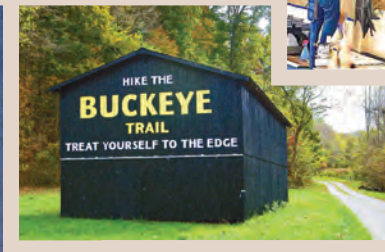
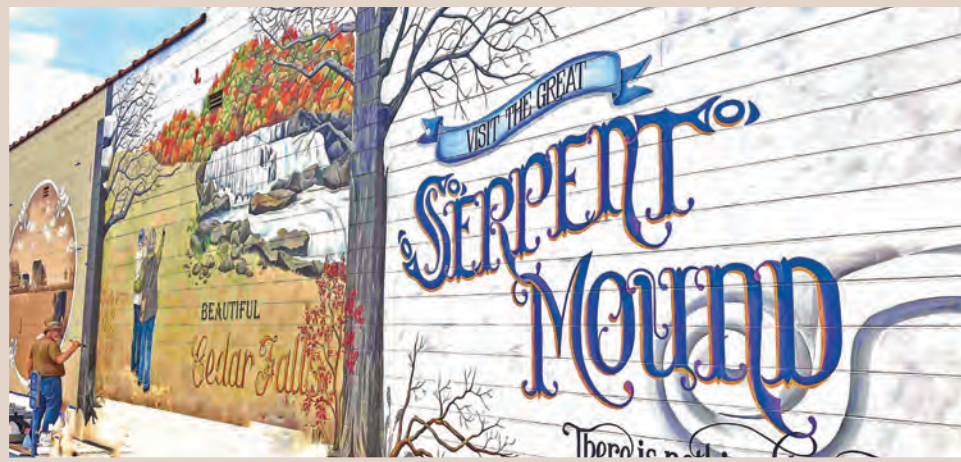


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Welcome to Adams County, Ohio



Adams Lake

Welcome to Adams County and the 2024 edition of the Adams County Visitor & Community Guide. This year marks the 16th year that *Cincy Magazine* has helped us provide visitors with the most informative guide to visiting Adams County.

Recently, the Quiverhart Preserve has opened to the public. It's Adams County's newest preserve and those who have hiked its trails give it high marks. There is a lot of wild and natural beauty in Adams County and Quiverhart has all of that.

There are also a number of new lodgings and cabins that have opened since the last guide was published and that is reflected on our lodging page in the back of this guide.

For nature lovers and wildlife watchers, Adams County has six state nature preserves, five Edge of Appalachia preserves, one state park, two state forests, one wildlife area, seven Arc of Appalachia preserves and one international historical and archaeological site managed by the Ohio History Connection (Serpent Mound), all open to the public.

If you're in the mood for some Amish-made bread and bakery goods, locally made outdoor furniture, oak home furnishing that will outlast you, or to get a boot or bicycle repaired, you can find all of that and more at the Amish shops on Wheat Ridge Road.

Inside this guide you'll unlock ideas for hiking, canoeing, history, events and other must-see attractions.

In Adams County, you can dip a paddle, play a round of golf, go bowling, hike, bike, fish and hunt, shop, explore historical sites, check out the family tree, launch a boat and visit an island where you can play on the beach. And there are many good mom and pop restaurants around to grab lunch.

And lastly, check out the new murals in West Union depicting the seasons, the landmarks and places that make Adams County uniquely Adams County.

Want more info on Adams County? Email info@adamscountytravel.org or call 877.232.6764. To keep up with what's happening check out our Facebook page.

Tom Cross

Executive Director
Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau
509 E. Main St.
West Union, OH 45693
www.adamscountytravel.org
info@adamscountytravel.org
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We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the following: Photographer Terrence Huge; Terry Seidel and David Ike, The Nature Conservancy; Kimberly Baker, ARC of Appalachia; photographer and naturalist John Howard; Bill Kennedy, Ohio History Connection; Sherry Larson, *The Peoples Defender* newspaper; Kirk Larson; Delsey Wilson, Friends of Serpent Mound; Bill Wickerham, Adams Soil & Water; Andrew L. Feight, Shawnee State University; Adams County Engineers Office; and the advertisers who made this publication possible.

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For more updated information, community news and coming events, visit

www.adamscountytravel.org



Calendar

Adams County 2024 Calendar of Events

APRIL

1 Serpent Mound summer hours begins. Archaeology Tours @ 1:30 p.m. every second & fourth Friday of each month. Info @ ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

27 171st Bentonville Anti-Horse Thief Society Banquet. Info @ 937.549.3360

MAY

1 Ohio Brush Creek Sweep. Info @ Adams Soil & Water 937.544.1010



3 Wheat Ridge Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper. Supper at 4 p.m., auction at 5 p.m. Info @ 937.544.7566

4 Adams County Farmers Market on the courthouse square. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. every Saturday until Sept. 7. Info @ adamscountyfarmersmarket.org

18 Scoto Brush Creek Sweep. Info @ Adams County Soil & Water 937.544.1010

JUNE

12 Family Traditions Animal Adventure summer hours begins 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday–Saturday. Info @ familytraditionsanimaladventure.com

15–16 Free fishing weekend. Info @ Division of Wildlife | Ohio Department of Natural Resources wildohio.gov

20–23 Summer Solstice event at Serpent Mound. Info @ ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

20–23 Friends of Serpent Mound Summer Solstice Celebration at Soaring Eagle Retreat. Info @ serpentmound.org

29 Adams County Paddlefest on Ohio Brush Creek. Info @ facebook.com/profile.php?id=100071294223718



30 Ramblin' Relics of Southern Ohio 51st anniversary Country Run for Fun at Adams County Fairgrounds. Info @ 937.892.0161 or 937.205.5200

JULY

4 Fourth of July Celebration & Lions Club parade in West Union

6–13 133rd annual Adams County Fair at West Union. Info @ adamscofair.com

27 Manchester to Maysville M2M Paddlefest. From Manchester to Lively Lady Campground on the Ohio River. 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. Info @ 606.564.3933 or facebook.com/m2mpaddlefest/



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AUGUST

2-3 Kinfolk Days at Manchester. Info @ facebook.com/groups/447809932663743

3 17th annual River Rats Poker Run on the Ohio River 1-5 p.m. Info @ 937.217.3000

12 Friends of Serpent Mound Perseids Meteor Shower viewing at Soaring Eagle Retreat, Peebles. Info @ serpentmound.org

17 16th annual Cowboy Copas Memorial Concert at Jefferson Township Building in Blue Creek. Info @ 937.587.2043

23-25 Winchester Homecoming Festival. Info @ facebook.com/caramelfest

31 Peebles CruiseFest @ 7 p.m. Info @ facebook.com/groups/1162482853815833/

SEPTEMBER

5 Junior Fair Beef BBQ at OVC & Tech Center, West Union. Info @ 937.205.0842

7 47th annual Bentonville Harvest Festival. Info @ 937.549.3360

12-15 56th annual Peebles Old Timers Days. Info @ facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089823397962

13-15 Rarden Whitetail Deer Festival. Info at rardendeerfest.com

14 Erwin Farms & Corn Maze opens. 1365 Coonhill Road, Winchester. Info @ erwinfamilyfarms.wixsite.com/erwinfarmscornmaze

18-21 110th Anniversary of the Seaman Fall Festival. Info @ facebook.com/SeamanFallFestival

27 Wheat Ridge Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper. Supper at 4 p.m., auction at 5 p.m.. Info @ 937.544.7566

19-21 Skinny Fest Bluegrass Festival at Adams County Fairgrounds. Info @ facebook.com/SkinnyFest

28-29 John Roger Simon Sorghum Festival. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info @ arcofappalachia.org/simonsorghumfestival

OCTOBER

5 Ohio River Monster Catfish Challenge Tournament at Manchester. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Info @ ohiorivermonstercatchchallenge.com

5 47th annual Miller's Anniversary Customer Appreciation Day at Millers Bakery & Furniture at 960 Whet Ridge Road, West Union. Info @ 937.544.8524



5 5th annual Cycling Scenic Adams County Fresh Air Ride, 1195 Duffy Road, Peebles. Info at 937.386.3368 or facebook.com/profile.php?id=61551622781729

5-6 Draft Horse, Mule & Pony Field Days and Antique Tractor Show at Glen-Dale Park in Fawcett. Info @ 937.544.3123

11-13 16th annual Wheat Ridge Olde Thyme Herb Fair, 817 Tater Ridge Road, West Union. Info @ 937.544.8252 or facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083273444259

NOVEMBER

25 Serpent Mound winter hours begin and run through March 31, 2025. Closed M & Tu. Open W-Sa., 10a.m. -5 p.m., Sun. 12-5p.m. Info @ ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

DECEMBER

21 Winter Solstice @ Serpent Mound. Info @ ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

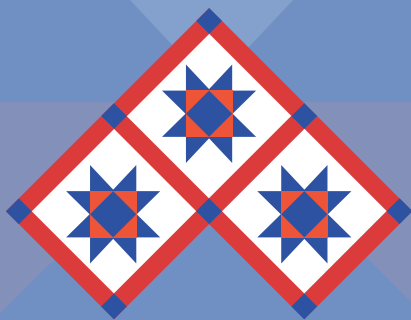
EVENTS FOR 2025

March 1 20th annual Adams County Amish Bird Symposium Info @ amishbirdsympo-sium.org

For additional and updated events go to adamscountytravel.org

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A Night to Support the Amish

For over 20 years the Wheat Ridge Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper has served to raise funds for four parochial schools that serve the Wheat Ridge Amish Community in Adams County. The schools, like the one room schoolhouses of days past, emphasize an education strong in the three Rs: Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic.

Unlike “English” schools, Amish schools in Adams County are not supported by local taxes but instead are funded by the Amish community through tuition fees or stipends that each Amish household pays depending on the number of family members that occupy each residence.

The Amish schools are also supported by local fundraising events held throughout the year. The one fundraising event that everybody looks forward to is the Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper, held twice a year on the first Friday in May and the last Friday in September. It is open to the

Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper 2024



When: May 3 & Sept. 27

Where: Wheat Ridge Community Building, 3735 Wheat Ridge Road, West Union
Time: Supper 4 p.m. Auction begins 5 p.m.

Information: Call Ridgeway Lumber @ 937.544.7566



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: The biannual Wheat Ridge Amish School Benefit Auction & Supper brings together Amish and non-Amish; the Amish community farms the old-fashioned way; and horses and buggies can be found throughout the county.

public. Handmade Amish quilts, furniture, food, bird houses, baked goods, products and services, and maybe an Amish Buggy are just a sample of some of items for sale to the highest bidder. Those in attendance can bid on home cooked barbecue chicken dinners, locally grown plants and flowers, Amish made home decorations and carpenter services. Some families even put up for bid home cooked meals for anywhere from five to 10 guests, all in an effort to raise money for the schools.

