

# NW Passages

*Exploring NW PA's Greenways, Heritage & Recreation*

*August 2015*



# NW PASSAGES

August 2015

Volume 2, Issue 3

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**Proofreader** ~ Marilyn Black



*About the Cover*  
August's Featured Photographer, Devin Callihan, captured this magical image of Henry Run Waterfall in Cook Forest State Park, Clarion Co. This sweet spot is part of

the North Country National Scenic Trail, which winds through several northwestern PA counties.

### Letter from the Editors

Welcome to NW PASSAGES' August edition! This month's featured non-profit is the PA Assn. of Conservation Districts, on a mission to aid farmers & preserve nature since 1945.

Business spotlights include *Bossa Nova Cafe* Roastery of Franklin, and the NW PA fishing guide service of Darl Black.

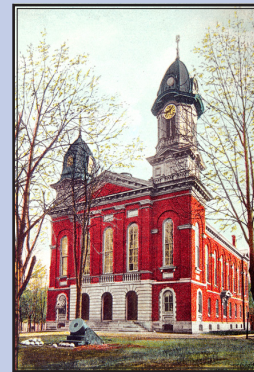
We're showcasing the photography of *Devin Callihan* of Brookville, whose love of nature shines through his artwork.

There are so many great events in our 10-county coverage area this month ~ check out *Afield & Afloat* for highlights!

Happy Trails!

*Stephen & Beth West*

**The County of Venango** is one of NW PASSAGES' Partner Agencies, and offers a vast array of Nature, Heritage & Recreation throughout nearly 700 square miles. French Creek, which is formed in New York state, winds through Venango County and joins the Allegheny River near Franklin, the county seat. Major greenways include Oil Creek State Park and Two Mile Run County Park, as well as a 60-mile network of paved bike/hike trails. Numerous historic buildings and sites are within its borders, including the 1868 Venango County Courthouse (right) and several historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Additional Partner Agency information on page 3.*

*Toby Bridge over the Clarion River in Clarion County*  
Photo by Devin Callihan





*Recognizing the worth of natural, heritage and recreational resources... planning now, enjoying forever.*

*By Debra Frawley,  
Coordinator of the CGT*

*What does the Council on Greenways & Trails do?* The short answer is that we help you to have fun, get exercise and return to nature. The CGT also helps the region's economy by attracting visitors to the region. Want to see what we do? Take five minutes, go to our website at [www.nwpagreenways.org](http://www.nwpagreenways.org) and click on the video on the homepage.

The CGT is a partnership of non-profit organizations and municipalities working across three county lines -- Venango, Clarion, parts of Crawford and beyond -- to create and enhance a regional identity through the trails and greenways that connect us to this unique place. What you see in the video has been built, managed and maintained by CGT members.

Some greenways are recreational corridors or scenic byways that may accommodate motorized and non-motorized vehicles. Others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not designed for human passage. Greenways differ in their location and function: protecting natural, cultural, and scenic resources; providing recreational benefits, enhancing natural beauty and quality of life in communities; and stimulating economic development opportunities.

The projects undertaken by CGT members build and showcase the region's waterways, trails, parks and conserved open spaces/habitat as the connectors to our region. The awareness of this area and draw to visitors have grown as one project has led to another, with the whole becoming greater than the sum of its parts.

**You can get involved, too.** Tell us through the website what you like, what you think is still missing, and talents that you can contribute. Ask questions, offer ideas, and become a part of what we are building.

**Contact info:**

217 Elm Street - Oil City, PA 16301-1412  
(814) 677-3152 Ext. 116  
email: [dfrawley@oilregion.org](mailto:dfrawley@oilregion.org)  
website: [nwpagreenways.org](http://nwpagreenways.org)

**Being a Part of the Big Picture**

*By Toni Henry ~ Trail Leader*

A few decades ago, I realized if I wanted to enjoy biking the trails of western Pennsylvania, I'd better be willing to volunteer my time for planning and maintaining those trails! As a board member of the Armstrong Rails to Trails Association and the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance, I have had the privilege of working with like-minded volunteers and skilled professionals.

Our goal is the same -- to provide a first class trail system connecting Lake Erie to Pittsburgh, utilizing many trail segments already in existence. Our smaller trail organizations benefit from being a part of a larger coalition of trails. We share knowledge and resources while working to develop uniform policies and a shared identity.

The Armstrong Trail is an important piece of this plan. We are proud to be a part of the big picture, expanding the economic and health benefits to our communities by connecting our vast network of trails in western Pennsylvania.

[www.eriepittsburghtrail.org](http://www.eriepittsburghtrail.org)



Resource Conservation & Development Council

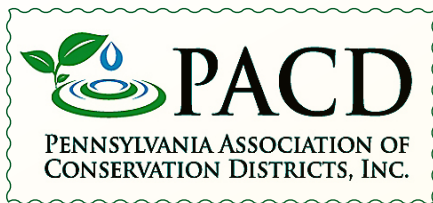
[www.pennsoil.org](http://www.pennsoil.org)

PENN SOIL RC&D Council, in partnership with the Oil Region Alliance, was recently

awarded \$105,000 from the Elizabeth S. Black Charitable Trust for four trail-related projects. Approved for funding under this application are the following:

- ☐ \$31,000 for rehabilitation of the historic Downs Building in Oil City.
- ☐ \$40,000 for design, materials, and equipment for the Oil City Main Street's project to provide night-time colorful lighting of the Center Street Bridge in Oil City.
- ☐ \$22,000 for "Imagining Squares," a public participation arts project to make several ceramic tiles and install them along the walking trail in downtown Oil City.
- ☐ \$12,000 for planning, operation and coordination of the inaugural "Artists in the Outdoors Day" throughout three counties, a project of the Council on Greenways and Trails.

