

SUMMER 2010

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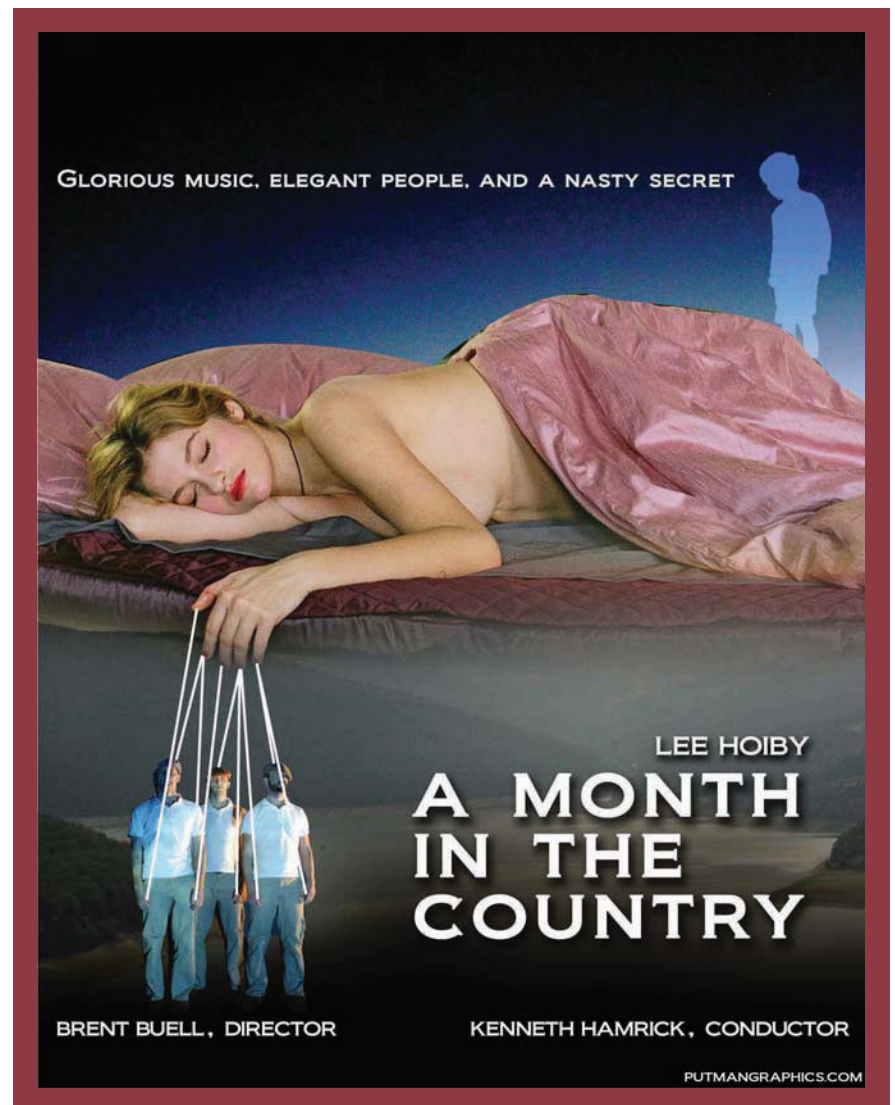
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FRIDAY, AUGUST 13 AT 8:00 PM
SUNDAY, AUGUST 15 AT 2:00 PM
THURSDAY, AUGUST 19 AT 2:00 PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21 AT 7:00 PM



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CATEGORIES

Residential

Best New Residential Construction (over 2,500 square feet)

Best New Residential Construction (under 2,500 square feet)

Best Residential Renovation (before & after photos required)

Best Spruce-Up Residential (before and after photos required)

Other (unique, most interesting)

Commercial

Best New Commercial

Best Commercial Renovation (before and after photos required)

Best Spruce-Up Commercial (before and after photos required)

Other (unique, most interesting)

Municipal

Best Municipal/Public Building Project

(call for separate application or visit www.sullivanrenaissance.org)

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Project Must Be Complete!
- Exteriors Only Will Be Judged
- Visual Appeal
- Landscaping
- Use Of Site
- Innovation
- Workmanship
- Located In Sullivan County
- Previous Finalists Not Eligible

Nomination Application—Deadline Monday, September 10, 2010

Category of Nomination _____

Address of Site Nominated _____

Date of Project Completion _____

Owner(s)

Name(s) _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Architect (if applicable)

Name _____

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Builder/Contractor (if applicable)

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Nominated By

Name _____

Phone _____

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Incomplete applications will not be judged.

- Projects must be completed between January 1, 2008 and August 31, 2010

- Include a maximum of 6 exterior photos only (before and after required for renovations and spruce up). Electronic photos or CD appreciated.

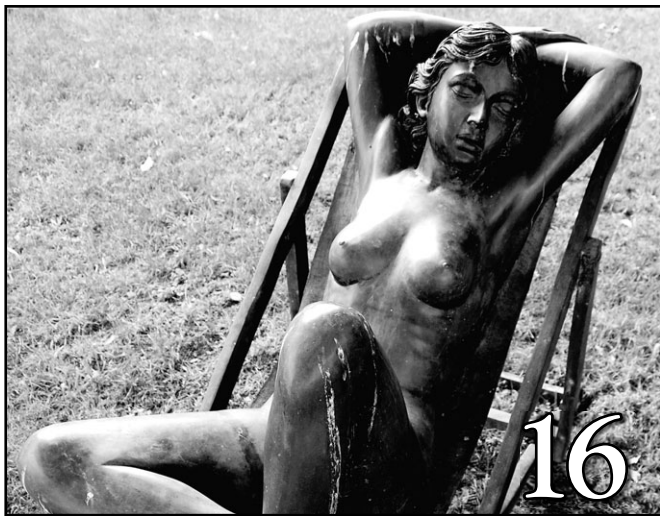
- Include permission from the property owners.

- **Directions to nominated site MUST** be included.

- Include a brief description and comments on why this site is being nominated.

Mail the completed nomination form and all information to:
Sullivan County Board of Realtors
Sullivan Showcase Awards
Nominations Committee
548 Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701
scbr@verizon.net

**We reserve the right to place entry in a different category.*



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features

- 7 **Blue Hills Farm**
Putting the glamour into 'glamping'
By Cass Collins
- 13 **Shohola Magic**
Artistic vision creates a special home
By Marcia Nehemiah
- 19 **Honesdale's Thriving Art Scene**
By Mary Greene
- 27 **21 Unique Finds in the Upper Delaware Valley**
By Clarissa Chatley
- 30 **Rustic Charm and Sweet Cider**
The delicious beauty of Sonoma Falls
By Erin Vanderberg

departments

- 11 **Decorate**
Global Style
By Lori Malone
- 16 **Garden**
Sullivan County Garden Tour
By Danielle Gaebel
- 20 **Eat**
Farm Markets
By Mary Greene
- 23 **Try This**
The Alpine
By Mary Greene
- 25 **Try That**
Korean Arts Village
By Mary Greene

from the EDITOR



TRR file photo

Mary Greene
Section Editor

“Every moment is unique—
unknown—completely fresh.”

—Pema Chodron

This summer edition of **Our Country Home** is dedicated to unique finds, and finding the unique in our beautiful Upper Delaware River region. We invite you to visit the brand new Sonoma Falls Cider Mill and Country Market in Livingston Manor that produces and sells apple cider and maple syrup, engaging its customers in the process and opening up the property to hiking, fishing, relaxing and otherwise enjoying the scenic waterfalls. We introduce you to the Greenbaums, an artist couple who have extended their artistic perspective onto the grounds and interior of their custom Shohola home. We invite you to go “glamping” at Blue Hills Farm Tent and Breakfast in Narrowsburg, complete with breakfast in a tree house.

We bring you along with us on a special Sullivan County Garden Tour, showcasing some of the most beautiful landscaped yards in the region. These gardeners have an eye for color and design, and appreciate the intrinsic landscape that they are transforming and highlighting. (The cover photo of this edition of **Our Country Home** shows off the English country charm of one such garden.)

