NW PAssages

Exploring NW PA's Greenways, Heritage & Recreation

July 2015

NW PAssages

July 2015 *Volume 2, Issue 2*

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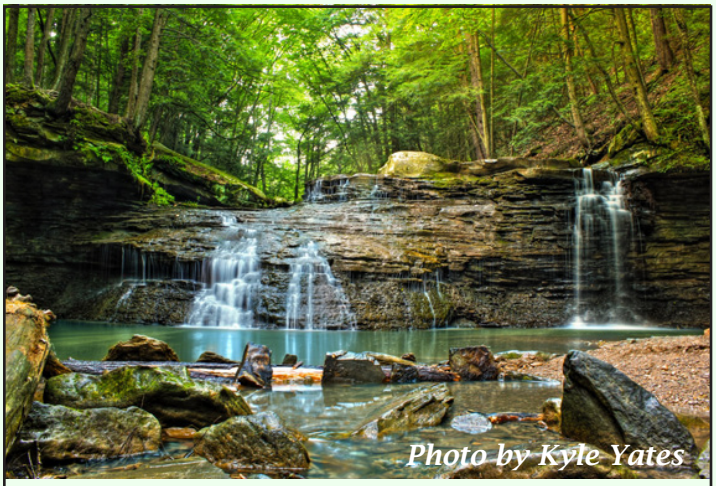
beth@westpamag.com

About the Cover

***Debra Gilmore of Erie** captured pyrotechnics over the Bicentennial Tower, one of the great attractions along the Erie Bayfront. The structure was built in 1995 to celebrate the city's establishment in 1795, and provides epic views of the area to the public.*



***Freedom Falls** slows to a trickle during the hot, dry days of summertime. The waterfall is along Shull Run in Rockland, Venango County, and empties into the Allegheny River. The 1832 Rockland Iron Furnace is near the falls, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the July edition of NW PA's Nature & Heritage e-zine, with summertime in full swing! There are happenings galore in our region, be sure to check out *Afield & Afloat* for a wide selection of great events.

NW PAssages' partner agencies have been actively working to improve the quality of life in our region, with some of their endeavors described in *Partner News.*

Erie County is making a bid for the new national marine sanctuary that is now up for grabs. If the designation is received, the tourism industry will be boosted enormously as the Lake Erie Quadrangle becomes the focus of national and international attention.

This month's *Featured Photographer,* Kyle Yates of Brookville, provides a vivid and colorful look at some of the great attractions in the region. Yates uses the technique of HDR (high-dynamic-range imaging), which gives his photographs a greater dynamic range of luminosity than is possible with standard digital imaging.

July 2015 is also the 30th Anniversary of Park & Recreation month, so get out there and have some adventures!

Happy Trails!
Stephen & Beth West

Publishers/Editors ~ *Stephen & Beth West*
Proofreader ~ *Marilyn Black*
Writer ~ *Stephen West*
Photographers ~ *Kyle Yates, Debra Gilmore, Mike Henderson & Stephen West*

In 2007, twelve trail groups banded together to form the ambitious EPTA *(Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance)*, on a mission to connect the Bayfront in Erie Peninsula to The Point in Pittsburgh. Eventually, the approximate 270-mile trail will be continuous, though at present, only 65% has been completed. Current gaps in the trail system are in various stages, such as: fund seeking, acquisition, engineering/ design, construction, and a few undefined segments that are being addressed. The EPTA's mission is ongoing, and the EPT is recognized by state and federal funding agencies as a major greenway corridor. The group is modeled after the ATA *(Allegheny Trail Alliance)*, which has completed the very successful 150-mile GAP *(Great Allegheny Passage)* from Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD. The GAP connects to the C&O Towpath, which features 185 miles of continuous trails to Washington, D.C. When complete, the EPT will connect to the GAP at The Point in Pittsburgh.

website: eriepittsburghtrail.org

COUNCIL ON GREENWAYS & TRAILS

website: nwpagreenways.org

The 2014 first annual Jim Holden Memorial Ride attracted over 60 people to this area on a rainy day to explore the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. Sponsored by the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance and hosted locally by the Oil Region Alliance, this ride also visited all five of the official Trail Towns along the route. Each town provided visitors with refreshments for their trip and info about the town and its businesses. Hopefully, this is the first of many group events along the trail and in the Trail Towns.

The trail system, parks and waterways of the region provide fun all year 'round. There are spring wildflower walks, summer fun on the trails and water, sight seeing when the leaves change in the fall, and cross country skiing & sledding in the winter. This region is host to two national Wild and Scenic Rivers and three official PA Water Trails. There is room for both powered boat fun and canoeing/kayaking.

Current projects in the region include a study to create another PA Water Trail; expansion and renovation of a marina that is also a trailhead; and development of camping spots.

PENN SOIL RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development Council

Penn Soil RC&D is co-sponsoring a new event, Hatch Fun Geocaching, on Saturday, August 1, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. The action takes place near Warren at the Hatch Run Conservation Demonstration Area (HRCDA), which is a 350 acre property owned by the Warren County Conservation District. The actual artwork and theme will change from year to year, and the caches will all be published on the day of the event, remaining active for an entire year.

