

NW Passages

October 2014

*Exploring the Greenways, Heritage & Recreation
Opportunities of Northwest Pennsylvania*



NW PAssages

October 2014

Volume 1, Issue 4

Sophia, a Barred Owl, was rescued by Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation in Saegertown, Crawford Co. She now serves as an Educational Ambassador.

Photo by Troy Parrett



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It's free to subscribe to **NW PAssages**, just email us with your request.
beth@westpamaq.com

Don't be shy, please contact us! Story ideas, event info, photos and suggestions are welcome.

About the Cover
NW PA's spectacular Nature & Heritage are exemplified by the 1832 Iron Furnace in Rockland Twp., Venango County. Situated along Shull Run near Freedom Falls, the fiery furnace turned raw materials into pig iron until 1854. The refined product was shipped down the Allegheny for use in Pittsburgh's thriving steel industry.
Photo by Tim Rudisille



Letter from the Editors -

Welcome to the October edition of NW PAssages, as our region's Autumn foliage begins to peak. This month is a wonderful time for adventuring through western PA's roadways, trailways and waterways. Our story about the Washington Trail describes the ultimate road trip along the route young Major George Washington followed in the severe winter of 1753-54.

Featured Photographer Tim Rudisille of Oil City shares his amazing captures of the beautiful flora and fauna that's so plentiful in our region.

We turn the spotlight upon a heartwarming animal rescue shelter in Crawford County -- Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center -- whose staff and volunteers go far above and beyond to heal hundreds of birds and other creatures each year.

This month's Featured Business -- the Barnard House Bed & Breakfast in Emlenton -- provides marvelous accommodations along the Allegheny River in southern Venango County. The owners, Paul and Cathy Kentzel, have restored the 1893 Victorian-style house and continue to upgrade the amenities they offer travelers.

Be sure to check out the Schedule of Events pages, ripe with happenings related to Recreation, Nature & History.

Happy Autumnal Trails! 🍁

Stephen & Beth West



Photo by Tim Rudisille

This monthly electronic E-magazine was produced with financial assistance by the PA Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation via Greenways Block Grant Program grant to the County of Venango, awarded by the Northwest PA Regional Planning and Development Commission. Additional funds were provided by the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry and Tourism; the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance; and the Council on Greenways and Trails. Opinions and information expressed in this E-magazine are not necessarily those of the County of Venango, DCNR, ORA, EPTA, the Northwest Commission, or CGT.

Exploring Western Pennsylvania's Washington Trail

History and Nature are in abundance along the routes Major George Washington traveled through our region. Leaving Maryland on Halloween 1753, his arduous diplomatic mission to the French commander at Fort LeBoeuf (Waterford, Erie Co.) was fraught with peril, nearly costing the 21-year-old aristocrat his life at least twice.

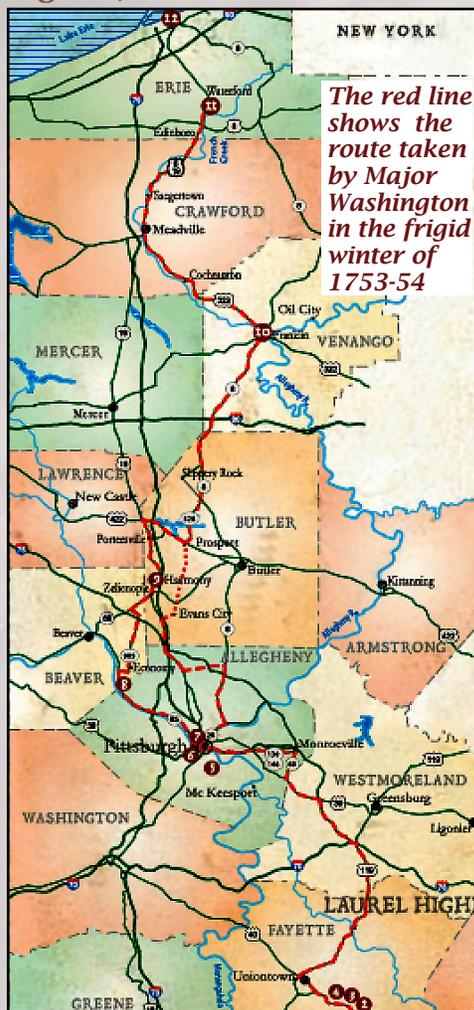
The path taken by the Father of our Country was designated the Washington Trail in 2000, providing travelers an intriguing window into the lush wilderness he encountered 260 years ago. The Commonwealth has marked the entire driving route with helpful signs (right), and has provided information about the fascinating historic sites along the way.



Historic Backdrop

In the 1750s, the future western Pennsylvania became the focus of international conflict, as control of this wilderness region was sought by the French, British and Native tribes.

The Venango Path was a major Native American trail through this vast forest, traveled by Major George Washington during the bitter winter of 1753-54 from present-day Pittsburgh to Franklin, then on to Waterford. These confluence sites and others like Presque Isle were critical to military control of the western regions, and the French were building forts to establish autonomy.