In conjunction with outdoor design, we bring you into the home of one couple who have updated their mid-20th-century home with a collection of global-style art objects. All of this is bound to create an appetite, and we invite you to sample the authentic cuisine of Korean Arts Village in Bethel or satisfy your European side at The Alpine in Honesdale. And while you're in Honesdale, be sure to check out the three new elegantly designed art galleries that are putting this historic town on the map as an arts destination.

Finally, we provide you with a listing of our local farm markets for the freshest of the fresh, and we highlight in quick fashion 21 unique destinations and things to do in the river valley.

Enjoy.

Mary Greene
Section Editor



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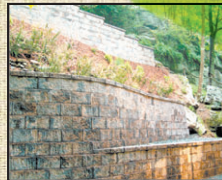


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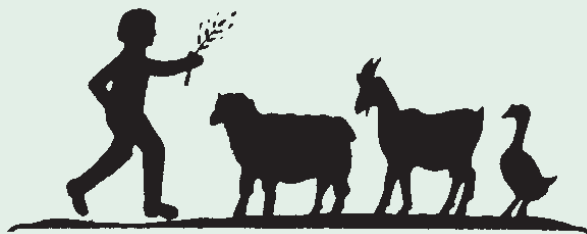
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BLUE HILLS FARM

Putting the glamour into 'glamping'

Text and Photographs by Cass Collins

A whole generation of Americans grew up with a back-to-the-earth philosophy. “Close to nature” was close to their hearts. The Woodstock Nation reveled in mud. Then they grew up. Sleeping in flannel bags on insulated pads didn’t cut it anymore. Their comfortable homes had softened them. Years of hard work made them appreciate the chi-opening worthiness of a steaming hot shower after a day communing with nature. Then there’s the need for a bathroom in the middle of the night... For those people, “glamping” was invented.

Joining the previously incongruous words ‘glamour’ and ‘camping,’ glamping is a new phenomenon that appears to be catching on like a wildfire in a dry season. For Jane Luchsinger, a ‘glampsite’ seemed the perfect use for her 35 acres of fields and woodland bordering a hunting camp in Lava, NY.

Continued on page 8



A log cabin in the trees

In 2002, Jane and her husband Jaxon, who died in 2006, built a fantasy structure on their property that married their two different but compatible ideas of an outdoor room. His concept was a log cabin. Jane wanted a tree-house. The log cabin in the trees was created as a close-to-home getaway for the couple, whose adult daughter Claudine owns a house down the road. The structure was built into the edge of a stand of Norway Spruce trees that Jane has since carefully trimmed to create an oasis of shade. It originally served as a place the couple enjoyed for cocktail hour. Now, it is a breakfast room for Jane's bed and breakfast tent campsite, Blue Hills Farm.

The treehouse has a sturdy staircase that leads to a treetop room with windows and a solid wood floor. Everything at Blue Hills is solid. This is not the tree-house of your childhood. It boasts antique furnishings and is completely secure from the elements. Down on the ground, there is a seating area and an antique stove that Jane rescued from a chicken coop on her property and had converted to use with propane. It's where she now prepares omelets to order for her overnight guests. She recently served dinner for 12 in the pine grove for a group of friends.

Guests of Blue Hills Farm are treated to a four-course breakfast according to their own schedule. A cold raspberry soup is accompanied by an assortment of fresh-baked goods, including Jane's special rhubarb walnut crumb muffins, and an egg-based casserole with sausage, onion and cheese, according to her guest's preference. An orange juice and lemon-lime spritzer freshens the palate, and china service sets the glamorous tone of the meal. An old working Victrola is one of many antiques Jane selected for her airy breakfast room from local stores like Bridgewater Mercantile in Jeffersonville, NY and Domesticities in Youngsville, NY.

Luxuries of home

The tree-house breakfast room is part two of a stay at Blue Hills Farm. Overnight quarters are a short walk away in the 16-by-20-foot tent/house. The tent is a custom-made canvas structure that is hitched to a solid reclaimed oak platform. It is fully screened, and a bathroom befitting a luxury home is attached to the tent by a sliding barn door. The tiled bathroom boasts a two-person spa-jetted shower with a pebbled tile floor and custom-designed electric wall sconces. An electric heater in the style of a woodstove keeps toes cozy in the mountain air. Antique wood planes, repurposed as towel hooks, are among the many inventive designs in the interior.

A trip to Blue Hills Farm—Blue Hills was a name given to the Catskills by early settlers—starts with an ATV ride from Jane's red and white cottage on Route 52 through a leafy forest path. The sturdy tan canvas tent sits in a clearing among old oak and maple trees. Graceful hand-wrought twig chairs grace the porch above a welcoming flagstone. The tent is furnished with comfortably upholstered furniture, including a loveseat and chair and a carved-oak queen-sized bed with a Tempurpedic mattress. Crisp linens are topped with a bedspread custom-made by the proprietress, who is at home with a needle and thread, among her many other talents. When you call for reservations, Jane asks for your shoe size along with your dietary requirements, so she can whip up a pair of custom-felted slippers for your stay.

This is Blue Hills' inaugural season and although it was built to cater to couples, the first guests were a father and son celebrating the son's college graduation with a guided fishing trip on the Delaware River with local fishing guide Tony Ritter. When the two men arrived at the campsite, the son said, "Dad, we made the right choice." It would be hard to make a bad choice at Blue Hills Farm. Nearby attractions include Bethel Woods Center for the Arts (site of the original 1969 Woodstock Festival), Fort Delaware, the Upper Delaware Recreation Area, the Delaware Valley Arts Alliance in Narrowsburg and many fine fishing and swimming areas as well as antiques and art galleries.

Rates are \$200 per couple per night, plus tax, and include a full breakfast (and slippers!) Blue Hills accepts reservations from June 1 through November 1. For more information call Jane Luchsinger at 845/252-3864.



The sleeping tent is of custom-made canvas hitched to a solid reclaimed oak platform.



Guests can relax in the bedroom area with comfortable chairs and a carved-oak queen bed.



A sliding barn door leads to the bath, outfitted with all the luxuries of home.



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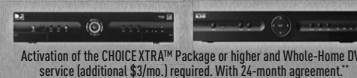
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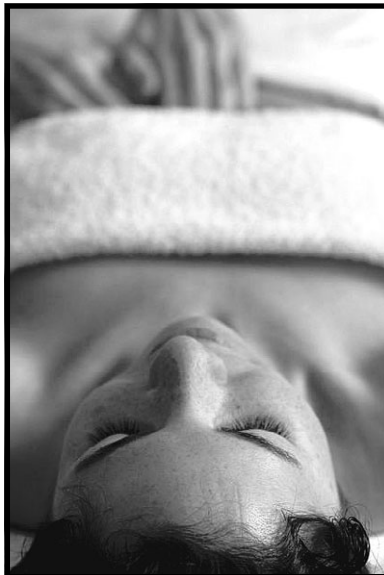
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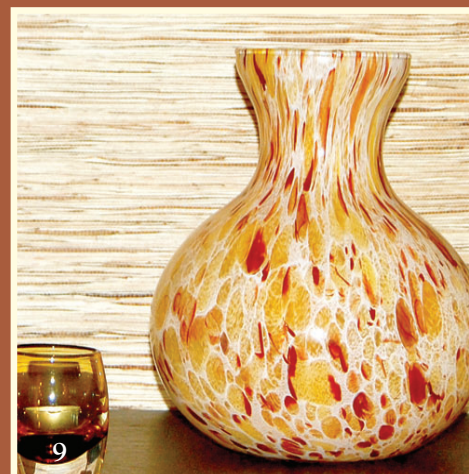
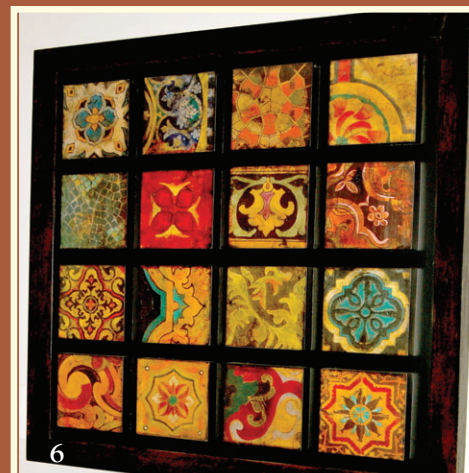
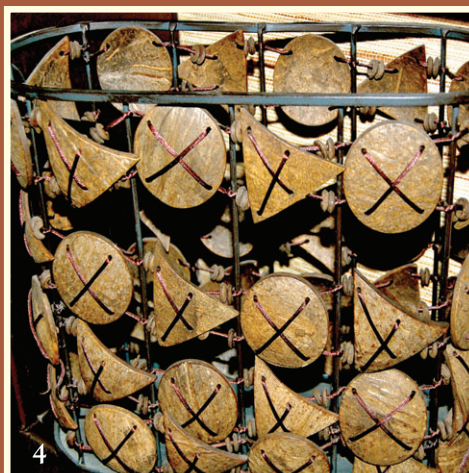
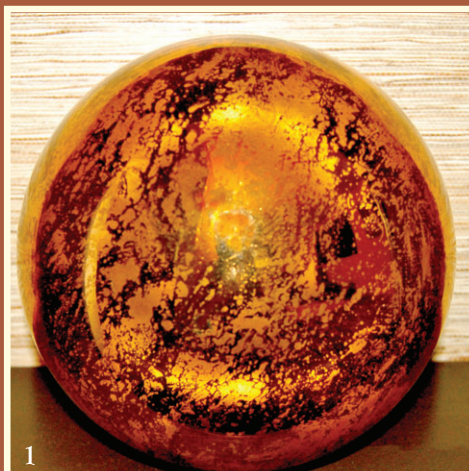
Exploring cultures

