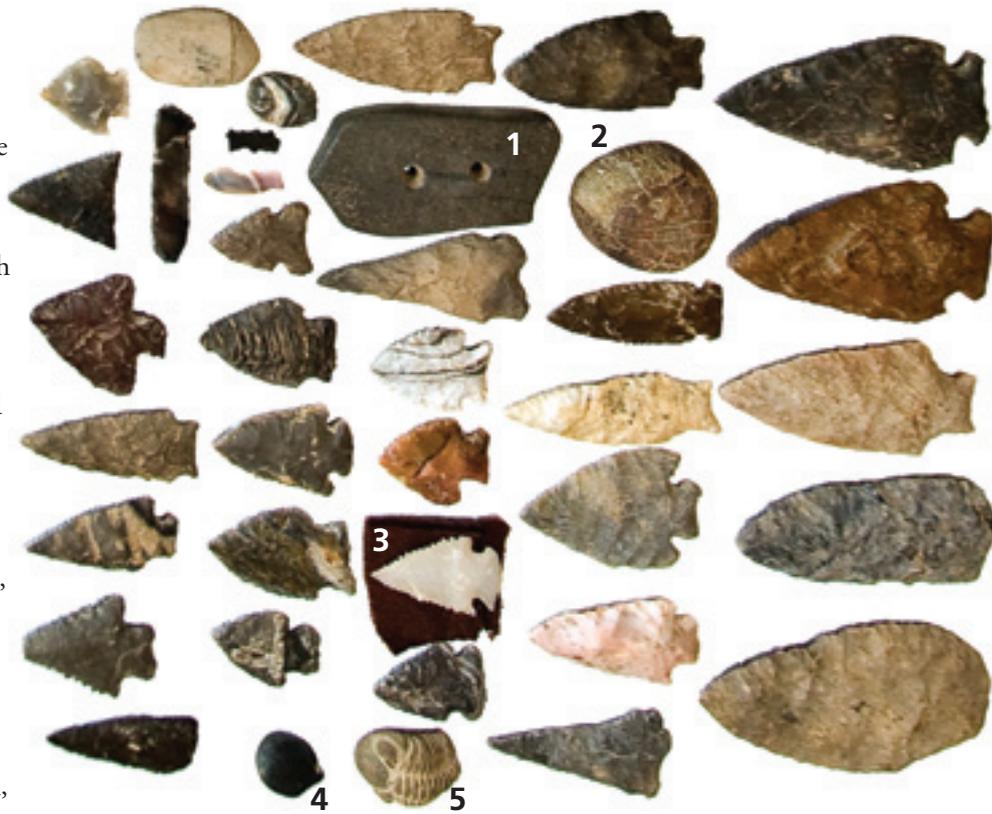
Instead, it is usually a case of diminishing technology. The small triangular points were the last examples of Native American technology. The further back in time, the more likely it is that points will be larger and have better workmanship.”

John’s knowledge increased with each discovery but was accelerated when his family responded to a call from archaeologist, Dr. Robert Wall, to assist in excavating a site at Cresaptown. “I worked with Dr. Wall in 1984, and he was great with helping me identify artifacts from different time periods. Dr. Wall also has field schools where I volunteer. We have university students, high school students, Boy Scouts, and other interested people. Volunteers are welcome.” Dr. Wall has organized many archeological sites in Western Maryland and developed friendships among the volunteers. Some of the other sites where John assisted were Barton, Sang Run, Ashby’s Fort, Rosenstock (near Frederick), and Mexico Farms.

John’s discoveries are also of interest because they were once a part of people’s everyday lives; now, mysteries surround them. Part of the fun is to speculate about how old objects arrived in Allegany County. The discovery of one small metal button has provided for plenty of speculation. “My dad and I were walking at the Barton site where an old log building had been pushed over by a bulldozer. Dad spotted a button, and after he picked it up, we noticed that it was marked with a rampant lion. The button turned out to be from the Revolutionary War. So, how did a British button find its way to Rawlings, Maryland? I think that it may have belonged to Moses Rawlings who was in charge of British prisoners at Fort Frederick in the Revolutionary War. Rawlings may have taken it from a British soldier and brought it back to Western Maryland; no one will ever know for sure.”

Each item in the collection has a companion story, and John quietly and patiently describes each one and the circumstances of where it was found. One unusual find was not far from home; “I found a cache of points down the road from our house. The points were pre-formed and made out of chert. The person who made the points probably buried them figuring that he would dig them up later. There were seven points in the cache.”