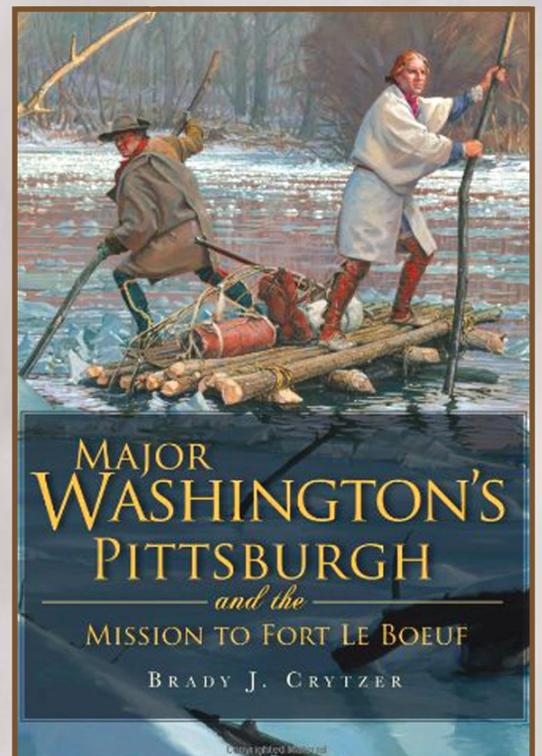
Major Washington (1732-99) was sent by Governor Dinwiddie and King George to demand that the French vacate the Ohio Country, as our region was known then. Accompanying him was a small band of frontiersmen and Native leaders, including Guyasuta (circa 1725-94), nephew of the legendary Seneca warrior, Chief Cornplanter. The French declined to cede their bid for control of the region, and the French & Indian War ensued.

Washington's journal of his amazing expedition through western Pennsylvania was published by a Baltimore newspaper, then republished in book form, becoming an international best seller. Although only in his mid-twenties, the young Virginia Militia officer became a celebrity as world war erupted. Promoted to Colonel, Washington distinguished himself as a courageous and capable leader during battles in the region, including at Fort Necessity, the Battle of Monongahela, and the Forbes Expedition which drove the French from Pennsylvania.



On Dec. 4, 1753, Major George Washington and his band of frontiersmen and Native leaders arrived at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River. The French were laying the groundwork for Fort Machault at this strategic location, near the ancient Delaware village of Venango (present-day Franklin, Venango County).

Detail from oil painting by Deac Mong of Franklin



The cover of this historical novel depicts Major George Washington and his faithful scout Christopher Gist, attempting to ford the Allegheny River on a swiftly constructed raft in Dec. 1753. Using firsthand accounts, including the journals of George Washington himself, historian Brady Crytzer reconstructs the complex world of eighteenth-century Pittsburgh and western PA, the native peoples who inhabited the region, and the empires vying for control. Artwork by John Buxton

Here's what Major Washington wrote below:

The French are now coming from their Forts on Lake Erie & on the Creek, to Venango to erect another Fort -- and from thence they design to the Forks of Monongahela and to the Logs Town, and so to continue down the River building at the most convenient places in order to prevent our settlements & etc. A little below Shanopius Town in the Fork is the place where we are going immediately to build a Fort as it commands the Ohio and Monongahela.

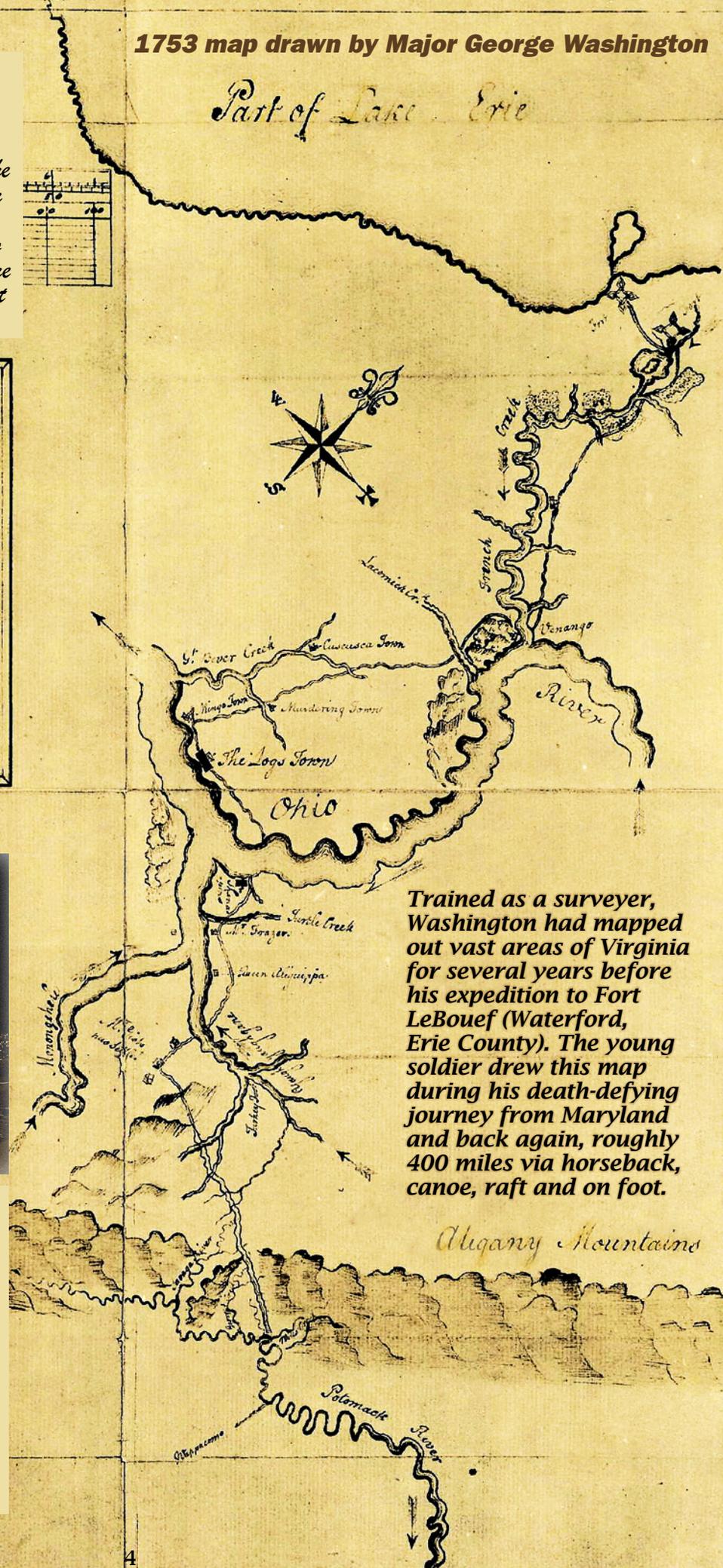
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N.B. A little below Shanopius Town in the Fork is the place where we are going immediately to build a Fort as it commands the Ohio and Monongahela.