With diverse appeal and relaxed design, global style is a popular trend in decorating. Ethnic and international influences that dominate this collection-oriented theme can be found in stunning accessories, fine fabrics and international artifacts that work in harmony with one another to create a warm and inviting space.

When homeowners Danielle Gaebel and Jennifer Bitetto set out to decorate their mid-20th-century home, they knew they wanted a style that would accommodate a casual lifestyle and showcase their love of hand-crafted accessories. “We prefer a minimalist approach because neither one of us really likes clutter or over-decorated spaces,” says Gaebel. The couple’s eclectic taste is evident in their collection

continued on page 12

1. A mercury ball, mostly used in gardens, is a favorite piece of homeowners Gaebel and Bitetto.
2. “Laughing Buddha” denotes a lightheartedness reflective of the personalities of the pair.
3. This rustic peace sign is a signature theme through the couple’s home.
4. The modern wood and metal magazine rack helps anchor the collection.
5. A mounted petrified tree bark segment reflects the couple’s affinity for nature.
6. This hand-painted Mexican tile wall hanging was the inspiration for the home’s design.
7. This ceramic garden stool serves as both an end table and additional seating in the couple’s living room.
8. The modern cherry wood and matte black accents of the two-blade ceiling fan maintains the home’s modern appeal.
9. A Venetian glass vase is one of several hand-crafted objects in the collection.
10. This matte white ceramic elephant reflects the playful aesthetic that the couple enjoy.
11. These leather-bound photo albums house family photos and are kept on the coffee table for easy sharing.
12. The goat has meaning as the couple’s shared astrological sign.



of artifacts (pictured on page 11) that have a predominately Asian influence. Warm tones in orange, brown and gold help unify the stark modern space, and modern fixtures, like the two-blade ceiling fan, help keep it interesting and current.

Start with natural elements

The foundation of global style is a natural backdrop achieved with paint, wall coverings and fabrics. Textural and rustic treatments on walls and natural fabrics in vivid and warm tones help unify the eclectic mix of furnishings and collectables. The couple used grasscloth wallpaper to accent their built-in bookcase (pictured below).

Fabrics like silk saris from India or woven batik from Indonesia are great options for windows treatments and pillows. Naturally weathered and aged wood mixed with rustic metals and modern design elements work well together.

Hand-crafted accessories

Pottery, glass, textiles, wood, metals and other hand-crafted elements from around the world define this style. Because it is eclectic at its core, global style is perfect for couples, like our homeowners, that are combining different styles. Pairing a Chinese garden stool with a chrome and leather chair or a hand-carved Indonesian desk with a Lucite bench helps unite global and modern styles. Shaker, Mission and Arts and Craft furnishings also blend well with global design accents.

Whether your collection is a result of a well-traveled life or a good eye for unique finds from local shops and flea markets, Global influences can unify a unique collection of furnishings and accessories, transforming your home into an exotic escape that showcases your love of the unusual.

before



A built-in bookcase that occupies an entire wall in this mid-20th-century home's living room presented a challenge to homeowners Gaebel and Bitetto. They thought of tearing out the rather dated shelving unit, but decided to keep and update it instead. They re-stained the knotty pine a darker, ebony tone, and wallpapered the back wall with a natural grasscloth. The Asian style and soft palette blends well with their collection of global treasures, family photos and electronics.

after



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Shohola Magic

Artistic vision creates a special home

Text and Photography by Marcia Nehemiah

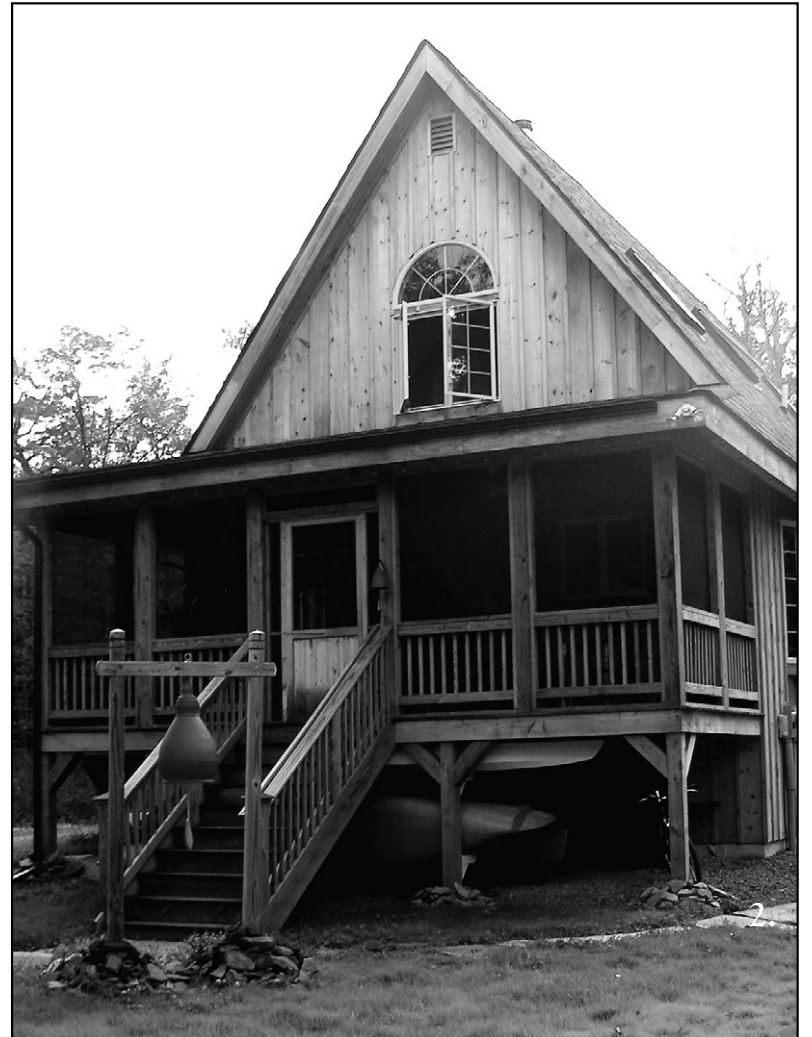
A paved road leads to a dirt road that leads to the Shohola, PA refuge of David and Joann Wells Greenbaum, but the drive is worth it. Rounding a curve in their driveway, the woods open to a clearing, and the sun shines on a magical bluestone labyrinth, stoned piled to make pillars that mark its entryway. It's a fitting introduction to a home that radiates warmth, charm and the gracious artistic

sensibilities of its inhabitants.