Wes Ramsey, Executive Director of Penn Soil, stated that "all four projects funded are related to the recreational trails in Oil City and the surrounding counties." Oil City was designated a Trail Town in 2014 and is situated along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail (EPT). For more info, contact: Deb Lutz at ORA in Oil City: (814) 677-3152; or Wes Ramsey at Penn Soil RC&D: (814) 726-1441.



*Kayaking at the confluence of French Creek & the Allegheny River in Franklin, Venango County ~ Photo by Stephen West*

For most of us in western Pennsylvania, beautiful nature scenes are as common as sunshine and birds. Since it's all around us, the whys and wherefores of how nature is protected is rarely readily apparent for the millions who live here.

For the Commonwealth, however, the preservation of nature has long been paramount. That's why Conservation Districts were created throughout Pennsylvania in 1945, on a mission: **"To be responsive to conservation districts so they can conserve natural resources for our future"** (*PACD's Mission*), and **"To unify the membership around well-vetted, grassroots policies."** (*PACD's Goal*).

One of the group's recent successes was the implementation of Act 13, an impact fee on the hydraulic fracturing industry which created a dedicated fund for PA Conservation Districts.

Conservation Districts were first formed as local grassroots groups to encourage farm conservation planning in response to the "dust bowl" in the 1930's. The idea behind them was that local people knew best how to handle soil and water conservation problems in their own areas. The emphasis was on educating landowners about wise land use and encouraging voluntary cooperation to achieve farm conservation planning. Technical conservation expertise was made available free to all landowners via the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture.

The Conservation District board was made up of farmer volunteers who directed the local program. Frequently, these conservation pioneers spent their time convincing their neighbors to adopt measures to save their topsoil and keep local streams free of pollution. The movement was catching. Today, there are Conservation Districts in every state in the union. In Pennsylvania, there are 66 districts which follow county boundaries.

#### TODAY'S PA CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Conservation Districts are still made up of local volunteers committed to the same ethic. Encouraging farm conservation planning and wise land use is still the backbone of the district's program.

Each Conservation District is led by a Board of Directors made up of local people from all walks of life. These volunteers study county natural resource issues and make decisions which enhance and protect the local community.

Increasing environmental concerns have led to expanded responsibilities for the PACD, including urban and forestry erosion control; conservation education in schools; stormwater management planning; wildlife and forestry enhancement; and water quality protection.



*Harvest season in Clarion County ~ Photo by Jim Kronmiller*

#### **PA Assn. of Conservation Districts**

25 North Front St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17101  
(717) 238-7223

**website:** [www.pacd.org](http://www.pacd.org)

**email:** [pacdboard@pacd.org](mailto:pacdboard@pacd.org)

*Exec. Director -- Brenda Shambaugh*

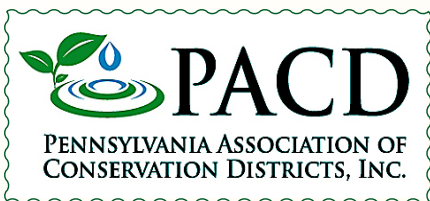
*Dir. of Operations -- Lisa Suhr*

*Program Manager -- Terry Fisher*

*Dir. Communications & Education -- Shannon Wehinger*

*Exec. Asst. & Meeting Planner --*

*Molly Burns*



The PACD encourages citizens to get involved with the Conservation Districts in their region. Here are some suggestions for participation:

- ✦ Visit your local conservation district office to meet the staff and volunteer your time & talent
- ✦ Attend local conservation district board meetings to network with like-minded people
- ✦ Request to be added to your conservation district's mailing list
- ✦ Volunteer to help plant trees on the next project
- ✦ Attend conferences, workshops and other educational events about conservation
- ✦ Volunteer for an advisory or other committee
- ✦ Request info about local activities of partner conservation organizations
- ✦ Ask about volunteer internship programs
- ✦ Donate money to help fund local conservation
- ✦ Volunteer to help with a tree, plant or fish sale
- ✦ Donate your expertise (*i.e. scientist, accountant, engineer, writer, photographer, etc.*)
- ✦ Volunteer to help with the local Envirothon
- ✦ Support a youth for summer conservation camp
- ✦ Attend a conservation tour in your county
- ✦ Request legislative support for conservation district projects
- ✦ Serve on your local conservation district board

**Contact Information for Conservation Districts in  
NW Passages'**

**10-county coverage area**

**Allegheny Conservation District**

Janet Lauer, District Manager  
33 Terminal Way, Suite 325B  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
(412) 241-7645  
website: [accdpa.org](http://accdpa.org)  
email: [jlauer@accdpa.org](mailto:jlauer@accdpa.org)

