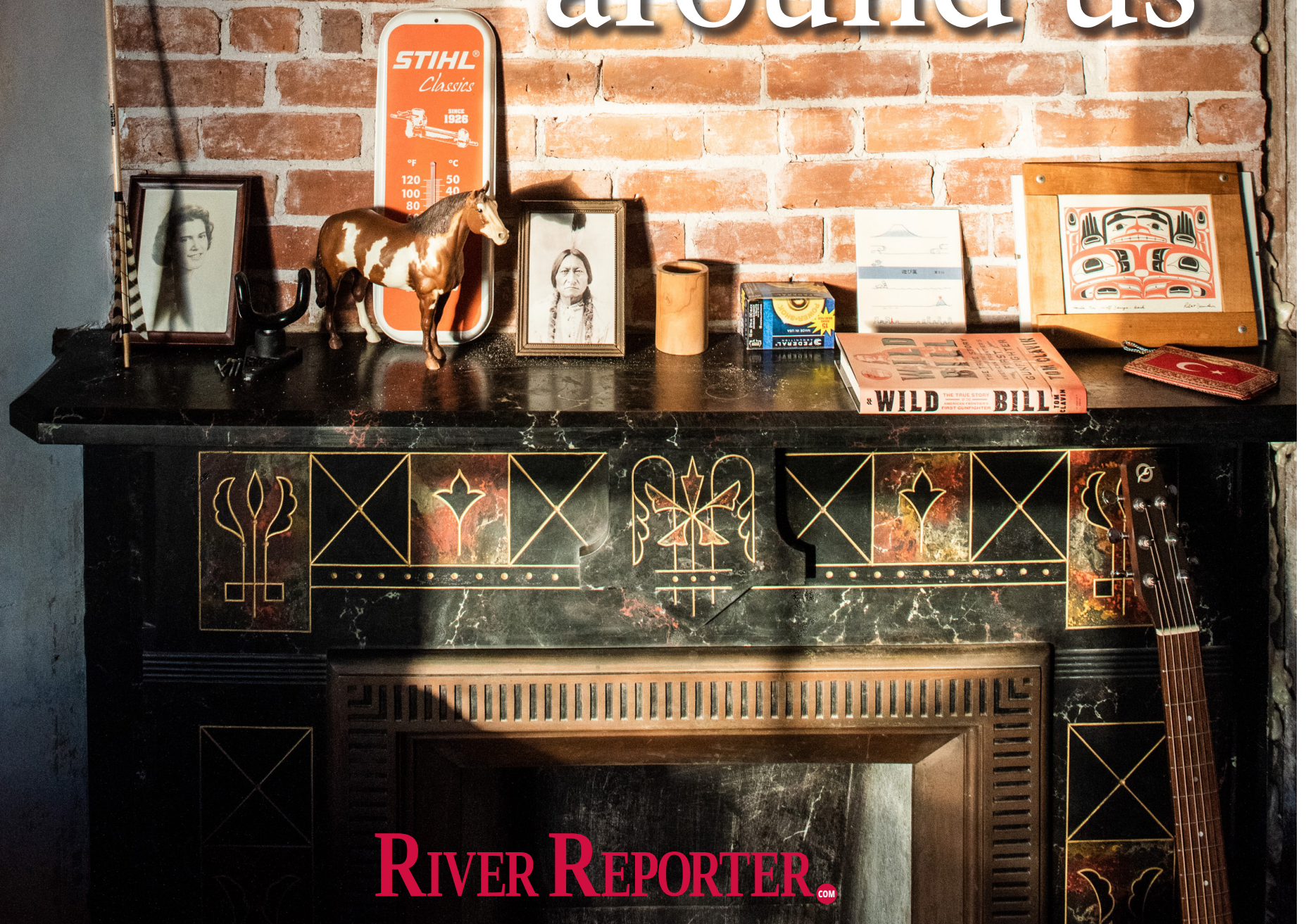


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## On the cover:

Photo by Randy Harris  
The handpainted detail on the original marble fireplace is unparalleled. When owner Randy Harris took apart the mantel to repair it, he found an inscription: John Blaine, 1884.

## Editor's letter:

### Of trees and wood

Dear readers,  
It seemed spring was an eternity of cool, damp weather, and now—bam!—here we are in summer already. Summertime, to me, means poking around in my gardens, walking along forested trails, or just standing outside and letting the soft breezes buffet me.

What's summer without the leafiness of trees? This issue, we're focusing on everything tree- and wood-related. There's food in the forest, if you know where to look, and Kristin White's story on foraging can help with that. If you're still hungry afterward, your mouth will water while you read Jude Waterston's delicious story of wood-fired cooking.

If you love flowers, but you're located in the woods, never fear: Sharon Peduto has tips on gardening in the shade. We also have a story on the Northeast Woodcarvers Roundup, where novice and hardcore carvers gather to share knowledge and fellowship while chipping away—literally—on projects.

Finally, the finest way to use wood is to build a house with it. There's just something



RR photo by Jane Anderson

This summer, be sure to look up at the arboreal beauty above you.

about a century-plus home that tugs the heartstrings, and our story on the Eastlake Victorian that's being lovingly restored by Randy Harris, of Milanville Wood & Co., and his wife, Lori Zambarano, is worth the long read, if I do say so myself.

No matter how you spend them, I hope you truly enjoy these luxurious summer days.