What is his most significant discovery? “Probably my most important discovery was a fluted Clovis point that I



A sampling of artifacts in John’s collection:

1. a 2-hole drilled gorget; 2. carved stone turtle effigy; 3. opaque Chalcedony serrated point; 4. stone pendant; 5. Trilobite fossil; as well as examples of points (arrow heads) and spearpoints.

found at the furthest point west in the Barton Conservatory. This is the oldest complete Clovis point found in Western Maryland.” The find is significant because Clovis artifacts are dated back to circa 8,000 BCE. The large points, like the fluted Clovis ones, are usually easier to see than the tiny artifacts. “The hardest to find are glass beads. You really have to look carefully because they are so small.”

Just like the Native Americans who undoubtedly had favorite hunting grounds hundreds of years ago, John prefers certain sites. “My favorite places are the Keyser Industrial Park, Patterson’s Creek, Ashby’s Fort, Cresaptown, and the Barton site.”

While John has spent a lifetime finding artifacts, the ones he will not uncover are burial sites. “Burial sites are never disturbed.” Nor does he dig for relics—only surface artifacts are collected.

Now a retiree from NewPage Corporation, John is able to enjoy collecting as he wishes. “I just enjoy doing it and making new friends.” And what advice can an experienced collector offer to novices—“You just have to keep looking.”

John is a member of the Western Maryland Chapter – Archeological Society of Maryland and the Archaeological Conservancy of Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Below: John's mother, Carrie's favorite point; Revolutionary War British brass button; and a carved bone fish hook (all actual size).



Above: Some of the many triangular points in John's collection.

Right: Fluted Clovis point dating back to circa 8,000 BCE; possibly the oldest complete Clovis point found in Western Maryland.

Below: Some of John's bead and pendant collection: 1. shell beads; 2. European glass trade beads; 3. antler drift; 4. stone beads; 5. Copper tinklers; 6. Copper beaver effigy pendant; 7. Marginella shell beads; 8. polished bone beads; 9. shell beads; 10. bone or antler pendants & bone fish hook; and 11. shell pendants.



Lending a Healing Hand

Photography by **Lance C. Bell**



Shauna Fiorentino, owner, demonstrates technique to Autumn Apsy, intern.

The Hand Institute, a new rehabilitation facility located in downtown Cumberland, offers a healing hand to those suffering from ailments related to the upper quarter. Open since July 12, 2010, The Hand Institute staff specializes in state-of-the-art treatment of injuries to the neck, shoulder, elbow, wrist and hand. Treatment consists of thorough education of the patient's diagnosis, development of an individualized plan of care, communication with your physician and of course, hands on treatment to help assure maximal recovery. At The Hand Institute, they utilize the very latest techniques. The treatment may include custom splint fabrication, stretching, strengthening, therapeutic massage, functional activities and the use of modalities such as ultrasound electrical stimulation, laser, iontophoresis, etc.

Owner-operator Shauna Fiorentino, a registered and licensed Occupational Therapist (OTR/L) and certified hand therapist (CHT), brings a wealth of dedication, experience and training to her new enterprise. A graduate of Findlay University of Ohio, she pursued an additional five years of specialized training to earn her designation as a certified hand therapist. To stay current in her field, she has made it a point to complete extended tutorials with some of the finest hand surgeons in the U.S., including those of the Philadelphia Hand Center and UCLA.

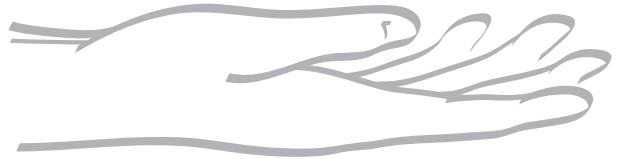
To her, the effort is all worthwhile. "The hand is extremely complicated," she explains. "We manipulate our world with our hands and don't often realize how valuable they are until injured and the effects can be devastating." Working with a certified hand therapist ensures the highest level of competency.

"I have wonderful people with me," says Shauna of her staff. Karen Shambaugh and Jared Adams, both certified

Occupational Therapy assistants, have each worked for ten years with Shauna. Karen specializes in the treatment of Lymphodema while Jared works with sports injuries and the care of the shoulder. Cortney Logsdon, OTR/L, recently joined the staff after completing a hand rehabilitation internship.