Other event sponsors are the Warren County Conservation District and Conewango Creek Watershed Association. Activities include geocaching, travel bug exchange, educational sessions, a catered lunch and great prizes. Admittance is free, however, there is a cost for lunch or any optional event registration packages. The artwork includes 136 mystery caches depicting a Native American paddling a canoe on Conewango Creek, to honor the history of the region and to acknowledge the designation of the Conewango Creek as the *2015 PA River of The Year*. There will be a mixture of cache hides both in difficulty and terrain. The artwork will be available for one full year. For more info and to register:

website: *pennsoil.org*

County of Venango

Summer season is underway at Two Mile Run County Park. The Family Campground and beach are open. Beach hours: Mon.-Sat. 12-6 pm; Sun. 1-6 pm. Canoe, kayak, paddle boats and row boats can be rented at the Beach. Overnight horse camping available any time at Lockwood for $10 per rig per night. Please call the Park Office if you are planning to camp at Lockwood. The Sneak Road parking area is now for day ride use only.

Upcoming events at the park include:

July 25 - Horseback Trail Challenge Ride at Lockwood. Pre-register: *www.twomilerun.net*

August 15 - Annual Mountain Bike Race at Pioneer Flats. Pre-register at website.

Park Office: (814) 676-6116

Erie Casts for a National Marine Sanctuary

They say "A rising tide lifts all boats." If Erie wins its bid for the Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary, the regional tide will rise enormously as a result. Figuratively speaking, naturally.

All the elements are coming together for boosting nature tourism in Erie and northwest PA. At the end of August, Erie County will be submitting an extensive application for the coveted honor of hosting a national marine sanctuary.

For the first time in 20 years, NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin.), which manages America's marine sanctuaries, is accepting nominations by communities to consider Great Lakes waters as national marine sanctuaries. The County of Erie has taken the lead role to inform the public of this opportunity and gauge whether or not our community would like to move forward with a nomination.

Prior to making a final decision on a submission, the county felt it was best to have as much outreach as possible with the public, businesses, municipalities, nonprofits and schools and universities.

A marine sanctuary is an area of protected water that preserves the scenic beauty, biodiversity, historical connections or economic productivity of our oceans and Great Lakes waters. Marine sanctuaries can include rocky reefs, habitat or even underwater archeological sites – and provide safe habitat for species or protection of historically significant shipwrecks. Sanctuaries range in size from less than one, to over 137,000 square miles.

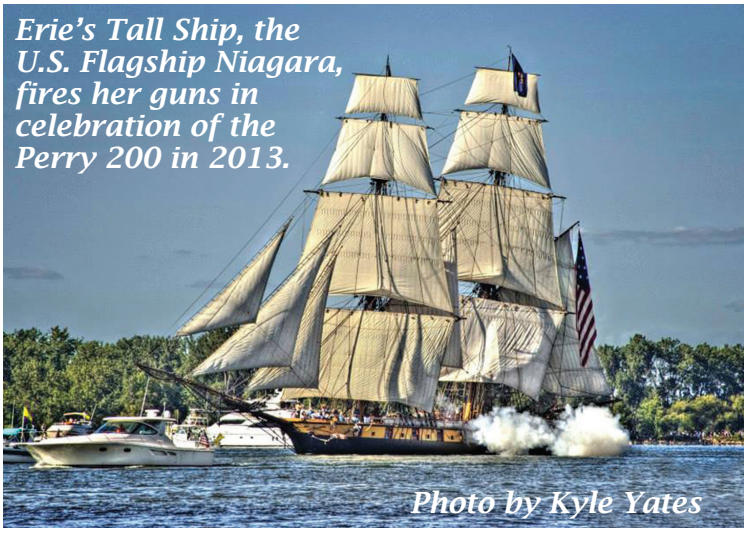
The Tom Ridge Environmental Center is located at the entrance to Presque Isle State Park, and is dedicated to teaching visitors about the wide range of flora and fauna in the park. The TREC also serves as a center for research and conservation efforts, helping to preserve the unparalleled beauty of Presque Isle. Free admission. www.trecpi.org

The county is proposing a national marine sanctuary to include all Lake Erie waters located in Pennsylvania, including Presque Isle Bay; 759 square miles of Lake Erie's central basin; and 76 miles of Erie County shoreline.

