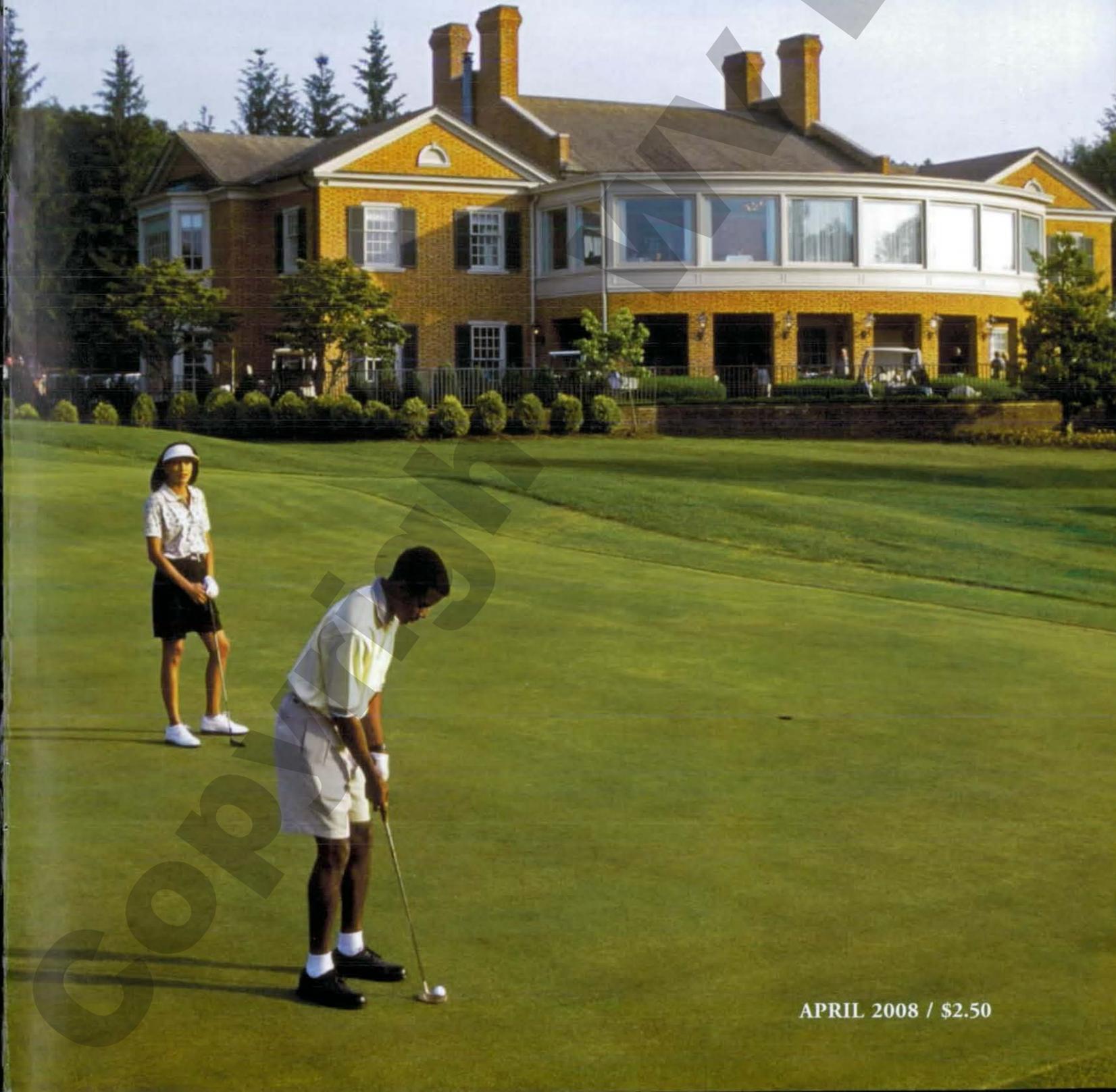


Wonderful **WEST VIRGINIA**





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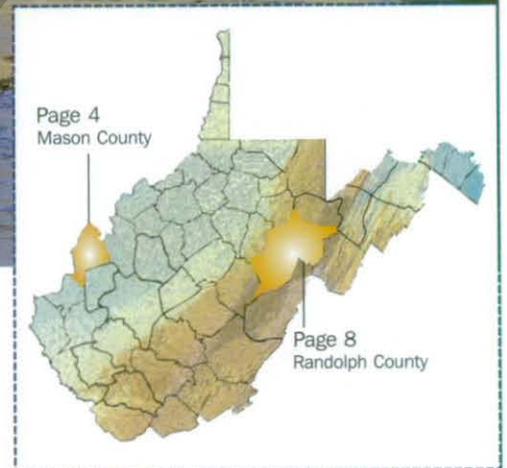
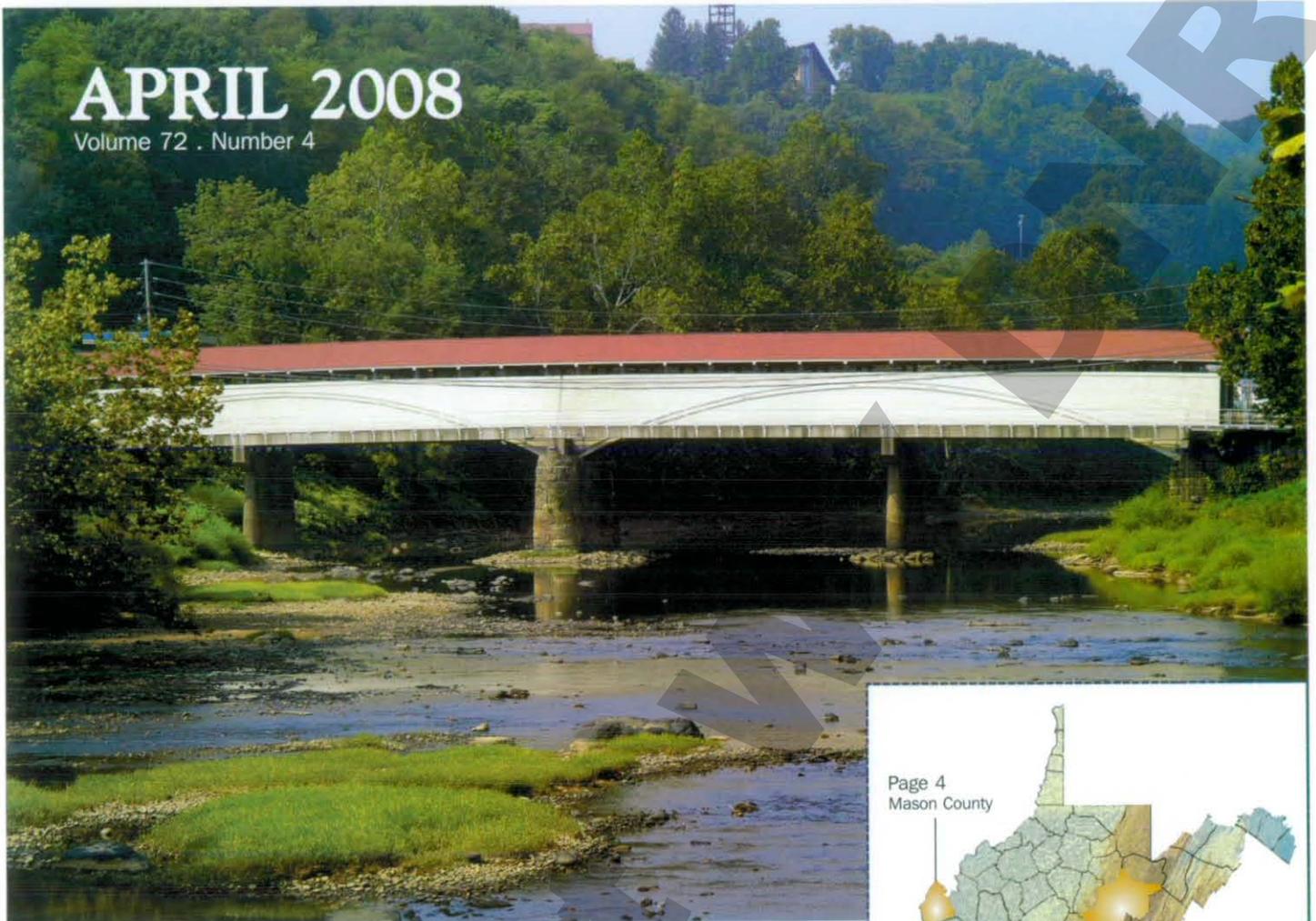
About our cover: West Virginia offers excellent golfing at a variety of courses and state parks, including the Resort at Glade Springs. Steve Shaluta

Contents page photo: Many of engineer and craftsman Lemuel Chenoweth's bridges and buildings, such as the Philippi Covered Bridge, have survived more than a century. Steve Shaluta



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| Welcome

Savoring the Moment

Some years ago, while reading *The Highlands Voice*, the monthly publication of the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, I noticed a "meditation hike" among the many field trips offered. The listing noted that the hike was to take place on a trail in the Monongahela National Forest that led to spectacular Elephant Rocks. I was intrigued, so I responded to the hike leader, artist Ruth Blackwell Rogers, saying I would attend.

Perhaps 10 or 12 of us gathered at the trailhead that morning, Ruth being the only one I knew. After assembling us, she asked that we not speak to one another during the walk out to the rocks. Instead, we were to quietly notice the sound of our boots on packed earth, the soft brushing of fern fronds against our legs, the chatter of a nuthatch, our own quickening breaths. As much as possible we were to keep our minds, as well as our bodies, on the path.