A variety of David's ceramic pots hang from the trees and posts scattered around the property. Bluestone unearthed during construction was broken into sheets to make walkways around the house. Vegetables thrive in pots on a south-facing deck that overlooks a ceremonial fire pit. Birds flit through the trees, and a rabbit hops through the grass.



Always intrigued by labyrinths, the Greenbaums used rocks from their property to create this magical space.



David and Joann Wells Greenbaum's home.

“We lived in one room with our two sons. We didn't have electricity. We had an outhouse. It was simple, but not so comfortable. With this house, we wanted to keep it simple and efficient, but have more comforts.”

—Joann Greenbaum



David's current work focuses on custom-made ceramic bells mounted on cedar and welded steel bases.



The couple on their screened-in front porch, which has mahogany floors. David loves the wood box that can be loaded from outside and unloaded within reach of the front door.

Continued on page 14



Deliberate design

David and Joann have built five houses in their 33 years of marriage (although they have lived in more), and this one is “the synthesis of what we learned were our needs and desires,” says Joann. Joann, who grew up in Baltimore, and David, who was raised in New Jersey, moved to the area in 2004 from Florida, where they had lived for many years. They came here to be closer to family.

David is a long-time student of architectural design. Of their Shohola home, he says, “There is very little that we would change if we were to do it over.” Joann adds, “When we were young and starting out, we wanted to see how we could handle a back-to-nature situation. We lived in one room with our two sons. We didn’t have electricity. We had an outhouse. It was simple, but not so comfortable. With this house, we wanted to keep it simple and efficient, but have more comforts.”

Their oldest son Ethan is now a contemporary gallery artist who has shown his work in Los Angeles, New York City and Chicago. Granger, their younger son, is an entrepreneur who owns a moving company. Both now live in Brooklyn.

David and Joann designed the 1100-square-foot house and, says David, “we were serious participants in its construction.” One of their goals, energy efficiency, was achieved by placing the largest bank of windows on the south side for passive solar gain, installing energy efficient windows, using R57 insulated concrete forms in the walls and installing a radiant heating system in the floors. The house is heated primarily with wood cut from their property.



Living space

A screened-in front porch has mahogany floors and a convenient box for firewood. The box can be loaded from outside and unloaded within reach of the front door.

From the porch, visitors step into the open and airy first story, which is one large living area with maple floors uniting three living areas—a sitting area with chairs nestled around the wood stove, an eating area and a kitchen with cherry wood cabinets and a six-burner stove. Joann loves to cook and does sprouting.

A Craftsman-style banister leads upstairs to the master bedroom and a guest room, both built in the space that in a conventional home would be the attic. The 18/12 roof pitch has two benefits: not only are the rooms charming with their sloped ceilings, but the sun heats the rooms rather than heating un-lived-in space. David noted that the steep slope of the roof also sheds snow efficiently.

The screened-in porch off the master bedroom gives “the feeling of an old-fashioned sleeping porch,” in the summer when the French doors are open, says Joann. She “loves to lie in bed and look up and see the stars and the moon” through the skylights. The couple, avid canoeists and kayakers, live within walking distance to Twin Lakes. David designed and built a boat trailer that attaches to his bicycle, and when they are not in their studios making art, they spend many hours on the glacial lake.



Studio time

Both artists keep a regular working schedule in their home studios. Joann (joannwellsgreenbaum.com, <http://www.etsy.com/shop/joann100>) paints and makes jewelry. Working in gouache and ink, she paints whimsical, vibrantly colored paintings that “tell a story.” She also does commissioned architectural portraits, some of which can be seen at Bluestone Gallery (see information, below). Jewelry is a “focal point” and she has created a line of earrings and pendants as whimsical as their name, Shnookumzelia.

In his pottery studio in the basement of the house, David (greenbaumpottery.com, shoholabels.com) crafts large ceramic bells. They hang from cedar and welded steel bases which he makes in his wood shop that occupies the barn behind the house. He calls the bells “a wonderful progression in my clay life. They are just thrilling. They have a humble universal nature that’s very appealing.”

Joann also runs the business dimension of their various enterprises, and David spends weekends at the Bluestone Gallery (104 East Ann Street, Milford, PA, 570/296-9999, www.bluestonegallerymilford.com) where he is the operations manager, working closely with owner Bob Levine. The gallery is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 6 pm or by appointment.

Second Annual Shohola House and Garden Tour

The Greenbaum house was included in the 2009 Shohola Historic House tour. The 2010 tour will feature “six houses, several gardens and a two-room schoolhouse,” says Shohola Historical Society President Martha Shadler. The self-guided tour will benefit the organization.

When: August 7

10 am to 4 pm

Where: Shohola, PA

Cost: \$25

Tickets: Shohola Municipal Building (159 Twin Lakes Road, 570/559-7394), The Caboose (Shohola, weekends only), Patina’s Antiques (Milford, PA) and Hare Hollow (Milford).

A map and directions will be provided with ticket purchase.

For more information contact Shadler at 570/296-2304 or Betty Reaggs at 570/491 4871.

1. An array of David’s pots line the wall leading to his basement studio.
2. The living area is the perfect place for David’s “favorite piece of furniture,” a unique long table, right, bought from an antique dealer in Milford. Joann painted the two matching chairs beside it.
3. Joann uses bright, vivid colors on her paintings and often depicts cottages that evoke peace, simplicity and security. This painting is named “Tranquil Pleasures.”

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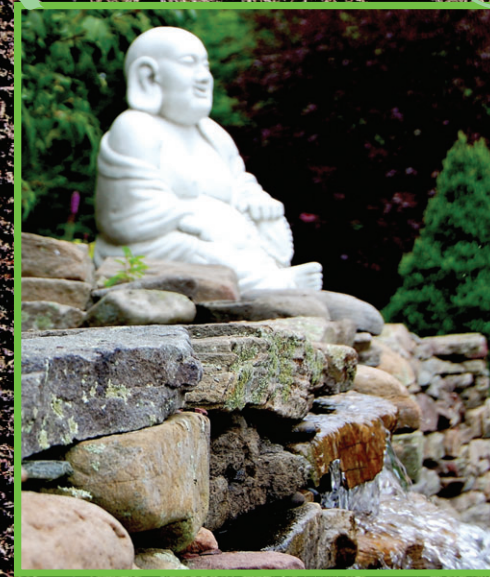
Text & Photography By Danielle Gaebel

[Garden]

Please note: **Our Country Home** was not able to make it to the home of Marian Fries, Livingston Manor, NY, but we have been told that her English Cottage Garden is truly magnificent.

For information on next year's garden tour, contact Sullivan Arc at 845/796-1350.

Many thanks to all the homeowners who graciously opened their unique and beautiful gardens to us all. Your efforts portray hard work and a love of all things beautiful.



Sylvia Berger, Clear Rite Pools and Spas, Youngsville, NY
Sylvia's garden is beautifully landscaped and



adorned with rock and stone. Above is the Buddha statue that sits atop rock with cascading water, our personal favorite feature.



Rod Mandeville, Jeffersonville, NY
We are amazed at how a home that sits on Route 52 could be a peaceful haven. Rod's property is



expansive and tranquil. A large peace sign greets you as you enter the yard. Further back is a pond with these gorgeous hot pink lilies.



Lothian House Bed and Breakfast (Lou's Tubes), Cochection, NY



A beautiful bed and breakfast with lovely gardens fronts the Delaware River. This unclothed woman sits on a chair with a view of the river while the



English garden and statues adorn another section of the property.



Bob Berger, Clear Rite Pools and Spas, Cochection, NY
Magnificent stone and rock abundantly showcase



water flowing off stone into a large infinity pool, whose blue water is invitingly clear and sparkling.



Lee and Reid Badger, Cochection, NY
Tranquil landscaping is complemented by a variety of perennials. This property also features



a vegetable garden where we were treated to a hand-picked, potato and a few string beans by the owner's grandson.