All the best,  
Jane Anderson, section editor

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# An Eastlake Victorian

## on the banks of the Delaware

By JANE ANDERSON

MILANVILLE, PA — Milanville, on the Delaware Riverbank in Pennsylvania, has many examples of Victorian and Edwardian architecture. One of them, the J. Howard Beach House, was built in the 1880s and is being lovingly restored by a couple who love and respect the house's deep roots.

Randy Harris was a photographer in New York City, shooting, among other projects, the Home & Garden section of the **New York Times**. In the early 2010s, he'd been fishing in the Neversink River—a tributary of the Delaware River—while visiting a friend up here, when a mist came undulating up the river. Intrigued, Harris stepped into it; as he tells it, a voice began whispering in his ear, telling the story of an Indian raid along the Delaware.

Upon returning home to Manhattan, he researched at the National Museum of the American Indian in New York and discovered the history of the 1779 Battle of Minisink, about which the “voice” told. “This area was known, in Native American terms, as ‘The Place of the Wolf,’” Harris said.

In the mid-2010s, he moved to Pond Eddy, lured by the countryside and the river. “The first thing I did when I moved here was rent a canoe and paddle up and down the river,” he said.

By 2016, Harris had met Lori Zambarano—a single mom and longtime teacher at the Homestead School, a Montessori school with campuses in Glen Spey and Hurleyville. They dated for a year before marrying. One day while they were dating, Harris invited Zambarano to go look at houses that were for sale. “It started like a whimsical thing: ‘Wanna go look at old houses?’” Zambarano said. “We both loved old houses. Then we found this one.”

### ‘It needed a lot of love’

Unlike traditional Queen Anne Victorians, this home was an Eastlake Victorian, featuring geometric designs incorporating natural images of insects, spiderwebs, and animals. And it was huge. “It was farther than we wanted. It was bigger than we wanted,” Zambarano said.

“I thought it was haunted,” Harris said, to which his wife concedes, “It needed a lot of love.”

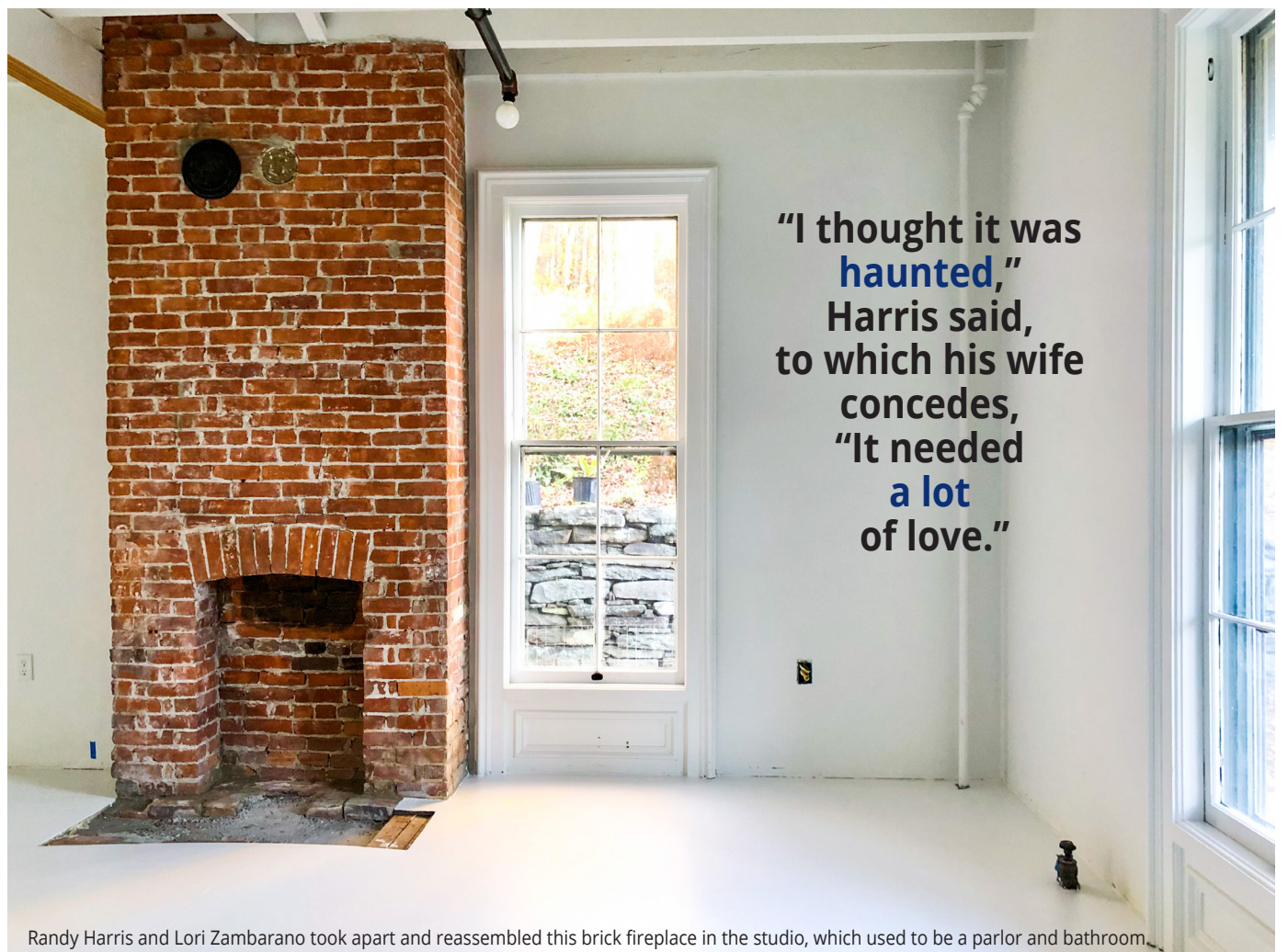
They closed on the house April 17, 2017, having already made friends at the Milanville General Store next door. The day of the closing, the couple had a dumpster delivered—and filled it within one day. The house's bones were solid, but there were “improvements” that had to be, well, unimproved. Harris found he had a knack for house renovation, following a path that was subconsciously carved out for him when he was a young man working for his father as a tool and die maker. “I was schooled in building things and fixing things,” he said. So they set to work.