I remember the ease of walking in silence with companions yet unknown. I also remember how hard it was at points not to think about when I was going to pay the bills, return phone calls, or help my son with his science project. Many times I had to pull my roaming thoughts back to the moment, to the cool morning air and the embrace of the hardwoods and evergreens around me.

Our hike also featured quiet moments in meditation atop misty, windswept Elephant Rocks; conversation over bag lunches; and a talkative trek back to our cars. Many years later, I've forgotten the names and faces of most of my fellow hikers. But I will remember the lesson I learned that day about the rewards of staying in the present.

That is not to say, however, that I have mastered it. But I have at least one companion who has—my dog, Seamus. On our trips to the forest he is all galloping legs and long, lolling tongue. He is "all about" the soft moss beneath the pads of his paws, the earth in his nostrils as he snuffles out a scent. He is completely in the moment. Where else can he be?

In the Mountain State, spring comes to us in the forest and on the farm, on the golf course and in the garden. Wherever you are, may you be fully present to its many wonders.



Editor Sheila McEntee

David Fattaleh

| Reader Picks



Aroma's Coffeehouse

We don't really need Starbucks in Moorefield; we have Aroma's Coffeehouse. J. D. and Lisa Duan offer fresh-roasted coffee, smoothies, salads, sandwich wraps, and personal pizzas. J. D. uses local and fresh ingredients whenever possible, and nothing is deep fried here, thank goodness. More importantly, the Duans build a sense of community. Local artists display their art, local musicians play, and business meetings are held at a larger table. From suits to farm boots would describe the clientele, who gather in comfortable surroundings with free WiFi. So there you have it: a Chinese immigrant roasting Indonesian coffee and making Italian pesto pizza. Now that's America in the heart of West Virginia!!! For more information see the Web site: www.aromascoffeehouse.biz.

Steven Martin
Romney, WV

Note: Reader Picks should be no more than 120 words. Be sure to send contact information for your pick and your name and town. E-mail readerpicks@cannongraphicsinc.com, or write to Wonderful West Virginia Magazine Reader Picks, c/o WVDNR, Bldg. 3, Rm 663, 1900 Kanawha Blvd. E., State Capitol Complex, Charleston, WV 25305.

Sheila McEntee
sheila@cannongraphicsinc.com

| Letters to the Editor

Offensive Centerfold

As always I was excited to get my new copy of *Wonderful West Virginia* [December 2007]! The cover took me back in time. Will I see snow like that at the family farm this year? ... Then I leafed through [and] ... I was shocked out of my comfort zone when I saw the centerfold! The Mail Pouch barn! ... I have a long history with Mail Pouch, as do too many West Virginians. My dad chewed Mail Pouch as far back as I can remember ... At some point Dad gave up chewing tobacco ... but took up smoking cigarettes instead ... He died young in his seventies ... There is no "treating yourself to the best" in the world of tobacco ... This magazine is one of the premier ways

in which West Virginia markets itself, our State Ambassador! Of all the beautiful so-called icons of West Virginia that you could choose from, why did you pick this one? You "treated us to the worst" of our hillbilly legacy.

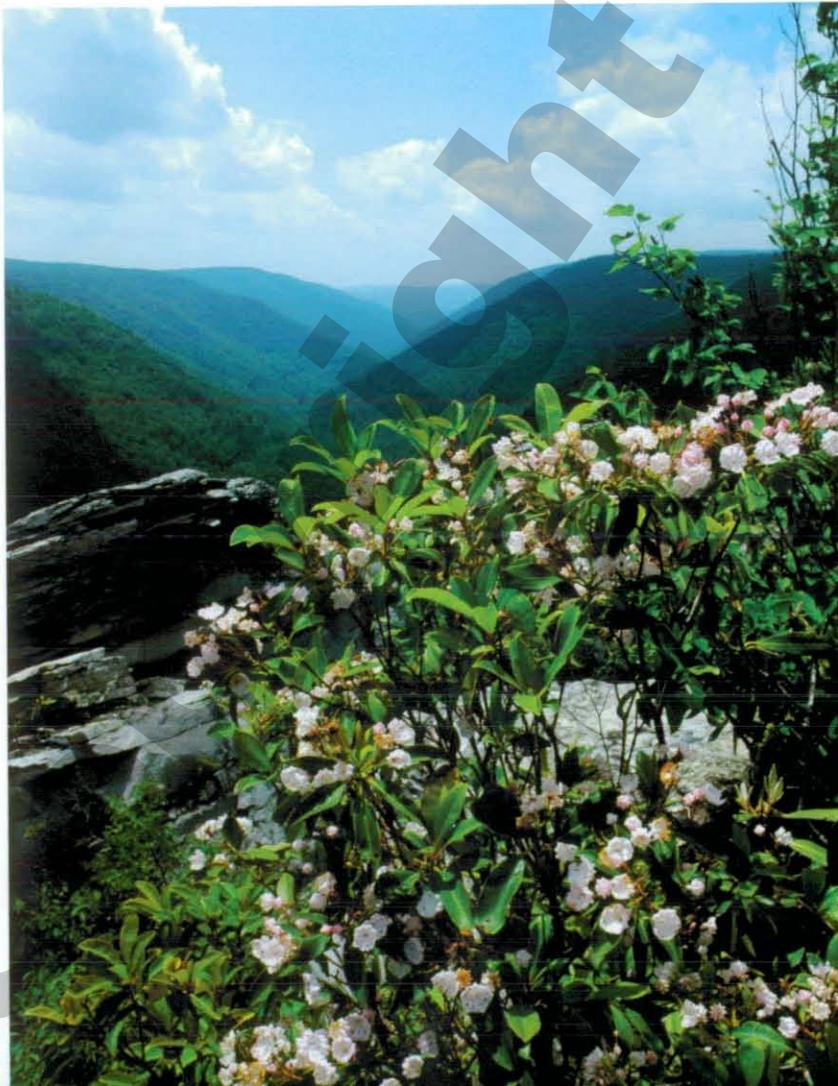
Angela Kraus
Alum Bridge, WV

We regret that you (and at least one other reader who wrote to us) found this photograph offensive. Our intention was not to glorify or promote tobacco use but to illustrate an element of rural West Virginia history. Thank you for writing to us. Your response will surely contribute to our thoughtful consideration of photographs in the future.

McDowell County Roots

The January 2008 *Wonderful West Virginia* sure dusted off lots of memories ... I was born April 1938 near Buckhannon on Hackers Creek ... In the fall of 1974 married a widow lady from Caretta with three children. Her family had owned the clubhouse in Caretta ... My wife died in 2002 ... One son lives in Cucumber ... Our daughter lives in War and works for the West Virginia State Police in Welch. All four of our grandchildren live in McDowell County. All nine great-grandchildren live in McDowell. Thanks for a great magazine!

Orton L. Queen
Lakeland, Florida



| Photo Assignment Reader Submissions

Each year we receive hundreds of photo submissions from readers. Sadly, space limitations prevent us from publishing many of the beautiful photographs we review. From time to time we would like to turn the Photo Assignment department into a mini-Gallery for reader photos. We hope you enjoy this selection.

Blackwater Canyon
Arnold Parish
a-parrish@mindspring.com

H&H RODEO



Keeping the WEST in West Virginia

Text and photographs by Daniel Boyd

On the last Saturday night in September, car lights glow yellow amid the midnight dust kicked up by barrel-racing horses, bucking broncos and bulls, and the hardworking cowboys and cowgirls of the H&H Ranch and Rodeo in Apple Grove in Mason County. The final event of 2007 for the only remaining full-season rodeo in West

Virginia has ended. As vehicles pull away, I watch and wonder if I am witnessing the end of a great tradition in our state.

I've just spent my first season competing as a bull rider, and I've been impressed with what I've seen: the talent and athleticism of the ropers and barrel racers, the skill and courage of the bull riders, and the camaraderie of the local rodeo community. These folks are working to save a rich tra-

dition that showcases the talents and celebrates the heritage of the agricultural community of our state.

When long-running Organ Cave Rodeo in Greenbrier County pulled the plug on its 2007 season, H&H (Haga & Haga) Rodeo became the only full-season, multievent competition rodeo in the state. This year will mark H&H's 10th season.

H&H owner Blair Haga, 54, was drawn into the business by his children. Growing up on a farm, he developed an appreciation for livestock and a passion for horses, but opportunities for competition in handling techniques did not exist for him as a kid. When he got older and started a family of his own, he passed on his love of horses to his daughter, Marsha, and his son, Brian. Marsha and Brian began raising contest horses (pole and barrel racers) and showing them at regional events. At these events they were also drawn to rodeo. In order for them to compete at higher levels, Marsha and Brian and their friends had to develop multiple skills, including riding, roping, and dogging. They also had to travel, as there were no organized rodeos near their community.

The group picked up some skills competing on the regional rodeo circuit. In addition, Brian Haga traveled to specialized schools to learn more skills, then returned home and taught the others. The skills and passion of the group continued to grow, until one day Brian told his father that rodeo was what he wanted to do in life. He wanted to start a rodeo company right there on their ranch in Apple Grove.