Major Washington and Seneca leader Goyasuta were staunch allies for many years, depicted in this 750-pound bronze sculpture atop Mt. Washington in Pittsburgh. Entitled "Point of View," it was created by artist James West to symbolize the alliance formed in 1753 by these warriors from different cultures, who met in this vicinity and journeyed together throughout western PA.

Photo by Kyle Yates



Trained as a surveyor, Washington had mapped out vast areas of Virginia for several years before his expedition to Fort LeBouef (Waterford, Erie County). The young soldier drew this map during his death-defying journey from Maryland and back again, roughly 400 miles via horseback, canoe, raft and on foot.

Allegheny Mountains



108 River Ave.
Emlenton, PA 16373
(724) 867-2261

Nostalgic Charm along the Allegheny River

The mighty Allegheny is no stranger to my husband, Paul, and me. We both grew up along this river and eventually married on a

mountain overlook with dreams to one day call the region our home. After some rough times, we decided to leave our suburban lifestyle in Pittsburgh and start to make our dreams a reality.

I found the rural 1893 Victorian home, known in the Emlenton valley as “**The Barnard House,**” in an internet search. The home was in disrepair and needed plenty of TLC. We both have backgrounds in historical renovations and estate management, which enabled us to envision a fresh approach in lodging. The Barnard House was structurally recreated -- preserving the historical charm and enhancing the home’s features -- to provide lodging for ten guests in five rooms. The house contains elements of the Barnard family, recycled furnishings and quirky thrift store finds.

Together, Paul and I began to craft a business plan tailored to the demographics of the recreationist visiting the Oil Region for the natural beauty and adventure opportunities. We envisioned having the bed and breakfast offer local foods, goods, services and suppliers, thus presenting some of the wonderful things the region has to offer, while promoting other small businesses and economic growth.

This business concept won first place in the Oil Region Alliance’s 2014 entrepreneurial contest, “Get On The Trail.” We were awarded with funds to purchase a hot tub and signage to enhance our guests/trail user’s experience at the B & B.

Over the long winter, the interior of The Barnard House was transformed by using bright colors which brought life into the home’s common spaces. Modern amenities were added to provide guests additional comforts. Paul and his son, Aspen, installed new plumbing, electric, heating and insulation. I painted extensively and designed unique, nostalgic spaces.

Our dream to live along the river has become a reality. We dream now of the wonderful possibilities outdoor recreation has brought to the region. In June, the B & B opened its doors with a state of the art website, thebarnardhouse.com, that potential guests can navigate easily to reserve rooms.



Charming kitchen nook overlooking the Allegheny

Since The Barnard House had its grand opening, we are amazed at the volume of guests who are visiting the valley to utilize the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and enjoy the river.

Currently, we are creating a garden patio that spans the back yard and can accommodate small events. There will be an exterior restroom/

changing room adjacent to the seven-person hot tub, which is surrounded by a recycled bottle wall.

In 2015, our next project will be “The Best House.” This home sits next door and owns the river frontage. The Best House will sleep eight to ten guests, and will serve as a vacation rental and B & B overflow venue. My husband and I plan on creating educational workshops, lectures and seminars in the arts, history, wellness, nature and recreation categories. Both homes will provide lodging for presenters and attendees. Small events will be welcome, since the two homes will provide lodging to twenty persons. Emlenton and surrounding towns in the valley will be showcased with pride. 🏠



*Story & photos by
Cathy Kentzel
Co-owner of The
Barnard House B & B*

Happy 25th Anniversary to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center!



Story by
Stephen West

Thanks to founder Harriet Wilson's original vision of rescuing wildlife, thousands of NW PA's wounded creatures have been restored to health and returned to their habitats by the non-profit facility. The center specializes in treating birds of prey, and in the last few years, the center has mainly focused on caring for this type of patient - along with songbirds, turtles and

opossums. Their mission is to treat their patients' wounds, often in association with veterinarians, then return them to the wild if they make a full recovery. For the ones with permanent disabilities, the center sometimes provides them with meaningful new lives as public "educators."

The staff and volunteers teach visitors at the facility in **Saegertown, Crawford County**, and also bring the education birds offsite to schools, nursing homes and festivals.

Recently, we caught up with **Tamarack's executive director, Carol Holmgren**, between her caregiving duties. Her full schedule that day included removing wing wraps from birds on the mend, transitioning her patients to different areas of the facility, and preparing for the annual Open House on Sunday, October 5th. Holmgren had started the day by posting pictures on Tamarack's facebook page, proudly sharing the previous evening's successful release of a great horned owl after treatment.

The bird had been found by a Waterford postal carrier, who had noticed him perched on top of a mailbox for several days, finally realizing that the owl wasn't a statue and needed help. The owl had probably been hit by a car, like many rescued birds, and suffered a concussion and eye injury. He was also starving and severely dehydrated. Holmgren's team provided their patient with anti-inflammatories, analgesics, electrolytes and other treatments, and veterinarians were consulted throughout the process.