Aerial view of Presque Isle Bay & Lake Erie (wikipedia)

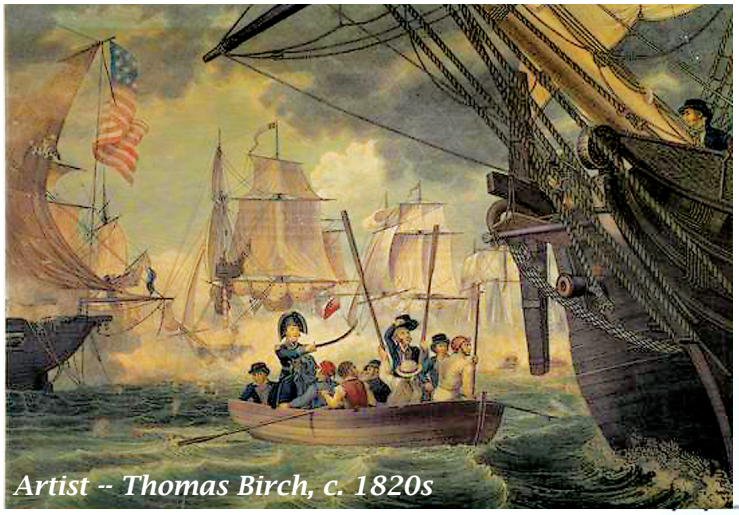
Becoming a National Marine Sanctuary is no easy process. Broad-based community support has been generated for the last several months, after which the county will submit the nomination to NOAA.

NOAA will do an initial review and take a close look at not only the nomination, but most importantly, proof of public support. If accepted, it will be added to their inventory, which is a list of successful nominations that NOAA considers for potential designation as a sanctuary. Sanctuary designation is a separate process that, by law, is highly participatory, often takes several years to complete, and is conducted by NOAA officials.



Erie's Tall Ship, the U.S. Flagship Niagara, fires her guns in celebration of the Perry 200 in 2013.

Photo by Kyle Yates



Artist -- Thomas Birch, c. 1820s

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry evacuates the U.S.S. Lawrence (left) in a rowing skiff to board the Brig Niagara during the Battle of Lake Erie. His battle flag flies above the remains of the Lawrence's main mast emblazoned with the phrase: "Don't Give Up the Ship." The flag was transferred to the U.S.S. Niagara, from which Perry led the defeat of England's naval force. His words to General William Henry Harrison ~ "We have met the enemy and they are ours" ~ have become forever immortalized. A working replica of the Flagship Niagara is based at the Erie Bayfront, beside the Maritime Museum.

A strong show of community support is vital to receiving the marine sanctuary designation from NOAA. Letters can be submitted at the proposed sanctuary's website: *lakeeriequadnms.org* or emailed to: lakeeriequad@gmail.com. Support can also be shown at facebook page: Lake Erie Quadrangle National Marine Sanctuary.

Plaque at the Erie Bayfront showing some of the ancient ships that have sunk in Lake Erie's Eastern Basin.

Proposed
Lake Erie Quadrangle
National Marine Sanctuary

Lake Erie Quadrangle
Public Access points
PA State Parks
PA State Gamelands
Other Parks
Erie County Municipalities

Who is NOAA? *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is part of NOAA and is responsible for the management of the designated underwater designations.*

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to building a stronger and resilient future for the nation's communities, ecosystems and economy. NOAA serves and protects a network of 14 marine-protected areas located throughout America.

Based upon interviews by Tom New, President & CEO of WQLN, on the show "Perspectives" in February 2015

Bronze plaques at the Erie Bayfront describe the 1700s forts built by the French, British and Americans to assert control of these militarily strategic waters.

Andre Horton, *Councilman of Erie County*

"The Erie community should support this initiative to become a marine sanctuary because of our rich maritime history, and obviously it would be an infusion of cash and tourist dollars. It would infuse commerce into the region, and it would make us a destination for those people all over the country and dare I say the world, to come and visit this beautiful jewel that we have.

People want to be involved in the beginning. They want to know that they're stakeholders, that anything Erie does moving forward isn't just to bring in tourist dollars for the developer. They want to believe and to see that a rising tide should lift all boats. Erie people don't want for us to have this huge undertaking and everyone benefit but Erie people.

The way that we do that is through a transparent process that happens at the beginning of the process, and that we're not just a bunch of boards or authorities or government agencies legislating to people. But we are in fact recognizing them as stakeholders, and allowing them to share in the fruits of their labor."

Kathy Dahlkemper, *Erie County Executive*

"What we're looking at is to have our waters off of Erie County, all the waters within PA, designated as a national marine sanctuary. We'd be preserving the shipwrecks, and we know that there are probably more than 430 within the Lake Erie Quadrangle.

We were the number one freshwater fishing area in the 1800s and early 1900s, with so much traffic in our waters, and of course, it's a treacherous lake, so we have a lot of shipwrecks. The sanctuary would cover the waters within the part of the quadrangle in PA's boundaries (from the Ohio and New York borders, and north to Ontario), including Presque Isle and Presque Isle Bay.

We have brought together an advisory committee as we put together this application. This won't happen without the support of the entire community, so we wanted to talk to all those who really have a vested interest in the water, and what we have seen is great support for this project going forward.

The fishermen, for example - the S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie - are supporters and part of the advisory committee. Aquatic life can expand, we can get help with invasive species and protection for native species. The diving community is on board, and the shipping companies are also in support.

Protecting our historical and cultural artifacts is really key to the sanctuary nomination. When you look at our community as a whole, we've already done a lot to bring that forward. But this would just solidify that with what's underneath the water, bringing all these things and connecting them.