In 1999, in an "if you build it, they will come" gamble, the Hagas constructed an arena on their property and began their first rodeo season. And come they did. As word spread, seasoned cowboys and cowgirls from five neighboring states began showing up to compete for jackpot purses (prize money determined by a percentage of the entry fees) in the multievent rodeo. The new H&H Rodeo also filled a niche for novice rodeo enthusiasts looking for an opportunity to learn and compete in the sport.

"I think just about everybody, deep down, kinda wants to be a cowboy every now and then," Blair Haga says. "It's just a matter of having an opportunity to do it. We kinda gave that."

Spectators quickly discovered that H&H Rodeo offered good family fun. From roping and dogging events to bull riding, audiences saw that H&H Rodeo was happening! Women barrel racers rode in perfect sync with their horses, like poetry in motion. Even kids in the audience got into the act, piling into the arena to pull the ribbon off a running calf's tail in the popular Calf Scramble. Those under 50

pounds could don helmets and try Mutton Busting, or hanging onto the back of a running sheep for as long as they could. Afterwards the kids got trophies for their first forays into rodeo. With each season the rodeo shows got better and the crowds got bigger. It was not uncommon to have some 500 rodeo-goers come through the gates on event nights.

Then, in 2002, H&H Rodeo suffered a tragic blow when Brian Haga died suddenly from an undetected heart ailment. At age 23 he left behind his wife, two young children, and a devastated rodeo community. Yet in this time of inestimable grief, rather than close the rodeo, Blair Haga chose to keep it alive. "I want Brian's kids—my grandbabies—to grow up and see what a great thing their dad started," he explains.

From that point, H&H Rodeo became more than a venue to promote and sustain western heritage in West Virginia; it became a living tribute to its determined, young founder. With the start of the 2002 season, the H&H Rodeo arena was named in honor of Brian Haga. A steel sign with his name, commissioned by his sister, Marsha Casey, was erected at the entrance to the arena.

A man of few words, Blair Haga emphasizes that operating the rodeo today would be impossible without the help of the close-knit group that grew out of Brian's initial inspiration. Marsha Casey, who lives on the family property with her husband and two small sons, says managing the ranch and rodeo is a year-round job. On event days she manages the tack shop and performs several other duties. Blair's childhood friend Randy Shepherd also joins in to time, judge, herd, and do whatever else needs to be done. In traditional American barn-raising style, scores of other friends and family members jump in to help keep the show running. Even Blair's mom, Rosalie Haga, 78, serves as concession stand cook and manager.

Like Blair and Marsha and the others, Brian's two best friends, Daniel and Tommy Ferguson, continue to honor him by staying closely involved in the rodeo. In addition to competing in roping events, Daniel works the back pens (loading bulls in the chutes) and is Blair's main "pick-up man," riding his horse into the arena to rescue the bronc and bareback participants after their rides.

While Daniel would much rather work than talk, his younger brother, Tommy, is, pound for pound, the most entertaining attraction at the rodeo. In addition to being a champion bulldogger (one who jumps from a speeding horse to wrestle a steer to the ground), he doubles as both rodeo clown and bullfighter. One moment he's keeping spectators laughing as he puts on water skis and is pulled around the arena by a horse. The next moment he's the bull rider's best friend, at the ready to keep the animal

away from a bucked cowboy. After I was thrown by the bull Vortex, Tommy was there in a flash to get me up and out of harm's way. Tommy makes you laugh—and, as I discovered, he can also save your butt.

As for the rough stock—the bucking broncos and bulls—you can't tell me that they don't get together after each event and have a good laugh over what they do to the humans. My initial thought while climbing on my first bull, Bandit, was "These things aren't designed to be sat on." My next thought was, "How did I get on the ground so fast?" In my seven bull rides through the course of the season, the longest I lasted was six seconds. (It takes eight for a qualified ride.) It's as hard on the ego as it is on the body, but the crowd sure loves it.

In a state that boasts 21,000 family farms, I wonder why there aren't more rodeos in West Virginia. After all, the

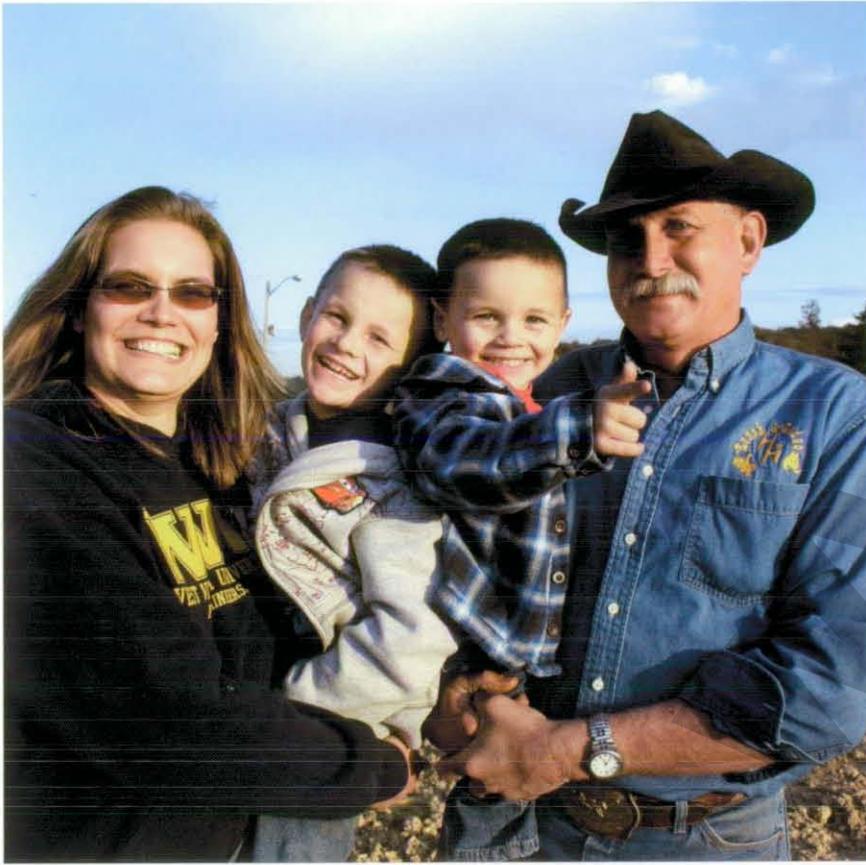
enthusiastic crowds at H&H Rodeo continue to grow. Blair Haga has a quick answer to my question.

"It's hard work and it's very expensive," he tells me. Besides the huge, initial investment for the facilities, equipment, and specialized live and rough stock animals, the care and maintenance of all of these is perpetual. Specialized horses and rank performing bulls cost in the tens of thousands of dollars each. Properly and humanely protecting that investment (H&H animals get rock-star treatment) requires a time commitment of more than eight hours a day, 365 days a year. When you add the astronomical cost of the high-risk insurance that is required for an enterprise that can be devastated by just a few rain-outs, it's not the safest way to try and make a buck.

West Virginia's 10-term commissioner of agriculture, Gus R. Douglass, agrees with Blair Haga. An old farm boy him-

West Virginia rodeo visionary Brian Haga, who died suddenly in his early twenties, is the spirit and inspiration behind the H&H Rodeo. Courtesy of the Haga family





H&H Rodeo 2008

Experience a bit of the Wild West and a lot of family fun at the H&H Rodeo. The rodeo is held Saturday nights, beginning at 7:00 PM. Entry sign-up closes at 6:00 PM. For more information, call 304.576.2243. The dates for the 2008 season are:

April 26
May 24
June 28
July 26
August 23
September 27

The late Brian Haga's sister, Marsha Casey; her two sons; and Blair Haga continue to honor his memory with the H&H Rodeo.

self and a champion of the family farmer for some five decades, Douglass explains that in today's business climate, rodeoing, like farming, is more a lifestyle choice than an economic one. "They do it because they love it," Douglass says. "H&H puts a value on a proud heritage of yesteryear—a heritage of community spirit, honesty, and truthfulness among people."

In recent years, the state has made great strides in *agritourism*, a marriage of agriculture and tourism. From guided tours of homegrown, gourmet salsa businesses to visits to Halloween cornfield mazes, West Virginia's Division of Tourism and Department of Agriculture are partnering to successfully market rural, agriculture-based attractions to an "off-farm" tourist community. For Douglass, rodeo is a no-brainer for this marketing collaboration. "The skills on display at H&H Ranch and Rodeo give the average person an appreciation for the work our ancestors did building this nation into what it is today," he says.

Douglass and Blair Haga agree that the only way to keep western heritage alive in West Virginia is to establish and maintain the interest of the state's youth. The West Virginia High School Rodeo Association (WVHSRA) is attempting to do just that. Established in 2000 as a chapter of the

national organization, the group has nearly 50 members from seven counties. It stages 16 in-state rodeos a year and last July sent 10 qualifiers to the National High School Rodeo finals in Springfield, Illinois. According to WVHSRA's director, Billy McCormick, high school seniors continuing on to higher education receive scholarship money from national and state association funds.

As I watch the last cars leave on that last night of the 2007 season, I press Blair Haga for reassurance that H&H Rodeo will continue next year. We have become good friends during the season. In fact, I have made many good friends in my season of bull riding—friends who would drop anything to help you and never expect or accept anything in return. And I've met kids who still say "yes, sir" and "no, ma'am." There's just a general goodness about the whole experience that I don't want to let go of. Then Blair reminds me of H&H Rodeo's heart and soul.

"This is bigger than business, Danny," he says finally. "We ride for Brian." 🐾

Daniel Boyd is a communications professor at West Virginia State University, an award-winning filmmaker, a three-time professional wrestling champion, and now a retired bull rider.