A great horned owl takes flight following treatment at Tamarack.

The picture of health once again, a year-old female bald eagle is returned to the wild by Tamarack executive director Carol Holmgren and summer supervisor Christian Hrinda. The bird was released near Pymatuning Lake, Mercer Co. after treatment for a wing injury.



Photos by Larry Slomski

Six weeks later, this bird, like many other Tamarack patients, flew back to his woodland home in northwestern Pennsylvania. The director makes it clear that these achievements owe much to the extraordinary veterinarians of our region and beyond. Tamarack's rural base in Saegertown receives enormous support from a number of facilities, including avian specialist Dr. Kevin Ramey of **Animal Ark** and **Animal Kingdom Pet Hospitals in Erie**, and **Greener Pastures Veterinary Clinic in nearby Meadville**. For some dilemmas, they turn to Dr. Jamie Lindstrom in Cleveland, an avian veterinarian and raptor specialist.

Holmgren praises these doctors for generously donating their services. "God bless their hearts," she exclaims. Treatment costs are still high, though, for such things as x-rays and medicine.

For example, in order to treat Bald Eagles suffering from lead poisoning, the center maintains onsite blood lead testing equipment and has medication compounded by Pharmacy Innovations in Erie on hand at all times. Both the

lead test strips and medication have a limited shelf life and are an on-going expense. Bald Eagles sometimes ingest lead from the remains of animals hunted with lead bullets, such as deer.

Tamarack receives most of its funding from members and donors, along with some grant money and contributions for its education programs. Some people are surprised to learn the center receives no state or federal funds. "It's incredibly inspiring how the care we provide is made possible, because so many people care," says Carol. "Many of our members and donors aren't even in the area, but they believe in the work being accomplished and give generously."

Our work with threatened and endangered species is especially heartwarming," Holmgren said. The rehab and education center is overseen by state and federal agencies, the PA Game Commission (whose wildlife conservation officers often bring them injured birds, especially Bald Eagles), and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Holmgren became executive director of Tamarack last year, following a seven-year apprenticeship under Sue DeArment, who retired in 2013. Carol has basically been a wildlife rehabilitator since her childhood in Ohio, where neighborhood children would entrust her with injured birds, and other creatures. "It was trial and error at first, and I made some mistakes," she lamented. In the process, though, she sought help from the wildlife rescue community in her area, where she learned proper techniques and became involved in their education and rehab efforts.

Holmgren became an environmental educator after college, focusing on raptors. She then spent a decade directing Outdoor Programs for Allegheny College before returning to her first love by teaming up with Tamarack.

"It's incredibly inspiring how the care we provide is even possible, because so many people care," said Carol Holmgren, Executive Director.



Rub-a-dub-dub, it's a hawk in a tub. A leucistic (white) Red-tailed Hawk was admitted with serious injuries and dirt ground into his feathers after being caught in a leg hold trap. Bathing had been postponed due to her second surgery, but it was finally time. Once stabilized, she needed a bath to prevent deterioration of her feathers. This is done in a warm room using 104 degree water to prevent chilling of the bird, and the eyes were covered with a falconry hood to minimize the bird's stress. Lastly, she was dried with a combination of blow drying and resting under the warmth of a heat lamp. Now her whites were white again!

Photos by Carol Holmgren

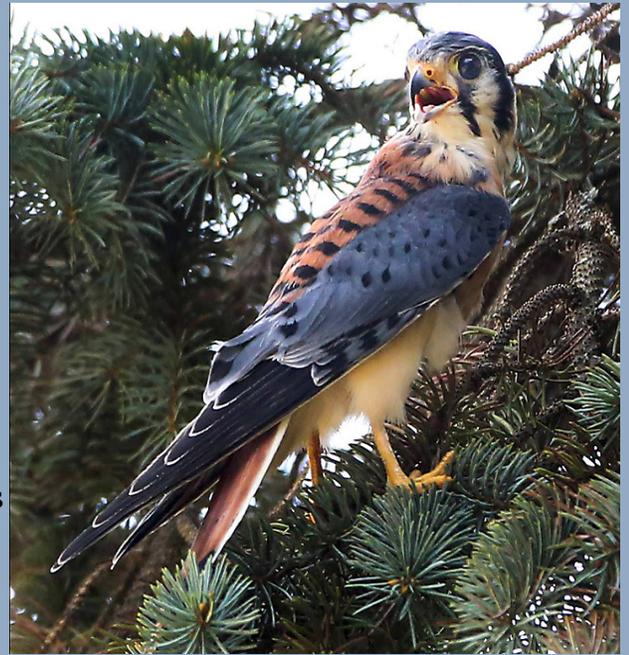


This magnificent five year old female Bald Eagle was treated for a fractured wing after being hit by a car. After surgery and nine months of physical therapy, she was released along Brokenstraw Creek near Warren, PA.



Upon release, a female American Kestrel flew into a tree and fanned out her tail feathers. She was raised from infancy at the center after her nest was destroyed.

Despite doctoring animals as a child, Carol urges the public to swiftly report or arrange to bring injured creatures to Tamarack or another licensed care center, where all of the patient's medical and dietary needs will be provided for by professionals. New laws and regulations require that wounded wildlife be cared for by accredited facilities such as Tamarack. Each animal's unique challenges can then be met by caregivers with many years of education and experience in the field.



Male American Kestrel raised at the center from a chick and just released. Male kestrels have slate blue wings, while those of females are brown.