As work began, the house offered gifts in return. Harris and Zambara-



Photos contributed by Randy Harris

Eastlake Victorian: The banks of windows that fill a wall of the dining room, and the primary bedroom on the floor above, are evident from the outside.



“I thought it was **haunted,**” Harris said, to which his wife concedes, “It needed **a lot of love.**”

Randy Harris and Lori Zambarano took apart and reassembled this brick fireplace in the studio, which used to be a parlor and bathroom.



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## VICTORIAN - Page 5

no discovered—tucked away in the attic—remnants of wallpaper that date back to the home's construction. Created by the American Wallpaper Company, the first manufacturer of woodblock-printed wallpaper, the cream-background paper is softly ornate, with the hallmarks of Eastlake designs; spiderwebs and butterflies appear entwined with vining flowers and curlicues. Identical wallpaper is in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, but doesn't have the selva edges printed with the manufacturer information, which are intact on the paper found in the house. Harris and Zambarano carefully unrolled the remnant on a bed in one of their spare bedrooms for a visitor. Less than a foot wide, the paper was still beautifully intact: Run a finger along its length, and the raised printing from the woodblock can still be felt. Zambarano carefully unfolded part of another wallpaper remnant they'd found. This piece was crumbling, and one almost pitied its age and decrepit condition. Still, fine swirls of cobalt crept along the background of robin's-egg blue, and the attention to detail was evident even though time had taken its toll.

### Hard work—and all by hand

The house retains some of those signs of age, along with touches of the couple's loving care. Upon entering the house, on the right you'll find Harris's woodworking studio "showroom." Beautifully carved furniture and utensils are displayed in a huge room that's whitewashed from its rafter-and-joist ceiling, down its plaster walls, to the white pine floor. A slim brick chimney and fireplace climbs up one wall—its story is the first hint at the couple's dedication to renovation. The original fireplace's mortar was crumbling, so Harris and Zambarano took it apart, piece by piece, and rebuilt it.



The foyer originally sported a tactile, fuzzy-gold wallpaper that has since been removed.

When Harris and Zambarano moved in, this was two rooms: a parlor and behind it, a bathroom. When dismantling the wall between, they found Sheetrock—unlike the plaster that's throughout the rest of the house. A little tip-tap and a rip... and a pocket-door doorway was revealed. Alas, the doors themselves were lost to history. But other decorative hints are sprinkled throughout this room: Wavy glass glimmers in some of the huge sashed windows, and the brass window latches themselves have intricate designs carved into them.

These latches, like the rest of the Eastlake hardware in the house, were hidden under layers of paint before Harris and Zambarano painstakingly soaked and scraped it off.

Luckily, the Eastlake stairwell that splits the center of the foyer still remains. The newel post and banister are solid under your hand; the wood just gleams. "These were shaky when we moved in, and the varnish was all 'alligatored,'" Harris said.

"One day, we were in the basement and I looked up and saw what looked like a bolt sticking out of the ceiling," said Zambarano.

no. "It was just under the newel post." Indeed, it was a half-inch-wide threaded rod: The newel post itself was assembled from 10 different parts, with the rod running through it and topped with a wooden "button." Harris grabbed a ladder and a wrench, turned the rod—and the post tightened up. The banister was also a series of lengths of wood, connected and tightened with a mechanism similar to the adjusters "on an old brake drum," Harris explained.

Once everything was secure, the stairs themselves needed to be sanded down and repainted. That wasn't a one-step process. "I grew up thinking that if something needed painting, you paint it and you're done," Zambarano said. "That's not the way Randy works, though!" Even the vintage radiators throughout the home were taken apart, refinished, and reassembled. All the sanding, priming, and painting have been worth the effort. "We're trying to keep things as original as possible," Zambarano said.

Opposite the studio, a large living room features another decorative brick fireplace. All three fireplaces in the house were coal-burners, and thus slimmer than traditional wood-burning fireplaces. Unable to convert them to wood-burners, the couple ended up threading the furnace flue through the living-room chimney—but otherwise, none of the fireplaces are functioning.

Pine floors run through the house; some of them retain their original honey tones, but eventually all of them will have a coat of white paint.

### Hidden beauty

Behind the living room is the dining room, brightened by a spectacular wall of windows. Carefully pieced together, the three-sided, floor-to-ceiling bump-out is topped by an arch with open carvings on each end and a hand-carved corbel at the top. "There was a drop ceiling in here, and we didn't see the carvings at the top until we'd taken down the ceiling,"

- Page 9



The large opening to the right used to be a Sheetrock wall separating the office from the primary bedroom. Now, the combined rooms are bright and airy.