ENGINEERING GENIUS: *Lemuel Chenoweth*

By Randy Allan

From 1846 through 1861, Lemuel Chenoweth (1811-1887) of Beverly in Randolph County was probably the most accomplished builder of covered bridges in America. During that time, Chenoweth and his brother Eli constructed 20 bridges, most of them covered, on four western Virginia turnpikes.

Lemuel Chenoweth attained the technical knowledge of a civil engineer largely through self-instruction. In 1845, in a reference written for the Virginia Board of Public Works, Randolph County officials described him as a “practical mechanic, draftsman, wood workman” who “knew how to lay out work.” On April 17, 1846, Chenoweth wrote to the Virginia Board of Public Works expressing his desire to build a 130-foot covered bridge across the Tygart Valley River on the new Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike at Beverly. Chenoweth was to build the superstructure and Daniel Kalar was to construct the abutments.

Though the bridge was to be completed by the end of the year, the contract was not awarded to this team until September 21, 1846. Incredibly, by November 2, bridge construction was on schedule, and turnpike superintendent William Hamilton informed the Virginia Board of Public Works that “the bridge is now raised with floor and trusses



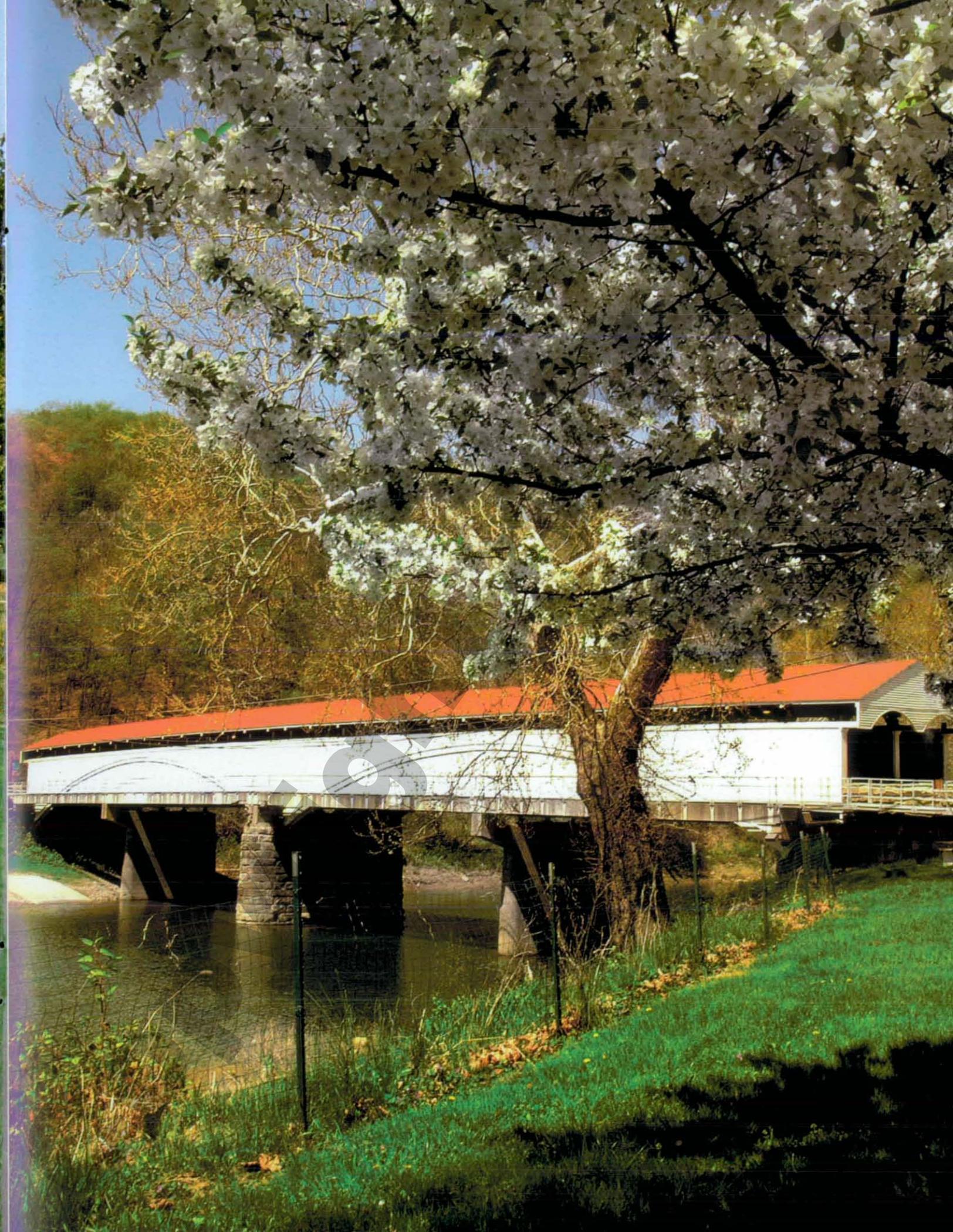
being knocked out, and ready for travel once the west abutment is ready.” He then described the raising of the bridge as follows: “People came from far and wide. Court was in session, but adjourned. The river bank was lined with spectators. This was the most spectacular event ever witnessed in the valley.”

As specified, the bridge was open for travel by the end of the year. Interestingly, a bridge built by another contractor that same year on the Buckhannon River in Buckhannon was plagued with serious construction problems and was never considered safe. This bridge was rebuilt by Chenoweth in 1856.

In 1847, when the Virginia Board of Public Works advertised for builders to construct five bridges on the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, their broadside included the following clause: “As a specimen of the work required ... bidders are referred to the Valley Bridge at Beverly.” Surprisingly, Chenoweth, along with his brother Eli, received the contracts to build only two of the five

Artistry and structural integrity were hallmarks of Chenoweth’s work, as evidenced by the Philippi Covered Bridge.

Steve Shaluta ▶



bridges, both on the Hughes River. One was on the North Fork in Wirt County and the other was on the South Fork in Ritchie County. The contracts for the other three bridges, which were to be constructed on the Tygart River at Huttonsville in Randolph County, Stone Coal Creek, and the West Fork River in Weston in Lewis County, were awarded to other builders. Soon thereafter, a contract to build a sixth bridge at Stalnaker on the Tygart Valley River, two miles above Beverly, was also awarded to another builder.

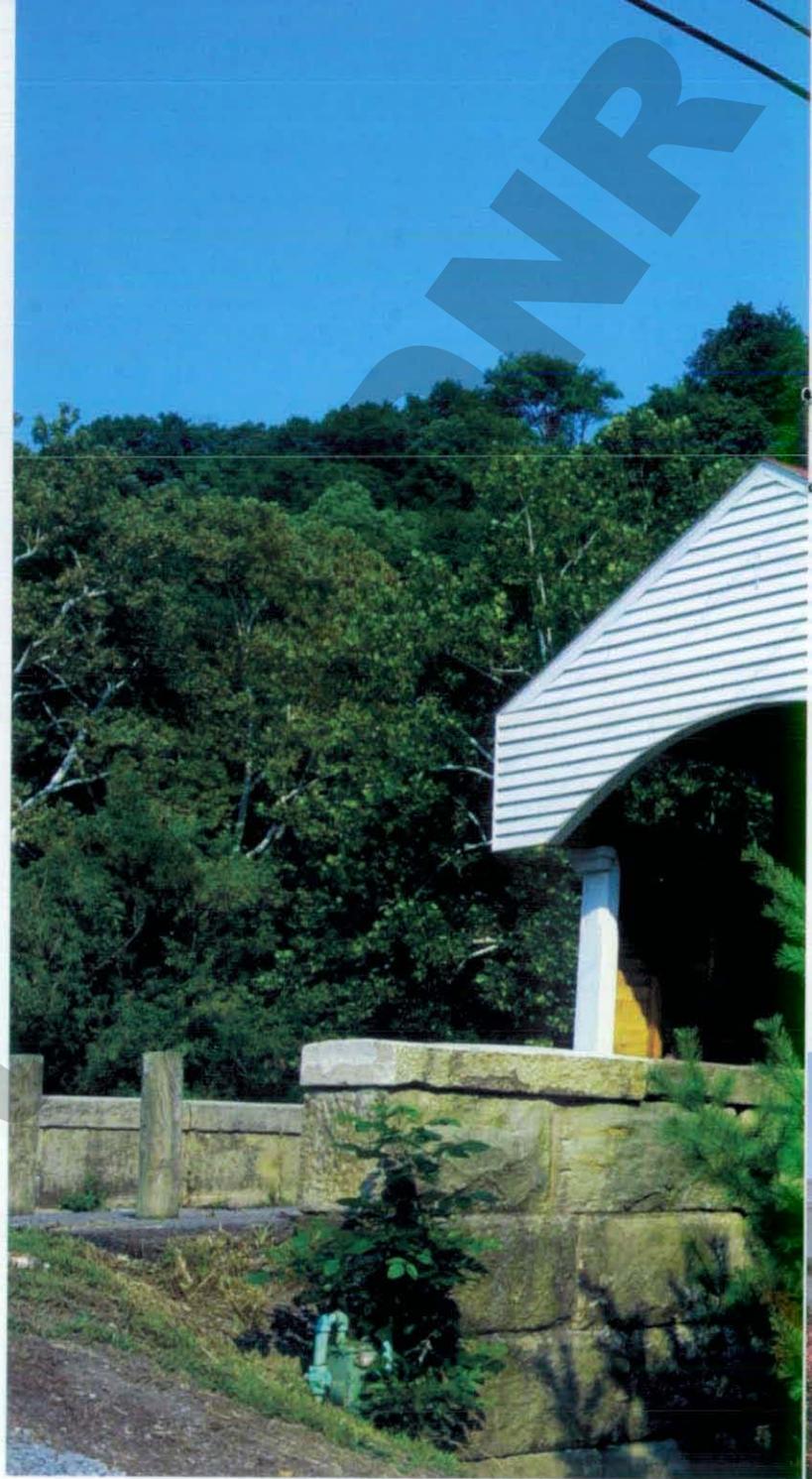
By fall, work was nearly completed on Chenoweth's two bridges but not on the other bridges. About this time, William Hamilton, accompanied by E. M. Taylor, an engineer with a very critical eye, inspected the progress of the six bridges. There were no glowing reports by Taylor until he viewed the nearly one-year-old Beverly Bridge. He described it as "excellent work, entirely true, straight and plumb, exceedingly uniform and graceful." He concluded, "I have never seen a job of bridge planning executed in a more workmanship manner." Two days later, Hamilton wrote of the Beverly Bridge, "It now stands a monument of its own strength ... and called on the travelers to witness its perfection."