Inge Grafe-Kieklak and Ed Allees, Jeffersonville, NY
A sloping front yard filled with large bluestone rocks and various shrubbery and flowers creates



a pastoral tranquility perfect for gazing and meditating.



ECCE Bed and Breakfast, Barryville, NY
Vibrant flowers, sculpture and window boxes lend charm and beauty to this bed and



breakfast that is home to a million-dollar view of the Upper Delaware River.



Mary Ellen Sonntag and Frank Bernaducci, Narrowsburg, NY



English in style, these gardens are delightful. Featured on our front cover is the pond and boat that form the back of the property.



Betty and Dick Crandall, Narrowsburg, NY
A love of stone and wild plants carefully placed throughout the property by homeowner



Dick Crandall creates a spell of peace and belonging.



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Honesdale's thriving art scene

Text by Mary Greene | Contributed Photographs

Three new galleries have come to the town of Honesdale, PA in the last several years, and with it a brand new image for the town. The galleries share a spirit of cooperation and they all have benefited from the programs of the Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA), which is hosting an open studio tour at the end of July.



Willow River Gallery (118 Willow Avenue, Honesdale, PA 18431, 570/253-3013, willowrivergallery.com), owned and operated by the husband-and-wife team of photographer Phil Garfield and artist Trix Render, celebrated its first-year anniversary on July 4. Reflecting on how the last year has gone, Render says, "The first year was really good—we expected much less. Now people are returning to their summer homes; its great—there is a buzz around our anniversary."

Willow River changes shows about every month. "I have a good staple of artists," says Render. "I look for something I like, with an eye for quality and collectible artists, as well as something that will appeal to the public. Or, I might see potential in a young artist." Recently showing at Willow River was a retrospective of work by Margo Spoerri, who has a studio on Main Street in Narrowsburg, NY.

Render is participating, along with photographer Chip Forelli and artist Joe Kluck, in the 8th annual Wayne County Arts Alliance (WCAA) Open Studio Tour. Visitors will be able to see her at work in her studio located in the gallery, along with Forelli and Kluck. Last year, says Render, the studio tour drew 100 people a day.

Willow River has seven elegantly styled rooms on two different floors, and often hosts more than one exhibit at a time. Render and her husband plan to open it to the community on a more regular basis in the future, with food tastings, benefits, readings and performances.

Open Wednesday to Saturday 11 am to 6 pm; Sunday noon to 5 pm; or by appointment.



Hanson Gallery (1037 Main Street, Honesdale, PA 18431, 570/253-2525, www.thehansongallery.com) opened in June 2009 and is housed in a recently restored building which, owners Lars and Cynthia Hanson say, brings back the historic flavor of the past while moving forward with a modern setting for the arts. Not only does it have The Gallery, which features fine artists and artisans of the Northeast Pennsylvania region, it houses The Decorium with antique, vintage and new furniture, framed prints and collectibles, and a well-equipped art supply store. The establishment has been nominated for a historic preservation award by the Wayne County Historical Society.

"We have been very well received," says Lars. "Artists are happy we're here, as are the townsfolk and weekenders. It is exciting what is happening in Honesdale in general."

The gallery had its first solo show in May. In July it is showcasing all of the artists who are participating in the WCAA open studio tour, where visitors can get a sense of the artists' work and style, and collect a map for use during the tour. In August, the gallery will continue its move toward thematic shows with a group show on surrealism and fantasy.

The Hanson Gallery, along with the Willow River and Philip Hone galleries and the WCAA, see their role as enhancing the arts scene through cooperation with each other. "We want to promote Honesdale as an arts destination," said Cynthia, "In the future, we hope to coordinating openings, maybe create arts walk nights."

Open Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 6pm; selected Sundays; or by appointment.



The Philip Hone Gallery (742 Main Street, Honesdale, PA 18431, 570/253-5577, www.philiphonegallery.com) opened in 2008. Current owner and gallery director Caroline Denary volunteered there for eight months before she purchased the gallery. This mother of four was raised in Wayne County and sees her gallery as a community arts space where classes, poetry readings, jazz sessions, drumming circles and "artists' lounges" are as common as the art on the walls.

Philip Hone Gallery is a cooperative-style gallery with 30 participating members who share costs to keep the gallery open. In addition to the 18 painters, the gallery shows the work of jewelers, folk artists, glass blowers and other artisans. The space also has a rotating show that features the artists in **Connections Magazine**. Denaro herself is a portrait artist.

Her gallery shares space in the same building as the WCAA, and Denaro is a business member. Not all of her artists are from Wayne County, she says, and so the gallery is not directly participating in the open studio tour. She does collaborate with the other galleries from time to time; for example, every month she gives away a gift certificate for the Hanson Gallery art supply store.

How has the past year gone? "We have a wonderful following of people who attend classes and events, and come to the gallery. I enjoy doing things, working with the children. I am very down to earth, easy going. Here there is always a pot of tea and some cake, some coffee." She serves snacks and soups at her events, which are free of charge, although donations are welcomed. "We are hoping to promote the whole community," says Denaro. "It's been really wonderful so far."

Open Wednesday and Thursday 10 to 3; Friday 10 to 6; Saturday 10 to 4; occasional Sundays; and by appointment. The gallery stays open later during event evenings.

WCAA's 8th annual Open Studio Tour

The WCAA (742 Main Street, Suite 201, Honesdale, PA, 570/253-6850, waynecountyartsalliance.org), directed by Tamara Murray, is a not-for-profit, volunteer-run organization committed to enriching the community through the arts. It provides support to artists and galleries and well as programs and services to the community at large.

The 8th annual Open Studio Tour, with 22 participating artists and artisans, will take place on July 30, 31 and August 1 from 11 am to 6 pm. For more information visit the WCAA website or one of the participating galleries.

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One of the best things about summer in the Upper Delaware River valley are the farmers' markets, farm stores and roadside stands. These wonderful places, reflecting the area's agricultural heritage, can be found on both sides of the river, and are open from early spring into the fall and beyond. The farm markets allow you the opportunity to meet your neighbors, both in line and behind the counter. Farm markets exemplify the concept of buying local and they make it real, too:

you may be able to buy soap at any farmers' market, but not this particular soap; you may be able to find corn and zucchini, tomatoes and onions at any farm market, but they were not grown a few fields over from you. Our area farmers' markets sell many specialty items and natural meat and dairy products in addition to the freshest produce around. So don't wait! Grab your canvas bag or wicker basket and get a load of good, wholesome, affordable food for your pantry and your dinner table tonight.

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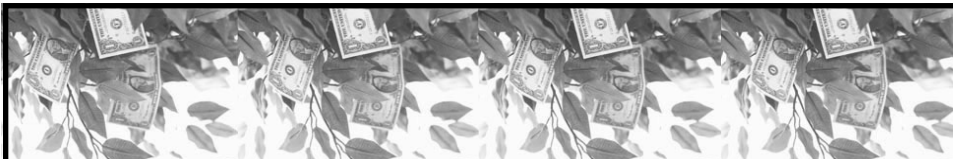
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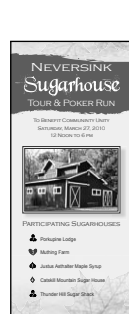


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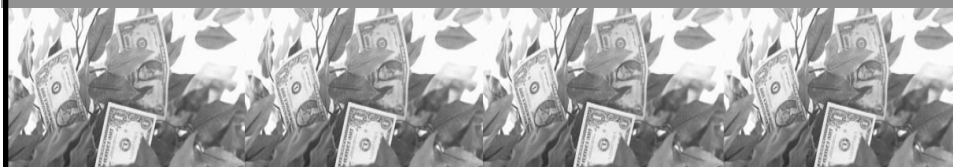


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Photographs by Danielle Gaebel

The Alpine (1106 Texas Palmyra Highway, Route 6 East of Honesdale, PA 18431, 570/253-5899, www.thealpineonline.com), bills itself as “Your Premier Wurst & Meat House and Restaurant.” It lives up to its promise and then some.