Photos by Larry Slomski (unless noted)

Tamarack works together with other centers such as the Animal Rescue League Wildlife Center in Verona (Allegheny County) and Skye's Spirit Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Barkeyville (southern Venango County). "If we can't help a particular species, we will refer callers to another center. Sometimes we also transfer a patient from one facility to another if one of us is able to give better care or is already caring for other patients of the same species. And we share knowledge with each other. There aren't many rehabilitators in Western PA, so each one is very important, and it's helpful when we can work together," explained Holmgren.

Five nestling American Kestrels were raised at Tamarack after their nest was destroyed. As they grew, they were housed with a non-releasable adult kestrel and practiced their hunting skills. They were released in late summer.



Photo by Carol Holmgren



*The public is invited to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center to meet live raptors at its free **annual Open House** on Sunday, October 5, 1 - 3 pm. Non-releasable "education" hawks, owls and falcons will be presented "on the glove" by handlers for the public to view up close and personal. Each of these special birds has a disability which prevents it from surviving in the wild, but is otherwise healthy and inspiring to meet. Children's crafts, tours of the admissions facilities, and refreshments will be provided. 21601 Stull Rd., Saegertown, Crawford Co. website: tamarackwildlife.org (814) 763-2574*



Haunted History Walking Tours
October 3-25 @ 7 pm

New Castle is the third largest historic district in PA. Many houses over 100 years harbor tales of death, murder, hauntings, apparitions, strange occurrences & bumps being some of the ghostly happenings in the district. *Haunted history walking tours are only four weekends and considered strenuous. Limited to 20 - reservations required* ~ (724) 658-4022 or email: lawchs@comcast.net
Tickets on website: lawrencechs.com
Sponsored by Lawrence Co. Historical Society

DRAKE WELL BY MOONLIGHT ☺ SAT., OCTOBER 4
When the park gets dark, oil history comes to life!

Tours begin at 6:30 pm, final tour 9:30 pm

Drake Well Museum - 202 Museum Lane, Titusville, PA
(814) 827-2797 www.drakewell.org

Admission - Adults (12 + yrs.) \$8 - Children (3-11 yrs.) \$3
Special Family Rate! Up to 2 Adults & 3 Children - \$20

Tours depart every 10 minutes, last approx. 1.5 hours and cover 1 mile. Arrive early, wear sturdy shoes and bring a flashlight.

Sissons' Pumpkin Patch 🍂

11244 Springfield Road
Girard, PA - Erie County

Begin a family tradition at **Sissons' Pumpkin Patch**. Enjoy a hay ride, the 50' and 70' slides, corn maze, hay fort, obstacle course, sling shots, pedal karts, shelled corn box, no left turn maze, gift shop and more. Plus, concession stand serves lots of delicious food!

Ages 3+ - \$7, Under 2 - Free, Seniors 60+ - \$4.50
Open every Fri., Sat. & Sun. thru Nov. 1 ~ 10 am to dusk
For more info, contact Wendy Sisson at (814) 873-5201

email: info@sissonspumpkinpatch.com
website: sissonspumpkinpatch.com

Autumnal Happenings on the OC&T Railroad
409 S. Perry St., Titusville, PA - Crawford County

Enjoy **Fall Foliage Rides** aboard vintage coach cars while viewing beautiful Oil Creek Valley and listening to the history of oil, lumber & railroads.
Now thru 10/19/14 ~ 11 am Wed. - Sun. plus 3 pm on Sat. & Sun. Ride is a 3-hour, 27-mile round trip.

Train departs from Perry Street Station.

"Train of Terror - The Final Stop" ~ Sat., 10/25

This murder mystery was written especially for the OC&T Railroad. A dinner including *Hobgoblin's Delight, Creepy Crawly Witch's Wands, Evil, Screaming Spiders, Shriveled Brains, Bat Bones in Colwels and Shredded Flesh in Vampire Blood* will be served at 5 pm. But be careful, someone is going to die on the train ... don't trust the people you came with, they may be part of the plot to get rid of someone you love!

For info: call (814) 676-1733 or visit octrr.org



Fall Harvest Festival
Now thru October 31

Hay wagon rides, giant corn maze, pedal carts, slides, animal exhibits, pumpkin sales & more every day!

School tours are available on weekday mornings by reservation.

Port Farms - 2055 Stone Quarry Road
Waterford, PA - Erie County

For more info: (814) 796-4500
website: portfarms.com



Free Kayaking Program / Full Moon Paddle
10/07 & 10/11 at 6 pm

Join Moraine State kayaking adventure. bring own kayak or borrow one of equipment free of



Park in a unique Participants may (lifejacket required) Moraine's kayaks & charge.

Kayakers must be at least 9 years old, and an adult must accompany participants under 18.

For more info or to register: (724) 368-3612 or website: visitPAparks.com

WQED PRESENTS - "PITTSBURGH FROM THE WATER"
Premieres Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 8 pm

Third installment of the hometown trilogy that includes: "Pittsburgh from the Air" & "Pittsburgh from the Air II" Filmed over four seasons, **Pittsburgh from the Water** is WQED's exciting, new documentary showcasing the waters of western Pennsylvania, including picturesque lakes and sleepy streams in outlying counties. The film spotlights the beauty and provides a unique perspective of dozens of local waterways from locations such as: **Allegheny Co.** ~ Allegheny · Monongahela · Ohio Rivers; **Butler Co.** ~ Lake Arthur (Moraine State Park); and **Lawrence Co.** ~ McConnells Mill State Park · Neshannock Creek · Strawberry Fields Quarry
visit www.wqed.com for additional dates & times



CORN MAZES & FALL FUN!

COOLSPRING CORN MAZE

537 Franklin Rd., Mercer, PA - Mercer Co.

There is no place like the Maze! Get lost in Coolspring's "Wizard of Oz" themed maze, plus much more. Western Pennsylvania and Eastern Ohio's #1 Corn Maze and Adventure Farm.