The real test of all eight bridges came on December 11, 1847, when the entire region was struck by a devastating flood. A Beverly resident was quoted by Hamilton as saying, "The Valley River was higher at this place than it was ever known to be before by the oldest citizen." The five bridges that were not built by Chenoweth were either severely damaged or completely washed away. Chenoweth's two new bridges received some damage, but it was mostly minor. (He had earlier advised that the abutments on these bridges be constructed four feet higher.) In reference to the Beverly Bridge, Hamilton wrote as follows: "This bridge bids defiance to wind and tide as there is not the slightest injury done by the flood."

In 1848, Chenoweth built a large, arch-type bridge on the Middle Fork River on the Randolph and Upshur County line, as well as open bridges on Finks Creek in Gilmer County and Stillwell Creek in Wood County. In 1849, he built a bridge on the new Beverly and Fairmont Turnpike on Leading Creek near Leadsville, now Elkins, in Randolph County. This covered bridge was constructed in record time.

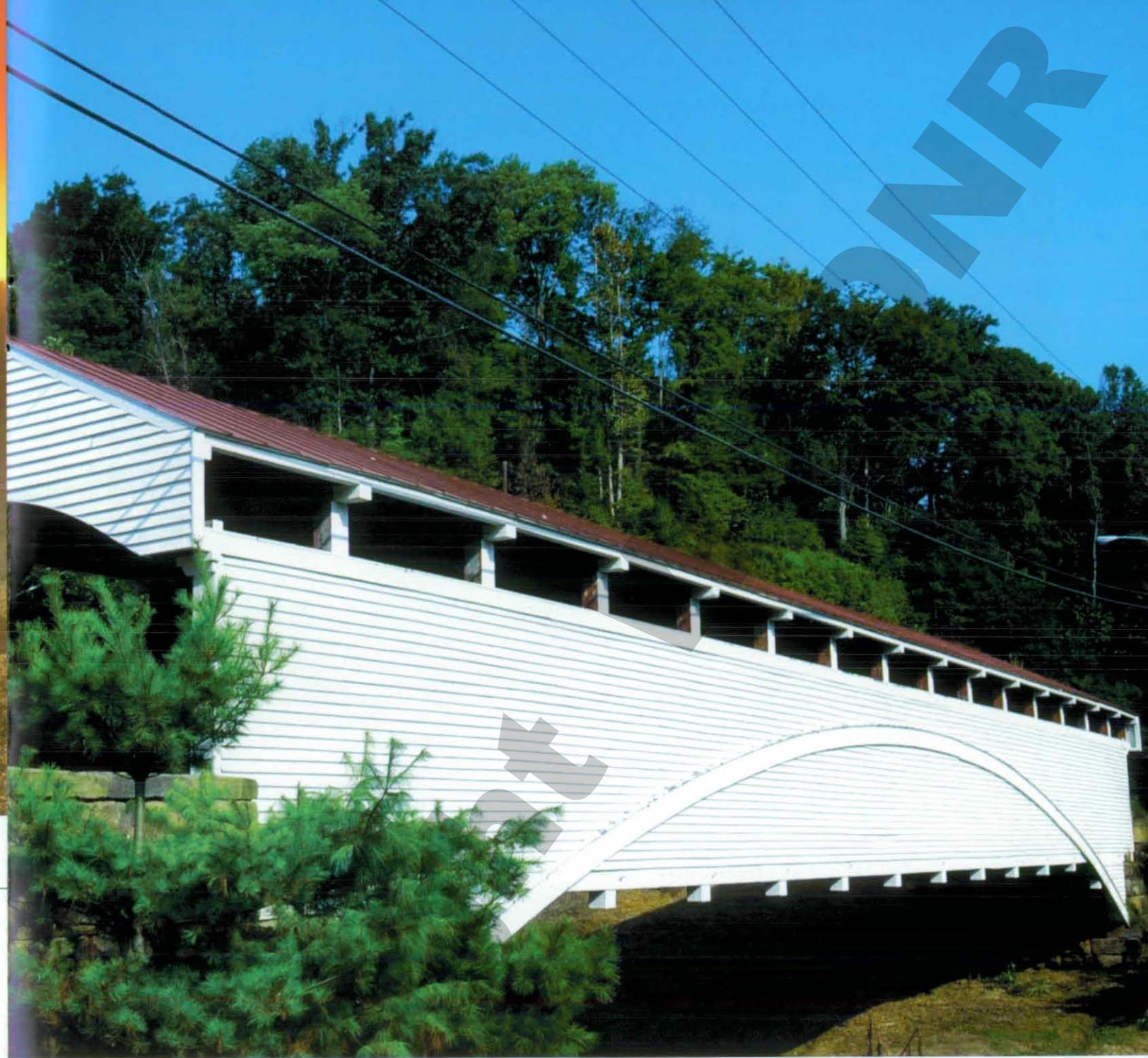
About this time, two other very large bridges were advertised to be built: a double-arch, double-lane bridge on the Tygart Valley River at Philippi in Barbour County and a double-arch, one-lane bridge on the West Fork River near Fairmont in Marion County. Chenoweth desperately wanted these contracts. To strengthen his bid, he built a model of a bridge truss that he recommended be used for these bridges.

In an April 25, 1850, letter to Charles Sanford, an engi-



neer and acquaintance who lived near Richmond, Chenoweth asked Sanford to set a time when he could demonstrate his model before the Virginia Board of Public Works. In the letter, Chenoweth stated that he would have to "assemble it and then put it to the test."

It is believed that Chenoweth stood on his model truss before the Virginia Board of Public Works to demonstrate its strength. But in the end, he was awarded these contracts not because of his convincing presentation but because he was the low bidder. The two jobs were so large that Chenoweth



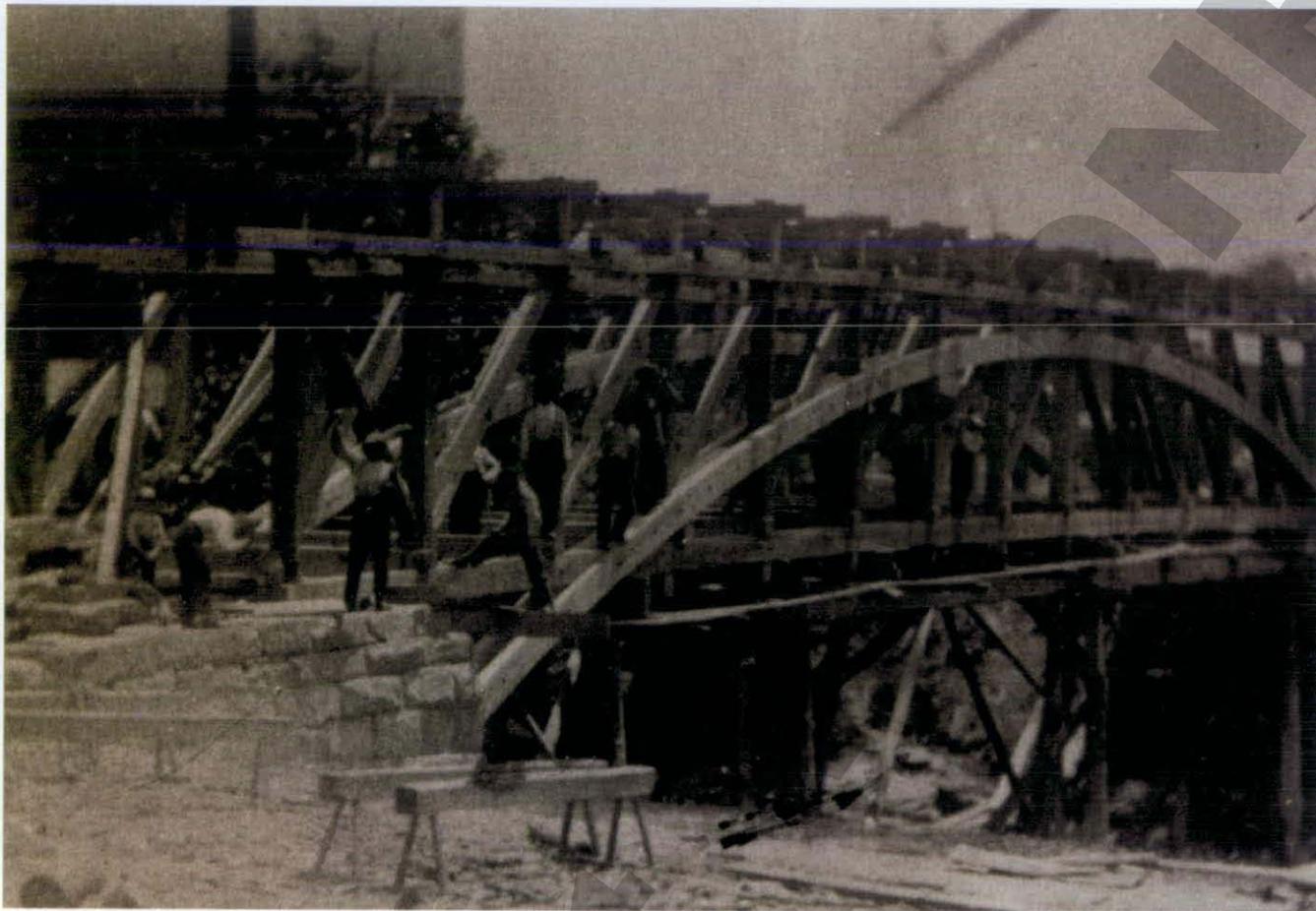
Chenoweth's Barrackville Covered Bridge remains a testament to his craftsmanship. Steve Shaluta