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## VICTORIAN - Page 7

Harris said, pointing out a 10-inch-deep unpainted area on the built-in hutch opposite the window, marking the level of that drop ceiling. “Why anyone would want to cover up those carvings is beyond me.”

The large kitchen is at the back of the house. When the couple moved in, it was lined with modern dark cabinets. Now, besides the sink and appliances, there are only shelves and a few countertops lining the walls. The modern furnishings didn’t match the deep-toned original doors that line one wall of the room and the character of the rest of the house, so Harris and Zambarano are planning a new design. One of those doors leads to the side yard, where Harris does his woodworking. Another leads to a curving staircase that climbs steeply to two stark rooms: the former servant quarters. That wing is currently blocked off from the rest of the upper level, but plans are in place to open it up.

The rest of the upper level, reached by the center-hall stairs, are rich with wood and plaster. A window identical to the one in the dining room fills a wall in the primary bedroom. And like the rest of the house, this room has a story as well. It was two rooms when Harris and Zambarano moved in: a large office for the previous owner of the house, and a smaller primary bedroom with that magnificent window. At that point of their renovation, Harris and Zambarano had agreed to end any full-on demolition—no more knocking down walls—and that their efforts would be better served by just renovation. Well, Harris was in the office, tearing down wallpaper and fixing the plaster walls, when he felt an existential “nudge” to move closer to the wall sepa-



An overhead view of the carefully pieced newel post on the center-hall staircase in the Milanville home.

rating the two rooms. When he tapped on the wall, he discovered Sheetrock in the center. Hoping for Zambarano’s later forgiveness, he ripped down the wall—and discovered a large archway that was original to the house. While he’d been working, he’d had the windows open in both rooms, enjoying the calm day. But when that wall came down, “there was a ‘whoosh’ of air and all the heaviness in that room just disappeared,” Harris said. Even better: The mystery of a curved interior wall in the office was solved. The shaved-down corner allows for a clear hall-window view of the Delaware River from the primary bedroom and through that once-covered archway. Now, the primary suite is bright and roomy, with the bank of windows plus the original Eastlake dark marble fireplace with haunting hand-painted touches.

### A respect for history

Harris and Zambarano’s mission is to honor the house as they renovate. “We’ve always felt very loved and protected here, like the house is happy we are here,” Zambarano said.

Two other bedrooms are upstairs, and like the primary bedroom, they have big closets, which is not common in traditional builds of that period. A hall bath is the only bathroom in the house, and is “very Home Depot,” Harris said, with a modern shower, toilet and pedestal sink. The couple plan to build a second bathroom in the future.

Just like the house, the two acres on which it sits has its own magic. That story Harris heard in the mist? One hundred years before the house was built, families escaping that Revolutionary-era raid dashed down the Calkins Creek that adjoins the property, and hid in the gorge behind it, Harris learned.

It’s that history that the couple yearns to respect. “It’s a very Native American thing: You’ve got to respect everything,” Harris said. “Things are not dead. Everything has a life to it, and you need to run parallel to that. It’s when you cross it that things go sideways.”

**“Everything has a life to it, and you need to run parallel to that.”**



This spectacular window, with its carved side arches and hand-carved corbel, is the centerpiece of the dining room. An identical window is in the primary bedroom on the floor above it.



The wood in this Eastlake Victorian home showcases its original craftsmanship.



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# The fun of foraging

## for flowers and food

By KRISTIN WHITE, the Chicken Librarian

Hello friends! I'm so happy to be back and writing about foraging—searching in the wild for food or provisions.

Foraging is so satisfying and can be done virtually year-round. There are abundant opportunities for foraging in our own backyards.

Even if you don't have any woods in your backyard, that's OK. There are plenty of public places for you to explore.

First, there are a few things to keep in mind, especially if you are foraging on public land.

As with any foraging, please make sure you know what you are doing, or that you are with someone who does. There are many plants that look alike, but one might be poisonous and the other one not. We obviously want to avoid poisoning ourselves. And others.

Second, know your growing zone. Callicoon and the surrounding area is in zone 5b. This information will help you determine what is growing and when. You can find your growing zone at <https://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/>.

Third, avoid foraging in areas that use chemical sprays. Chemicals, especially those sprayed on things considered "weeds" can be dangerous for humans (and animals).

Fourth, check for permission(s) needed if foraging in a public area. Obey no-trespassing laws. And please, please go gently no matter where you are foraging.

Fifth, as with anything, take notes. Keep a record of what you find, when you find it and where you find it.

OK, now to the fun stuff! What will you find along your woods-walk during the summer? Obviously, there will be many, many things since summer is the height of the growing season. Depending on which month you start foraging, you will find wild strawberries and wild blueberries. Strawberries will be earlier, in late May through June. They are tiny and you will find them more in open fields than the woods.

Wild blueberries will be abundant from July into August. And you will find them under the canopy, along old stone walls, and in open fields as well.

With either of these berries, you will be racing against nature to collect as much as you can. All kinds of wildlife will feast on these berries. If you are lucky, you will even find wild black raspberries as well.

