

Laurel Festival History

The First Laurel Festival was in 1938 and was the brainchild of Mr. Larry Woodin, a Wellsboro businessman who was so impressed with Pine Creek Gorge, located 10 miles Southwest of Wellsboro that he persuaded the Chamber of Commerce to publicize it as a natural wonder of Tioga County.

Through Mr. Woodin's efforts, visitors came to see the breathtaking 50 mile gorge, now known as the "Grand Canyon of the East" or the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon."

Organized by the Wellsboro Lions Club, the first festival was held to promote not only the Grand Canyon, but also the state flower, Mountain Laurel. Events included a parade, a circus, block dance and a ball. The festival highlight was the crowning of the first Laurel Queen, Miss Phyllis Viola of McKees Rocks.

Over the years, the festival has under gone many changes. Its title officially became the "Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival" to indicate that many towns in the state are represented. The Pet Parade, arts and crafts fair, concert series and foot races have all added to the enjoyment and participation of young and old alike.

The Laurel Festival continues to grow each year, and the friendly hospitality of the area has not changed over the years. Visitors are welcome to enjoy not only the fun of the Festival, but also the rugged, rocky cliffs, unspoiled forest land abloom with Laurel and clear bubbling water; all the natural beauty of Tioga County.

More Events

Sponsored by

The Wellsboro Area Chamber of Commerce,
The Wellsboro Foundation, & Members
114 Main Street
Wellsboro, PA 16901

Waste Management Susquehannock Trail Pro Rally presented by Citizens & Northern Bank
June 2 & 3, 2017

Endless Mountain Music Festival
July 21st – August 5th, 2017

Classic Car Cruise In
July 29th & August 26th, 2017

Laurel Classic Mountain Bike Challenge
September 9, 2017

Dickens of a Christmas
December 2, 2017

Wellsboro Winter Celebration
February 16th-18th, 2018

For more information on these events please call 570-724-1926 or visit www.wellsboropa.com

76th Annual PA State Laurel Festival



Photo by Tim McBride

June 10 - 18, 2017
In beautiful Wellsboro, PA
"Home of the
Pennsylvania Grand Canyon"

Wellsboro Fireman's Carnival
June 27th – July 1st, 2017

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

10 a.m.-1 p.m. FAMILY DAY &
Children's Health Fair
On The Green

Noon - Sadie Green Sales

2 p.m.-4:30 p.m.- Laurel Hike
Meets in front of Penn Wells at 2pm
and travel to Barbour Rock for a 2.4
mile hike

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

1:30 p.m. Pet Parade
Judging @12:30pm
Packer Park to The Green

MONDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 p.m. Laurel Concert Series
Megan McGarry
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

7:00 p.m. Laurel Concert Series
Drowsy Maggie
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

7:00 p.m. Laurel Concert Series
Wellsboro Town Band
On The Green
(Rain Location: First Baptist Church)

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

7:00 p.m. Laurel Concert Series
*Wellsboro Men's & Women's
Choruses*
First Presbyterian Church of
Wellsboro

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Arts & Crafts Fair
International Street of Foods
The Green
12:00 p.m. Queens' Welcome
Courthouse Steps, Main Street
5:00 p.m. Queens' Preview, followed by
Gabe Stillman and the Billtown
Giants Concert
Outdoor Stage, Deane Center
7:30 p.m. Corvette Do Wop Review (\$)
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 17

9:00 a.m. 10K Foot Race &
2-mile Fun Run
Packer Park
9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.
Arts & Crafts Fair
International Street of Foods
The Green

**2:00 p.m. PA State Laurel
Festival Parade**

6:30 p.m. *Coronation of 2017 PA State
Laurel Queen* (\$)
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 19

10:30 a.m.
Union Church Service
The Green
(Rain Location: First Baptist Church)

**Schedule is subject to minor changes.*

Laurel Festival Parade Chair Rentals

* For prime parade viewing, chairs will be available for rent in front of the Tioga County Courthouse for \$5 each. Advanced reservations can be made until Wednesday, June 14th by calling the Chamber office at 570-724-1926. After that, they will be on a first come, first serve basis the day of the parade starting at 9:00am. *Proceeds will benefit the Wellsboro Area High School Girls' Basketball team & PA State Laurel Festival.*



*2016 PA State Laurel Queen
Valerie Smith*