had to sell his home in Beverly to have enough start-up money to undertake them. For the next six years he and his large family lived in a rented house.

Lemuel and Eli Chenoweth signed contracts to build the Philippi and Fairmont bridges on April 22, 1851. The contracts for the abutments and piers had been awarded earlier to other contractors, and their work was to be completed by August 1, 1851. This gave Chenoweth time to have all the beams and lumber sawn and in place for construction. Their work was to be completed by October 1, 1851.

However, due to very serious engineering blunders by public officials, who misjudged the proper locations of the piers and underestimated the amount of masonry required, abutments were not completed on either bridge until the fall of 1852. But Chenoweth must have had excellent crews, as both bridges were ready for use by the end of December 1852 and described as "fully completed" soon thereafter.

On April 25, 1853, Chenoweth was awarded a contract to build a bridge over Buffalo Creek at Barrackville in Marion County. As might be expected, he completed work



1872 tintype of the Beverly Covered Bridge over the Tygart River Photo courtesy of Randy Allen

on this bridge, which still stands today, on schedule. In 1854, Chenoweth built a new bridge at Stalnaker, two miles up the Tygart River from Beverly, where the previous bridge had been washed out by the flood of December 11, 1847. That same year, he also built a double-arch bridge on the Greenbrier River at Marlin's Bottom, now Marlinton, in Pocahontas County, on the Huttonsville and Huntersville Turnpike. From 1855 through 1860, Chenoweth built replacement bridges at Buckhannon and Weston, as well as several smaller bridges. As he advised, these smaller bridges were built as covered bridges so they would last much longer.

In 1856, Chenoweth built his very unique, post-and-beam house in Beverly on a lot that overlooked his first bridge, the Beverly Bridge. In 1858, he built the Beverly Academy.

On June 17, 1861, Chenoweth was appointed superintendent of the Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike. By this time, Union troops were advancing east on the western end of the pike and Confederate troops were advancing west on the eastern end. Beverly was located strategically in the middle. Chenoweth's first task as superintendent was to build a bridge across Red Run on Cheat Mountain near the

eastern boundary of Randolph County to facilitate the advancement of the Confederate troops. From Staunton, Virginia, on July 29, 1861, he wrote to the Virginia Board of Public Works that he had repaired the bridge across the North Branch of the Greenbrier River in Pocahontas County, but because of the advancement of the Union Army, he had to abandon work at the bridge across the South Fork when "our army retreated east of that point." Over the next two months he supervised the construction of and repairs to several bridges east of that point.

Chenoweth submitted his final report from Hightown, Virginia, on October 9, 1861. He opened by stating his resignation, saying "Some of my family in Beverly was separated after the Battle of Rich Mountain and fled the county, and my time is required to build winter quarters." He also wrote that he could no longer secure help because "every well man was either farming or fighting."

When Chenoweth returned to Beverly, he found that Union soldiers were billeted in his house. Sick and wounded Confederate officers were also cared for there, as the beds in the Beverly Union Hospital were used first for the Union

troops. Chenoweth's eldest son, Joseph, a Confederate major who had graduated from the Virginia Military Institute in 1860, died in the Battle of Port Republic on June 9, 1862. His next son, Taylor, enlisted one year later. Chenoweth's first bridge also fell victim to the war when it was burned during a Confederate raid on Beverly on January 11, 1865. Chenoweth rebuilt the bridge in 1872 and it was dismantled about 1952.

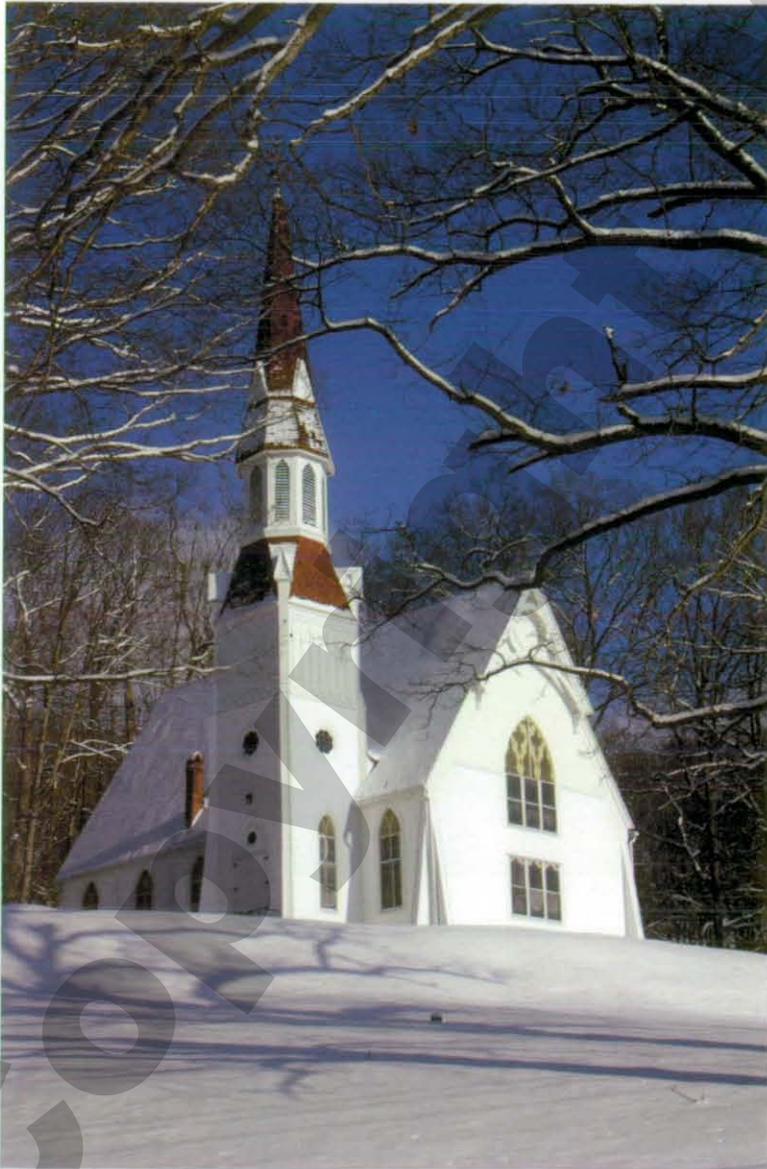
Lemuel Chenoweth's business card read "Builder and Architect," but he was also an inventor. Among the artifacts on display in his historic home in Beverly is a circa mid-1800s, working, scale-model sash sawmill, built by Chenoweth with futuristic design features. These features

have been incorporated into modern sawmill design only in the last few decades.

Four structures still stand today to testify to Lemuel Chenoweth's engineering genius: the Barrackville and Philippi covered bridges, the Huttonsville Presbyterian Church, and Chenoweth's 1856 house. As it was in his day, his work is still admired, and it endures the tests of nature and time. 🍷

A lifelong resident of Beverly, Randy Allan holds a bachelor's degree in forest land management from West Virginia University. He is the author of Bridging the Gaps, a biography of Lemuel Chenoweth. Contact him at randyallan@meer.net.

One of Chenoweth's masterpieces, the Huttonsville Presbyterian Church
David Fattaleh



The Lemuel Chenoweth House

In 1997, author and local historian Randy Allan and his wife, Donna, acquired the Lemuel Chenoweth House in Beverly and soon thereafter began to restore it. During this effort, they discovered that the lot had been used extensively by early Native Americans. The house, which features three floors, an attic, and a cellar house, exhibits many structural features unique to Chenoweth. On display are Native American artifacts found on the site, paper memorabilia of turnpikes and bridges, a large exhibit of area Civil War activity, and a few items made by Chenoweth. The house is furnished with period antiques made of wood, iron, fabric, and glass. It is open seven days a week, except holidays, and there is no admission charge. The home is available for tours and special events.