Quilts can go for anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500 dollars. Furniture and other donated Amish products are put up for a lively bidding session that is both energetic and entertaining to watch. In addition to raising money for schools, the auction also serves as a community social event where the “English” and Amish gather to meet and renew old friendships, make new friends and swap stories, which adds to the excitement of the evening. Just prior to the auction, a delicious Amish home cooked supper of barbecue chicken, noodles, potato salad, drink and dessert are served to all for the



price of a donation. The auction is popular with locals and parking between the buggies can be challenging, but this is an auction and a meal you won't soon forget. ■



Adams County Amish Business Directory 2024

The Adams County Wheat Ridge Amish community offers many shops and services from furniture, dry goods, shoe repair and bakeries to builders and craftsmen. *All Amish businesses are closed Sunday.*

Allan Miller Construction

620 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.7831

Amos Eicher Construction

1423 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.509.1034



CCL Bicycle Shop

1195 Duffy Road, Peebles.
937.386.3368

Cedar Hill Machine

4830 Unity Road, West Union.
937.386.0068

Cedar Hill Pallet

4830 Unity Road, West Union.
937.544.9984

Country Cabins

2965 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.0898

Country Lane Fabrics

888 Tater Ridge Road, West Union.
937.779.7017

Hillcrest Fencing

2260 Bailey Road, Peebles.
937.386.1461

Hilltop Cabinet

1553 Tater Ridge Road, West Union.
937.386.1908

Hershy Construction

1234 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.798.0011

Hilty Construction

2937 Graces Run Road, Winchester.
937.695.0416

Hochstetler Construction

1493 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.4624

J Brothers Construction

4912 Unity Road, West Union.
937.798.7357

Keim Barns

1700 Tater Ridge Road, West Union.
937.798.9244

Mast Excavating & Construction

1735 Freeland Hollow Road,
West Union. 937.798.7563

Miller's Bakery & Gifts

954 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.4520

Miller's Bulk Foods

930 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.8449

Millers Furniture

960 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.8524

Murphin Ridge Building Supplies

67 Murphin Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.8010



Outdoor Comfort Designs

380 Duffy Road, Peebles.
937.779.1021

Raber's Shoes & Saddlery

1324 Duffey Road, Peebles.
937.386.9927

Ridgeway Lumber & Mulch

3735 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.7566

Schlabach Construction

1999 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.3964

Schmuckers Deer Processing

234 Duffy Road, Peebles.
937.386.0260

Schwartzs Small Engine Repair

2535 Graces Run Road, Winchester.
937.386.1144

Shetler Solar

1989 St. Rt. 137, Winchester.
937.386.3183

Stutzman Buggy Repair

1195 Duffy Road, Peebles.
937.386.3368

Trible M Gutters

59 Poole Road, West Union.
937.788.0004

Unity Woodworks

2274 Unity Road, West Union.
937.544.8068

Wagler's Roofing & Construction

1827 Tater Ridge Road, West Union.
937.386.0330

Wheat Ridge Barns

1587 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.4178

Wheat Ridge Fencing

4100 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.544.4162

Wheat Ridge Spray Foam Insulation

4196 Wheat Ridge Road,
West Union. 937.897.0058



Yoder's Furniture, Bakery, Bulk Foods

2621 Burnt Cabin Road, Seaman.
937.386.9995

Yutzy Construction

4550 Unity Road, West Union.
937.386.0063



16th Annual Wheat Ridge Olde Thyme Herb Fair

The Wheat Ridge Olde Thyme Herb Fair is one of Adams County's largest annual events, bringing together over 150 craftsmen and artisans for three days of crafts, antiques, antique farm machinery, herbal products and natural items, plus food and entertainment.

The fair is the creation of Herb and Kim Erwin, along with their son, Brad, on the family farm. During most of the year it's a working farm with cattle and hay fields, but for three days in October, the Erwins turn it into a celebration of farm life and the nearby Amish countryside.

"We enjoy it but it's a year-round effort and we're always trying to improve it," says Kim.

The Erwins launched the festival more than 15 years ago with a lot of help from the local Amish community. "It feels like the whole community is involved," she says.

The Wheat Ridge Amish community is heavily involved in the festival, baking from scratch, pressing fresh apple cider and preparing home-cooked meals to support the local Amish schools.

Two barns on the farm contain an assortment of eccentric and unusual antiques. Herbs, lavender, medicinal teas, soaps, lotions and other natural earth products are all offered at the festival.

The artisans at the festival offer unique metal yard art, wood-crafted items, handmade pottery, sewn items from quilters and weavers, homemade jams, cheese, maple syrup and other farm products. There's entertainment, too, from musical acts performing a



The 16th annual Wheat Ridge Olde Thyme Herb Fair promises lots of fall fun.

variety of genres, such as Creole, Celtic, Country, old time tunes, popular hits and more.

This year's festival dates are Oct. 11, 12 and 13, from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. at 817 Tater Ridge Road, West Union. For more info phone 937.544.8252.

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Friends of Serpent Mound Summer Solstice Festival

By Delsey Wilson

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Friends of Serpent Mound (FOSM), a nonprofit organization whose purpose is to promote Serpent Mound and other Native American sites while facilitating education and experiences for visitors. Over the last 20 years, FOSM has helped preserve Spruce Hill, The Junction Earthworks, and the Butler County Fortified Hill. FOSM has sponsored mound tours and has tours planned for this fall and in the spring of 2025. FOSM's Summer Solstice Celebration Festival has been an annual event for 15 years.

The festival is located at the Soaring Eagle Retreat, 375 Horner Chapel Road, Peebles, next door to the Serpent Mound historical site. The event is free to the public and hosts live musicians, food, vendors, local history, historical

programs and family activities. This year's event is during the Summer Solstice, June 20-23. The Summer Solstice is Thursday, June 20, at 4:50 p.m.

Presentations at the festival will center on the history of Serpent Mound, with additional lectures on nature, paranormal, spirituality and wellbeing. Be a part of the entertaining and interactive raptor program from the Ohio School of Falconry or learn about the atlatl from the Ohio Atlatl Association. MoonDoggie LIVERee will offer daily shuttles for those renting kayaks, hiking the Buckeye Trail or going on the private crater rim tour. Musicians scheduled are John DeBoer, Baba Jubal, Crystal Judge, Stephen Rutherford, Terri Rivera, Chris Davis and Steve Free. The event will close on Sunday with a public international open drumming.



The Friends of the Serpent Mound Summer Solstice Celebration Festival will be held June 20-23 at Soaring Eagle Retreat.

To learn more about the Friends of Serpent Mound and the Summer Solstice Celebration Festival, visit its website at serpentmound.org. ■

Delsey Wilson is executive director of the Friends of Serpent Mound.

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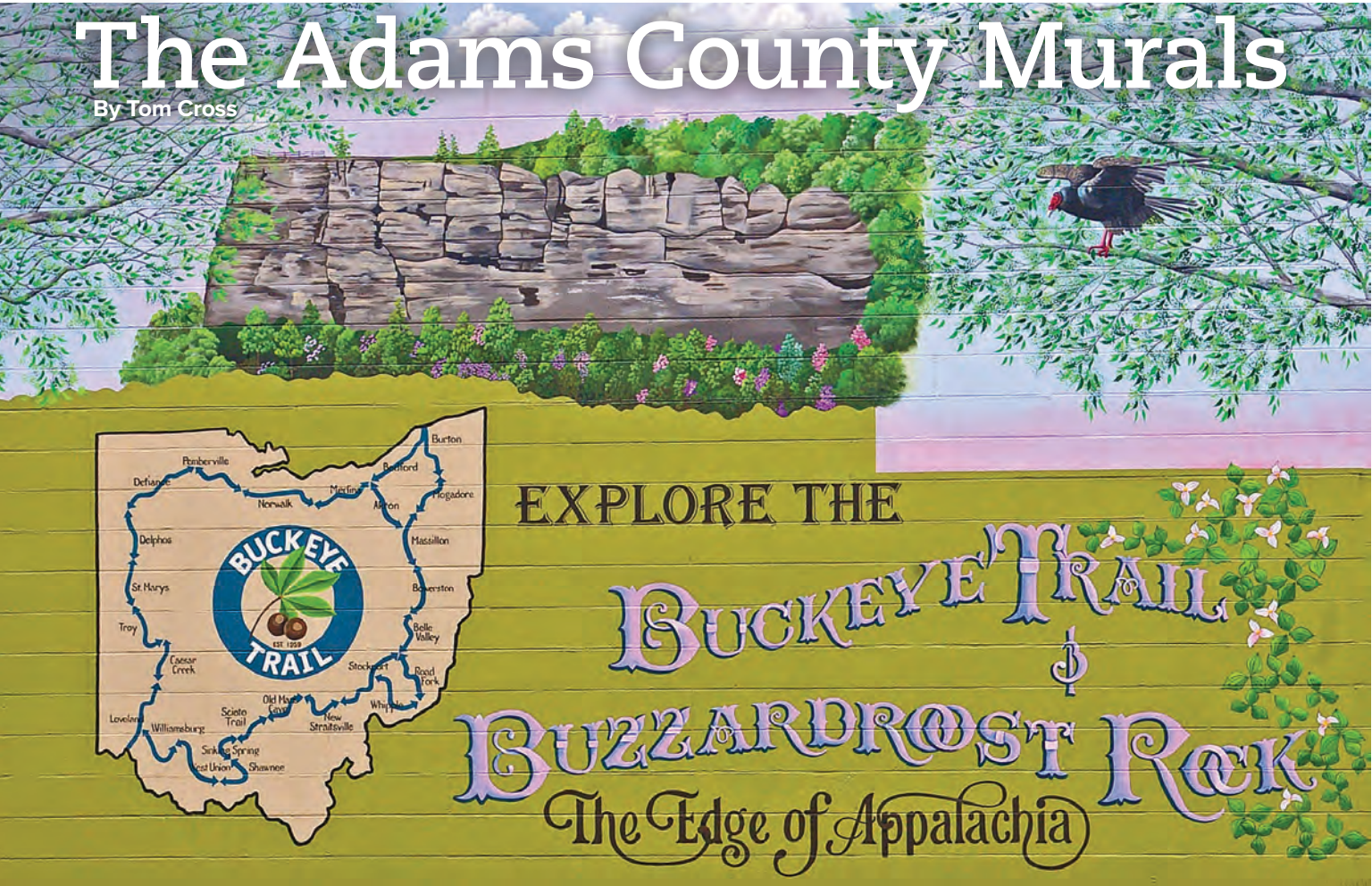
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The Adams County Murals

By Tom Cross



Five new Adams County murals were completed last summer by artist Pamela Kellough from Chillicothe. Work began on the murals May 11, 2023, and was completed July 19. Despite a few rain delays, Kellough spent a total of 47 days on the work.

The project was originally conceived by Holly Johnson, former Economic & Community director of Adams County through the Land Reutilization Corporation. Funding for the project came by an anonymous doner through the Greater Cincinnati Foundation, the Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau, The Nature Conservancy, Miller's Furniture and donations from Raymond K. Harper, The Dan & Kathy Combs Living Trust and a grant from the Ohio Arts Council. Also contributing was a photograph of a blue heron used in the Adams Lake Mural by photographer David Bowie of West Union. The total cost of the five mural project was \$38,000.



TOP: The Buzzardroost-Buckeye Trail Mural is one of a group of five murals painted by artist Pamela Kellough at 105 W. Main Street in West Union. .
ABOVE: Muralist Pamela Kellough



The new Adams County mural that celebrates the Wheat Ridge community.

The murals are on the north wall of the Potts building at 105 W. Main St. in West Union. The building, once a Ben Franklin 5 & Dime store back in the '70s and '80s, is now occupied by Rent to Own.

The murals depict the four seasons of Adams County landmarks: Serpent Mound, Cedar Falls, Adams Lake, Buzzardroost Rock, the Buckeye Trail and the Wheat Ridge Amish Community.

Originally the mural set was for four murals but an open wall on the building left room for an additional mural. The Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau applied for a grant from the Ohio Arts Council, which awarded the Bureau with a \$5,000 grant for the mural addition. Funding also came by way of private donations for the needed \$8,000 for the additional Wheat Ridge mural. The Adams County Travel Bu-

reau contributed \$1,800 to make up the difference. All funding for the mural went through the Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

Other murals by Kellough can be seen in Peebles and Manchester. Her murals are also painted on the side of the Adams County Training & Business Center at the corner of Walnut and Market streets in West Union.

Another mural in West Union is at 228 N. Market St., just across from the entry to the National Bank of Adams County. The mural, painted by Susanne M. Chouteau, professor of Art at Xavier University, is a colorful 19-feet-high, 62-foot-long painting of Buzzardroost Rock Preserve, a well-known Adams County landmark at the Edge of Appalachia Preserve east of West Union. The mural is dedicated to the memory of ecologist Lucy Braun, who was instrumental in the founding of the preserve.