One of my favorite things to do while walking in the woods is to look for what I call ditch flowers. If you look along the ditches as you walk, you will find goldenrod, daisies, yarrow, clover, black-eyed Susans and a whole other assortment of flowers. Some of these flowers have medicinal properties, but all of them will look good in a vase on your front porch.

And while I'm no expert in wild mushrooms, if you are or know someone who is, summer is a good time to forage for chanterelles and hen-of-the-woods, among others. And while you are looking for mushrooms, keep an eye out for acorns and black walnuts. Black walnuts can be a tough shell to crack, hee hee, but well worth it. You can use the shells for dyeing fabric, and eat the nuts as you would store-bought walnuts. Acorns are fun to experiment with. Again, the shell can be tough to crack, but I've had good experience with freezing them and then cracking them.



Superior National Forest, CC BY 2.0  
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The wild strawberry is tinier than its domesticated counterpart, but it's packed with flavor.

Then you can make acorn flour! It will add a nutty yumminess to any baked good.

And finally there is what might be everyone's favorite—elderberries. They usually show up closer to fall, so this would be a good late-summer foraging walk for collecting them.

If you start looking in the spring, you'll be able to identify the telltale shape and flowers of the elderberry. Once you've identified the tree, keep an eye on it for the berries. As with the other berries mentioned, you'll be fighting off nature to get as many berries as you can. The hardest thing about elderberries is that you have to remove the stems and leaves before using. And that task can be tedious.

All that is required for foraging these and other wild edibles is a good eye, some patience and know-how, and don't forget to bring along some scissors and a bag for collecting.

This is a good start to your summer forays into foraging. Remember to be respectful of the land, whether it's your own property, someone's else's property (that you have permission to forage on), or if it's public land. We only have so many resources to go around, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy it. Happy hunting, friends!



Public domain photo by Ryan Hagerty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service via Wikimedia Commons

Wild blueberries are abundant in July.





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# Made *in the shade*

*Shade gardens can be nearly as colorful as their sunnier cousins*

By SHARON PEDUTO

What's better than a bevy of blooms in the summertime? If you're living in the woods, you might think flowers bloom only in the sun. But there are some pretty petal-icious plants available that are made in—and for—the shade.

According to [plantaddicts.com](http://plantaddicts.com), there are three types of shade: full sun, meaning six-plus hours of sunshine per day; partial sun, or four to six hours per day; and full shade—two to four hours of light, usually morning sun or filtered sun.

Even after you've determined your shade limitations, there are other details that need to get ironed out before you plunk your plants into the ground. One of the most important factors is your area's hardiness zone. Hardiness zones are based on the lowest average winter temperature of your area. It's easy to find your hardiness zone by ZIP code online; just Google "hardiness zone by zip code." The Narrowsburg area, for instance, is zone 5b. A quick online search of the plants you're eyeing can tell you whether they will thrive in your zone.

The next decision you need to make is whether you'll grow annuals or perennials. Annuals live for just one growing season, while perennials die back at the end of the season and return the next year. If you prefer perennials, be careful when buying plants for a shady area; the hours of sun, or lack of it, may *not* hold up in your zone. But fear not, you can always fill in bare areas with potted annuals during the growing season.

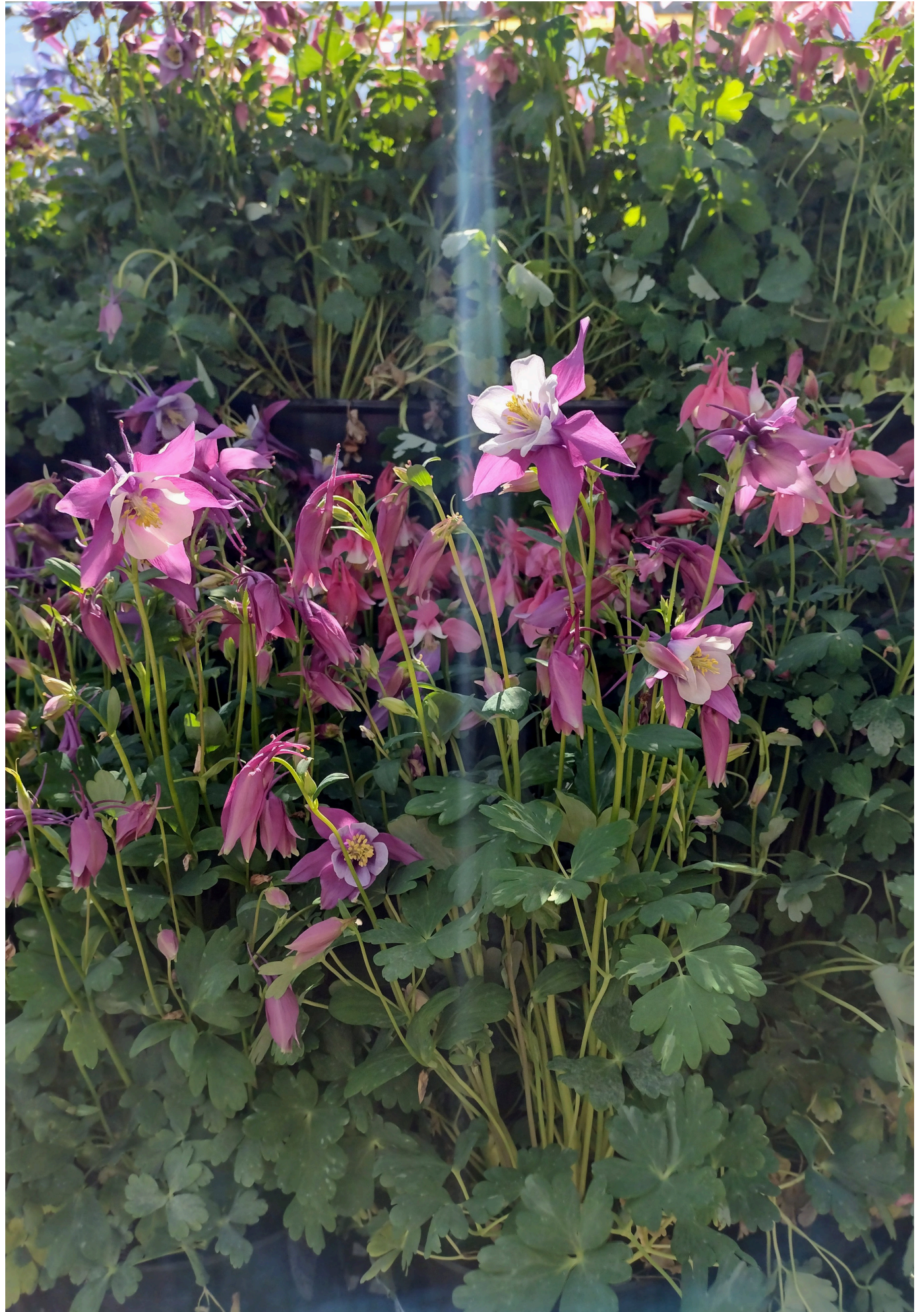
Some shade-tolerant flowering plants may be annuals but are self-seeding, like echinacea and columbine (*Aquilegia*). They will come back the following year, but not necessarily where initially planted.