For information, call 304.636.2650 or 304.636.1953; write to P. O. Box 239, Beverly, WV 26253; or e-mail randyallan@meer.net.

gallery

Arnold Parish, a-parrish@mindspring.com

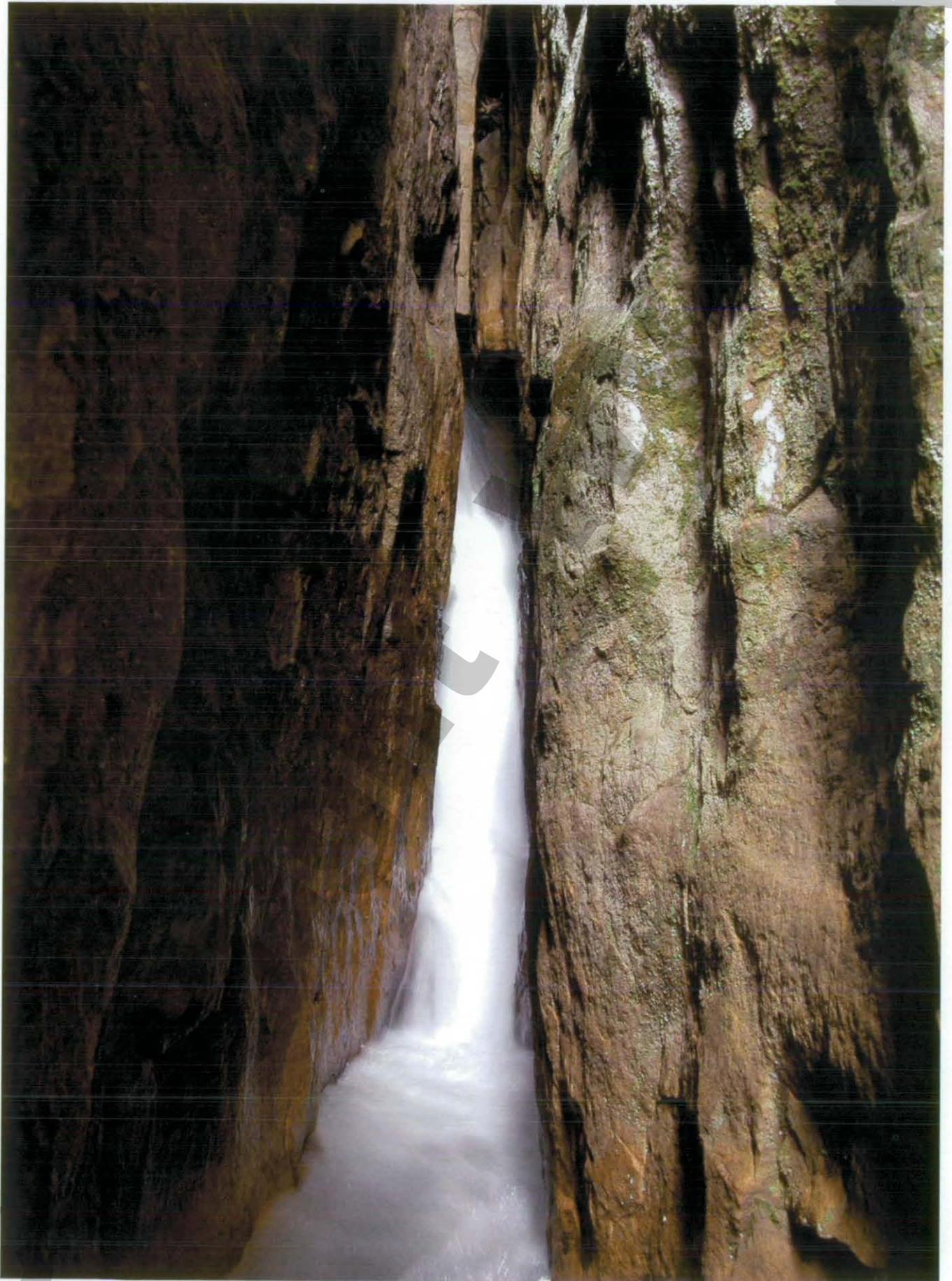
Frank Ceravalo, www.vistawv.com

Ed Rehbein, www.photographyart.com



▲ Spring comes to the Mountain State. Arnold Parish

▶ (Next page) A little adventurous scrambling and squeezing through a tight spot brought photographer Ed Rehbein to this tucked-away gem in the Fern Creek Falls area of the New River Gorge.