This and the other murals in Adams County, will eventually be dedicated toward creating a new "Mural Trail" throughout Adams County.

Tom Cross is the director of tourism for Adams County.



This mural, painted by Pamela Kellough, honors Adams Lake.



Zane's Trace and Treber's Inn & Tavern



By Andrew Lee Feight, Ph.D.

Treber Inn

Zane's Trace, the first federally funded road through frontier Ohio, ran from Wheeling West Virginia, across the Hocking, Muskingum and Scioto valleys, to Limestone (now Maysville), Kentucky. Authorized by Congress in 1796, Zane's Trace was at first just a tomahawk blazed trail, accessible to foot and horse traffic. After statehood in 1803, the road was widened and improved so that by 1804 it was a 20-foot-wide wagon road, upon which thousands of pioneer families headed

west. By then, Zane's Trace was dotted with taverns where travelers could put a roof over their heads, feed and shoe their horses, and enjoy a dinner or breakfast.

Historian Norris F. Schneider estimated that approximately 300 taverns accommodated travelers on the Zane's Trace. Back when stagecoaches carried passengers through the Scioto Valley, Zane's Trace resembled a pioneer highway that connected Kentucky and Ohio with the broader world.

Judge Albion Z. Blair, the noted Progressive Era reformer, once explained the significance of Zane's Trace in the development of the region's political life. "In those early pioneer days, the great political leaders from the South and West went to and from the nation's capital by stagecoach, traveling through Adams County by Zane's Trace. There was located along this trace certain taverns or inns at which these noted men would stop and spend the night when on their journey. One of these,

Museums & Historical Societies

Adams County Heritage Center, St Rt. 247, 507 North Cherry St., West Union. Open noon-4 p.m. Thursday & Saturday. 937.544.8522

Adams County Historical Society & Adams County Genealogical Society, Adams County Heritage Center, West Union. 937.544.8522

House of Phacops, 29894 St. Rt. 41, Locust Grove. alternateuniverserockshop.com

Lafferty Memorial Funeral & Carriage Collection, 205 South Cherry St., West Union. 937.544.2121. Museum open by appointment, please call ahead for museum hours.

Page One Room School House, Located at the intersection of Page School and Vaughn Ridge Road, West Union. 937.544.5639.

Serpent Museum & Gift Shop, 3850 St. Rt. 73, Peebles. 800.752.2757, ohiohistory.org/visit/museum-and-site-locator/serpent-mound



An old Adams County cabin

Treber's Tavern, was famous, made so by the fact that Mrs. Treber was a famous biscuit baker. The fame of her baking was so well known that travelers using this route sought to make it a point to arrange their starting so that they would stay overnight at Treber's Tavern. The country folks knew of the times when these great men would be at the inn and would gather from miles around and have great political rallies."

Judge Blair recalled his "father and other men used to tell us boys about the speeches of Tom Benton, Henry Clay and others at these rallies. They would hear of the struggle of political leaders in their early life and their efforts to attain the places that they held in public life. These men and boys went home from these meetings instilled with ambition. The boys learned from them the story of their lives, that their attainments had been accomplished by labor, and resolved that they, too, would do something and be something as men."

In addition to Clay and Benton, other accounts of famous visitors to Treber



The monument to Zane's Trace

Inn include General Andrew Jackson, who made a stop in 1828, while on his way to Washington for Jackson's first presidential inauguration.

William Firestone, author of *Grandeur & Grace*, wrote that "Gunsmith John Treber in 1796 built a log cabin on Lick Fork of Ohio Brush Creek in what would soon be Adams County, Ohio. Two years later he erected the two-story log structure, later known as the Treber Inn, on the west bank of Lick Fork, about 5 miles northeast of West Union, the county seat. The two-story section of

the inn was built of hand-hewn logs. The single-story kitchen and dining room wing at the rear is of stone from a nearby quarry. Soon after the inn opened for business, a sign swinging from a tall post along the road announced, "Traveler's Entertainment."

John Treber retired in 1825 to a nearby farm, whereupon his son, Jacob Treber, took over and ran it with his wife, Jane Thoroman Treber, the famous biscuit baker, who was also noted for brewing a "most excellent coffee."

Treber Inn and the Zane's Trace monument can be seen from Old Zane's Trace, now State Route 41, in the heart of historic Adams County. Treber Family cemetery, located nearby, is where the pioneer family of John Treber is buried.

Used with permission from the Scioto Historical Project (sciotohistorical.org). For the complete article visit sciotohistorical.org/items/show/39.

Andrew Feight, Ph.D., is a professor of History at Shawnee State University in Portsmouth.



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Lafferty Funeral Home & Historic Carriage Collection



LEFT: Elaine Lafferty explaining the history behind the collection.

ABOVE: The historical marker at Lafferty Funeral Home and Carriage Collection

A LEGACY OF PRESERVING THE PAST

By Sherry Larson,
The People's Defender

The Lafferty Funeral Home recently celebrated its 175th anniversary in West Union. “Six generations strong—one family—in one location for 175 years, you don’t hear that very often,” said Elaine Lafferty, wife of fifth generation undertaker and Funeral Director John T. Lafferty, and curator of The William Lafferty Memorial Funeral and Carriage Collection.

The museum, housed next door to the Lafferty Funeral Home, holds cherished memorabilia and historic carriages to commemorate the longevity of the family business as the oldest single-family funeral business in Ohio. The exhibit was established in memory of John T. and Richard Lafferty’s father, James William, who passed away in 1987. On display are multiple hearses from each generation, an embalmer’s buggy, Adams County’s first motorized ambulance, old articles and photographs, a

collection of old ledgers dating back to the 1880s, caskets and baskets, and other relics from the historical pages of the family business.

James Lafferty, a wool carter by trade, came to Ohio with his wife and children in 1814, 11 years after Ohio became a state. Absalom, one of his sons, built one of the first homes in West Union. It was in that home that Absalom’s son, William V. Lafferty would start the funeral business. In 1848, the infamous year of the cholera epidemic, William was a cabinetmaker by trade and a casket maker. Elaine Lafferty explained, “Most undertaking businesses back then started with cabinetry.”

Schools weren’t available for undertaking at the time and embalming was yet to be the norm. Most undertakers were notified of a death and sent to a residence to retrieve the body. The Civil War brought on the necessity for embalming as families wanted their loved one’s bodies shipped home. William taught himself the embalming science though he had no formal training.

Elaine tells the story of being a young bride and her husband, John T., asking her to style hair for a deceased female.

She was initially nervous, and John T. encouraged her, saying, “If that were your grandmother, wouldn’t you want her to look nice?” She couldn’t argue with that. She would serve as a hairstylist for many years, taking pride in her work.

The Lafferty Funeral Home and Carriage Collection is now in its sixth generation in West Union. As far back as the originator, William V. Lafferty, folks have shared positive reflections. One newspaper clipping reported at the time of William’s death, “He was generous in his business matter and buried everybody when called on, whether they had the money to pay ‘fer’ it or not.”

The Lafferty Funeral Home turns 176 years old this year and the museum is recognized as an Ohio Historical Landmark. What sets it apart is its historical significance and its one-of-a-kind museum of funeral carriages and memorabilia dating back to the last century.

Lafferty Funeral Home and Carriage Collection is located at 205 S. Cherry St. in West Union. If you would like to tour the museum, contact the funeral home at 937.544.2121. ■



Ohio's Serpent Mound

THE WORLD'S MOST SPECTACULAR EFFIGY MOUND

By Bill Kennedy,
Ohio History Connection



Serpent Mound is a National Historic Landmark built by the ancestors of American Indians of Ohio. This effigy mound in the form of a snake with a coiled tail is one of the most famous archaeological sites in the country and an icon of indigenous cultural achievement.

Serpent Mound was built approximately 900 years ago by the ancestors of local American Indians. Archaeologists call this group the Fort Ancient culture, which is an unfortunately confusing name since they did not construct the Fort Ancient earthwork (about an hour's drive north of Serpent Mound). The name was given about a century ago when cultural sequences were still poorly understood by archaeologists.

American Indians of this time period predate contact with Europeans, yet a relatively great deal is known about them. Archaeologists apply the Fort Ancient culture designation to about 200 known village sites spread across portions of four states: Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana and West Virginia. In fact, one of these villages was located only a few steps away from Serpent Mound (in the area around the picnic shelter).

Although there is little to see of this village above ground, excavations revealed a typical circular village of the era. Materials above ground have decomposed since homes were built of perishable organic materials (wood, clay and grasses). Despite the centuries, traces of this village still exist below the

surface, including artifacts (stone tools, pottery and animal bones), storage and trash pits, and traces of wooden architecture. SunWatch Indian Village in Dayton is a similar village that has been partially reconstructed and is open to the public.

Despite occupying Ohio since before the end of the Pleistocene (the Ice Age), it is only relatively recently that American Indians were living in dense villages. This coincides with the adoption of intensive agriculture (maize, beans and squash) about 1,000 years

ago. Farm fields undoubtedly covered the floodplains of Brush Creek below Serpent Mound.

Southern Ohio is home to many other earthworks of earlier periods, such as Fort Ancient, the Newark earthworks and multiple sites at Hopewell Culture National Historic Park. Serpent Mound staff can direct visitors to these other amazing sites in Ohio that are well worth the time to visit. ■

Bill Kennedy is the site manager for Serpent Mound and Fort Ancient.

Visitor Information

Serpent Mound Hours

April through November hours:

M: Closed

Tu–Sat: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Su: 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Visitors should plan to arrive no later than 4 p.m. The gift shop closes at 4:30 p.m. and the site closes promptly at 5 p.m.

Winter hours (December–March) are the same, except that the site is closed both Monday and Tuesday.

Access is not permitted outside of open hours, although hours are extended for special days (such as the Summer Solstice). For holidays, special schedules or inclement weather, visitors should check the official webpage: ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

Tours:

Please join us every second and fourth Friday of each month all year for a guided walk with an archaeologist from the Ohio History Connection. Tours begin in front of the visitor center at 1:30 p.m. and last for approximately 1.5 hours.

Contact:

3850 St. Rt. 73, Peebles, OH 45660

800.752.2757

ohiohistory.org/visit/browse-historical-sites/serpent-mound/

Admission:

Serpent Mound does not charge a general admission per person, but there is a parking fee per vehicle:

\$8/vehicle

\$4/motorcycle

Free parking for OHC members

Special Events:

The Summer Solstice is a special time to visit as the indigenous builders likely created the mound in alignment with the sun's cycle. Unlike many years, the Solstice occurs June 20 (Thursday) in 2024. To mark this occasion, hours on 6/20/24 will be extended from 5:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Presentations by tribal partners and OHC staff will occur all day and evening in the picnic shelter. Additional presentations will take place over the next three days through the weekend.



Local Businesses

New & Returning Businesses Find a Home in Adams County



New lodging, a new coffee shop, outdoor furniture and the reopening of an old Adams County favorite are what's new in Adams County for 2024.

Three new lodging facilities have opened, testament to the growing tourism lodging industry in Adams County.

Indian Crossing Cabin features three bedrooms with four beds and one bath, for up to seven guests. It has a fully furnished kitchen, washer and dryer, and a fire pit and BBQ grill. For more info check our lodging pages.

Solstice Haven is a unique a-frame cabin located only minutes from Serpent Mound. With one bedroom and bath, it's the perfect couple's retreat. It includes a fireplace, an outside fire pit and soaking tub. Check them out on our lodging pages.



TOP: The Precinct Cafe in West Union

ABOVE: The Sunset Bowl & Restaurant

Southern Ohio Cabin Rentals is located in remote southern Adams County and features six one-room cabins and a spacious three-bedroom

cabin house, perfect for a variety of stays and events. Check out the lodging pages for more info.