The Alpine has both a restaurant and butcher shop/import shop. In addition to various cuts of meat, pork and chicken, the shop stocks specialty cuts and German meats such as bratwurst, bauernwurst, beef tongue and bauernschinken. (Owner Mark Eifert tells his visitors that the deli has 82 different varieties of meat products.) It also has a full selection of deli salads, and a pastry case with a variety of European-style cakes and desserts.

The restaurant invites its diners to “take a trip back to the old country” with a menu that includes German specialties as well as char-broiled steak and a variety of fish, chicken and veal dishes.

The Alpine was opened by Mark's parents over 30 years ago. His father Klaus was born and raised in Leipzig, Germany, immigrating to the United States in 1960. He worked in a German butcher shop and delicatessen in New Jersey before relocating to Honesdale. The Alpine opened its doors in 1977 and has remained a family business. It hosts various events and celebrations during the year, including the upcoming Oktoberfest on August 20 to 22, featuring food, music and, of course, beer.

Why is the Alpine so popular with both loyal locals and first-time vacationers? In addition to the fresh and delicious cuisine, “it's the authentic European atmosphere,” says Mark. “All that we do—our products, the atmosphere, the service, the food—is true to German and Austrian traditions.”

The Alpine is open every day but Monday. Call the number above or visit the website for hours and to see menus and offerings.

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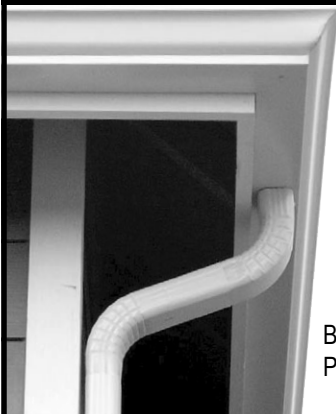
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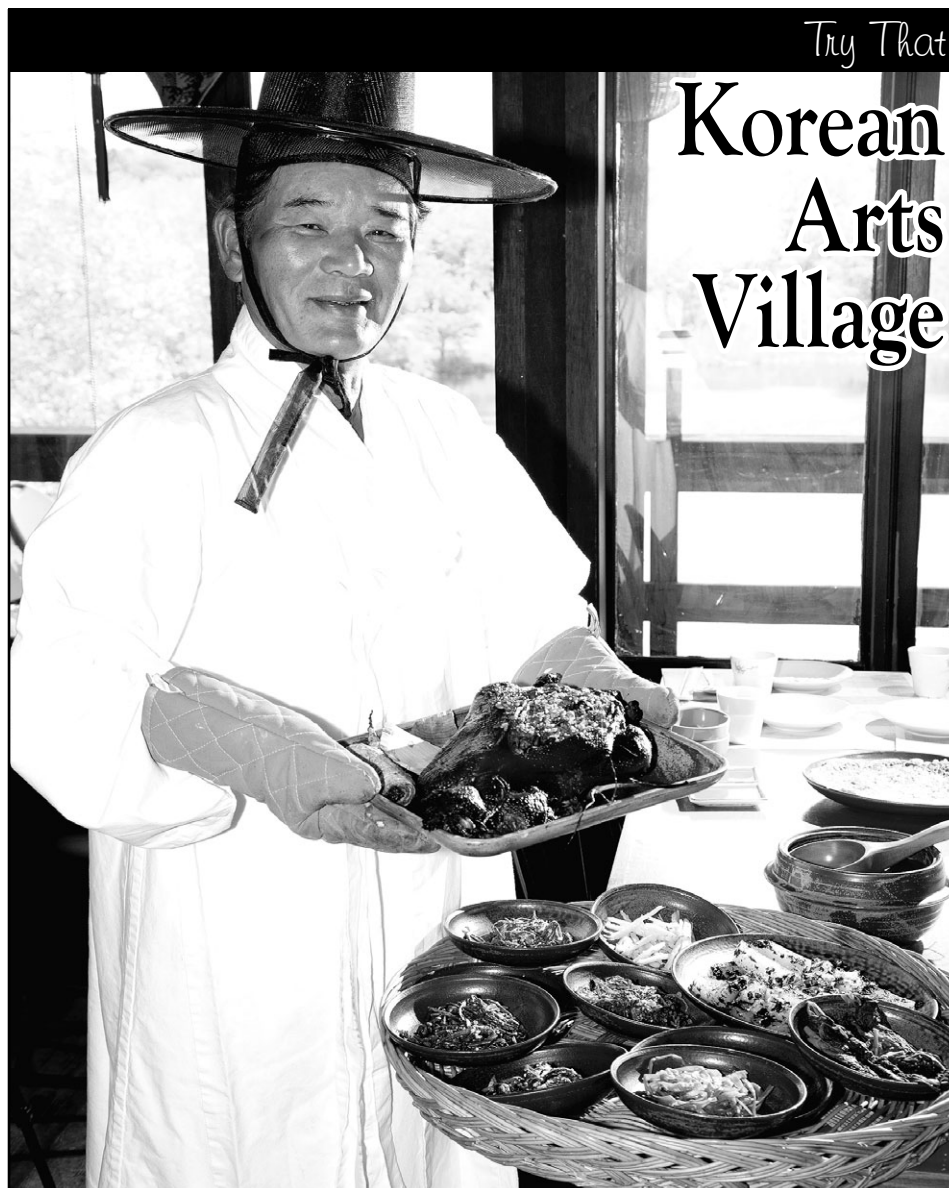


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Try That

Korean Arts Village



Contributed photograph

Travel on 17B through Bethel, and you will see a sign for Korean Arts Village (2572 Route 17B, Bethel, NY 12720, 845/583-1010.) Of all the people who see the sign and keep driving, restaurant owner Loren Kim says, “One day they actually decide to stop, and then they become our regular customers.”

There is no better time than now to take the road down to a culinary adventure.

The family-run Korean Arts Village opened in 2006 and is now in its fourth season. Kim’s uncle, Mr. Ahn, came to the United States to become the chef after 20 years of running a restaurant in Korea. Thus, the cuisine at Korean Arts is very authentic to Korean cooking. “Korean food is not as popular or globalized yet as, say, Chinese food,” says Kim. “We are familiar, but somehow very different as well.” In order to help her customers appreciate what they are eating, Kim takes time to explain what the food is, its cultural meaning, how it is prepared and how to eat it.

The restaurant serves vegetarian fare as well as beef, chicken and pork. “A very popular dish is called bibimbap,” says Kim. “It is rice ball with all varieties of cooked vegetables on the top. It’s a great meal to explain different vegetables, and it is very nutritious. It comes

with a sweet pepper paste on the side.”

Other favorites are Galbi barbecue, which is beef shortribs marinated in a sauce made from fruit juice and rice wine, soy sauce and garlic. A Korean delicacy, popular with Kim’s Korean customers as well as others, is a roast duck prepared the traditional Korean way, stuffed with healthy grains and rice and cooked for several hours in earthenware pressure cooker. This special dish, which is enough to feed three or four people, must be ordered two hours in advance by calling the restaurant.

Korean Arts Village also prepares local rainbow trout and eel dishes, along with other fish dishes. It has a select offering of Korean plum wines, rice wines and sakes. There is outdoor seating with a view overlooking the lake on the grounds, which, Kim says, is also available for fishing after dinner.

In the future, says Kim, she hopes to develop the site to become a small Korean museum and village, with displays that will entertain guests and educate them about Korean history, games and culture.