People will have a way to get out there and better understand it, hopefully through a visitor's center. Up in Alpena, Michigan, where the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is, they have a glass bottom boat. People can go out and see some of the wrecks. From the boat, students go out with Remote Operating Vehicles (ROVs). Taking them down underneath the water, they find new ships up in Thunder Bay. You can see students of all ages going out there and making these kinds of discoveries.

Concerning Thunder Bay N.M.S., last year they had almost 100,000 visitors. Studies have shown that it's created about 1,700 jobs in the region. There was a study done in 2005 that showed the sanctuary had about a $100,000,000 positive impact on the tax base of the community. So, I think the opportunities it brings -- for jobs, tourism, putting us on the map nationally -- are endless.

It's very rural at the Thunder Bay N.M.S. Take the numbers from a place like Alpena (pop. 11,000), then multiply these just in terms of population. We have I-90 going by carrying millions of visitors every year, who often don't stop in our community. People coming up I-79, I-86, and here we are halfway between Chicago and New York, with three large cities within a two-hour drive.

I think what we have that is really our strong point, when we put in our application, are these great resources -- the Tom Ridge Center, the Science Consortium (which includes 14 universities), the Maritime Museum and Flagship Niagara; Presque Isle and Presque Isle Bay. So we've got a lot of things already working in our favor, and this will make our application a very strong one when we're vying for this against other cities which also have great resources in their waters.

(cont. on pg. 7)

Jerry Skrypzak, *Pres. S.O.N.S. of Lake Erie*

The S.O.N.S. (Save Our Native Species) of Lake Erie Fishing Club is an active organization of over 3,000 members. Established in 1981, they are dedicated to the improvement of fishing on Lake Erie and its Pennsylvania tributaries.

"Erie is the right place for a marine sanctuary. We have a protected harbor, a lot of boaters -- we have a lot of things already in place that other marine sanctuaries have, such as educational opportunities, research opportunities, a very active fish commission. Everything is in place right now, moving forward, that other places are doing.

As soon as people start searching for these wrecks, we're able to identify structures, spawning places for fish, and it will give us a better understanding of what's going on underneath the lake. If we identify the wrecks, we'll be able to avoid snagging the wrecks and losing our equipment."

Jake Rouch, *V.P. of Economic Dev., Erie Regional Chamber & Growth Partnership*

"I would say the biggest impact is that it will bring more people to the region, for a variety of reasons, who will want to explore the unique aspects of that marine sanctuary. The folks up in Thunder Bay are in an extremely remote area, and when you see the numbers they draw on an annual basis, it's pretty impressive.

They're going to come and explore the region more fully, with the marine sanctuary as a centerpiece for their trips. To me, one of the unique hooks is that Erie is the shallowest Great Lake, it becomes the warmest lake in summertime -- it's easy to recreate in.

The shipwrecks that we have are well documented, and folks are going to be able to explore them. Equally, we have this amazing natural asset in Presque Isle, that is unique in its size, shape, formation, and history to the Great Lakes.

We have a great history of shipbuilding here, and an active shipbuilding operation. We have a Tall Ship (replica of the 18?? Flagship Niagara). We have a great story about lake reclamation and bay reclamation, going from Presque Isle being an area of concern to the first delisted area in the nation.

All of those stories make Erie a very rich marine sanctuary. It's not just one aspect, it's multiple aspects of our lake and bay, and our connection to them from a commerce standpoint, recreational standpoint, and history standpoint. Because of that, a marine sanctuary makes sense because it's such a part of our history and our day-to-day life."

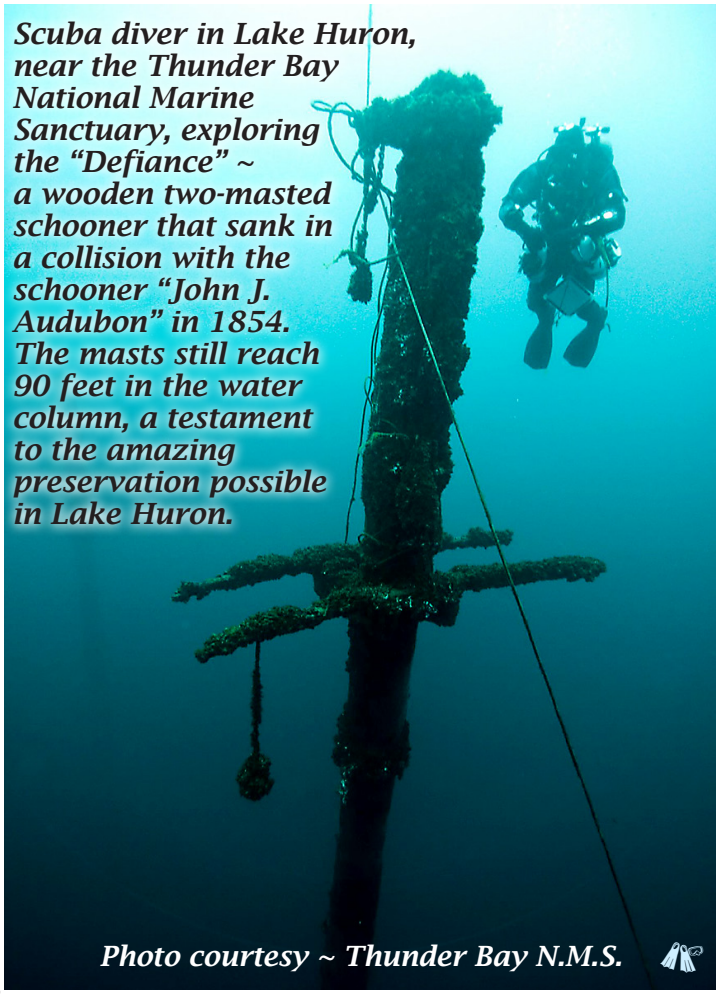
Matt Dickey, *Owner of Diver's World in Erie and a certified NAUI Instructor*