Amish built outdoor furniture is made right here in Adams County. Stop by Outdoor Comfort Designs on Duffy Road in the heart of Adams County Amish Country for a full line of long-lasting outdoor furniture in a variety of colors and styles.

The Precinct Café in the historic Adams County sheriff's office and jail house (originally built in 1895) has the best coffee in West Union, and soup and sandwiches. The Precinct features a variety of coffees, espressos, lattes, hot tea, smoothies and frappes. It's located in downtown West Union.

And finally, the Sunset Bowling Alley, closed since 2019, has reopened. The Sunset Bowl & Restaurant is Adams County's only bowling alley and has been a popular place to not only bowl, but also dine since it first opened back in 1958. Try the fried mushrooms or the Sunset Burger—you won't be disappointed. Located at the Panhandle on St. Rt. 125 in West Union. ■



Southern Ohio Cabin Rental



Welcoming Visitors & Conserving the Resource



THE EDGE OF APPALACHIA PRESERVE INVITES PEOPLE TO ENJOY NATURE WHILE PROTECTING IT

The overlook at Buzzardroost Rock

Conservation at the Richard and Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System in Adams County isn't simply about buying land.

"That may have been the case in 1959 when we started, but that is only part of the story now," says Martin McAllister, community engagement specialist for The Nature Conservancy (TNC).

"Conservation means more today. It's about conserving the land and water on which all life depends—including people."

The 20,000-acre preserve known to outdoor enthusiasts simply as "the Edge" is jointly owned and managed by TNC, a world-wide conservation organization, and its long-time partner, Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC). Located along the edge of the Western Allegheny Plateau, the Edge is TNC's oldest and largest preserve in Ohio. Over the years, it has become a destination for hikers, photographers, kayakers and outdoor enthusiasts of all denominations. The preserve now attracts upwards of 1,000 hikers each month, and the preserve staff must take special precautions to ensure that all this visitation doesn't degrade the very natural features it is designed to protect.

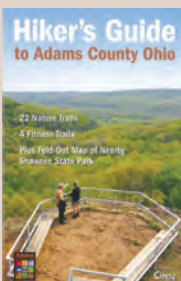
In 2021, staff and volunteers joined forces to improve the trail to Buzzardroost Rock, the iconic rocky promontory that attracts hikers from all over the Tristate region. Once covered with rare and beautiful native grasses and

wildflowers, "the Roost" had become trampled and barren. Thanks to a very generous donation of materials by Kibler Lumber, a new wooden walkway 270 feet in length now provides visitors with easier access while protecting the remaining rare native plants of the site. "The new structure allows us to welcome visitors while ensuring nature can regain its foothold without having to close the site," says McAllister. "Visitors are required to stay on the walkway at all times."

Another exciting development at the Edge of Appalachia in 2021 was the acquisition of a 37-acre area known locally as "Hickory Valley." This site is located along Ohio Brush Creek and previously had a vibrant history as a restaurant, carryout and campground faithfully operated for many years by a local family who decided to close its doors a few years back and the facilities began to

Adams County Hiker's Guide

The Adams County Hiker's Guide is available at the Travel & Tourism office at 509 E. Main St. in West Union. Although a new updated hikers guide is in the works with new trails such as Cedar Falls and Quiverheart Preserve, the current Hikers Guide still features most of Adams County's most popular hiking trails and nature preserves.





deteriorate. Thanks to a grant from the Clean Ohio Fund and matching dollars from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Wildlife, TNC purchased the site and has restored it to a more natural state. The one modern development that has been retained is the concrete boat ramp on the deep-water section of Ohio Brush Creek. The Nature Conservancy constructed a new road and parking area for the ramp and opened to free public use in the summer of 2022. The ramp, aptly named “Mackenzie Run,” allows boater access to the upper reaches of the Brush Creek pool and is located approximately 5.5 miles south of St. Rt. 125 on Waggoner Riffle Road. For GPS it is 653 Waggoner Riffle Road, Lynx, OH.

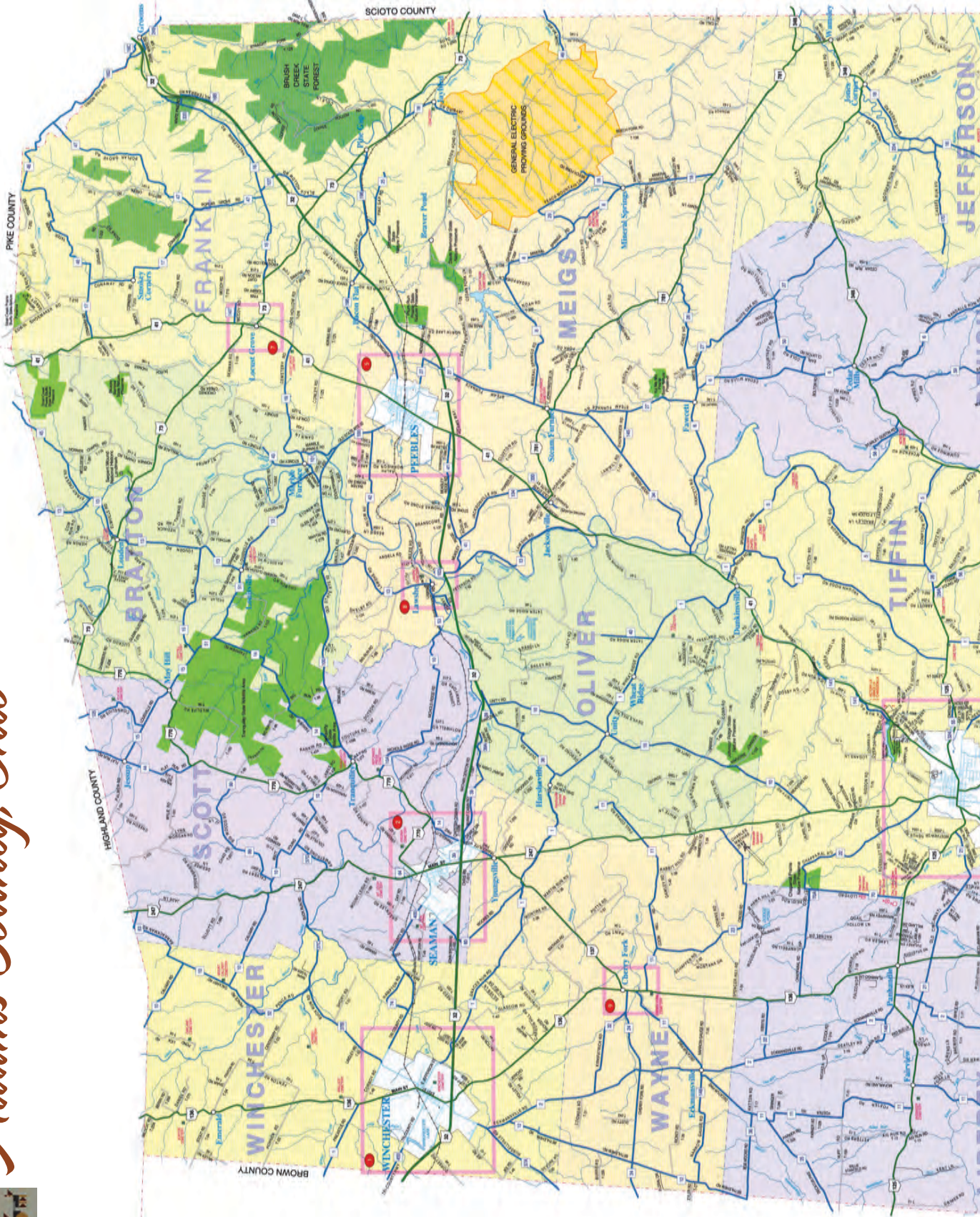
Terry Seidel, the Conservancy’s director of Land Protection says, “Along with our six hiking trails and existing canoe and boat launch, we are thrilled to be able to offer the public a new way to enjoy the Edge of Appalachia Preserve.” ■

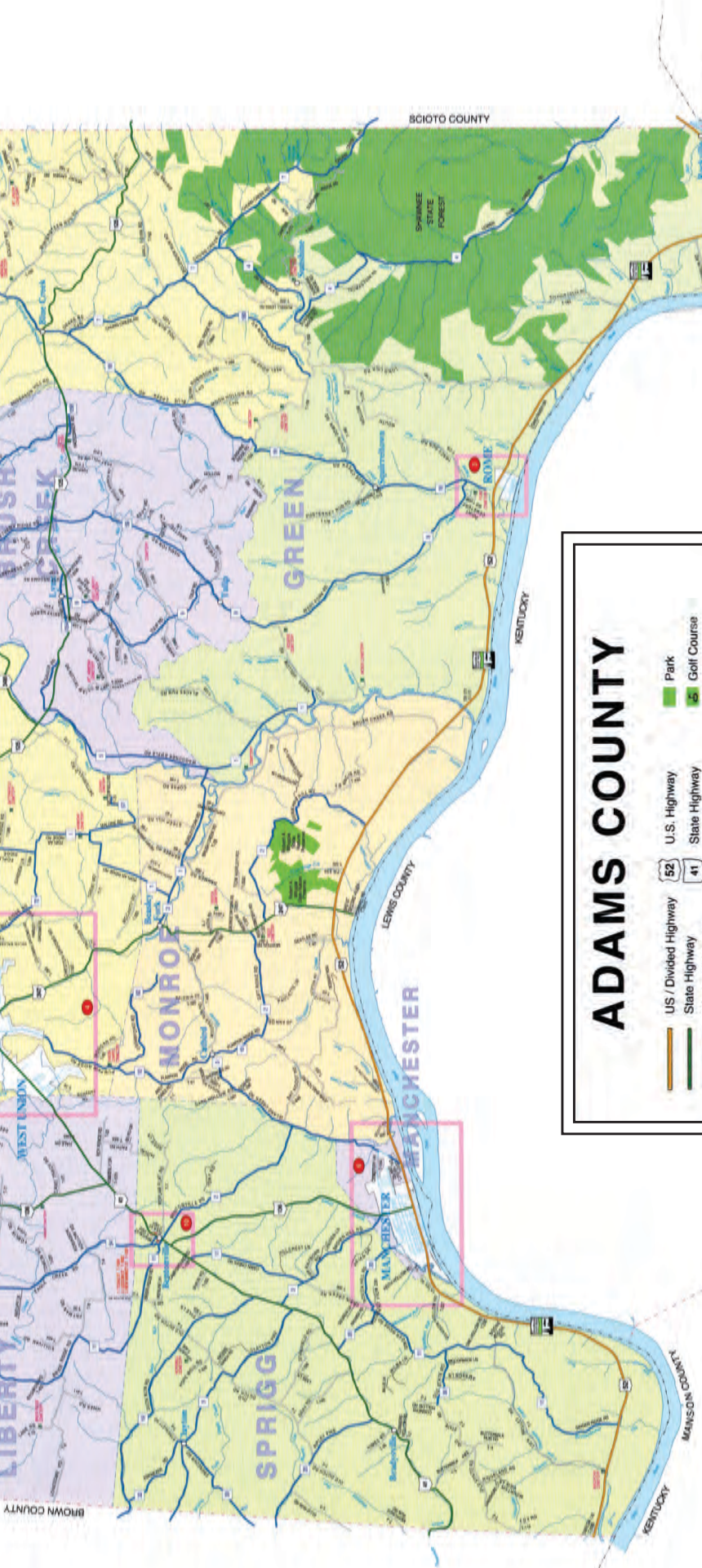
For more information, contact the Edge of Appalachia Preserve at 937.544.2880.