After checking off all the above, you'll also want plants, trees and bushes that are deer- and rabbit-resistant. What's that you hear? Why, evil laughs from Mother Nature!

Fortunately, there are numerous varieties of colorful flowering plants (besides hostas, which are basically deer salad) and ornamental trees that fit this zone, in partial to full shade, and claim to be deer- and rabbit-resistant. (Note "resistant," not "fool-proof.")

Some eye-pleasing flowering plants that do well are bleeding hearts, coneflowers (the aforementioned echinacea), *hardy* geraniums, "Spot on" lungwort and barrenwort. There are many more to discover, once you research your specific shade amounts and zone.

A few bushes and shrubs for shady areas are American boxwood, dwarf Burford holly, Hicks yew, dwarf flowering cherry and mountain laurel. Pollinators like visiting honeysuckle and hydrangeas



Aquilegia, or columbine, is a great choice for partially shady areas. It comes in a kaleidoscope of colors and is perennial.

RR photo by Sharon Peduto



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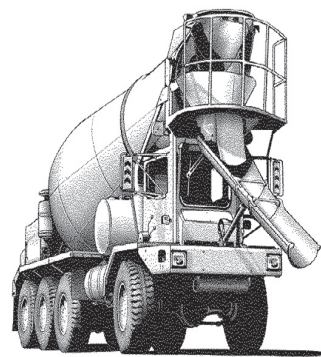
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# SHADE - Page 13

so much that sometimes it appears that the plant is shaking. No, those are the bees on the flowers, moving the branches.

Hydrangeas have an unbelievable variety of flower shapes and colors from which to choose. No need to stick with the ball-shaped flowers—or even keep the color of the hydrangea you start out with. You can change the color based on what you put in the soil. Coffee grounds, diluted vinegar or Epsom salts change the pH, which changes the color of the flowers on these bushes.

How about planting something in the shade that will give further shade? That's right; there are trees that thrive in shady spots, too. The following grow in full to partial shade: golden rain trees, hardy magnolias and Japanese maples. Currently, I have a sugar maple growing under my deck that gets little if any sun. Every spring I prune it back, but it keeps growing out. Once I found a four-foot-tall Japanese maple growing in a forest. I replanted it in my small, shaded garden, and it grew.

If your shady spot is a little too damp for your liking, tri-color dappled willows need partial shade and wet areas (but not close to your home or sewer, where its roots could wreak havoc). Any form of willow roots will suck water wherever they can find it. Any of the above will add panache to your shade garden. It all depends on how fast and large you want your tree to grow.

After a long day of gardening, grab your chaise, a glass of Long Island iced tea, and the **River Reporter**, and relax in the shade.



Arx Fortis at the English-language Wikipedia, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons  
Mountain laurel checks all our boxes: it's native to our area, beautifully ornamental and thrives in the shade.

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# WOOD

## Cooking over

a different country home

By JUDE WATERSTON

I've cooked over wood maybe a dozen times. Each of these experiences took place when I was around eight or nine years old, spending the summer—along with my sister, Janet—at Wiquannupek, a YMCA-run camp, in Bear Mountain, NY.

On overnights, we would take a long and strenuous hike to a clearing in the woods, where we lay down our sleeping bags. Then we would scrounge around the forest for various types of wood to build a campfire. There were logs, thick and thin branches, and kindling twigs to be collected and brought back to the counselor. Meanwhile, she had been making a circle of large stones, in the middle of which we would eventually build a fire.