Open now thru November 2, 2014
Fridays 4 - 11 pm; Saturdays 11 am - 11 pm
Sundays 11 am - 8 pm

DON'T MISS OUR DOWN ON THE FARM CAR CRUISE
An amazing day of agriculture and automobiles.

OCTOBER 19 ~ NOON - 4 PM

For more info: (724) 699-3221
website: coolspringmaze.com



IRONS MILL FARMSTEAD

252 Greenfield Rd., New Wilmington, PA - Lawrence Co.

Enjoy fall fun with the whole family with 15 + attractions. 10 acre corn maze, pumpkin meadow, super slides, corncob beach, pumpkin slingshots, hayrides and much more!

Open now thru November 2, 2014
Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays ~10 am - 8 pm

For more info: (724) 992-9343
website: ironsmillfarmstead.com

Offering fun and unique educational field trips to pre-school and elementary students, Fridays in October.

JOHNNY APPLESEED FESTIVAL



Sheffield Memorial Park
318 South Main Street
Sheffield, PA - Warren County
October 10, 11 & 12

Free admission, free parking. Come and relive the history of the great logging boom era this weekend. The skills of old are the competitive events of today, and the same competitive spirit of the lumberjacks of yesteryear is still very much alive at the Ninth Annual **Johnny Appleseed Festival**. Events include: *a wine tasting event, apple pie baking contest, antique tractor pull, a draft horse pull, chain saw carving, professional lumberjack competition, fireworks, crafts and food!*

For more info, visit: johnnyappleseedfest.net

25th Annual Medieval Feast

Riverside Inn, One Fountain Ave.
Cambridge Springs PA - Crawford Co.

The Medieval Feast has always been a best-seller and an audience favorite at the Riverside Inn! Now, returning for its 25th season, The Medieval Feast transports the audience back to the Middle Ages, but with all new hilarious sketch comedy with a Broadway flair as the knaves and wenches meet up with Count Dracula!



*Eat, drink and be merry ~
all without utensils!*

October 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 26, 31

November 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 2014

For more info: (814) 398-4645
or visit theriversideinn.com

Life Run 2014



Sat., Oct. 11
@ 8:30 am

A timed, 3.1 mile (5k) race in the Wine Country of North East, PA during the grape harvest. Run on easy, flat, cross country terrain through the scenic orchards and vineyards of Burch Farms.

All runners, joggers & walkers are welcome! Enjoy the harvest season in a beautiful country setting.

Registration & Sign-In: 7:30 am

Registration Fee: \$30 non-refundable; (includes t-shirt)

Burch Farms (17 minutes from Peach St. & I-90)
9210 Sidehill Road, North East, PA - Erie County

- Free parking - Free babysitting -
- Free water & sports drinks along the course -
- Free wine tasting after the race -

Contact Race Director Kelly Cooney with questions.

(814) 864-1513 / kckcjam@verizon.net
website: peopleforlife.org/runinfo.html



Pumpkin Festival in Volant, PA - Lawrence Co.
Main Street ~ October 11 ~ 10 am - 5 pm

Enjoy the sights, smells & sounds of the season!

Amish fresh donuts, ice cream, baked goods, jams & jellies, local honey, crafts, vendors, chili cook-off, harvest market, live music, horse-drawn hayrides and a ghost walk. And of course, **PUMPKINS!**

For more info: (724) 533-5611 website: volantshops.com

Allegheny-Clarion Valley Farm & Country Fall Driving Tour ~ October 11 ~ 10 am to 5 pm

Visit one stop or all 15 locations to learn about the fascinating history, businesses, diverse points of interest and farms in our region. Lots of pumpkins and fall decorations, plus many local businesses will be at the Baytree Farm selling their many locally-produced products. For more information and to see all the stops on the tour, visit: baytreefarm.com



The 11th Annual Foxburg Festival has something for everyone!

Sunday, October 12 ~ 11 am - 6 pm

Come to Foxburg, Clarion County, for artisans, crafters, musicians, wine, food, Oktoberfest beer & German cuisine, kids entertainment, Chinese auction, raffles, carriage rides, free tours of the winery, old-fashioned grape stomping, canoeing on the Allegheny River & so much more!

This is a spectacular time at the Riverfront on Main St.

Free admission/parking & shuttle services from A.C. Valley Medical Center & elementary school.

* For more info, call Debbie at (724) 659-0021
or visit: foxburgfestival.com *

North Country Trail October Hike

10/19 ~ 1 - 5 pm

Watt's Mill Trailhead - Watt's Mill Rd.
Cannelton, PA - Lawrence County

Join us for our Annual Pumpkin Pie Hike!
Meet at Watts Mill Rd., South Beaver Twp.
Shuttle to Hodgson Rd. for a beautiful hike back to Watts Mill Rd., then on to a 2 1/2 mile hike.

Enjoy a slice of pumpkin pie and some cider.
All are welcome, free of charge.

For more information, call (724) 827-2350
or visit website: northcountrytrail.org/wam



Upcoming Cook Forest State Park Events, Cooksburg, PA

Tue., Oct. 21 - 7:30-10:30pm - Owl Prowl

Explore Cook Forest at night for Pennsylvania's owls as we car-pool to owl hotspots in the park. Barred, great horned, screech and saw-whet owls have been known to make an appearance. Meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environ. Learning Classroom, and bring your flashlights!

Thur., Oct. 30 - 7:30-10:30pm - Cooners & Coyotes

Ever listen to the whines and growls of raccoons or coyotes callin' in the PA Wilds? Meet at the Log Cabin Inn Environ. Learning Classroom for a driving spotlight tour of wildlife hotspots in the park. One never knows what'll show up at night!