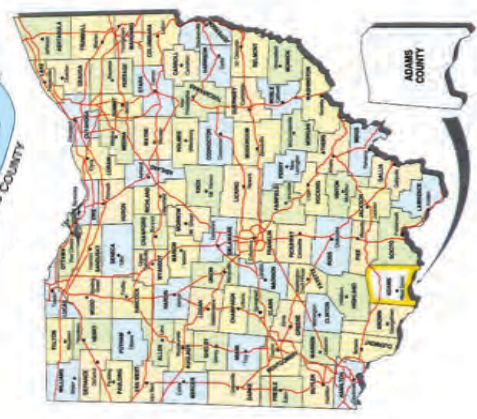
TOP: The view over Ohio Brush Creek valley. **ABOVE:** The Nature Conservancy Mackenzie Run boat ramp on Ohio Brush Creek.

Adams County, Ohio





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ADAMS COUNTY

U.S. Highway 52

State Highway 41

County Highway 34

Township Route 1-177

City Road

Private Road

Freeway Ramp

Recreation Trail

Railroad

Township Line

County Line

State Line

Park

Golf Course

Airport

University

Cemetery

Governmental

Water

Post Office

Point of Interest

North Arrow

TIFFIN Township

WEST UNION City

Jacksonville Community

Enlargements

3

0 1 2 3 4 5
mile

0 1 2 3 4 5
Kilometer

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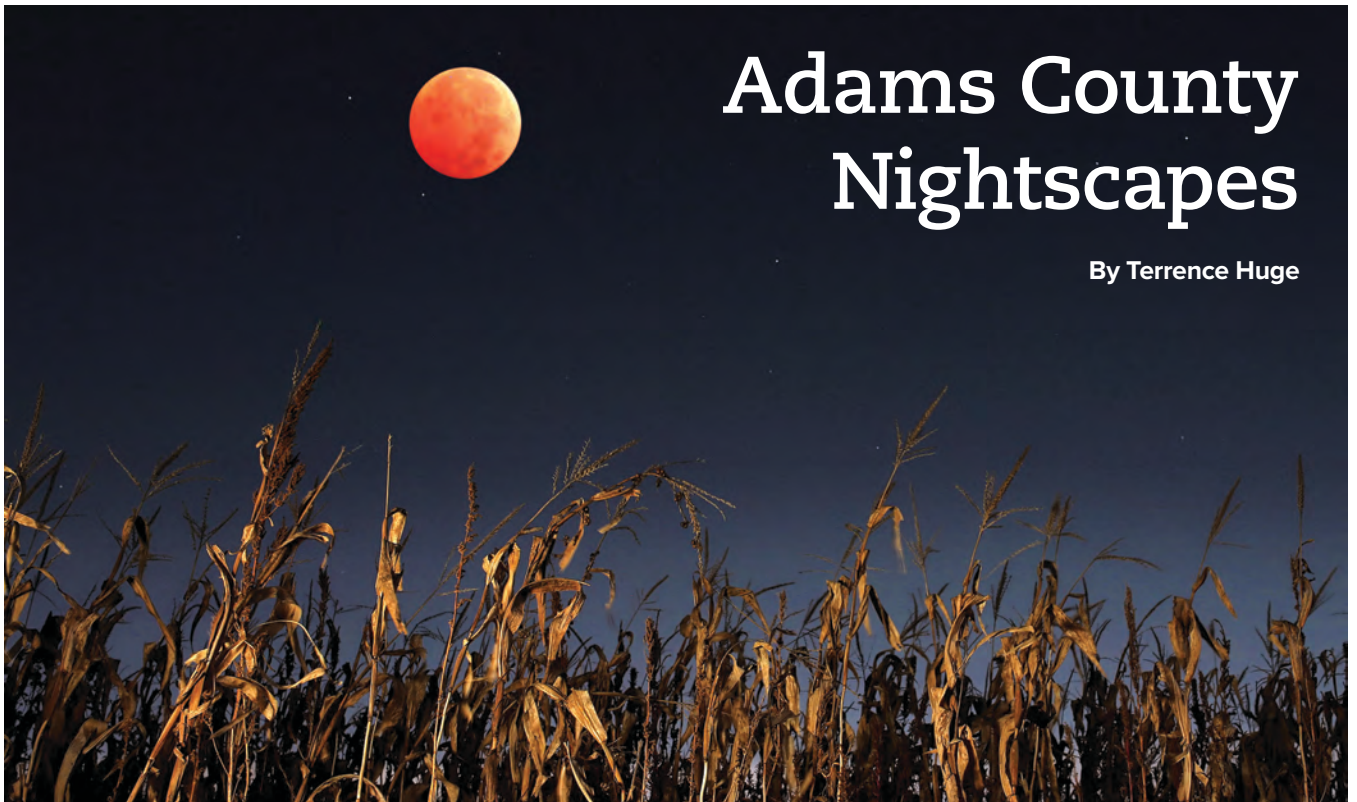
adamscountytravel.org
info@adamscountytravel.org





Adams County Nightscapes

By Terrence Huge



“If the stars should appear but one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore.” - Ralph Waldo Emerson, philosopher/poet

Looking up into a clear dark sky, filled with thousands of glittering stars, planets, galaxies and occasional comets and meteors, is humbling and beautiful beyond description. Words are inadequate in relating that sense of wonder. Llewelyn Powys, British novelist, said, “No sight that the human eyes can look upon is more provocative of awe than is the night sky scattered thick with stars.”

In Adams County, still blessed with minimal light pollution, one has only to step outside to take in the treasures of the heavens above. No need for an expensive telescope; our unaided eyes are sufficient indeed. These local images hopefully will inspire us to spend more time under the stars, help us appreciate better the splendor of God’s universe and energize us to protect and preserve our night skies.

Terrence’s photographs have appeared in numerous publications and the *Cincinnati Enquirer*.



ABOVE: “Bloodmoon,” photo taken from Hoop Ridge Road in November just before dawn in Adams County.

LEFT: An excellent dark sky location is Moon Hollow where this restored barn promotes Adams County hiking.

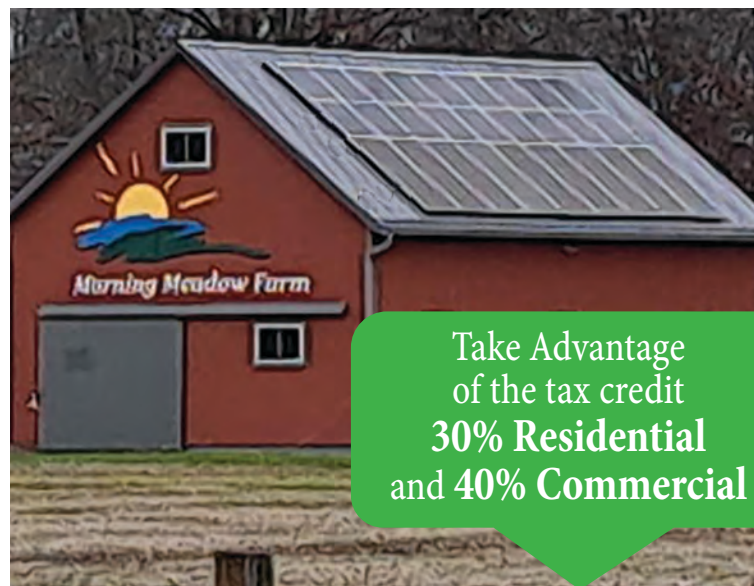
RIGHT: A few brief seconds of illumination to an interesting foreground subject can provide context and scale to the night sky, viewed at a farm on Fawcett Road in Adams County.



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Nature Preserves

Adams County Nature Preserves

There are 17 dedicated nature preserves in Adams County that are open to the public daily, plus, there are two state forests—Shawnee and Brush Creek—and one wildlife area, Tranquility Wildlife Area.

Each preserve has something unique. For the earliest spring wildflowers, Ohio River Bluffs are hard to beat when the bluebells bloom in late March and early April. Later in the summer, prairies like Chaparral and Lynx Prairie come alive with a spectacular array of wildflowers. For the best view in Adams County, it's hard to beat Buzzardroost Rock Preserve.

Of the 17 preserves, six preserves are administered by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) Natural Areas & Preserves. They are Adams Lake State Nature Preserve, Chaparral Prairie, Davis Memorial,



Buzzardroost Rock Preserve is popular with hikers.

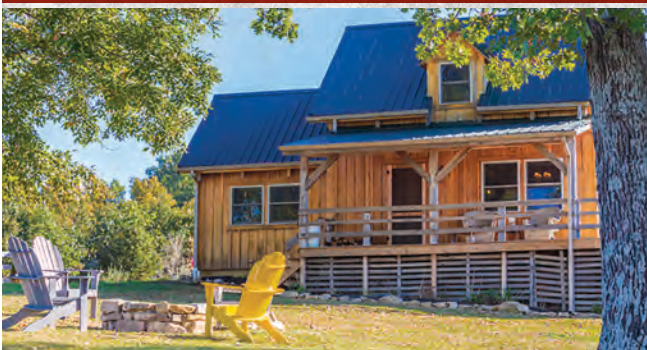
Johnson Ridge, Shoemaker Preserve and Whipple Preserve.

Six preserves in Adams County are under the ownership and care of the

Highlands Nature Sanctuary. They include Chalet Nivale, Kamama Prairie, Ohio River Bluffs, Plum Run, Quiverheart Gorge and Rock Run Preserve.

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Cedar Falls is a 15-foot cascade over a series of limestone ledges. Like many waterfalls in southern Ohio, the falls are best viewed in spring or after a hard rain, when water flow is the strongest.

At the 20,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve, jointly administered by The Nature Conservancy and The Cincinnati Museum Center, are five popular preserves to hike and visit. The most popular of these is the Buzzardroost Rock Preserve. Others include Cedar Falls Preserve, Lynx Prairie, Joan Portman Trail and the Wilderness Trail. ■

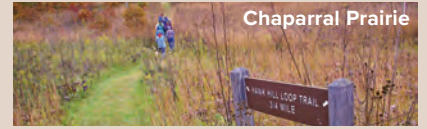
Online Information

ODNR Preserves

- **Adams Lake State Nature Preserve:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/adams-lake-prairie-state-nature-preserve
- **Chaparral Prairie:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/chaparral-prairie-state-nature-preserve
- **Davis Memorial:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/davis-memorial-state-nature-preserve
- **Johnson Ridge State Memorial:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/johnson-ridge-state-nature-preserve
- **Robert A. Whipple State Nature Preserve:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/whipple-state-nature-preserve
- **Shoemaker State Nature Preserve:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/shoemaker-state-nature-preserve

Highlands Nature Preserves

- **Chalet Nivale:** arcofappalachia.org/chalet-nivale
- **Kamama Prairie:** arcofappalachia.org/kamama-prairie
- **Ohio River Bluffs:** arcofappalachia.org/ohio-river-bluffs
- **Plum Run Prairie:** arcofappalachia.org/plum-run
- **Quiverheart Preserve:** arcofappalachia.org/quiverheart-gorge
- **Rock Run Preserve:** arcofappalachia.org/rock-run



Edge of Appalachia Preserves

- **Buzzardroost Rock Trail:** nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/edge-of-appalachia-buzzardroost-rock-trail/
- **Cedar Falls Trail:** nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/edge-of-appalachia-cedar-falls-trail/
- **Joan Portman Trail:** nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/joan-jones-portman-trail-and-dr-george-rieveschl-jr-creeks-bend-overlook/
- **Lynx Prairie Trail:** nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/edge-of-appalachia-lynx-prairie-trail/
- **Wilderness Trail:** nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/edge-of-appalachia-the-wilderness-trail/

ONDR State Forests & Wildlife Areas

- **ODNR Brush Creek State Forest:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/brush-creek-state-forest
- **ODNR Shawnee State Forest:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/shawnee-state-forest
- **ODNR Tranquility Wildlife Area:** ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/tranquility-wildlife-area

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Hiking



Exploring Quiverheart Gorge Preserve

By Kimberly Baker



During the rainy season, Quiverheart Gorge has the largest and most beautiful waterfall in the Arc of Appalachia Preserve System.