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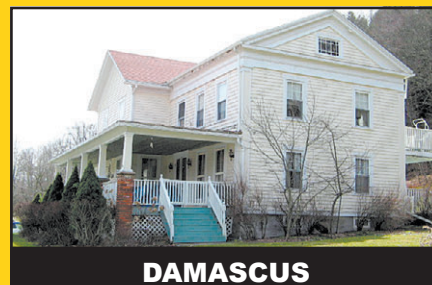
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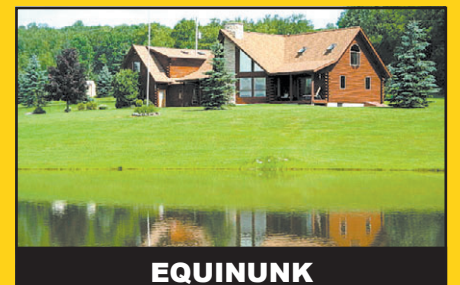


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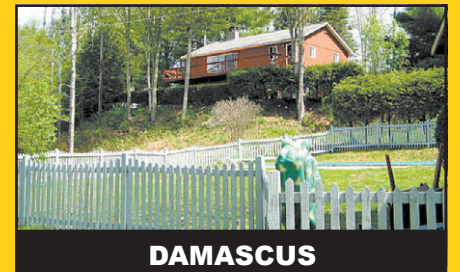
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The martini bar at Front Porch Café, Bethel, NY will leave you wanting another.

Fifty flavors of old fashioned milk shakes at Riverside Creamery, Port Jervis, NY.

The vast array of local food and craft producers at the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, Bethel, NY.

The many quaint shops at Apple Valley Village, Milford, PA.



Wednesday night jazz on the deck at Settler's Inn, Hawley, PA.

Live music on Wednesday nights with the Callicoon Center Bank in Callicoon, NY.

The Christmas Shoppe at Canal Towne Emporium, Wurtsboro, NY.



The soulful alpacas at Nature's Reserve Alpacas, Callicoon, NY.

Creamery tours at Calkins Creamery, Honesdale, PA — learn how cheese is made.



Experience the Sixties at the Museum at Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, Bethel, NY.

The Dorflinger-Sudam Wildlife Sanctuary and Glass Museum in White Mills, PA.

Local wine tastings at Antler Ridge Winery in Pennsylvania.

Pick-your-own— blueberries at Paupack Blueberry Farm, Paupack, PA or flowers at The Cutting Garden, Youngsville, NY.



Rail to Trail historic and renovated bike paths in Liberty, NY.



Community theater at its best - Ritz Company Playhouse, Hawley, PA.

Visit The Ten Mile River Scout Museum in Narrowsburg, NY on the 100th Anniversary of scouting in America.

Tour the grounds and castle at Grey Towers National Historic Site, Milford, PA.

The regional pottery studios listed on the Sullivan County Pottery Trail.



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THE BEST BALLOT IS BACK!

We have added some new categories to our extensive best ballot! There are 255 categories but you do not have to fill all of them out. We ask that you simply vote for the people, places or businesses that you think are the best. Thank you for your participation and we look forward to receiving your choices.

We will publish our 2010 WINNERS in our annual Reader's Choice Awards "BEST" supplement in January 2011.

Good Luck to all!

BEST PLACES FOR FOOD & DRINK

- Appetizers _____
- Artisan Bakery _____
- Bakery _____
- Barbecue _____
- Beer Selection _____
- Breakfast _____
- Brunch _____
- Buffet/Smorgasbord _____
- Candy Shop _____
- Cheesecake _____
- Cheesesteak Sandwich _____
- Chicken BBQ (volunteer) _____
- Chinese Restaurant _____
- Coffee House _____
- Deli _____
- Desserts _____
- Diner _____
- Dinner _____
- Early Bird Specials _____
- Family Restaurant _____
- Fresh Bread _____
- Fresh Meats _____
- Gourmet Restaurant _____
- Grocery Store/Supermarket _____
- Hamburgers _____
- Happy Hour _____
- Health Food Store _____
- Home Cookin' Restaurant _____
- Ice Cream Parlor _____
- Italian Restaurant _____
- Kid Friendly Restaurant _____
- Liquor Store _____
- Lunch _____
- Lunch with the Girls _____
- Martinis _____
- Menu _____
- New Restaurant (non-chain) _____
- Pancake Breakfast _____
- Pasta Dish _____
- Pizza _____
- Prime Rib _____
- Produce _____
- Outdoor Dining _____
- Overall Restaurant: _____
- in Delaware County _____
- in Orange County _____
- in Pike County _____
- in Sullivan County _____
- in Wayne County _____
- in the Region _____
- Restaurant with a View _____
- Ribs _____
- Romantic Restaurant _____
- Salad Bar _____
- Sandwiches _____
- Seafood _____
- Soups _____
- Specialty Food Store _____
- Sports Bar _____
- Steakhouse _____
- Takeout Restaurant _____
- Vegetarian Food/Restaurant _____
- Wedding/Specialty Cakes _____
- Wine Selection _____
- Wings _____

BEST PLACES TO SHOP

- Antique Store _____
- ATVs _____
- Auto Parts Store _____
- Baby/Kids Store _____
- Bait & Tackle Store _____
- Boat Dealer _____
- Bookstore _____
- Collectibles Store _____
- Convenience Store _____
- Electronics _____
- Farm Equipment Retailer _____
- Flooring Store _____
- Florist _____
- Furniture Store _____
- Garden Center _____
- Gift Shop _____
- Hardware Store _____
- Home Improvement Center _____
- Hot Tub Store _____
- Jewelry Store _____
- Kitchen Supply Store _____
- Knit Shop _____
- Lumberyard _____
- Mattress Store _____
- Men's Clothing _____
- Motorcycle Shop _____
- Music Store _____
- New Car Dealership _____
- New Retail Shop _____
- Outdoor Recreation Store _____
- Pet Shop _____
- Place to Buy Art _____
- Pottery Studio _____
- Shopping Area _____
- Specialty Store (not food) _____
- Sporting Goods Shop _____
- Tire Store _____
- Used Car Dealership _____
- Vintage Shop _____
- Wine Shop _____
- Women's Clothing _____

BEST BUSINESSES & SERVICES

- Auto Service Station _____
- Bank _____
- Builder's Association _____
- Car Rental _____
- Cellular Service Provider _____
- Christmas Tree Farm _____
- Eye Care Center _____
- Elder Care Facility _____
- Emergency Room _____
- Fitness Center _____
- Funeral Home _____
- Gas Station _____
- Green Business _____
- Heating Fuel Company _____
- Home & Garden Store _____
- Hospital/Medical Facility _____
- Insurance Agency _____
- Kennel _____
- Kid's Camp _____
- Laundromat _____
- Limo Service _____
- Maternity Unit _____
- Modular Homes _____
- Mortgage Company _____
- New Business of the Year (not food) _____
- Pet Grooming _____
- Pet Pampering _____
- Pharmacy _____
- Photography Studio _____
- Plumbing & Heating Supply _____
- Rehabilitation Services _____
- Rental Center _____
- Real Estate Office _____
- Spa or Personal Pampering _____
- Storage Center _____
- Tattoo Parlor _____
- Towing Service _____
- Trash Collection Service _____
- Tuxedo Rentals _____
- Veterinarian Clinic _____
- Well Driller _____
- Yoga Center _____

BEST OF OUR COMMUNITY

- Ambulance Squad _____
- Animal Shelter _____
- Chamber of Commerce _____
- Civic Club or Organization _____
- Community Festival or Event _____
- Fair _____
- Farm Market _____
- Fire Department _____
- Historic Site _____
- Library _____
- Local: _____
- Artist _____
- Author _____
- Celebrity _____
- Farm _____
- Getaway _____
- Golf Pro _____
- Musician/Band _____
- Photographer _____
- Locally Made: _____
- Cheese _____
- Maple Syrup _____
- Wine _____
- Most Attractive Building _____
- Museum _____
- Neighborhood _____
- Parade _____
- Penny Social _____
- Pet Event _____
- Place to Play Bingo _____
- Place in the River Valley _____
- Place of Worship _____
- Politician _____
- Post Office _____
- Radio Station _____
- Secret Treasure _____
- Scenic Drive _____
- Special Area Attraction _____
- Sullivan Renaissance Project _____
- Youth Center _____
- Youth Program _____