**Forest Conservation District**

Donna Lynn Zofcin, Exec. Director  
526 Elm St., Box 4  
Tionesta, PA 16353  
(814) 755-3450  
website: [co.forest.pa.us](http://co.forest.pa.us)  
email: [dzofcin@co.forest.pa.us](mailto:dzofcin@co.forest.pa.us)

**Armstrong Conservation District**

David Rupert, District Manager  
124 Armsdale Rd., Suite B-2  
Kittanning, PA 16201  
(724) 548-3425  
website: [armstrongcd.org](http://armstrongcd.org)  
email: [conservation@co.armstrong.pa.us](mailto:conservation@co.armstrong.pa.us)

**Lawrence Conservation District**

Jo Ann McCready, District Manager  
430 Court St.  
New Castle, PA 16101  
(724) 652-4512  
website: [lawrencecd.org](http://lawrencecd.org)  
email: [jmccready@lawrencecd.org](mailto:jmccready@lawrencecd.org)

**Clarion Conservation District**

Trudy Alexander, District Manager  
330 Main St., Room 9  
Clarion, PA 16214  
(814) 297-7813  
website: [clarionconservation.com](http://clarionconservation.com)  
email: [talexander08@verizon.net](mailto:talexander08@verizon.net)

**Mercer Conservation District**

Jim Mondok, District Manager  
753 Greenville Rd.  
Mercer, PA 16137  
(724) 662-2242  
website: [mercercountycd.com](http://mercercountycd.com)  
email: [jmondok@mcc.co.mercer.pa.us](mailto:jmondok@mcc.co.mercer.pa.us)

**Crawford Conservation District**

Tracey J. Crawford, District Manager  
21742 German Rd.  
Meadville, PA 16335  
(814) 763-5269  
website: [crawfordconservation.org](http://crawfordconservation.org)  
email: [tracey@crawfordconservation.com](mailto:tracey@crawfordconservation.com)

**Venango Conservation District**

Lance Bowes, District Manager  
1793 Cherrytree Rd.  
Franklin, PA 16323  
(814) 676-2832  
website: [venangocd.org](http://venangocd.org)  
email: [lbowes@usachoice.net](mailto:lbowes@usachoice.net)

**Erie Conservation District**

Earl Brown, District Manager  
1927 Wager Rd.  
Erie, PA 16509  
(814) 825-6403  
website: [erieconservation.com](http://erieconservation.com)  
email: [ebrown@erieconservation.com](mailto:ebrown@erieconservation.com)

**Warren Conservation District**

Heather Wilcox, District Manager  
210 North Dr., Suite E  
Warren, PA 16365  
(814) 726-1441  
website: [wconconservation.net](http://wconconservation.net)  
email: [hwilcox@wconconservation.net](mailto:hwilcox@wconconservation.net)



Mike & Gabriella Frederick



## **Bossa Nova Cafe Roastery**

Travelers have stopped in historic Franklin, Venango County for hundreds, or even thousands of years, weary and much in need of hospitality. The town's geography, where French Creek flows into the Allegheny River, has always made it a natural crossroads and stopover.

Once at the heart of native tribes' Venango Path -- the route they traveled through western PA -- the valley is surrounded by rolling hills and vast woodlands. The City of Franklin (pop. 7,000) is the county seat of Venango, now at the center of an incredible network of paved hike/bike trails that have been created in the last two decades out of railroad lines abandoned in the 1970s-80s.

Mike Frederick's love of his hometown dates back to his earliest memories, when he and his siblings would hike and bike along Franklin's endless woodland trails. In 2000, Mike was visiting a friend in Brazilia, the capitol of Brazil, where he met his future bride, Gabriella.

The young couple moved to Franklin in 2008, after great new jobs in Sarasota, FL fell through due to country's economic collapse. Mike worked at Summer

House Coffee Shop, as they contemplated their next big move. When the coffee shop closed in 2011, Mike and Gabi found themselves at a crossroads of their own, choosing between accepting Gabi's job offer in Brooklyn, NY or reopening Franklin's only coffee shop. Mike thought it looked like the city's smile was missing a tooth, and civic pride compelled them to choose Franklin, thereby joining in

## Business Spotlight



The Fredericks had experienced a variety of other urban and small town coffee shops during their travels, and brought these observations to Bossa Nova. Gabi explained about her adopted town's future, *"We see the potential in our town and region. There's so much hope for it. People can take pride and make it better."*

For nearly four years, the Fredericks have seen the value that the bike/hike trails have added to their business and town. *"About 60% of our summer business is from out of town," Mike observed. "There are a lot of New Yorkers in town every weekend, plus many Parisiens and other nationalities. They say they like the Franklin area because it's beautiful, pristine and well-preserved," he said.*

In 2014, the Fredericks placed in the Oil Region Alliance's "Get On The Trail Contest" with their plan to develop more bike & tourist-friendly features at Bossa Nova. These include indoor bike racks, info booth with regional guides and other amenities for visitors to Franklin.