Fri., Oct. 31 - 8-10pm - Cathedral by Candlelight

Want to experience something different this Halloween? Step back in time into the depths of the Forest Cathedral with an historical character from the past as your guide as you walk beneath the giants by candlelight. Refreshments will be served afterward. Bring your flashlights!

Sat., Nov. 1 - 11:30am-2:30pm - Fall Foliage Fire Tower/Seneca Point Historical Tour

Please bring your binoculars and meet at the Fire Tower parking lot for a 45 min. historical interpretive tour of Seneca Point. Enjoy a breathtaking view of the fall foliage from the very top of the Fire Tower. Last time the tower will be open to the public until next season.

(814) 744-8407 for more info. website: visitcookforest.com



Bear cubs practice their climbing skills in Oil Creek State Park, Venango Co.



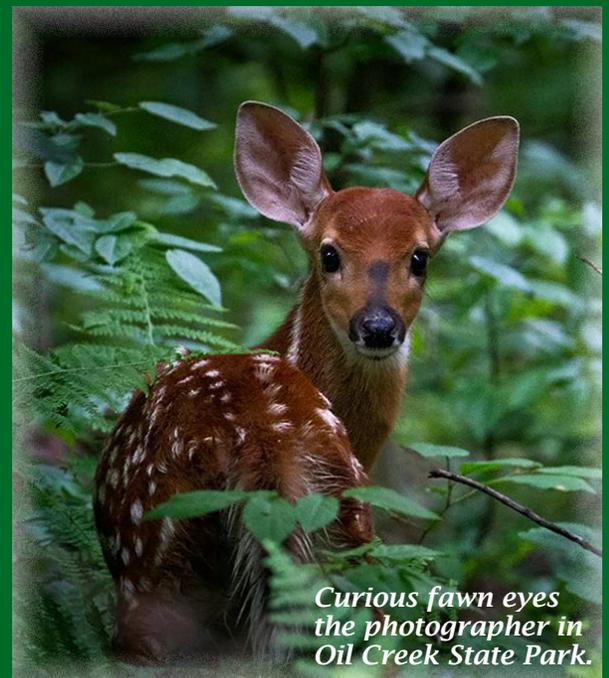
**Featured
Photographer
Timothy
Rudisille**



*Commonly known as the black & yellow garden spider, the *Argiope Aurantia* may bite if disturbed, but the venom is mostly harmless to humans.*



*A pair of *Coprinus* mushroom soldiers stand guard deep in the forest.*



Curious fawn eyes the photographer in Oil Creek State Park.

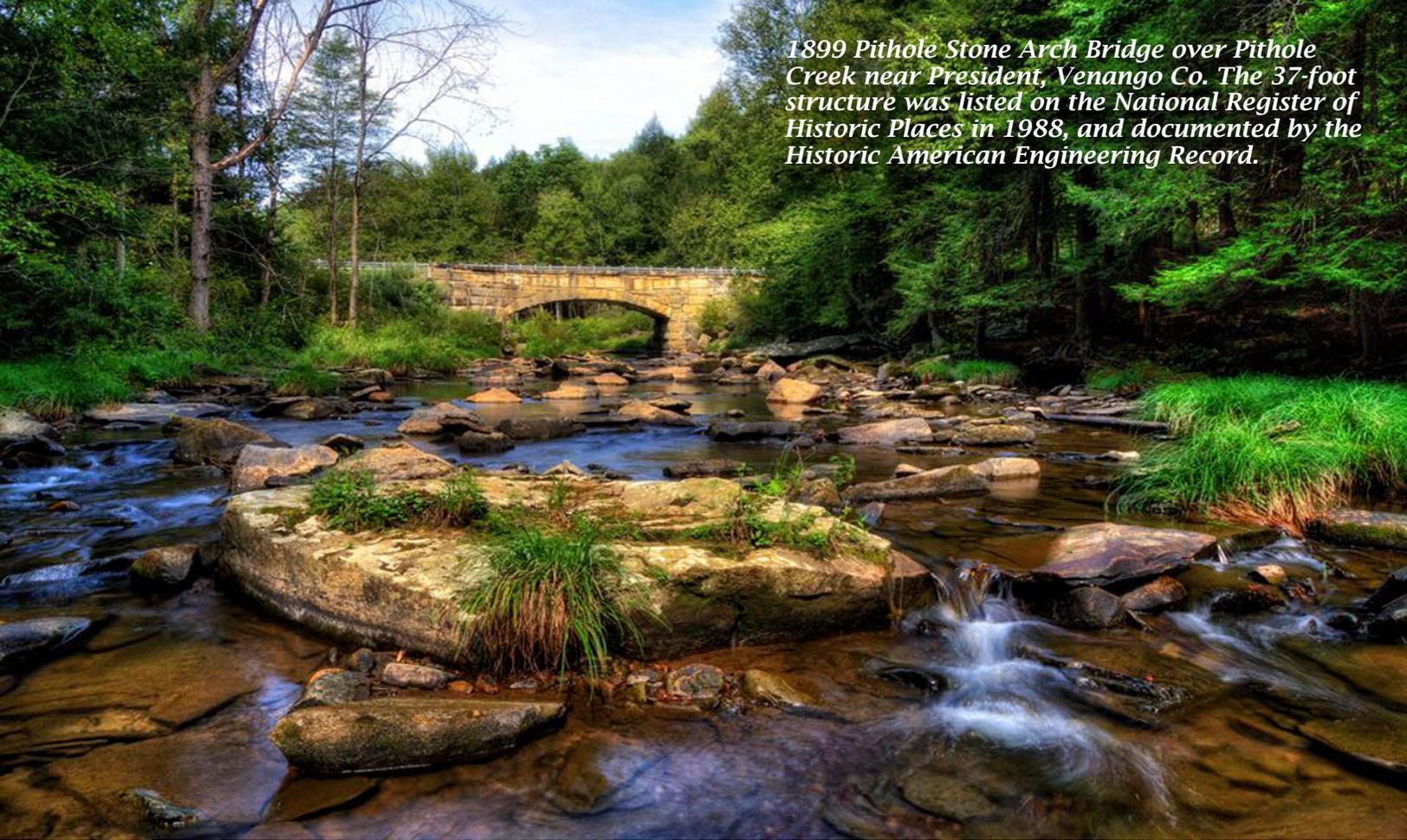
Timothy Rudisille was born and raised in Oil City, Venango County. A self-taught photographer, Rudisille created the popular facebook site -- **Photoholics Anonymous** -- several years ago for collaboration between clickers at all levels of skill. His website -- pbase.com/rudiman -- has reached well over a million views.



