

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
Performance Rally**
First Friday & Saturday in June

Endless Mountain Music Festival
July 20th – August 4th, 2018

Classic Car Cruise In
July 28th & August 25th, 2018

**Laurel Classic
Mountain Bike Challenge**
September 8, 2018

Dickens of a Christmas
December 1, 2018

Wellsboro Winter Celebration
Third weekend in February

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

77th Annual PA State Laurel Festival



Photo by Tim McBride

June 9 - 17, 2018
In beautiful Wellsboro, PA
"Home of the
Pennsylvania Grand Canyon"

SATURDAY, JUNE 9

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 10

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

MONDAY, JUNE 11

7:00 p.m. **Laurel Concert Series**
Callanish
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

TUESDAY, JUNE 12

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 14

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 15

10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
Arts & Crafts Fair
International Street of Foods
The Green

FRIDAY, JUNE 15 (cont.)

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. **Scarborough Fair (\$)**
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 16

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 2018 PA State Laurel Queen (\$)**
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 17

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.*



*2017 PA State Laurel Queen
Abbey Carleton*