BEST PLACES

- Amusement/Fun Park _____
- Art Gallery _____
- Atmosphere _____
- Bed & Breakfast _____
- Bowling Lanes _____
- Canoe Livery _____
- Campground _____
- College _____
- Date Spot _____
- Day Trip _____
- Golf Course _____
- Horseback Riding _____
- Movie Theatre _____
- Night Out _____
- Place for Karaoke _____
- Place to Hold a Prom _____
- Place to Meet Singles _____
- Place to Stay _____
- Place to take the Kids _____
- Place to Work _____
- Playhouse Theatre _____
- Private School _____
- Resort _____
- Ski Lodge _____
- Wedding Reception Location _____
- Winery _____

BEST PEOPLE

- Accountant _____
- Architect _____
- Arborist _____
- Auto Mechanic _____
- Bank Teller _____
- Barber _____
- Bartender _____
- Builder _____
- Butcher _____
- Caterer _____
- Carpenter _____
- Car Salesman _____
- Chef _____
- Chiropractor _____
- Clergy _____
- Coach _____
- Customer Service _____
- Dentist _____
- Doctor _____
- Electrician _____
- Excavator _____
- Green Developer _____
- Hair Dresser _____
- Holistic Practitioner _____
- Interior Decorator _____
- Landscaper _____
- Lawyer _____
- Law Enforcement Officer _____
- Massage Therapist _____
- Medical Specialist _____
- Ob-Gyn _____
- Pediatrician _____
- Physical Therapist _____
- Plumber _____
- Postmaster _____
- Radio Personality _____
- Real Estate Agent _____
- Roofer _____
- Salesperson _____
- Taxidermist _____
- Teacher _____
- Volunteer _____
- Waiter/Waitress _____
- Web Designer _____

HOW TO VOTE: Print clearly or type your choices for "THE BEST" from the categories listed. Include the name and town of business, organization, place or person you are voting for. Best choices are limited to Delaware, Orange, Pike, Sullivan and Wayne counties.

HOW TO ENTER: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Additional ballots are available at **The River Reporter** office at 93 Erie Ave, Narrowsburg, NY—**LIMIT ONE PER PERSON.** Ballots MUST be complete and include full name, address and phone number of voter. All ballots must be received by December 31, 2010. Employees of **The River Reporter** and **Stuart Communications** are permitted to vote but not eligible to win prizes.

HOW TO WIN PRIZES: All ballots will be included in a random drawing for prizes listed on entry form. Drawing will be held January 2011. No duplicate winners. Chances to win are determined by the number of entries. BEST Winners will be notified in January 2011.

OFFICIAL "BEST" BALLOT ENTRY FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

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I buy it on newsstands

MAIL BALLOT ENTRY FORMS TO:

The River Reporter "BEST"
PO Box 150,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764

or DROP OFF AT:
93 Erie Avenue,
Narrowsburg, NY 12764



Originally named Margherita Falls, the Sonoma Falls were once the backdrop of a Salem menthol cigarette ad. A copy of the ad hangs inside the store.

RUSTIC CHARM

Text and Photographs by Erin Vanderberg



Sonoma Falls Cider Mill and Country Market (140 Old Liberty Road, Livingston Manor, NY, 12758, 845/439-4949/store or 607-498-6008/office) sits on an incredible piece of real estate: 127 acres of woods in the Catskill foothills with a seven-tiered waterfall running through it. It's a roadside attraction, but one that you can't see from the road. The waterfalls alone make a visit worthwhile, but once you arrive there is so much more to see and do. You can spend a day or a week at this year-round attraction.

A spot for all seasons

In the summer, catch trout in a stocked pond—poles and permits provided, and priced by the pound. In the fall, watch the cider mill pressing fresh juice or take a hayride to a two-acre pumpkin patch. In the winter, hop on a toboggan or put on some ice skates, pick out your holiday tree, or watch the sugar house in full steam. In the spring, hike to the top of the falls along wildflower-lined trails—or, better yet, take a horseback ride. “Sonoma Falls is a year-round resort where people can come spend the day inexpensively and really enjoy what the mountains have to offer,” says co-owner Elvin “Woody” Wood.

Throughout the year, the market stocks produce, preserves, meats and sweets. They recommend you give a call to see what's on the agenda the day of your visit.

Entrepreneurial spirit

Two real estate developers opened Sonoma Falls last fall. Manhattanite Jerry Turco, who develops properties throughout the United States, comes to Roscoe on the weekends and

& SWEET CIDER

The delicious beauty of Sonoma Falls



1. The hydraulic press is basically an elevator that squeezes juice.

2. Jerry and Woody contemplated tearing down the old barn rather than do the work it took to restore it, but they're happy with the resulting structure.

is also the proprietor of a restaurant there, Live Bait (1987 Old Route 17). Sullivan County native Wood is a businessman turned politician, currently in the position of county legislator representing District 3 around Livingston Manor. Turco and Wood formed Twin Rivers Land Development to develop log cabin homes in the area. When they purchased the Sonoma Falls attraction, they had the resources to get the job done with their own staff. They hired can-do manager Paul Haan this year, a fifth-generation farmer from Callicoon Center.

“Sonoma Falls is a year-round resort where people can come spend the day inexpensively and really enjoy what the mountains have to offer.”

-Elwin “Woody” Wood

Applicious

After several months of tearing down and repairing buildings, Turco, Wood and their soon-to-be-manager Hahn went to pick up the cider mill over Labor Day weekend. Wood knew Wayside Farms mill from his trips through Wolcott, NY, to Lake Ontario. When he couldn't get cider there, he had the idea to buy the mill.

The hardscrabble Catskills foothills are not ideal apple conditions, but orchards in New Paltz (spring) and the Syracuse area (fall) deliver a variety of sweet apples by the crate. Sonoma Falls cider never tastes the same twice, and that is by design.

The cider mill operation is designed to be completely visible to the public. Apples roll into the barn from an outdoor holding bin onto a conveyor belt, where a few hands sort the bad from the bunch before they reach the wash stage. The clean apples enter the grinder to become pumice. The pumice is then pressed. When the batch is complete, the juice runs from a holding tank through the UV processor and into a refrigerated 440-gallon tank where it is gravity-fed straight to the store cider fountain and served fresh or bottled. It takes about 36 apples to produce one gallon of apple cider.

Essential sweetness

The shop serves small meals and caters to those interested in taking home souvenirs and gifts. Fudge, ice cream, confections, jams, maple syrup, honey and, in the cooler, the bestsellers: sweet cider and pork and beef from Hahn's farm. The shop is applying for a Pride of New York certification, a seal that would help to drive home the local provenance of its dry goods, assorted sundries, cider and maple syrup.

The maple sugaring season generally begins in late winter, depending on weather and sap flow. The sap is tapped onsite and carried either by bucket or fed by plastic tube. The crew bases the thermostat off of

a hydrometer reading and then gets down to steamy business of sugaring. The stove is stainless steel, wood-fired, with cord wood stacked neatly around it. It lives inside a cozy new building adjacent to the store. The sap comes into the stove and separates into drop flues that maximize surface area and increase boiling times. After that, the digital draw-off knows when the syrup is cooked (usually around temperatures of 216 to 219 degrees Fahrenheit), and automatically opens the valve to the finished product. Then the syrup is filtered and bottled. As the season progresses, the syrup changes grades, starting light and going darker. Forty gallons of sap becomes about one gallon of syrup.

Getting better all the time

Sonoma Falls continues to improve every week. Turco, Wood and Hahn are trail building, fencing and adding finishing touches to what they built last year. They are putting some cookouts on the calendar, and are catering to events. Most importantly, they are finishing the campsites that will make the attraction a one-stop family-fun destination. “This place is about having fun, that's basically it,” says Turco. “Every week it's better.”

Sonoma Falls is open year-round, seven days a week. Call ahead for activities and menu options. The website is under construction at www.sonomafallsny.com.

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"Helpful, knowledgeable staff and good quality items you can't get elsewhere..."

"I found the place by accident. The soup was excellent - I will return."

"Steps above other stores."

"[I] love the feeling I get visiting the store - all of my favorite things in one place."

"Unique products and fresh baked goods are wonderful ! ... I really love your store."

"[The market] makes me feel good -- good space, excellent products, great people."

SOURCE: CHM Customer Satisfaction Survey, 2010.

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