Quiverheart, once a hidden gem in Adams County, has gone public as the latest addition to the nonprofit Arc of Appalachia Preserve System. From 1815-1830, the site was home to the first steam-powered iron blast furnace west of the Appalachians, as well as a brick foundry. It was reported nearly every tree in the immediate region was cut down to provide charcoal to feed the furnace at this industrial site. Today the land is one of the most beautiful nature sanctuaries in all of Ohio.

Quiverheart is a 99-acre deep dolomite gorge boasting a large waterfall, a recess rock overhang, sparkling creeks, moss-covered rocks and vertical-sided cliffs. The views from atop the ridge are stunning. Small prairie remnants in the lower elevations protect rare blazing stars, coneflowers and prairie docks.

In 1965, Lester Baker purchased the land as a family farm. Years later, his son, David, started buying sections of the farm until he owned all but his parents' house. David's son, Matthew, loved horses so much that he shared with his family that riding them made his heart quiver.

Many years later, David and his wife, Kim, approached Arc of Appalachia with a dream that the land would be forever protected, open to the public and called Quiverheart Gorge in memory of Matthew, who had tragically

passed away in a car accident when he was still in school. The Arc purchased the land through the help of the Clean Ohio grant program and a bargain sale from David and Kim, who remain the land's caretakers.

Quiverheart's rock formations and rare botanicals are beautiful but vulnerable. Staying on the trail and not climbing the rocks and boulders is essential to protecting forever the site's breathtaking scenery. Every step taken off the trail dislodges moss and compacts the soil around delicate flower

bulbs. You are invited to visit Quiverheart. We hope you will be inspired to become a steward and advocate of Ohio's natural legacies!

Quiverheart Gorge is located south of Peebles on St. Rt. 781, just off Steam Furnace Road. For more information on the Arc of Appalachia Preserve Systems in Adams County and the Appalachian Front region, visit arcofappalachia.org and theappalachianfront.org. ■

Kim Baker is the outreach coordinator for Arc of Appalachia Preserve System.



The rock formations of Quiverheart are diverse and varied, providing hikers with dramatic scenery around every corner.



Covered Bridges

Historic Kirker Covered Bridge Nearly Destroyed by Tornado



We are saddened to report that the historic Kirker Covered bridge sustained serious damage due to the tornado that swept through Adams County, Ohio, on the night of April 2. The Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau (ACTVB) has helped maintain and repair the bridge for the past 14 years. Below is a brief history of the most recent upgrades, maintenance and repairs to the bridge.

In June of 2010 the ACTVB repaired the Kirker Covered Bridge, one of only two covered bridges left in Adams County. The bridge was originally built in 1890 and named after Ohio's second governor, Thomas Kirker from Adams County. The bridge, located alongside St. Rt. 136, southwest of West Union, was next to the last covered bridge used in the state highway system.

"The bridge had fallen into a state of disrepair," said Tom Cross, director for the ACTVB. "Portions of the metal roof had peeled back from high winds exposing the inner structure of bridge to rain and the siding had not been painted in years and boards were starting to rot and some inside roof support framing was starting to buckle."

"After meeting with Charles Kirker last fall, who was very concerned about the condition of the bridge, I approached the board about a fundraiser to repair the structure," said Cross. "The board recognized the significant tourism benefits of the covered bridge, and a fundraiser was launched."

The ACTVB raised \$3,425.00 dollars which was donated by individuals and businesses to repair the historic bridge. Repairs finally got under way during the spring of 2010 but seemingly constant rain caused delays in the project.

"The roof had just gotten finished when Adams County experienced the severe flash flood event in May," said Cross. "I inspected the bridge after the flood then met with Allan Miller, who was doing the repair. The damage from the flood resulted in additional



The historic Kirker Covered bridge sustained serious damage in 2024 from a tornado. TOP: Before the tornado. ABOVE: After.

expenses, which needed to be raised quickly to continue the work."

The roof required 14 sheets of new sheet metal roofing, 7 gallons of roof paint, and 20 gallons of white siding paint. Portions of the original 1890 roof framework had to be replaced, a section of roof main framing on the southeast side of the bridge had to be straightened and supported, over 20 siding boards were replaced and a 15-foot length of inside framing holding the siding had to be replaced and reattached to the bridge. Once the siding was painted two new signs reading "KIRKER BRIDGE 1890" were placed above both entrances.

In 2016 the ACTVB had the Kirker Covered Bridge repainted and added the quilt square "Brown Goose" to the historic bridge. At the time the bridge was still structurally sound but needed a fresh coat of paint and some dressing up.

The current state of the Kirker Bridge, while not totally destroyed by the tornado, lost its entire roof and trusses. It

appears the steel reinforcements rods that tie the main structure together probably saved the bridge from total destruction. New roof trusses, bracing and a new sheet metal roof will be required as the roof over a covered bridge protects the main wood framing from the elements. There also appears to be some long-standing foundation issues, which will need to be addressed if the bridge is to be saved. On April 8, the Adams County Commissioners approved the restoration of the bridge and local contractors and the county engineer's office have examined the structure and its foundation. Hopefully enough funds can be raised to save the historic bridge. For information about the Kirker Covered Bridge, contact the Adams County Travel & Visitors Bureau.

Adams County has two covered bridges; the Harshaville Bridge on Graces Run Road built in 1855, and the Kirker Bridge built in 1890. The Harshaville Bridge is still in use. ■



One of the teams that participated in the Ohio Monster Catfish Challenge.

A Monster Challenge

INAUGURAL OHIO RIVER MONSTER CATFISH CHALLENGE A SUCCESS

By Tom Cross

It was a balmy September day for Manchester's first Ohio River Monster Catfish Challenge on the Ohio River. The ideal location was the Island Creek Corps of Engineers boat ramp right across from Manchester Island just on the outskirts of town. Tournament director Kevin Walters had seen to every detail and the event went off as smooth and calm as the Ohio River was that day.

In all, 62 boat teams participated in the first Ohio Monster Cat Challenge for a chance at \$12,550 in cash prizes. Participants were allowed a choice of five launching sites that morning but had to trailer their rig to the Island Creek ramp if they had fish to weigh.

Out of 62 teams, 35 teams caught fish and 91 total catfish were caught, weighed and released. Three monster catfish weighing over 40 pounds were brought to the weigh-in. The top fish was a monster blue cat weighing 46.6

pounds that was caught by team No. 16, Jim Butts and Rick Wagner. The second largest catfish was a big flathead that weighed 44.3 pounds, caught by team No. 9, Gary, Travis and Nicholas Staggs. A 42.2-pound flathead catfish was caught by Rick and Caryssa Johnson, of team No.28.

The top five teams that took home the winnings were:

- First place team No. 28, Rick and Caryssa Johnson, with three fish totaling 66.10 pounds.
- Second place team No. 35, Cory and Justin Cooper, and Michal Kendall, with three catfish totaling 61.40 pounds, including one catfish weighing 33.2 pounds.
- Third place went to team No. 54, Phillip Johnson and Scott Darnell, with three fish weighing 56.30 pounds, including one fish that weighed 35.4 pounds.
- Fourth place went to team No. 16, Jim Butts and Rick Wagner with two fish weighing a total of 55 pounds and took home the big fish with that 46.6-pound blue cat.
- Fifth place went to team No. 19, Jimmy and James Jenkins, and Matt Blythe, with a total of three fish weighing 54.1 pounds.

Young James Jenkins III won the top youth angler award on the fifth-place team. Top female angler went to Caryssa Johnson on the first-place team.

The overall weight of all the 91 total catfish caught during the eight-hour tournament exceeded half a ton at 1,216-pounds. The average weight of catfish caught was 13 pounds. All fish caught were released back into the river. Any dead fish would have been disqualified.

"The anglers in the tournament loved everything," said Walters, "and the community is raving about it so we're definitely going to keep the tournament going."

Walters also expressed that keeping the fish alive was a top priority for the tournament. ■

Ohio River Monster Catfish Challenge 2024

Oct. 5, 2024 @ Manchester Island Creek Boat Ramp. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info @ ohiorivermonstercatchallenge.com

Outdoor Recreation Information

Public Hunting Areas

- Tranquility Wildlife Area
- Shawnee State Forest
- Brush Creek State Forest
- The Edge of Appalachia Preserve by permit only

Local Outfitters

- Real McCoy Outdoors, realmccoyoutdoors.com
- Riverhills Whitetail, riverhillswhitetail.com
- Ohio Premier Trophy Outfitters, ohpto.com

Canoe Rental

- MoonDoggie LIVEree, 513.208.4635

Public Fishing Areas

- Ohio River
- Ohio Brush Creek
- Adams Lake
- Winchester Lake.
- Tranquility Wildlife Area ponds

Public Boat Ramps & Canoe Launches are marked on the map within this guide.

Ohio Brush Creek Canoe Access

- St. Rt. 73 bridge over Ohio Brush Creek at Serpent Mound
- St. Rt. 348 bridge over Ohio Brush Creek east of West Union
- St. Rt. 125 bridge over Ohio Brush Creek east of West Union.
- Edge of Appalachia Creeks Bend access on Waggoner Riffle Road
- Mackenzie Run Boat Ramp at 714 Waggoner Riffle Road

Ohio River Boat Ramps & Campgrounds

- Brush Creek Boat Ramp & Campground Nine miles east of Manchester on U.S. 52. Fee charged for launching and camping. 937.205.7732
- Island Creek Marina & Campground One mile east of Manchester on U.S. 52. Fee charged for launching and camping. 937.549.1430
- Manchester Village Boat Ramp and Kayak launch West Front Street, Manchester. No fee charged for launching.
- Sandy Springs Campgrounds & Small Boat Launch One mile east of Sandy Springs on U.S. 52. Fee charge for launching and camping. 701.640.7858, sandyspringscampground.com



Eight-point buck taken by Tom Cross.

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Riding Bicycles on Rural Country Roads



Cyclists on the annual Fresh Air Ride on Wheat Ridge Road.

Photo by Tom Cross

Adams County country roads offer cyclists a chance to view the beautiful countryside of south-western Ohio on roads less traveled. The back roads and country byways of Adams County have little traffic and are perfect for an afternoon of two-wheel peddling.

Wheat Ridge and Graces Run roads are the heart of Adams County's Amish Community where you'll likely have to share the road with horse and buggies and light tourist traffic. On the side roads, Tater Ridge, Unity and Duffy roads are even less traveled. At the bottom of the hill on Graces Run is the historic Harshaville Covered Bridge.

Further east in Adams County

are scenic backroads that are lightly traveled by autos. The road through Mineral Springs, within sight of Peach Mountain, the highest point in Adams County, is one of the more scenic routes and is included in this year's fifth annual Fresh Air Ride. The little burg of Mineral Springs is a postcard village with some interesting history, and you'll pass the still flowing springs that the village takes its namesake from.

At the southern end of Adams County, Waggoner Riffle Road follows Ohio Brush Creek, past the 20,000-acre Edge of Appalachia Preserve. A stop at Creeks Bend Picnic Area is recommended with its stunning view of Ohio Brush Creek. It also has a public restroom.

Adams County's offers the perfect escape for an afternoon or a day long bicycle ride through the countryside. The county and township roads that wind through the countryside have wonderful views and little traffic, and are perfect for a day of bike riding. And, if you get lost, don't worry half the fun is finding your way back. ■

Cycling Scenic Adams County Fifth Annual Fresh Air Ride

Oct. 5. 100-mile century and 60-mile metric century bicycle ride through Adams County. A home cooked Amish meal awaits cyclist at end of the ride. Starts and ends at CCL Bicycle, 1195 Duffy Road, Peebles. Information and registration at 937.386.3368

DISCOVER

The Richard & Lucile Durrell EDGE OF APPALACHIA PRESERVE SYSTEM



© TJ Vissing

Charles A. Eulett Wilderness Preserve Trail

Hike this 2.5-mile loop trail and experience a little of everything the preserve has to offer, from cliffs and forests to prairies and wildflowers.