Gabi noted that Bossa Nova hosted a Trail Town meeting in the spring, led by Frank Hajduk of the Trail Town Forum, as part of an effort to gather businesses and organizations along the trails so everyone is on the same page. *"We're trying to promote downtown Franklin, which is so beautiful," she said. "Hopefully we can shift the focus onto tourism, and receive the economic effect of this."* ☕



## Business Profile: *Fishing with Darl Black*



Would you like to hone your fishing skills, learn how to better fish area lakes and rivers, catch a mess of panfish for a fish fry, or battle feisty bronzeback bass for fun? Then check out one of the region's newest outdoor businesses: *Fishing with Darl Black* guide service.

Crawford County resident Darl Black grew up fishing throughout Northwest Pennsylvania. The last 30 of those years have been devoted to communicating to others about angling via articles and photos published in magazines, books and online. Calling on his life experiences, Black now offers one-on-one instruction through a guide service on the inland waters.

*"I love to fish as much as I love helping others to catch fish," says Black. "I particularly like to chase smallmouth bass and crappies. However, if a guest wants to go after walleye, largemouth bass or bluegills, I can accommodate them. We will fish for whatever is biting on specific waters from April to December. For example, during August and September the hot bites are smallmouth bass on the Allegheny and bluegills at Conneaut Lake. As fall approaches, walleye and big smallmouth bass put on the feedbag. In the late spring, the crappie bite is hot."*



*Guest Mike Martin holds a smallmouth bass he caught on Conneaut Lake, Crawford Co.  
Photo by Darl Black*

Black utilizes a sixteen-foot aluminum boat with a 20 HP outboard specifically for State Park lakes (Pymatuning Lake and Lake Wilhelm), as well as for other area lakes. He also runs a river boat with jet motor to navigate the shallow Allegheny River. All necessary tackle is supplied for each specific outing. A guest only needs to have a current PA Fishing License.

All bass technique rods are supplied by G. Loomis and specific crappie technique rods are from B-n-M Fishing. Reels are spooled with Gamma Line - an international line manufacturing business based in Oil City. The lake boat is equipped with the latest Garmin Electronics incorporating Down-Vu and Side-Vu imaging.

Black is a registered guide with the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, has passed required boat safety and first aid courses, and is fully insured.



*Northwest PA fishing guide Darl Black pulls a smallmouth bass from the Allegheny River in Venango County.*

*Photo by Marilyn Black*

For more details, visit the guide service page on website: [BlackwolfeCommunications.com](http://BlackwolfeCommunications.com); or email Darl at [darlblack@windstream.net](mailto:darlblack@windstream.net). *Fishing with Darl Black* is part of Blackwolfe Communications LLC.





**Evening Lagoon by Pontoon**  
**Wednesday, August 12** at  
 7:00 to 8:30 pm (more dates  
 through September 2).  
**Presque Isle State Park ~ 301**  
**Peninsula Dr., Ste. 1, Erie, PA**

Pontoon Boat Pavilion at Lagoons Launch -  
 Enjoy the evening wildlife in the lagoons aboard  
 a pontoon boat. Call (814) 833-7424 to register  
 starting every Monday at 10:00 am, for either of  
 that week's Wednesday or Friday evening tours.  
**Free.**

**Music at the Marina** † **Goddard State Park**  
**August 15, 10 am - dusk & August 16, 1 - 6 pm**

Meet at the Lake Wilhelm Marina  
 to enjoy two full days of music from some of  
 the area's most well-known performers along  
 the beautiful shore of Lake Wilhelm!

**Food & soft drinks available for purchase,**  
**crafters will have items for sale, plus fireworks!**

**\* Don't forget your lawn chairs. \***

684 Lake Wilhelm Road  
 Maurice K. Goddard State Park  
 Sandy Lake, PA - Mercer County

**Donations accepted at the gate.**

**Proceeds benefit Friends of Goddard.**

**For more info: (724) 253-4833**

Visit [www.friendsofgoddard.com](http://www.friendsofgoddard.com) for band schedule.



**CelebrateErie!**  
**August 13-16, 2015**

**CelebrateErie!** is a four-day summer  
 street festival held in downtown  
 Erie. The event features free access  
 to local art museums, displays,  
 artist demonstrations and  
 activities designed to encourage  
 the arts. Musical performances  
 from a wide variety of local and  
 nationally renowned artists.

The festival is divided into multiple zones, including:

*Taste of Erie, Celebrate Diversity, Kids Zone,  
 Kids Construction Zone, Chalk Walk, Artist Colony & more.*

*Plus fireworks on Sunday!*

*website: [celebrateerie.com](http://celebrateerie.com)*

**Knox Horse Thief Days**  
**August 15 - 21**



**Don't miss this end of summer event**  
**in Clarion County! Featuring:** Carnival, car cruise,  
 sidewalk sales, arts & crafts vendors, food vendors,  
 bingo, various races, firemen's parade, softball  
 tourney, 5K race, community picnic, Vesper service,  
 Power Wheels Derby, kids' activities, bike night, DJ,  
 kiddie parade, community yard sales, farmers market,  
 art show, recognition of Citizen of the Year, chili  
 cookoff, live music, fireworks & more.