"This will really put Erie and Lake Erie on the map as a recreational diving destination. Furthermore, it will help us elevate the awareness of how we need, as divers, to preserve our underwater community.

The state has already started to do some survey work out there, and there are literally hundreds of undiscovered or undocumented wrecks here. It would allow us access to looking at those wrecks, participating in these inventories or surveys, so we can get a better idea of what's out there. And, for future generations, to help preserve it.

Our divers have been up to Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (on Lake Huron in Michigan), we dive in the Florida Keys, we've seen first-hand what actually being a designated national marine sanctuary can bring to those communities and to the underwater world.

Erie is a great place to come for tourism. We've got Presque Isle, the Tom Ridge Center, the Regional Science Consortium, our Maritime Museum & U.S. Brig "Niagara," and fantastic sport fishing opportunities. Everything that you could possibly want for a national marine sanctuary is already in place."



Scuba diver in Lake Huron, near the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, exploring the "Defiance" ~ a wooden two-masted schooner that sank in a collision with the schooner "John J. Audubon" in 1854. The masts still reach 90 feet in the water column, a testament to the amazing preservation possible in Lake Huron.

Photo courtesy ~ Thunder Bay N.M.S.

HOTAfest at University of Pittsburgh Titusville, PA

July 10 - 12, Friday - Sunday

Heart Of The Arts
Folk Music & Art Festival

♪ Free Concerts by regional talent
♪ Workshops led by professional musicians that celebrate the genres of Bluegrass, Irish Celtic, Folk, Gospel, Scottish, Civil War, and Mountain music
♪ Jam sessions ♪ Visual arts/crafts ♪ Contra dance

Featuring: Jay Ungar & Molly Mason, Shindy, and Newmen

* Lawn seating - bring your own chair *

For more info & times, visit: *www.hotafest.com* or call (814) 827-2381

Presented by University of Pittsburgh at Titusville and Titusville Council on the Arts

"Stepping Back in Time: The Native Americans of French Creek"

Saturday, July 11

Cochranton Fairgrounds
134 River St. Ext., (Walnut St.)
Cochranton PA ~ Crawford County

The day will begin with Native American reenactors paddling into the junction of Sugar Creek and French Creek to establish a foraging camp for the day. A series of informative presentations, artifact displays and living history demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day. In addition, there will be hands-on activities, sample dig boxes, pottery, flint knapping stations, and skinning/tanning exhibits to name a few. The event is open to the public, and attendance and parking are FREE. Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information, call - (814) 425-7700

Friday, July 17 - 9:00 am - 2:00 pm "Hellbender Hunt" Please meet at the Cook Forest Park Office to car-pool to a nearby watershed to search for the elusive Allegheny Alligator and its close relative, the mudpuppy. Be prepared to get thoroughly drenched. Bring a sturdy river-walking stick. Proper river footwear is a must. Pack a lunch. Info: Dale Luthringer - dluthringe@pa.gov - 814-744-8475

North Coast Bass Association Open Team Tournament

Saturday, July 11 & 25

301 Peninsula Dr. - Erie, PA
Launch from West Pier Boat Ramp, Presque Isle.

Two-man team fishing tourney. The winner will be based on which two-man team has the heaviest bag of five bass *(Smallmouth and Largemouth are allowed).* Entry fee is $150.

Contact Aaron Gast - (814) 314-9847 for more info. or visit *www.northcoastbass.com*

WATERFIRE SHARON 2015 ~ *Saturday, July 18*

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.