Christian and Emma Goetz Buzzardroost Rock Preserve Trail

Traverse the front of the Appalachian Escarpment to a rock promontory situated 400 feet above the Ohio Brush Creek. This is a 4.5-mile, round-trip trail that includes newly-constructed stairs and a refurbished boardwalk at the overlook.

E. Lucy Braun Lynx Prairie Preserve Trail

Walk 1.6 miles and meander through multiple prairie openings in an otherwise forested area.

Joan Jones Portman Trail / Buckeye Trail

Experience a panoramic view of the Ohio Brush Creek Valley on this 1.5-mile, round-trip trail extending through prairie and forest. The 1,400-mile Buckeye Trail continues eastward from the overlook but is designed for long-distance and through-hikers only. It does not return to the parking area.

Helen C. Black Trail at Cedar Falls

Discover Cedar Falls, the Edge Preserve's newest trail. This three-mile, round-trip trail features a dramatic overlook perched on the edge of a cliff above the falls in a grove of white cedar trees.

George Rieveschl Jr. Creek's Bend Overlook

Stop by the preserve's visitor information area to learn more about the preserve, get maps, or launch a canoe on Ohio Brush Creek. Wi-Fi available.

Ohio Brush Creek Access - Mackenzie Run Boat Ramp

Opened in 2022, boaters can now experience a new entry point to deep water and free flowing sections of Ohio Brush Creek.

**Please visit cincymuseum.org/nature
or nature.org/edgeofappalachia
for more information and directions.**



Looking to get outside and connect with nature?

Just 75 miles east of Cincinnati, you'll find a 21,000-acre nature preserve that boasts more than 1,100 recorded plant species as well as striking geological formations like cliffs and promontories. Home to more than 100 rare plant and animal species, The Richard & Lucile Durrell Edge of Appalachia Preserve System in Adams County, Ohio protects beautiful forested and prairie habitats, including five sites that are recognized as National Natural Landmarks. Explore the largest privately owned natural area in Ohio, protected by Cincinnati Museum Center and The Nature Conservancy for over 60 years.

Edge of Appalachia Eulett Center

The Eulett Center is available to rent for business-oriented meetings and conferences.

Contact: (937) 544-2880, ext. 11



© David Ike



Adams Lake State Park

By Bill Wickerham



Any trip to Adams County would not be complete without a visit to Adams Lake State Park. This 47-acre lake was built in the 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to provide water for the village of West Union. Adams Lake is one of the most scenic and biologically interesting areas in the county.

The park provides places for picnics, recreation, events and a playground and basketball court. Adams Lake also has a .5-mile Storybook Trail along the shore.

The lake is a popular destination for waterfowl and a local hot spot for birds, especially during the winter.

One of the more interesting aspects of the park is the 26-acre Adams Lake Prairie State Nature Preserve.

Often overlooked is the lake's fishing. Five-pound-plus bass are caught and released every summer by a lucky fisherman. Regulations of a 15-inch minimum for bass have helped the fishery. Other species include crappie, channel catfish and bluegill. Fishing is



TOP: Adams Lake State Park is located 1 mile north of West Union on St. Rt. 41.

ABOVE: Adams Lake is a great place to fish, with bass, rainbow trout, crappie, channel catfish and bluefish calling the lake home.

also productive at the pool below the dam. Perhaps most popular are the rainbow trout, which are released in March by the Ohio Division of Wildlife. The lake has a ramp and is restricted to electric motors only.

Adams Lake is a popular place to drop a kayak or canoe into and has a kayak E-Z Launcher at the boat dock for those challenged.

Find information about Adams Lake at ohiodnr.gov/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/adams-lake-state-park.

Adams Lake State Park is located 1 mile north of West Union on St. Rt. 41. ■

Bill Wickerham is the wildlife specialist for the Adams Soil and Water Conservation District.



Hit the Water in Adams County



The Ohio River on the southern shores Adams County is a picturesque stretch of river with boater access to three uninhabited islands, two of which are part of the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

Of the three islands, Manchester Island No. 1 can boast of having one of the best natural beaches on the Ohio River at the western end of the island. Just pull your boat up and enjoy a picnic or a walk on the beach. Boaters come from as far away as Cincinnati and Portsmouth to enjoy the island. Volleyball, cookouts and socializing are all part of the island life during the summer weekends.

The island nearest to the Ohio side is Manchester Island No. 2. It is the largest of the three river islands and is

also part of the part of the Ohio River Islands Wildlife Refuge.

Upriver is Brush Creek Island, located across from the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek and easily reached from the Brush Creek boat ramp.

All three islands are part of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Three public boat ramps on the Ohio River in Adams County make launching a breeze. Brush Creek Boat Ramp is located off U.S. 52 at the mouth of Ohio Brush Creek, while the two Manchester Islands are best accessed by Island Creek Boat Ramp just east of Manchester.

Campsites along the river are available at the two boat ramps and at Sandy Springs Campground, 20 miles east of Manchester, near river mile 375.

Another water option in Adams County is Ohio Brush Creek, which offers great fishing, floating and wildlife viewing, and now, with four canoe/kayak/boat access sites, it has never been easier.

Two public canoe launches are located at the St. Rt. 125 Bridge and at the St. Rt. 348 Bridge. A third access is at the EOA's "Creeks Bend," located approximately 3 miles south of St. Rt. 125 on Waggoner Riffle Road. A fourth newly opened site is the Mackenzie Run boat ramp on Waggoner Riffle Road at the upper end of the Ohio Brush Creek pool. Each site has approximately three "creek miles" between them. The Corps of Engineers public boat ramp off U.S.

Ohio Brush Creek is a great place to paddle, thanks to its four canoe/kayak/boat access sites.

52 is near the confluence of Brush Creek and the Ohio River.

For the would-be floater without a canoe or kayak, MoondoggieLivree at moondoggielivree.com can help arrange a scenic float trip down the creek.

If you want to meet up with other paddlers, mark June 29 on your calendar for Paddle Fest. Held on Ohio Brush Creek, it is sponsored by Adams County Health & Wellness. ■

Paddling Guide to Ohio Brush Creek

An online "Paddlers Guide to Ohio Brush Creek," produced by Elijah Wickerham, is available to download for free from this link: adamssoilandwater.org/a-paddlers-guide-to-ohio-brush-creek.html.

From the site, you can download and print this handy reference guide to floating Ohio Brush Creek including information and maps to all access points on Ohio Brush Creek.



Ohio River Boat Ramps/ Campgrounds/Fuel

Brush Creek Boat Ramp & Campground, 17085 U.S. 52, Manchester. Fee charged for launching and camping. 937.205.7732

Island Creek Boat Ramp & Campground, 8801 U.S. 52, Manchester. Fee charged for launching and camping. 937.549.1430

Manchester Village Boat Ramp, West Front Street, Manchester. No fee charged for launching.

Sandy Springs Campground & Cabins, 27719 U.S. 52, Stout. 701.640.7858

Stockade Estates Resort, On the river @ Manchester. Fuel, snacks, ice. 937.549.0167



Lodging

Bed & Breakfast

Murphin Ridge Inn & Cabins

Located in the heart of the Amish community of Adams County, this historic landmark offers 10 rooms plus nine cabins, and fine dining. 750 Murphin Ridge Road, West Union. 937.544.2263 or 877.687.7446, themurphinridgeinn.com

River Haven B&B

A beautiful B&B on the riverfront offering six spacious rooms with private bath. 407 W Front St., Manchester. 937.549.1999, ohioriverhaven.com, riverhaven45144@yahoo.com

Valerie's House B&B

Built in 1883, this Victorian home is a historical landmark in Adams County. Three elegant suites are available for the night or week, and for special occasions or meetings. 530 E. Mulberry St., West Union. 937.779.3502 or 833.303.7796, valerieshouse530.com

Cabins/Cottages/Retreats

Behm Mountain Cabins

This relaxing cabin in the wilds of Adams County was reconstructed from the hand-hewn logs of historical structures originally

built over 100 years ago. *Pet friendly.* 1561 Coon Hollow Road, Blue Creek. 937.587.5144, behmmountaincabin.com

Brush Creek Retreat

The cabin has two bedrooms and full bath surrounded by over 1,000 acres of nature preserve property. The back deck has a breathtaking view of Ohio Brush Creek. 4786 Spurgeon Hill Road, West Union. 937.515.0406, brushcreekretreat.weebly.com brushcreekretreat@gmail.com

Cave Hill Cabin

Offers all the amenities in a quiet wooded setting at the end of a private road where wild-life and nature abound. 778 Cave Hill Road, Winchester. 513.580.8826, cavehillcabin.com

Cozy Hideaway

A vacation destination that is perfect for a relaxing escape or romantic getaway. Newly renovated cabin for hunting or the adventure of a lifetime. *Pet friendly.* 415 Cozy Lane, West Union. 513.315.3334, cozyhideaway.org.



Murphin Ridge Inn & Cabins

Crosset Cottage

The Crosset Cottage is a modern two bed, two bath cottage in the middle of beautiful Amish Country situated on 142 acres of rolling woodland and farmland with breathtaking vistas of the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. 1040 Murphin Ridge Road, West Union. crossetcottage.com

Deer Path Cabin

The fully furnished cabin has three bedrooms, two baths, a kitchen and a gas fireplace, a spacious back porch with an outside fire pit with firewood, and a 1-acre pond for fishing. 657 Tom Brown Road, Winchester. 937.779.6122, vrbo.com/1271069

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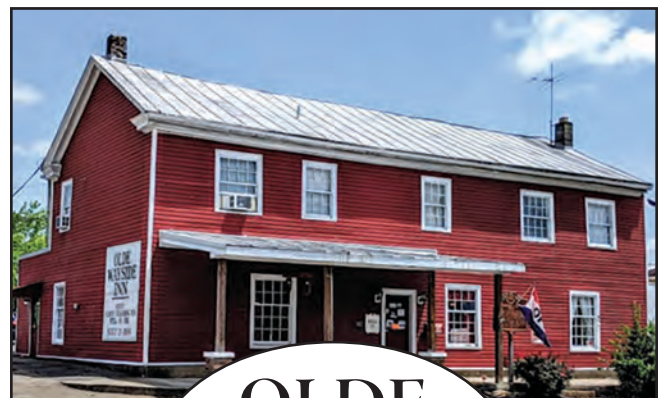


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Glasgow Manor

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Gretta's Place

Bring the whole family to this great place with lots of room for fun. Can hold up to 10 guests. Five bedrooms, five beds, three baths. Full kitchen, HDTV, air, patio and balcony. U.S. 52, Wrightsville. airbnb.com/rooms/719549896243948712

Hawks View Farm

Rustic cabin rental located just one hour east of Cincinnati and minutes from the Wheat Ridge Amish Community. Spectacular views, breathtaking sunsets and a peaceful rural experience. Pet friendly. 265 Greenbrier Road, Seaman. ahawksviewfarm.com

Hopewell Croft Cabin

Relax at this spacious, yet cozy and comfortable, cabin. Cook up a feast in the well-equipped kitchen. Explore the winding trails. Rest by the peaceful stream. Pet friendly. 2626 Suck Run Road, Bentonville. hopewellcroft.com

Indian Crossing Cabin

Relax with the family. Cabin has over 50 acres to explore and over 2,000 feet of Ohio Brush Creek frontage to enjoy fishing, kayaking and more. Only minutes from Serpent Mound. Fawcett Road, Peebles. airbnb.com/rooms/86003884498923517

Maple Cabin @ Sandy Springs Campground

Nestled in the trees along the riverbank. Air conditioned and a beautiful fireplace provides heat and ambiance. Visit website for other cabin options. 27719 U.S. 52, Stout. 701.640.7858, sandspringscampground.com

