

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**

September 13 & 14, 2019

Endless Mountain Music Festival

July 19th – August 4th, 2019

Classic Car Cruise In

July 27th & August 31th, 2019

**Laurel Classic
Mountain Bike Challenge**

September 7, 2019

Dickens of a Christmas

December 7, 2019

Wellsboro Winter Celebration

Third weekend in February

**For more information on these events
please call 570-724-1926 or visit**

www.wellsboropa.com

78th Annual PA State Laurel Festival



Photo by Tim McBride

June 8 - 16, 2019

In beautiful Wellsboro, PA

“Home of the
Pennsylvania Grand Canyon”

SATURDAY, JUNE 8

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

SUNDAY, JUNE 9

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

MONDAY, JUNE 10

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

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

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12

7:00 p.m. Laurel Concert Series
Wellsboro Town Band
On The Green
(Rain Location: Wellsboro High School)

THURSDAY, JUNE 13

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 14

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 14 (cont.)

12:00 p.m. Queens' Welcome
Courthouse Steps, Main Street
5:00 p.m. Queens' Preview, followed by
"3D"
Outdoor Stage, Deane Center
(Rain Location: Coolidge Theatre)
7:30 p.m. Gathering Time Salute Peter,
Paul, and Mary & Crosby Stills, and Nash
to Folk Rock Harmony Trios (\$)
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

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

3:00 p.m. Downbeat Percussion
The Green after parade
5:00p.m. Mansfield University SaxAlums
The Green
6:30 p.m. *Coronation of 2019 PA State
Laurel Queen* (\$)
Coolidge Theatre, Deane Center

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

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.*



2018 PA State Laurel Queen

Katelyn Loss

Photo by Bruce Dart