WATERFIRE SHARON, PA

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
website: www.waterfiresharonpa.org

Celebrate the Bloom! Free Summer Event Planned at Jennings Environmental Education Center

Saturday, July 18 ~ 9:00 am - 7:00 pm

One of our region's most unique places – the only one of its kind in PA – is the blazing star prairie at Jennings Environmental Center. Activities will include: prairie tours, engaging demonstrations, plus local food, artisans and music. A program featuring LIVE reptiles and amphibians begins at 2:30 pm, and music begins at 12:30 pm with outdoor seating on the prairie's edge, covered seating also available. More info: celebratethebloom.wordpress.com, or call (724) 794-6011. 2951 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA

Sunday, July 19 -- 11:30 am - 2:30 pm "Who's Got Mussels?" The Clarion River's got mussels, and they're making a comeback! Please meet at the Cook Forest Park Office to car-pool to various sections of the Clarion with ecologist Chuck Williams to search for and document mussels in the river. Please bring a sturdy river walking stick, protective footwear and be prepared to get thoroughly wet. For more info, contact Dale Luthringer at dluthringe@pa.gov or 814-744-8475

Vintage Baseball and Ice Cream Social

Pithole Visitor Center
14118 Pithole Rd., Pleasantville, PA

Sunday, July 26 ~ 12:00 noon

Join us as the *Pittsburgh Franklins* take on the *Frosty Sons of Thunder* in an 1860s-rules baseball game. The day will be full of music, games, food and fun! Event begins at noon with opening pitch at 1:00 pm. Special admission fees apply.

Contact Sarah Goodman at: sargoodman@pa.gov for more info.
Drake Well Museum and Park
(814) 827-2797 *www.drakewell.org*

37th Annual Oil Heritage Festival
July 23-26 ~ Thursday-Sunday

Don't miss Oil City's Oil Heritage Festival, honoring the area's rich heritage resulting from the discovery of petroleum and the "oil boom" that occurred along Oil Creek in the mid-1800s. This event is one of Western PA's major festivals drawing thousands of visitors to the region.

Enjoy 100+ crafters/artisans, entertainment, parades, great food, Oil Heritage Art Show, raft races, concerts, classic car & motorcycle show, fireworks, plus more!

Visit *venangochamber.org* for full schedule.

United Way of Western Crawford County's 11th Annual Bass Classic ~ Saturday, July 24
Iroquois Boating & Fishing Club, Conneaut Lake PA

Amateur registrations are now open. Event organizers create two-person teams, consisting of one professional and one amateur registrant. Teams will launch at 7:00 am with weigh-in set for 1:00 pm on the Iroquois Club lawn. Lunch will follow. Cash prizes awarded to the top 5 teams.

For more info, call: (814) 337-1251

Proceeds to W. Crawford Co.'s United Way 2016 Campaign

Discover Presque Isle
July 24 - 26

Presque Isle State Park of Erie will host its three-day outdoor festival the last full weekend in July! This event includes live music, a large children's festival, art and craft vendors, a giant bonfire on the beach, a sand sculpture competition and athletic events that take place all around Presque Isle State Park. Plus much more!

Check out www.discoverpi.com for full schedule.

Summertime is FAIR TIME!!

July 26 - August 1 ~ Clarion County Fair
www.clarioncountyfair.com

August 1 - 8 ~ Venango County Fair
www.venangofair.com

August 3 - 8 ~ Cochranton Community Fair
www.cochrantonfair.org

August 11 - 15 ~ Warren County Fair
www.warrencountyfair.net

August 17 - 22 ~ Lawrence County Fair
www.lawrencecountyfair.com

August 22 - 29 ~ Crawford County Fair
www.crawfordcountyfairpa.com

August 31 - Sept. 5 ~ Erie County Fair
www.wattsburgeriecountyfair.com

Sept. 2 - 7 ~ Great Stoneboro Fair, Mercer County
www.stoneborofair.info

Kids FREE Fishing Derby
August 1 & 2, Sat. & Sun. ~ Pymatuning Lake Assn. Pavilion at Espyville Boat Launch ~ Crawford Co.

Registration times are Saturday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and Sunday, 8:00 - 11:00 am. *Limit is one fish per species.* Check in times are Saturday, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm; Sunday, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm. ALL fish must be checked in by 1:00 pm Sunday, August 2, at the Pymatuning Lake Assn. Pavilion at the Espyville Boat Launch. NO EXCEPTIONS. Prizes awarded after 2:00 pm on Sunday. Register on-line by July 25, or on the days of the derby.

For more info: (724) 927-2578 or visit *www.pymatuninglake.com*

Titusville Oil Festival - Crawford County
August 7 & 8, Friday & Saturday

Join us for our annual family-friendly festival celebrating Titusville's oil heritage in downtown.

Events include:
- *parade*
- *concerts*
- *art exhibit*
- *chalk walk*
- *craft & food vendors*
- *classic car show*
- *beer festival & wine walk*
- *fireworks & more*

For schedule, visit website: *www.titusvillechamber.com* or call (814) 827-2941.

10th Annual Oil Creek State Park Summer Biathlon
Saturday, August 8

Course is a 6k Cross Country Run (divided into 5 parts) through the park, with two shooting stops. First-timers welcome. *Mandatory First Timers Safety Clinic at 8:30 am;* race starts at 10:00 am. All equipment is provided. Open to all athletes ages 12+ who complete the mandatory pre-race safety clinic.

Field size limited to first 80 registrants.