McIntosh Cabin

Fishing, boating and hiking. Close to Buzardroost Rock, Lynx Prairie and Shawnee State Park. Sleeps six, with four bunks, one full bath and kitchen. Pet friendly. 1709 Bethany Ridge Road, West Union. 937.544.7294 or 937.259.4502

Pine Valley Cabins

Four cabins nestled among the pines in the heart of Adams County Amish Country with bath, shower, heat, air, washer, dryer. Kitchen, living room, bedrooms, sleeps six. 1040 Bailey Road, Peebles. 937.798.5426, airbnb.com/rooms/567288577547179055

Riverhills Vacation Rental

Whether you're fossil hunting or deer hunting, Riverhills Fossils and Riverhills Whitetail offers two cabins with all the amenities. Cabins are located off U.S. 52 Scenic Byway and at Moores Run Rd. 937.549.4433, riverhillswhitetail.com, riverhills_whitetail@yahoo.com

Solstice Haven

An a-frame located in a peaceful and private 20-acre wooded setting. Rest, relax and recharge while walking the trails or fill the heated outdoor cedar tub for a relaxing soak. Wallace Road, Peebles. airbnb.com/rooms/833466649238801666

Southern Ohio Cabin Rentals

Nestled in the Appalachian foothills, the property features a collection of six, one-room cabins and a spacious three-bedroom cabin house with picnic table, grill and fire pit. 176 Puntteney Road, Stout. cabinrentalsohio.com, info@cabinrentalsohio.com

The Far Look Cabin

A Pre-Civil War Log Cabin offers all modern amenities and is located in the heart of Adams County on 17-plus private acres with beautiful views of the Appalachian Mountains. Cave Hill Road, Winchester. vrbo.com/2964188



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The Farmhouse of Unity

A vacation rental in the heart of Adams County Amish Country. Three bedroom, two baths and a fire pit under the stars. Sleeps eight. Great for family getaways. 4361 Unity Road, West Union. 513.910.5640, vrbo.com/2044793

The Landing at Brush Creek Creekside Cabin

The cabin sleeps six. Explore the Edge of Appalachia Preserve, Brush Creek, picking wildflowers. On the Adams County Quilt Barn Trail. Pet friendly. 1805 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union. 614.915.4979, thelandingatbrushcreek.com

The Nut House Cabin at Trail End

Located in the Appalachian foothills of Shawnee State Forest. You have the entire cabin all to yourself. Sleeps two-guests in this one bedroom and bath cabin near Blue Creek. 740.216.8722, airbnb.com/rooms/44469519

The Red Barn

Located on a secluded dead-end road in the midst of Brush Creek State Forest is the perfect couple's getaway. Stocked pond and fire pit with free firewood. 91 Cole Lane, Peebles. 937.231.2604, vrbo.com/782567

The Sanctuary

A full-sized home situated on a secluded ridge on 8 private acres that adjoin Brush Creek State Forest. 1620 Coffee Hollow Road, Peebles. 937.231.2604, vrbo.com/354078

The Ville Guesthouse & Cabins

A majestic 1870s farmhouse with access to a pier and dock on the Ohio River. Also, a cabin overlooking the Ohio River Valley with fire pit and walking trails. St. Rt. 247, Manchester. 937.217.3000, thevilleguesthouse.com

Camping

Brush Creek Boat Ramp & Campground

Boating, fishing and camping. Launch ramp, food, picnic areas and fuel on lower Ohio Brush Creek. Open April through September. Boating access to Brush Creek Island. 17085 U.S. 52, Manchester. 937.205.7732

Island Creek Boat Ramp & Campground

Offering camping and picnic area along the Ohio River, with a boat launch offering a perfect view and access to the Ohio Islands National Wildlife Refuge. 8801 U.S. 52 at Manchester. 937.549.1430

Long's Retreat Family Resort

An excellent destination for families, RV and tent camping, cabin rentals, swimming, water slides, mini golf, and go karts. 50 Bell Hollow Road, Latham. 937.588.3725, longsretreat.com

Mineral Springs Lake Resort

Offering cabins, seasonal camping with electric hook-ups, a beach, a mini putt-putt golf course and a 100-acre lake. 160 Bluegill Road, Peebles. 740.637.1151, mineralspringslakeresort.com

Moondoggie Canoe & Camping

Primitive camping at Moondoggie Canoe Liveree on Ohio Brush Creek. 4950 Brush Creek Road, Manchester. moondoggieliveree.com

Red Barn Convention Center Campground

Full hookups for RVs, fifth wheel and trailers. Easy access to and from St. Rt. 32. 2223 Russellville Road, Winchester. 800-823-9197, redbarnconventioncenter.com

Sandy Springs Campground & Cabins

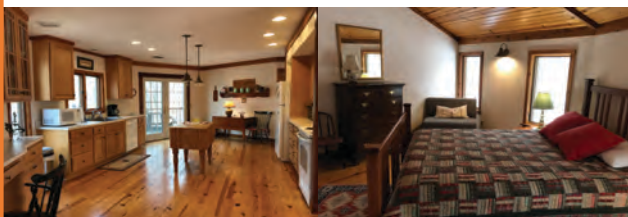
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Hotels/Motels

Budget Host Sunset Inn

Reasonable rates and clean rooms, located at the intersection St. Rt. 32 and St. Rt. 136. *Pet friendly.* 18760 St. Rt. 136, Winchester. 937.695.0381, toll free 800.BUD.HOST

Country Nights Inn

Offering 19 rooms in the heart of West Union's business district. A short walking distance to many restaurants. 11255 St. Rt. 41, West Union. 937.544.9761

Quality Inn

Relax in one of 34 rooms, with an outdoor pool. Conveniently located at the intersection of St. Rt. 247 and St. Rt. 32. *Pet friendly.* 55 Stern Drive, Seaman. 937.386.2511, toll free 888.386.2511

Wedding Venues/Event Centers

McCoy's at Poplar Flat

2064 Poplar Flat Road, West Union. 937.587.2555, mccoyatpoplarflat.com

Red Barn Convention Center

2223 Russellville Road, Winchester. 800.823.9197, redbarnconventioncenter.com



Sandy Springs Campground & Cabins

The Landing at Brush Creek

1805 Waggoner Riffle Road, West Union. 614.915.4979, thelandingatbrushcreek.com

The River Barn

7023 W. Second St., Manchester. 937.549.3037, facebook.com/RiverBarn-985986044764798/

The Ville Guesthouse Venue

350 St. Rt. 247, Manchester. 937.217.3000, thevilleohio.com

The Willow Event Center

7662 Eckmansville Road, Winchester. 937.725.2684, facebook.com/thewillowvenue

ADAMS COUNTY, OHIO

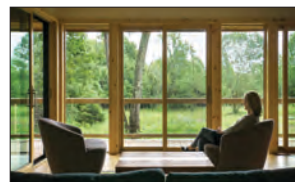
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Dining

Fine Dining

Murphin Ridge Inn

The historic 1826 dining house is open Tuesday through Saturday evenings for dinner, 5:30–8 p.m. Reservations recommended. 750 Murphin Ridge Road, West Union. 937.544.2263 or 877.687.7446

Unique Dining



Blake Pharmacy

Five-cent Cokes served from a 1961 soda counter. Enjoy sandwiches and milkshakes from an old-fashioned pharmacy. Soda fountain open every day except Sunday. 209 N. Market St., across from the courthouse in West Union. 937.544.2451

Cruiser's Diner

Dine in an old fashion '50s style dinner. Conveniently located off St. Rt. 32. Open seven

days a week. 155 Stern Drive, Seaman, off St. Rt. 32. 937.386.3330

Mama's Coffee House

Family-owned and -operated coffeehouse serving specialty coffee, soup, sandwiches and baked goods. Open M–F, 5 a.m.–4 p.m., Sa 8 a.m.–2pm. Closed Sunday. 18862 St. Rt. 136, Winchester. 937.695.6300

Olde Wayside Inn

Home cooked meals at the historic Bradford Traven built in 1804, a registered. Historic Landmark. Hours: Open Tuesday–Friday & Sunday. Closed Monday & Saturday. 222 Main St., West Union. 937.544.7103

Sunset Bowl

Come bowl or eat—they do both! Bowling is fun and the food is great! Dinner specials on weekends. Open Wednesday through Sunday. Steaks, pizza, sandwiches, desserts and more. 4959 St. Rt. 125, West Union. 937.779.3306

The Precinct Café

Come sip a cup of coffee or have lunch! The Precinct has lunch options as well as locally roasted coffee. Hours: M–F 7 a.m.–2 p.m., Sa

8 a.m.–1 p.m. 116 W. Mulberry St., downtown West Union. 93.552.2739

The Queen Beanery Coffee House

The Queen Beanery is a small batch coffee roaster. Fresh coffee from eight different origins, Amish made donuts and pastries, soup and sandwiches. Open Monday through Saturday. 25675 St. Rt. 41, Peebles. 937.798.4023

Valerie's House Café

Offering a variety of sandwiches, soups, salads and dinners. Hours: Tu–F 10:30 a.m.–1:30 pm. 530 E. Mullberry St., West Union. 937.779.3502

In the Wheat Ridge/ Amish Community

Miller's Bulk Foods Deli & Millers Bakery

960 Wheat Ridge Road, West Union. Deli 937.544.8449, Bakery 937.544.4520

Yoders Family Market Deli & Bakery

2621 Burnt Cabin Road, Seaman. 937.386.9995

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Fresh Air Road Bike Ride: Fall 2023
Mountain Bike Ride: Summer 2023

CLOSED SUNDAYS



Places

10 Things to Do in Adams County

1 Visit the Amish shops. Try Yoder's Furniture & Bakery east of Seaman and Miller's Bakery & Furniture on Wheat Ridge Road. Open every day except Sunday.

2 Take a hike. Adams County's three best hikes are Quiverheart Preserve, Cedar Falls and Buzzardroost Rock, but don't forget the Buckeye Trail that goes through the county.



3 Dip a paddle. You can start your trip at four public canoe launches on Ohio Brush Creek or rent a canoe at MoonDoggie Canoe Livery on Brush Creek Road.

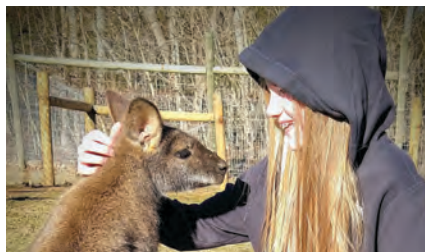


4 Visit Serpent Mound. Check out the 1,348-foot-long serpent effigy and ponder its mysteries. Or perhaps the museum will satisfy your curiosity. Open Tuesday through Sunday.

5 Boat, fish and ski the Ohio River. Boaters come from as far away as Cincinnati, Portsmouth and all points in-between during the summer to play on the beach at Manchester Island.



6 Find someplace unique to grab lunch. Try Blake Pharmacy on the courthouse square in West Union where a Coke is still a nickel; Cruiser's Diner in Seaman, home of the giant Hubcap Burger; or for a touch of history, try the Olde Wayside Inn in West Union, built in 1804.



7 Visit a zoo. Kids love Family Traditions Animal Adventures, located just off Wheat Ridge Road in Adams County Amish Country.

8 Shop for antiques. Visit Grindstone Farm off Tater Ridge Road, home of the Old Thyme Wheat Ridge Herb Fair, but before and after the fair visit the farm with barns full of one-of-kind antiques.

9 Get lost in a corn maze. Come September the corn maze opens at Erwin Farms & Corn Maze near Cherry Fork.



10 Check out a nature preserve. Check out one of Adams County's many designated nature preserves from ODNR, The Nature Conservancy, the Cincinnati Museum Center, The Highlands Nature Sanctuary and the Ohio History Connection.



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- Long term stays allowed
- Smoke alarm
- Communal microwave/fridge/freezer cabin
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*Bakery has separate hours