Schooled in constructing various types and styles of fires, from the teepee structure to the log-cabin style, we would arrange the wood to be lit in the evening, glowing in the darkening sky. We roasted marshmallows, sang camp songs, and listened (while clutching each other) while our counselor told us a scary tale of a beheaded man who endlessly rowed his canoe in the surrounding lakes. We crawled into our sleeping bags and slept badly.

In the morning, once again, the gathering of wood commenced and when the fire was lit, a cast-iron skillet would be nestled atop the logs and we would make breakfast. Most often it was “dog eggs”—our counselor would pour some oil into the skillet and throw in a handful of chopped onions. When they were golden, thinly sliced frankfurters—the “dogs”—were crisped in the hot oil. Finally, beaten eggs were poured in and quickly scrambled. Nothing tasted more delicious in that chill morning air to eight young campers learning the ancient, primal skill of cooking over wood.

Recently, more than half a century later, I witnessed cooking over burning logs by native, indigenous Mexican women who have been using this rustic method of preparing food for as far back as they can remember. Cesar, a young man working at our hotel in Oaxaca, acted as our tour guide to his hometown, a Zapotec village.

The Zapotec civilization is an indigenous pre-Columbian population that flourished in the valley of Oaxaca more than 2,000 years ago. Four hotel guests, including Janet and me, made the hour-long trip in a small van with Cesar and a driver. In his village, we would watch a local woman toast cacao beans in preparation for making chocolate, have a meal cooked by his



Photo provided by Jude Waterston

A neighbor toasts cacao over a wood fire.

mom, and visit both a shoe factory and a fourth-generation mezcal distillery.

Mezcal, made from the harvested core of the agave plant, is cooked inside earthen pits that are filled with wood and charcoal before being distilled in clay pots. Artisanal mezcal makers use this traditional method, which is the source of the smokiness associated with this 80-proof booze.

When we arrived at Cesar's home, it was a surprise. Inside a dirt compound, there were a number of small structures. Two relatives had small brick or adobe houses while Cesar, his parents, and his ancient-looking *abuela* (grandma) slept in a room that was bare save for an altar on one wall and a curtained-off mattress for the *abuela*. She was tiny and bent and sit-

ting in a wheelchair, but there was a beauty to her, and her smile was sweet and genuine. I went over to say hello and she took my hand in hers, which was ice cold, and brought mine to her lips and kissed it. She said something in Zapotec and I assumed I had made a friend.

Cesar took us to the large kitchen area, which had a dirt floor and a thatched roof. The cooking was primarily done on a huge, round earthenware clay griddle called a *comal*. It is set over a stone or brick structure with an open space for the placement of wood logs which glow with fire. *Comals* are used to char and toast spices and chiles, cook tortillas, fry eggs, sear meat, heat quesadillas and more.

A local Zapotec woman demonstrated

the arduous task of making chocolate, for which Mexico is famous. She had been toasting cacao beans—a process that takes about an hour—and I hadn't even noticed her toiling away, stirring the beans with a long wooden spoon on a *comal* set over burning logs. Eventually she dumped the beans into a bowl and invited us to join her in the job of slipping the shells off each and every bean. The naked beans were then set out on a *metate*, or mealing stone. These grinding tools are made of volcanic rock, rectangular in shape with a concave dip into which a rolling pin, also made of volcanic rock, is used. The heavy pin is pushed back and forth over such ingredients as grain, seeds, maize (corn kernels) for making tortilla dough, and cacao beans. —Page 19



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**WOOD** - Page 17

At some point in the process of grinding the toasted beans, I made a feeble attempt at using the rolling pin in the *metate*, but couldn't get the smooth, rhythmic movement the local woman used and had to retreat back among my friends. We watched as the beans were ground into a creamy pulp, and then allowed to harden. The pulp was then formed into disks, which were used to make hot chocolate. We sat around a large table and were each given a frothy cup of the hot chocolate spiked with cinnamon and the tiniest bit of sugar.

After a walk into town to visit a shoe factory, a local church and a produce shop, where I bought plantains, limes, mangoes and avocados for a pittance, we returned to Cesar's home, where his mother was making us lunch. Cesar brought over a stack of freshly made tortillas the size of dinner plates. These were to be used in lieu of spoons for the first course, an excellent, tasty broth filled with squash, corn, potatoes, and onions. Cesar demonstrated how to make a conical cup out of the tortillas to be dipped into the soup to gather up broth and vegetables. Janet's first attempt ended with the disintegration of her "spoon" and the soup back in the bowl or running down her chin. Soup spoons were distributed.

Next, standing over the hot *comal*, Cesar's mom made us each an enormous quesadilla filled with Oaxacan cheese and fresh local herbs. She flipped them to make a half-moon shape and let them crisp up. Cesar brought out the tiniest hand-painted gourd cups I'd ever seen in Oaxaca, set them over twisted hemp holders, and poured us each a mouthful of his friend's powerful mezcal.

Heading back to the van to pay a visit to the site where the mezcal was produced, we bowed and waved and thanked the women who had so shown us how they effortlessly (or so it seemed) daily prepare their specialties. I'm sure it took time and strength to carry the wood logs from the pile outside in the compound, set them in the proper place, light them and wait for the fire to burn just so before setting about the task of cooking or toasting or crisping whatever they were to bring to the table. It was a lesson in patience, practice and in continuing a tradition that dates back to the beginning of time.



Photo provided by Jude Waterston

Chicken thighs Mexicana topped with salsa and cilantro.