Contact: John Sims (814) 354-2802 or e-mail: pjam@venustel.com

Oil Creek State Park - Cross-Country Ski Area, 305 State Park Road, Oil City, PA - Venango Co.

Sponsored by the Friends of Oil Creek State Park, Range Resources and PA Biathlon Club.

For more info, visit: *www.friendsocsp.org*

"RUN COUNTRY STYLE!" - A Country-themed road running event offering a 10K, 5K, Fun Run, and Awesome Tailgate-Style Post Race Party!
Saturday, August 8

★ Custom Finish Medal ★ Live Music ★ Prizes ★ Country Fun!

10K start: 9:00 am -- **5K start:** 9:15 am
Race start location: 537 Franklin Road, Mercer, PA

Register at website: ***runcountrystyle.com***
For more information: (724) 988-9165

50th Annual Tionesta Indian Festival

Forest County ~ August 8-16

This annual festival, held since 1965, offers dozens of family-friendly events, including a carnival, food and arts vendors, sports tournaments, pet parade, costume contest and a fishing tournament. Highlights include: public tours of Sherman Memorial Lighthouse 1-4 pm, Aug. 9; the crowning of the Indian Princess & Brave; the Festival Parade at 11 am Sat., Aug. 15 and fireworks that night. *For info, website: forestcounty.com* or facebook page: Official Tionesta Indian Festival

And don't miss the 2nd Annual 5k Fun Run -- COLOR RUN -- Saturday, August 8

7:00-7:45 am. Registration and tee-shirt pick-up. 8 am start at the Lighthouse. Early entry fee by July 18 of $20. After July 18 will be $25. Register at website above.

Tour the *Presque Isle Lighthouse* 10 am – 4 pm at Presque Isle State Park, 1 Penninsula Dr., Erie. Open for tours on Saturdays & Sundays through Sept. 7, plus Memorial Day. Sign up at the Lighthouse on the day of the tour to reserve a time. $5/pp benefits fund to restore the lighthouse. Presque Isle Partnership for info: (814) 602-4044

♪ Music at the Marina ⚓ Goddard State Park

August 15 & 16, 11 am - 7 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, plus crafters will have items for sale.

Donations accepted at the gate.

Proceeds benefit Friends of Goddard.

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

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

For more info: (724) 253-4833

Visit *www.friendsofgoddard.com* for band schedule.

DRAKE DAY CIRCUS AT DRAKE WELL MUSEUM

202 Museum Lane
Titusville, PA ~ Crawford County
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

Windsurfing on Lake Erie at Presque Isle State Park.

Photo by Mike Henderson

Presque Isle is a 3,200-acre sandy peninsula that arches into Lake Erie, offering visitors a beautiful coastline and many recreational activities. Non-powered and registered powered crafts are permitted in Presque Isle State Park. Internal combustion engines are prohibited in the interior lagoons, defined as the continuous body of water between Misery Bay and Marina Bay.

A boat rental concession is located in the Graveyard Pond area and provides a variety of powered and non-powered crafts. Beaching of boats along Presque Isle shoreline is permitted except at the Gull Point Special Management Area between April 1 and November 30 and within 100 feet of swimming areas.