For more than a decade, Shauna has shared her expertise with students at Allegany College of Maryland and has been asked to speak on topics related to treatment of the upper extremity throughout the mid-Atlantic region. "This is how the name of the facility was derived. I envision combining my love for treating patients as I always have, yet having my own facility will also allow me to bring continuing education courses locally."

THE HAND INSTITUTE



Shauna Fiorentino, OTR/L CHT

The Hand Institute is located in the Vista Towers, Suite 301, at 217 Glenn Street in Cumberland. For more information, please call 301-777-2170.



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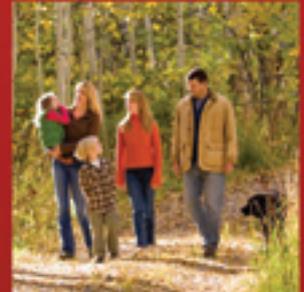
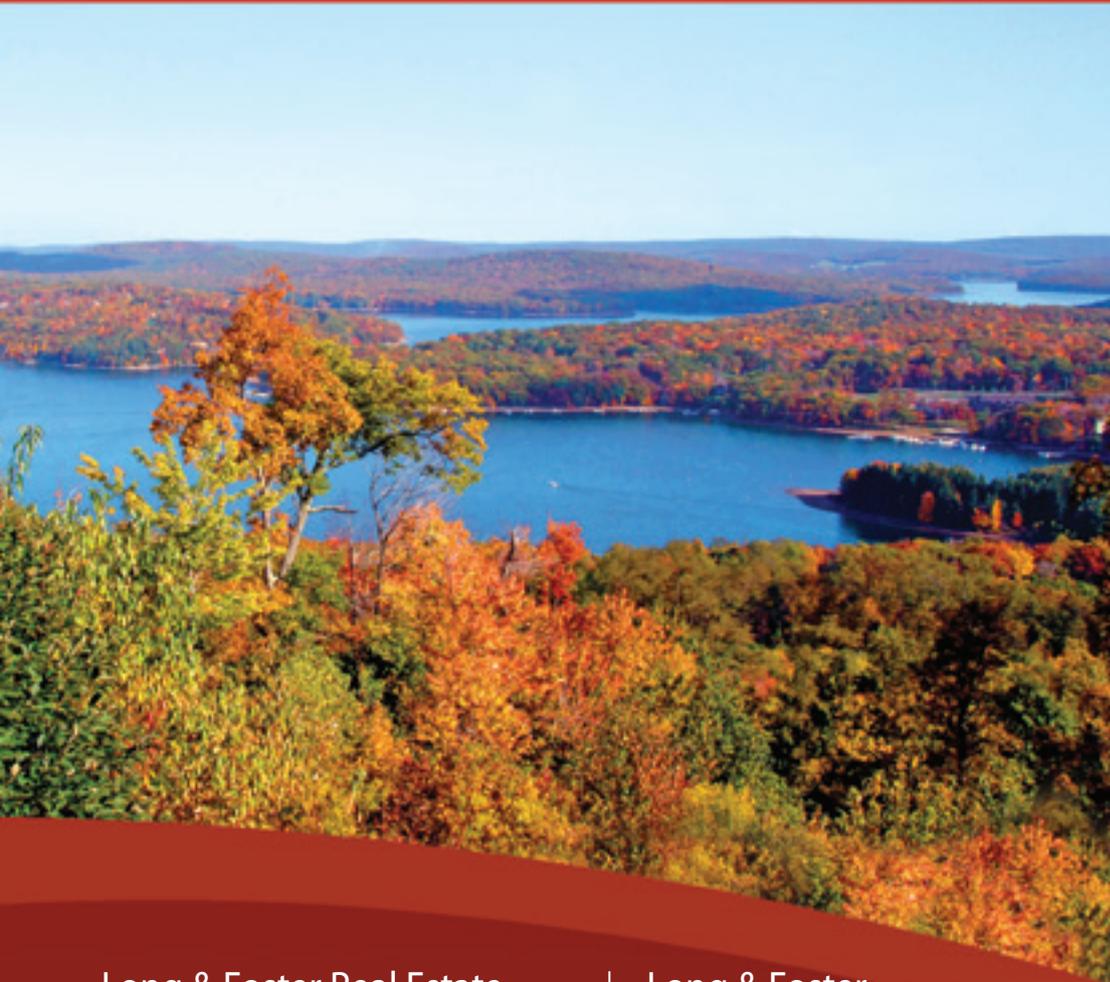
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