**Contact Sharon for more info: (814) 797-1376 or**  
**visit [www.knoxborough.com](http://www.knoxborough.com) for complete schedule,**  
**or email: [boroughofknox@windstream.net](mailto:boroughofknox@windstream.net)**

**Perseids Meteor Shower Paddle**

**Chapman State Park ~ 4790 Chapman Dam Rd.**  
 Warren, PA -- **Friday, August 14 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 pm**

Come to the Beach Concession Stand for a short  
 lesson on basic boating safety and join us for a  
 night paddle to view the Perseids meteor shower.  
**Pre-registration is REQUIRED as kayaks are limited.**  
 You may bring your own kayak but you must still  
 register. Program fee is \$5 per adult/\$2 for youth  
 between 8 & 12 - not recommended for children  
 under age 8. Youth are required to use a tandem  
 kayak with a responsible adult. Those under 18  
 must have an adult present to sign a waiver. There  
 are a limited number of tandem kayaks, available  
 upon request. **Registrations can be made by calling**  
**the park office at (814) 723-0250 by Friday, 8/14.**



**Living History at Fort Pitt: Cooking**  
**Saturday, August 15 ~ 11:00 am to 4:00 pm**  
**Point State Park ~ 601 Commonwealth Place**  
**Pittsburgh, PA**



Join re-enactors from the  
**Fort Pitt Museum** on the  
 grassy lawn beside the  
 museum as they prepare  
 18th century food. Learn  
 what early Pittsburghers ate!

For more information,  
 contact the Fort Pitt  
 Museum at (412) 281-9284.



**Presque Isle King of Bass**  
**Tournament - August 15 & 16**  
 Saturday & Sunday

301 Peninsula Dr. - Erie, PA

Two-day fishing tournament hosted  
 by the North Coast Bass Association  
 and sponsored by **Field and Stream**.

Anglers will be challenged to catch only  
 largemouth bass on Saturday, and may catch either large or  
 smallmouth bass on Sunday. Each day carries a four-fish limit.  
**Entry to the King of Bass Tournament is \$300 per team, and the**  
**guaranteed first-place payout is \$5,000.**

Contact info: Aaron Gast @ (814) 314-9847

For complete information, visit: [www.northcoastbass.com](http://www.northcoastbass.com)

The NCBA King of Bass event is a two-day team tournament  
 with a 100% payout!



**Tour de LaMec ~ Sunday, August 16**

Enjoy a scenic ride on lightly traveled  
 roads of four 25 mile loops in  
 Lawrence and Mercer counties. Rain  
 or shine. Drinks, snacks & hot food  
 supplied to all riders.

7:30 am registration, cost \$20.

Reservations: (724) 652-3434. At Marti Park,  
 604 Phillips School Road, New Wilmington, PA.

**Proceeds support local bicycling.**

**Kinzua Heritage Arts and Music Festival**  
**Heritage Festival Grounds in Russell, Warren Co.**  
**August 21-23** - History comes alive with Native American and traditional weavers, potters, gunsmiths, tinsmiths, blacksmiths, homemade fabrics, storytellers, candle makers, wood carvers, crafts & food vendors. Craft projects & games for children. Live entertainment includes traditional country, folk, bluegrass and Native American music & dance. Adults \$5, kids 10 & under free  
*website: kinzuaheritage.org; email: info@kinzuaheritage.com*

**TRANSFER HARVEST HOME FAIR**  
**August 25 - 29, 5:00 - 11:00 pm**  
*Agricultural fair, truck & tractor pulls, demo derby, mud drag racing, nightly live musical entertainment, rides, food, first night parade, horse show and homemakers' exhibits.*  
 Kiwanis Community Park - 117 Edgewood Dr. Ext.,  
 Transfer, PA - Mercer County  
 \$2 Parking charge - No gate admission  
**For more info: (724) 646-2438**

**Clarion River Canoe & Kayaking Program:**  
**Gravel Lick-Mill Creek**  
**Friday, August 28 ~ 8:30 am to 5:30 pm**  
**Cook Forest State Park** will be conducting a 8.5 mile interpretive canoeing program on the National Wild & Scenic Clarion River from Gravel Lick to Mill Creek. **For experienced canoeists/kayakers only.** This section of river is rich in local history and wildlife, truly a wilderness experience. Porters Landing, Maxwell Run, State Road Ripple and Blyson Run will be a few topics of interest along the float. Fishing is excellent here, so don't forget your fishing poles! We will meet promptly at the Park Office and car-pool to the starting point. Bring protective footwear, rain gear, and change of clothes. Cost is \$50/boat with check or money order made out to the *Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*. **Lunch will be provided to those who register by 8/26 by calling the Park Office at (814) 744-8407.** Prior Cook Forest kayak training participants receive a 50% discount. **Space is limited, so please reserve early, pre-registration required.**

**Saturday, August 29 ~ 9 am - 2 pm -- 'Hike Cook Forest: Discover the Hidden Secrets of Cook Forest'** - Meet at the Cook Forest State Park Log Cabin Inn Environmental Learning Classroom for a challenging 4 mile interpretive hike through one of the most magnificent old growth forests in the entire Eastern U.S. Lunch is on the trail, so please pack lunch & water. Website: [events.dcnr.pa.gov](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov)

**Saturday, August 29 ~ 11:00 am - 1:30 pm**  
**Herb Celebration** - A Taste on how to cook with fresh herbs. Come join guest artisan, Cyndi Burk (owner of The Nut House on Rt. 19), as she teaches the basics of herb harvesting, drying and cooking. You will get to taste samples of various foods cooked with herbs and will end the class making your own herbed butter and vinegar.  
 Please pre-register and pre-pay by August 14 by calling (724) 662-2242. Make checks payable to: Munnell Run Farm Foundation - 24 Avalon Court, Ste. 300, Mercer, PA 16137 - Fee \$30.