Featured Photographer Kyle Yates

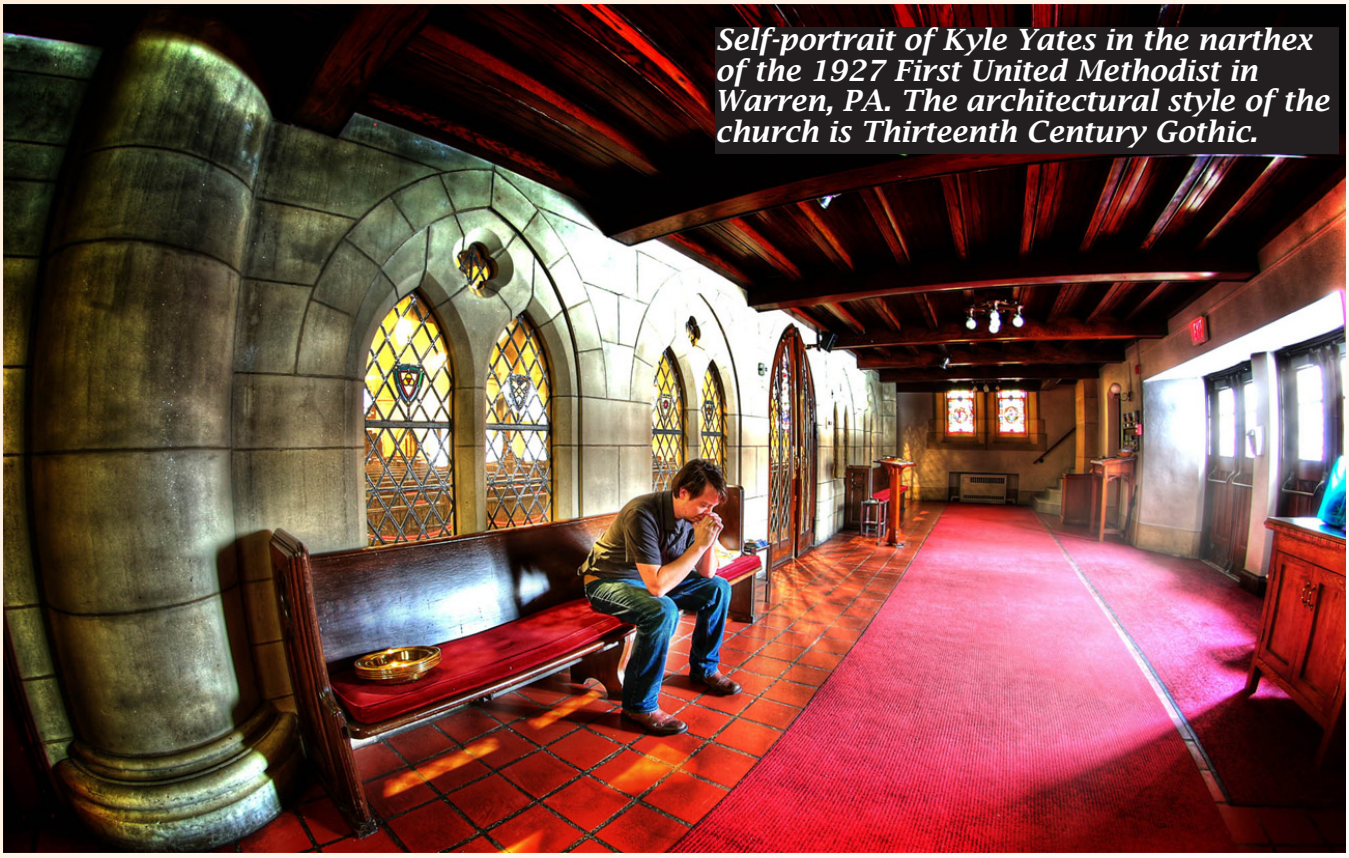
Rev. Kyle D. Yates is a multi-award winning photographer from Brookville, PA. After several years of black & white film photography, and videography, he began pursuing personal studies in High Dynamic Range imaging.

Kyle is a PA Wilds Artisan and has placed 85 times in local & state art shows. He does portraiture, weddings, editorial, conceptual, and landscape work.

Despite the awards, Kyle maintains that he is a professional hobbyist, and his main occupation is Ministry. Currently, Kyle is the senior pastor at Scotland Avenue Church of God in Punxsutawney, PA.

Pair of century-old stone arch bridges over Mill Creek in Dotter's Eddy, Venango Co. Located along the Allegheny River Trail, four miles north of Emlenton, the creek originates at Kahle Lake in Clarion Co. and empties into the Allegheny River in Venango Co.

Facebook page ~ Kyle Yates Photography



Self-portrait of Kyle Yates in the narthex of the 1927 First United Methodist in Warren, PA. The architectural style of the church is Thirteenth Century Gothic.

Rays of sunlight hit the Allegheny River as it gently flows past the quaint small town of Emlenton in southern Venango County.

Walls Memorial Bridge crosses the Clarion River along Rt. 322 in Clarion County. It is the only steel arch bridge in the county. Built in 1987 as the Clarion River Bridge, it was renamed in 1995 as the Frank James Walls Memorial Bridge. Walls served his country bravely in Operation Desert Storm, where he was killed in a scud missile attack in Saudi Arabia.

More than 150 historical enactors recreate the 1750s French & Indian War every June in Cook Forest State Park, Forest County. Highlights of the two-day encampment include woodland natives, cannon and musket firing, cooking, primitive skills, 18th century surgical techniques, blacksmithing, sutler camp, French & Indian War Era artisans, and live tactical engagements such as the one pictured above.

Seneca Point Overlook in Cook Forest offers a breathtaking view of the Clarion River Valley. Nearby, the 70-foot high historic Firetower is open to the public. The park covers 11,536 acres of wilderness, with the ancient Forest Cathedral declared a National Natural Landmark. The Clarion River, a nationally designated Wild and Scenic Waterway, winds through the park.

The Richardson Romanesque style, 1896 Buhl Mansion is the architectural legacy of Sharon's great steel magnate, Frank H. Buhl, who founded the Sharon Steel Corporation. It was this industry that became one of the Shenango Valley's main sources of income and financial stability for the next hundred years.

Frank & Julia Buhl were extravagant philanthropists, with success in the steel industry allowing them to contribute generously to the Sharon community.

Sadly, after the Buhls passed away the mansion changed hands many times. It was stripped of many of its spectacular architectural features, including all the staircases, chandeliers and all but four fireplace mantles. After years of abandonment and neglect, Jim and Donna Winner bought the Sharon landmark and lovingly restored Julia's "castle" to its original grandeur. The multi-million dollar restoration led to its listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Sunrays light up Lake Erie along the beautiful beaches of Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA

Thanks to Featured Photographer Kyle Yates!