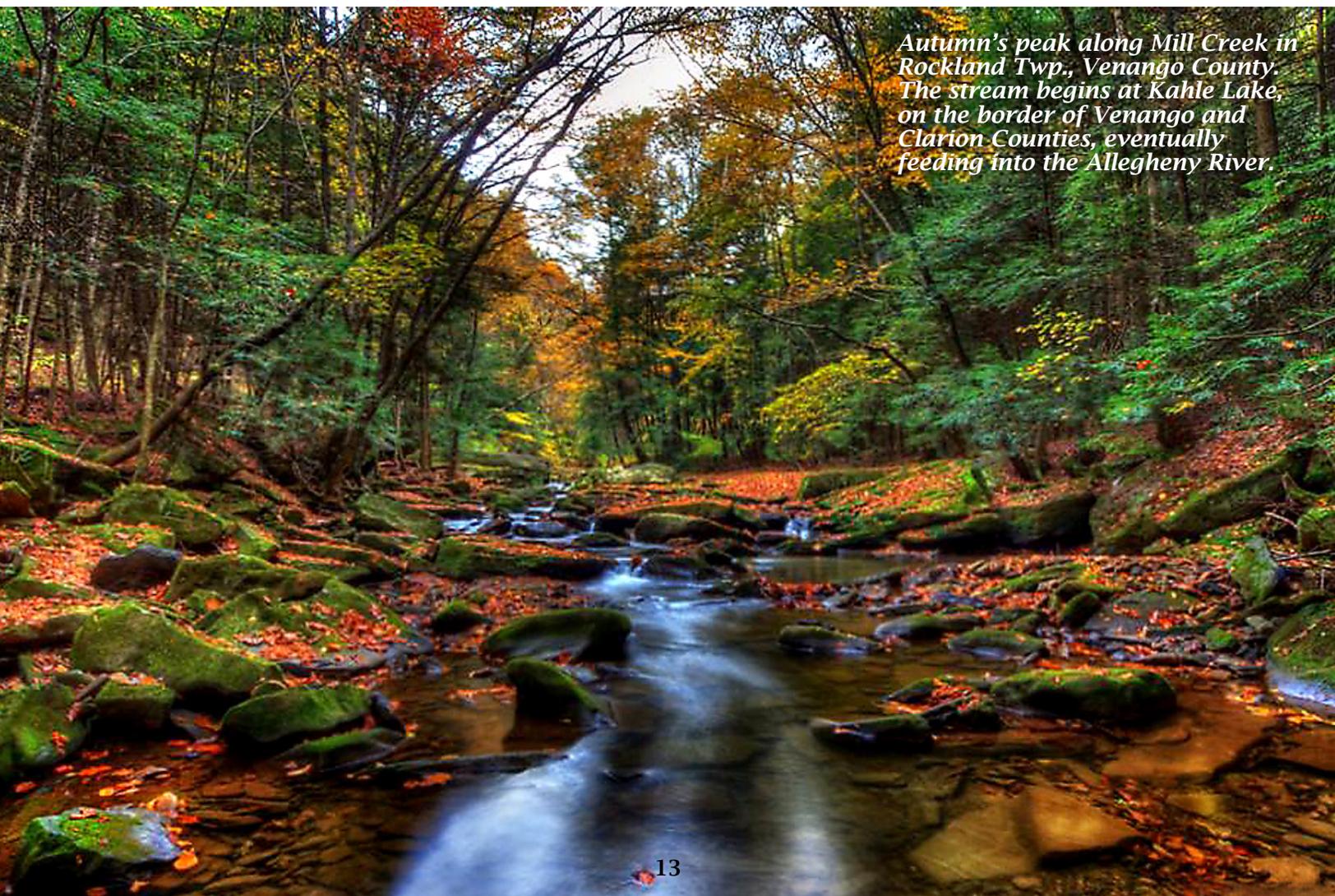
Sunrise over the foggy Allegheny Mountains ~ Murray's Scenic View in Oil City, Venango Co.



Sunset over Lake Erie from the icy sand dunes & boulders of Presque Isle State Park.



1899 Pithole Stone Arch Bridge over Pithole Creek near President, Venango Co. The 37-foot structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988, and documented by the Historic American Engineering Record.



Autumn's peak along Mill Creek in Rockland Twp., Venango County. The stream begins at Kahle Lake, on the border of Venango and Clarion Counties, eventually feeding into the Allegheny River.



Blue heron family frolics at a rookery along Rt. 8 just south of Franklin, Venango County. Photo by Timothy Rudisille