**WATERFIRE SHARON 2015 ~ Saturday, August 22**  
 WaterFire Sharon incorporates over 50 sparkling bonfires ablaze on the Shenango River emitting the fragrant scent of aromatic cedar and pine. Stroll the riverbank and enjoy the firelight flickering off of the bridges accompanied by enchanting music, diverse performers and artists from around the globe that engage your senses.  
 "WaterFire" is a World Class series of innovative, multi-sensory performance events. This public art performance brings people together in beautiful, open spaces to enjoy artistic programming and features the distinctiveness an American small town has to offer.  
  
 11:00 am - 11:00 pm - Lighting occurs shortly after sunset  
*Located throughout Downtown Sharon, PA -- Mercer County*  
**FREE and open to the public**  
 For more info: (724) 981-5882 x111  
 email: [info@waterfiresharonpa.org](mailto:info@waterfiresharonpa.org)  
 website: [www.waterfiresharonpa.org](http://www.waterfiresharonpa.org)

**DRAKE DAY CIRCUS AT DRAKE WELL MUSEUM**  
 202 Museum Lane  
 Titusville, PA ~ Crawford County  
**Saturday, August 22 ~ 10 am - 4 pm**  
 Enjoy a day filled with jugglers, fire eaters, acrobats, magicians, animals, 19th century games, re-enactors, artisan demonstrations, music, food & much more sure to thrill and delight your family.  
 \$ *Special family rate* \$  
 For more info: (814) 827-2797; website: [drakewell.org](http://drakewell.org)

**Rock In River Fest - PA Stone Skipping Championship**  
**Saturday, August 22 ~ 11 am - 4 pm**  
 Riverfront Park (Elk & 9th Sts.) - Franklin, Venango Co.  
 The Rock In River Festival includes music, crafts, food, kayak rides, rock painting for children, a chicken BBQ, and lots of rock skipping competition! Held at beautiful Riverfront Park - overlooking the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River. Pros compete for the title of **PA Stone Skipping Champion**, including 2010 *National Champion/Guinness World Record Holder*, Russ Byars of Franklin, and 2011 *PA State Champion*, Kurt Steiner. For more info, visit: [www.franklinpa.gov](http://www.franklinpa.gov)

**PEDAL THE LAKES BICYCLE TOUR**  
*Saturday, September 12, 2015*

**Registration:** 7:00 - 9:00 am ~ Ride after registered  
Leave Riverside Park and ride varying lengths of 10 - 100 miles around or near our beautiful lakes. There will be food, music and art expo afterwards. Camping, hotel and B&B are available Fri. & Sat.

**Greenville Recreation Center** - 45 Alan Ave.  
Greenville, PA ~ Mercer Co. - \$15 by 8/29 - \$20 after  
**For more info:** (724) 866-3317 [www.mctrails.org](http://www.mctrails.org)

**All Handmade Crafts & Artisan Festival ~ Volant, PA**  
Lawrence Co. ~ **Saturday, Sept. 12, 9:00am - 4:30pm**

Crafters & artisans from all over PA will be selling their handmade items - from jewelry, wreaths, purses, dried locally grown flowers, caterers, bakers & more. At The Meeting House beside Volant Mills.  
**For info:** Jamie Pagley - (724) 944-4844.

*Where it all started in Volant, PA.*

**CRANBERRY FESTIVAL**

**Venango Co. - Saturday, Sept. 19**  
**10:00 am to 7:00 pm**

**Morrison Park** - Allison Road  
(off Main St.) Seneca, PA 16346



Join us for the annual **Cranberry Festival** with family fun, **children's events**, food, **arts & crafts vendors**, car & motorcycle cruise-in, **scarecrow contest display**, Venango's Got Talent, **Cranberry Bake-Off**, **5K Run/Walk**, **live entertainment**, fireworks & **much more**.  
Visit [www.venangochamber.org](http://www.venangochamber.org) for info.



Photo by Kyle Yates

**McConnells Mill Heritage Festival ~ Sept. 26 & 27**

**McConnells Mill State Park ~ 2697 McConnells Mill Rd.**  
Portersville, PA - Lawrence County

Celebrate the operational time period of this historical gristmill - from 1852 to 1928. Costumed vendors will display crafts inspired by this time. Free tours of mill offered. A civil war encampment brings history to life, artisans & craftsmen will demonstrate their skills throughout the festival, plus much more. **Free and open to the public. Sat. 10 am - 6 pm & Sun. 11 am - 5 pm**  
(724) 368-3612 [www.visitparks.com](http://www.visitparks.com)

*Brooke Kellogg and Cory Male joined more than a hundred other kayakers at Two Mile Run County Park for last month's Blue Moon Float. The Venango County park has been allowing these gatherings each month when the moon is full. For info, visit facebook page - Ky-Yakkers.*