**Chicken thighs Mexicana**

Serves 4

There is a mild heat to these versatile chicken thighs. You can make them spicier by using a different chili powder than ancho, which is more fruity than spicy. The thighs can be broiled, pan-fried or grilled over a mixture of charcoal and fragrant wood chips. Serve over rice and add a dollop of fresh or bottled salsa and a garnish of chopped cilantro atop each chicken piece. If using bottled salsa, I like to heat it up in a small saucepan beforehand.

- 1 1/2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs, trimmed of fat
- 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 1/2 teaspoons oregano, preferably Mexican
- 1/2 teaspoon ancho chili powder, or more to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon salt

Freshly ground black pepper  
 Juice of 1 lime (about 2 tablespoons)  
 1/4 cup chopped cilantro (plus more for garnish)

Cut the trimmed chicken thighs in half and place them in a big bowl. Add the other ingredients and, using a pair of tongs, toss them in the mixture until well coated.

When ready to cook them, either preheat the broiler or fill a grill with charcoal and wood chips and heat until coals are glowing. Lightly oil baking sheet if broiling, or the grill grate.

Cook the thighs for 5 minutes, then flip them and cook for an additional 5 minutes.

Spoon cooked rice on the bottom of a large serving platter. Lay the cooked thighs on top of the rice. Ladle a spoonful of salsa on top of each thigh and garnish with chopped cilantro. Serve immediately.

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# Learn to

# CARVE

## at the Woodcarvers Roundup



By JANE ANDERSON

HONESDALE, PA — Nearly 200 woodcarvers, from novices to experienced carvers, are expected to gather this summer for the 20th annual Northeast Woodcarvers Roundup at Cherry Ridge Campsites & Lodging.

The roundup, which runs from Sunday, July 17 through Thursday, July 21, gives crafters the opportunity to immerse themselves in honing their skills.

About 20 instructors are scheduled to teach classes ranging from beginner carving to caricatures, whimsical bark houses, chip carving, pyrography (wood-burning), marquetry and other projects.

“The idea of the roundup is to get people together to share their ideas and allow their creative side to come out,” said Bob Muller of Cherry Ridge Carvers, who helped create the first Northeast Woodcarvers Roundup in 2003. The roundup is not a show or judged competition; it’s purely a learning and sharing event, Muller said.

Signups begin the evening of July 17. There is no preregistration; simply show up that evening, sign a waiver and receive a name tag. Then you can sign up for the classes you wish to attend during the event. “Some of the more popular instructors, there’s a stampede to them,” Muller said.

Registration for the event starts Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. Sign-up for classes starts at 7 p.m. The instructional classes start at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. each day. Participants can attend one day or attend all four days of instruction.

There is no charge for the instruction or registration; attendees pay for the cost of materials, which is dependent on the workshop.

Raffles, an ice-cream social, and sales of apparel, tools and merchandise will be available during the event as well.

Accommodations will be available for rent at Cherry Ridge Campgrounds and nearby hotels.

Reach Cherry Ridge Campgrounds at 570/488-6654.

For information about the roundup, visit [cherryridgecarvers.org](http://cherryridgecarvers.org) or the NEWR page on Facebook, or email Muller at [rmuller@nepnet](mailto:rmuller@nepnet) or call him at 570/470-2736.

RR photo by Lyle T. Galloway  
A troll done in the style of  
Scandinavian flat plane  
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There will also be tours of the mansion—also known as Gifford Pinchot House or the Pinchot Institute—which is the ancestral home of Gifford Pinchot, first director of the United States Forest Service and twice-elected governor of Pennsylvania.

Admission is free, and free shuttle service will be provided.

Sponsored by the U.S. Forest Service at Grey Towers, Pocono Arts Council and Grey Towers Heritage Association, this year's event kicks off on National Public Lands Day on September 24.

An online application will be available soon for artisans at <https://poconoarts.org/event/festival-of-wood/2022-09-24/>

For more information, visit [www.greytowers.org](http://www.greytowers.org).

RR photo by Lyle T. Galloway

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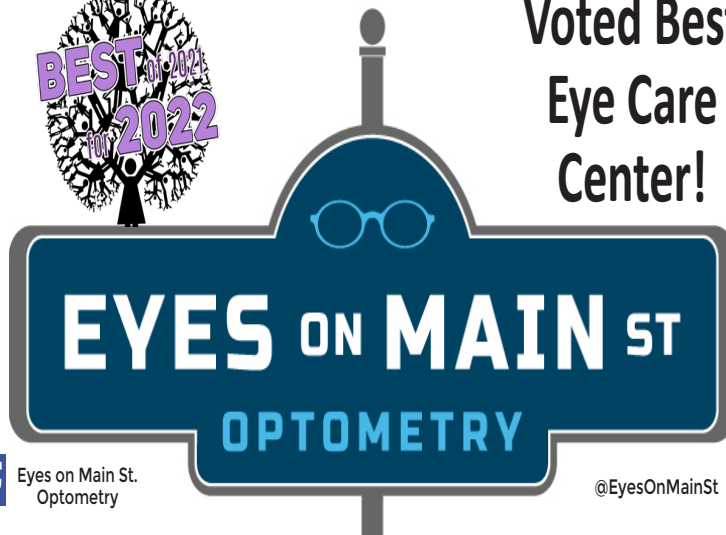


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