Photo by Mike Henderson



*Featured Photographer ~ Devin Callihan*

*I took a short hike today on the North Country Trail, hiked to Scurry Overlook. From this overlook, you get a nice view of the Gravel Lick area of the Clarion River. I have logged well over a 1,000 hours of volunteer work for the NCT over the years. When it provides beautiful scenes like this to hikers, how can I not? ~ Devin Callihan*



*Mountain Laurel, PA's state flower, blooming along the path to Scurry Overlook in Cook Forest State Park, part of the North Country National Trail as it winds through Clarion Co.*



*1897 Clarion County Civil War Monument in the Park Square.*



*Artist's Bio ~ Devin Callihan resides in the small town of Leeper, Clarion County. "I'm a hobbyist photographer who wants to share my images and the stories behind them with anyone who might find interest in them," he said.*

*"I was born and raised in northwestern PA, and as such, I have a natural love of the outdoors," he explained. "I enjoy many outdoor activities including hiking, geocaching, canoeing, hunting ... the whole nine yards."*

*"The truth of photography that I've discovered is that you have to take thousands of bad images before you consistently take spectacular ones," said Devin. "I am very comfortable sharing that bumpy journey with the world. In my opinion, it is the essence of the art of photography. With any luck, in ten years or so, I'll show you only spectacular images, but probably not."*

*"Photography will be a lifelong adventure for me, and I invite you to share in that adventure by following my facebook page: [Callihan Images](#); or by visiting my website: [callihanimages.com](#). Photography is to be shared, not kept in bits on a computer."*



*1872 Climax RR Tunnel, now part of the Redbank Valley Trail in Clarion County, is closed while work is done to repair and support the ceiling. Work on the tunnel will continue through 2016.*



*Devin Callihan's self-portrait at Rapp Run Falls in Cook Forest State Park, Clarion County.*

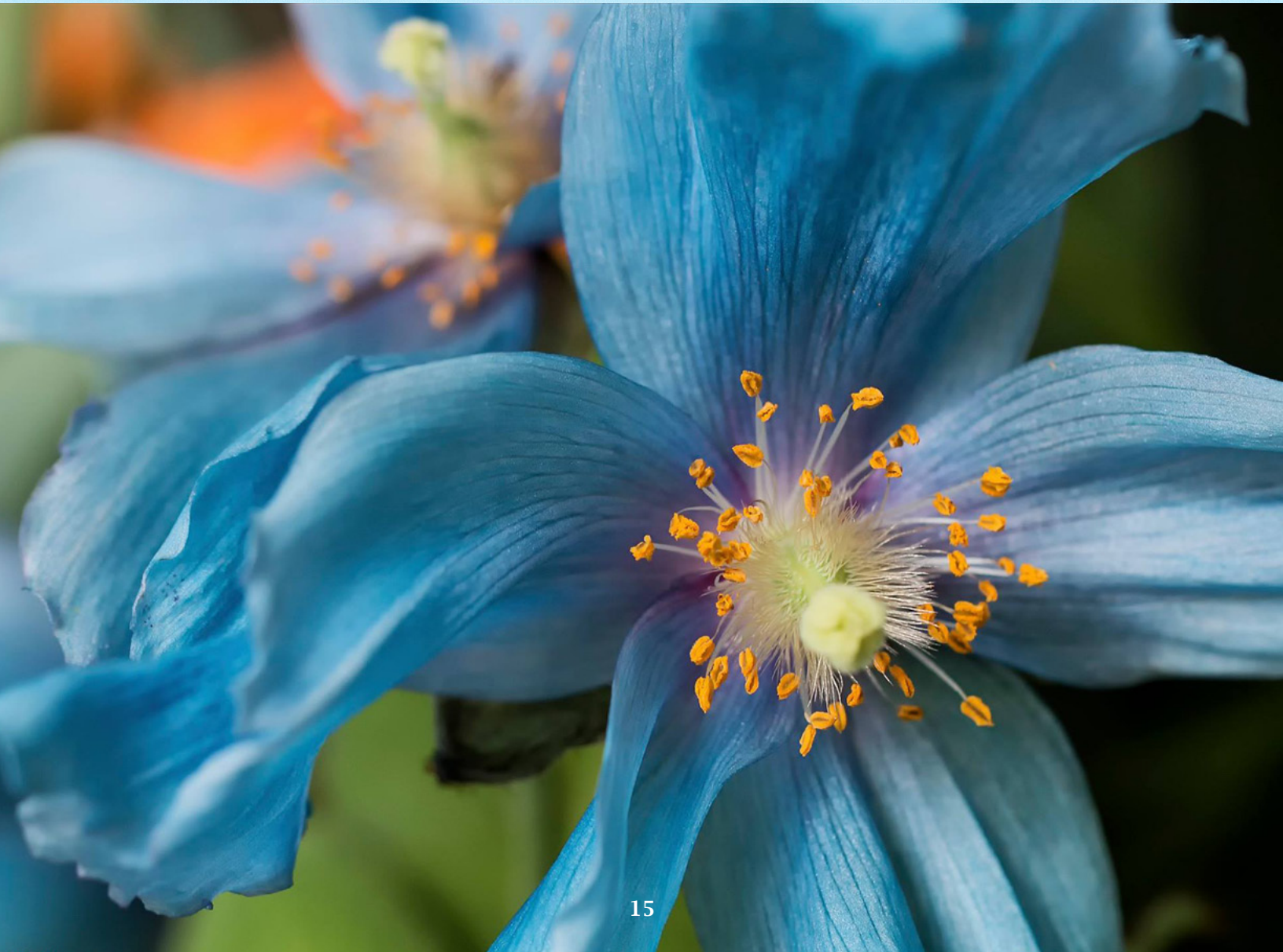
*Kinzua Lake (aka the Allegheny Reservoir) was formed by the Kinzua Dam a half-century ago, along the Allegheny River in Warren Co. The lake is the largest inland body of water in PA and is entirely surrounded by the Allegheny National Forest, the Seneca Nation, and New York's Allegany State Park. Kinzua Lake is home to record-setting fish catches.*

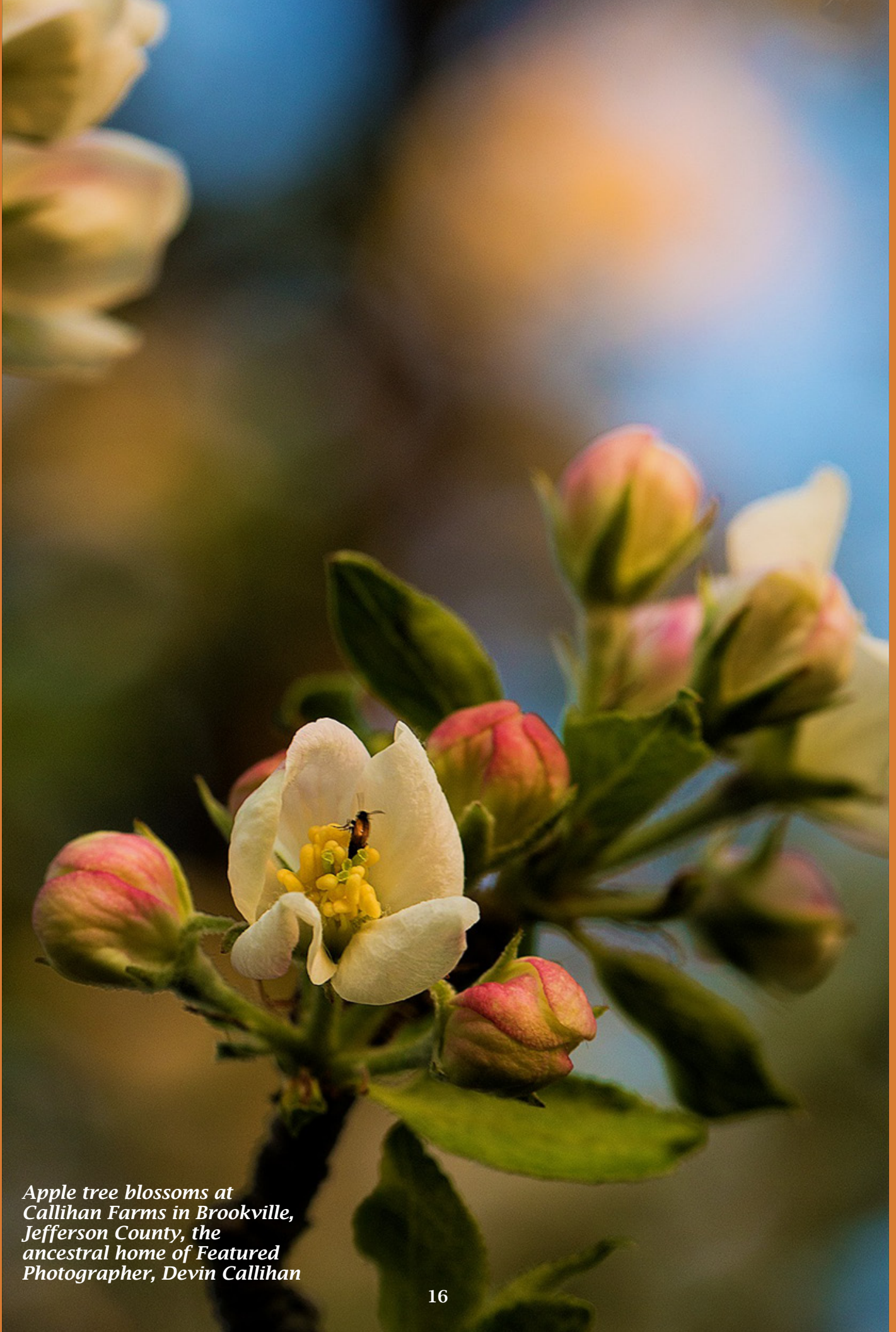


*1933 Tidioute Bridge over the Allegheny River in Tidioute, Warren County.*



*Phipps Conservatory & Botanical Gardens, a great steel and glass Victorian greenhouse, has been inviting visitors to explore the beauty and mysteries of plants since 1893. Set amidst one of Pittsburgh's largest greenspaces, Schenley Park, Phipps Conservatory stands as a cultural and architectural centerpiece of the city's Oakland neighborhood.*





*Apple tree blossoms at  
Callihan Farms in Brookville,  
Jefferson County, the  
ancestral home of Featured  
Photographer, Devin Callihan*