Smoke Hole in Pendleton County
Frank Ceravalo

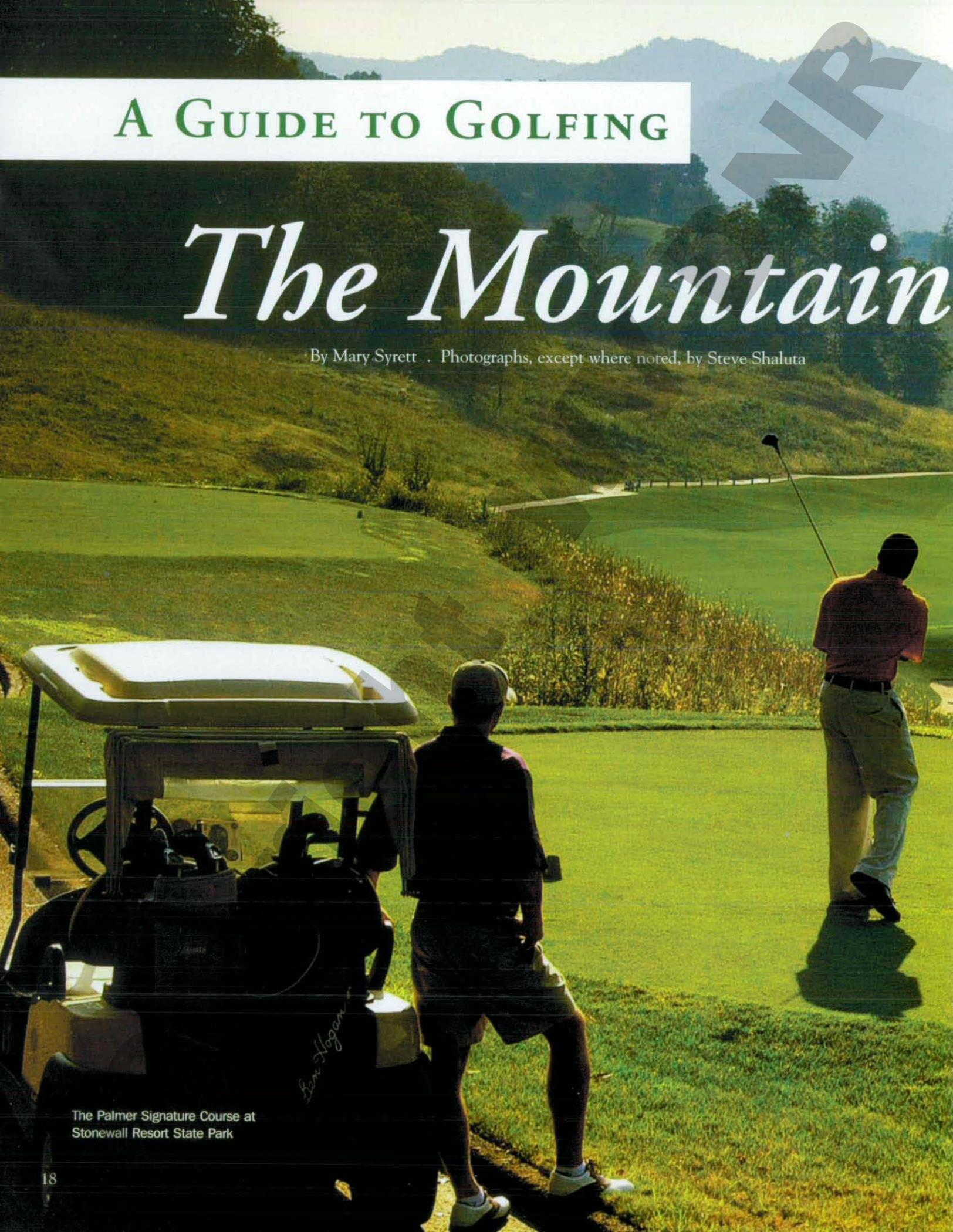


A GUIDE TO GOLFING

The Mountain

By Mary Syrett . Photographs, except where noted, by Steve Shaluta

NR



The Palmer Signature Course at
Stonewall Resort State Park

Ben Hogan

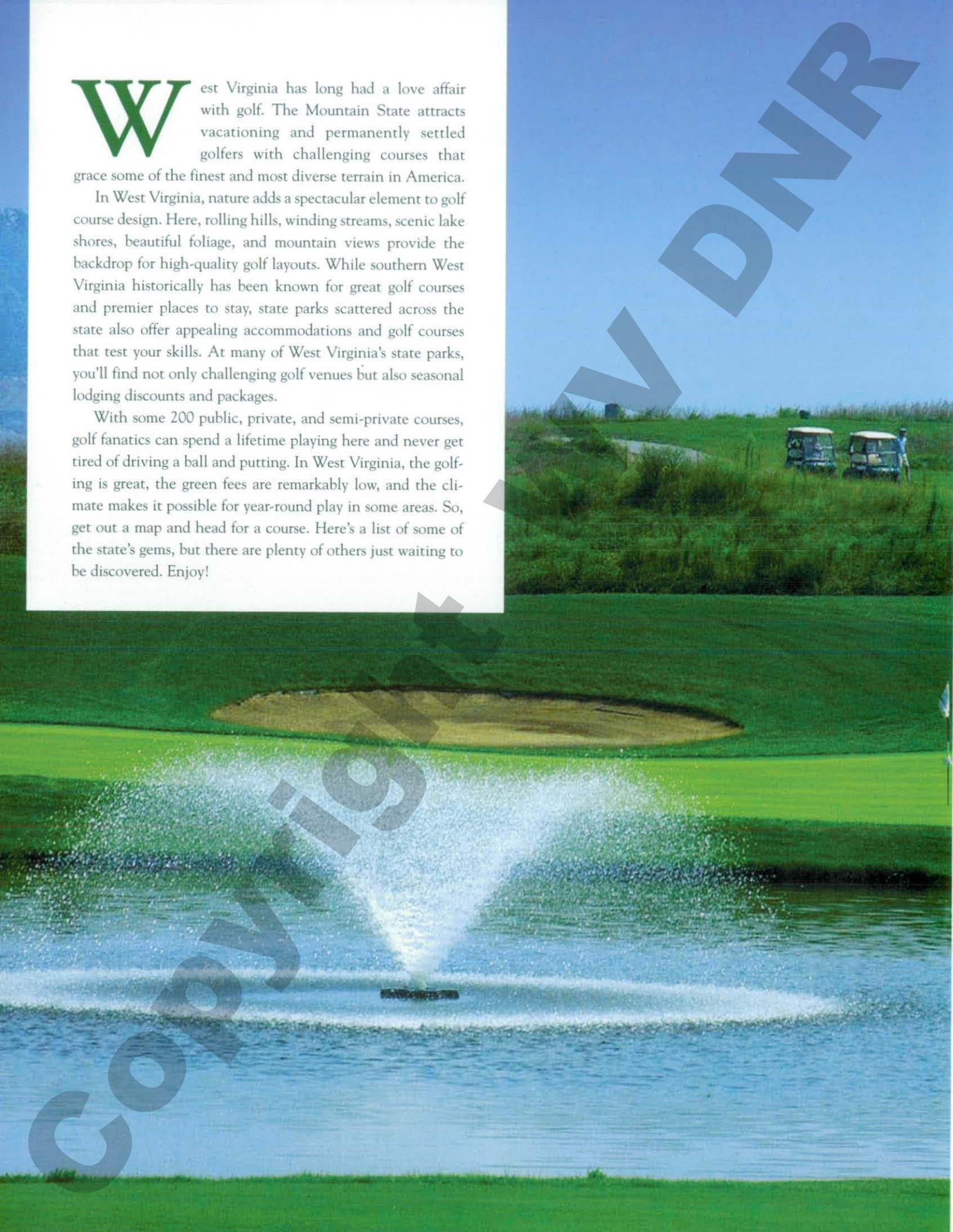
State



West Virginia has long had a love affair with golf. The Mountain State attracts vacationing and permanently settled golfers with challenging courses that grace some of the finest and most diverse terrain in America.

In West Virginia, nature adds a spectacular element to golf course design. Here, rolling hills, winding streams, scenic lake shores, beautiful foliage, and mountain views provide the backdrop for high-quality golf layouts. While southern West Virginia historically has been known for great golf courses and premier places to stay, state parks scattered across the state also offer appealing accommodations and golf courses that test your skills. At many of West Virginia's state parks, you'll find not only challenging golf venues but also seasonal lodging discounts and packages.

With some 200 public, private, and semi-private courses, golf fanatics can spend a lifetime playing here and never get tired of driving a ball and putting. In West Virginia, the golfing is great, the green fees are remarkably low, and the climate makes it possible for year-round play in some areas. So, get out a map and head for a course. Here's a list of some of the state's gems, but there are plenty of others just waiting to be discovered. Enjoy!



Twisted Gun ▼

Situated on a heathlike plateau and clothed in bent grass, the Twisted Gun Golf Course in Wharncliffe in Mingo County occupies a former surface mine site. Designed by architect Mark Nicewonder and opened in April 2003, the course features two lakes and wide, rolling fairways that allow golfers to take advantage of prevailing winds. Call 304.664.9100.

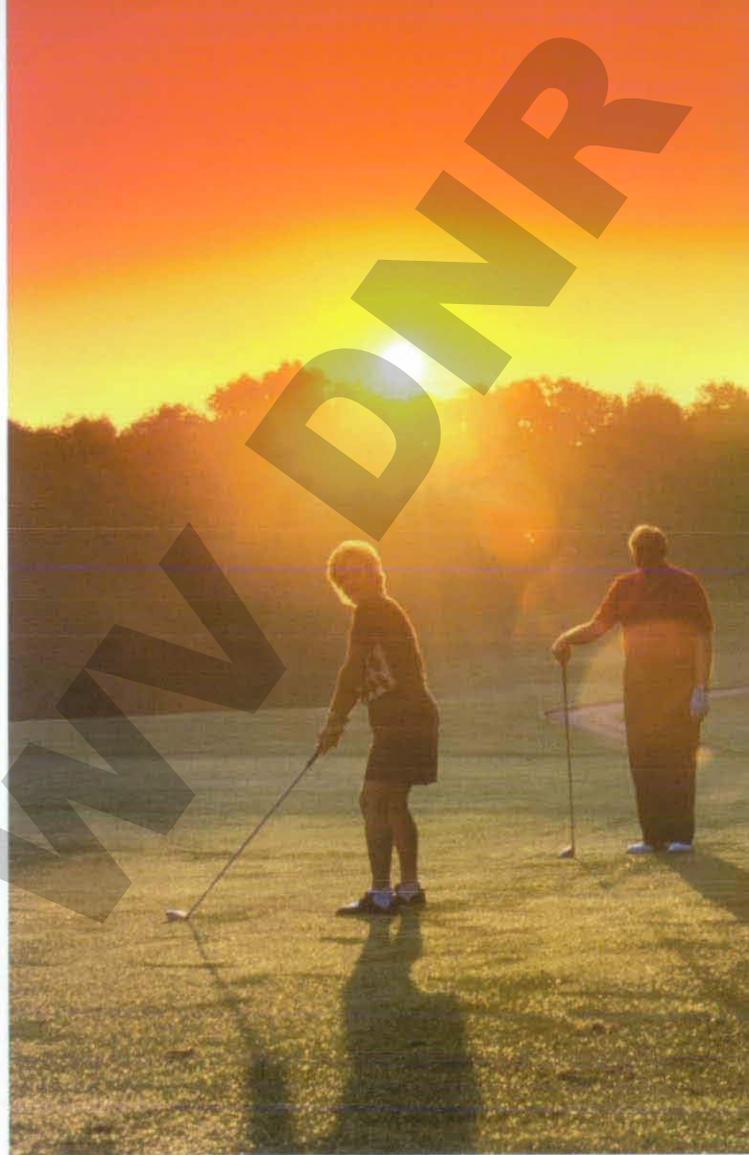


The Resort at Glade Springs ▶

One of landscape architect George Cobb's most popular golf courses is located just south of Beckley and is convenient to both Interstates 64 and 77. Since 1974, the George Cobb Course at The Resort at Glade Springs, named the Number 1 course in West Virginia by *Golfweek* magazine, has challenged golfers with a variety of noteworthy features. These include complex greens averaging 9,500 square feet, wide fairways, deep bunkers, eight lakes, and a total length of 7,000+ yards. A comprehensive upgrade of the Cobb Course was completed recently, adding championship tees to the 18 holes.

In 2005, Glades Springs unveiled the 7,200-yard Stonehaven Course, a forested venue bordered by huge rhododendrons and rock outcroppings. The terrain here is dramatic and features a meandering path through a forest of mature oak, maple, beech, and hickory trees.

The Glade Springs courses are part of this resort and residential community, which is nestled in West Virginia's Allegheny Mountains and surrounded by trails for hiking and horseback riding. Other resort amenities include a hotel, golf villas, and a dining room. Memberships are available for area residents. The courses are also open to limited outside play. Call 304.763.2050, e-mail info@gladesprings.com, or visit the Web site: www.gladesprings.com.



◀ The Raven Golf Club at Snowshoe

The Gary Player-designed Raven Course at Snowshoe Mountain resort has two distinct flavors, with the front nine holes playing through rolling meadows and the back nine skirting through thick woodlands punctuated by mountain streams. The course is a sanctuary for deer, Canada geese, beaver, and an occasional black bear. Bring a good supply of golf balls if you're prone to spraying tee shots. The course, located at the base of the mountain below Snowshoe Mountain resort, includes elevation changes of up to 200 feet. Call 304.572.6500 or visit www.snowshoemtn.com/todo/sum-activities/golf.

The Greenbrier ▼

The Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, renowned for its history and elegance, also boasts an illustrious golfing heritage. The C&O Railway purchased the property in 1910 and built a nine-hole golf course. Three years later, the Old White Course debuted as the resort's first championship links. Then, in 1936, 23-year-old Sam Snead came to The Greenbrier for his first professional job. Snead's relationship with The Greenbrier, as resident professional and later as professional emeritus, continued until his death in 2002.

In 1942, the U.S. Army purchased the property, including the golf courses, and converted it into Ashford General Hospital. Over the next four years, some 25,000 soldiers were treated at the hospital. The golf courses became an essential part of the facility's rehabilitation program. In 1946, the C&O repurchased the property and, in April 1948, celebrated its reopening.

When The Greenbrier's first 18-hole golf course, the Old White Course, opened in 1914, one of the first golfers to play it was President Woodrow Wilson. In 2006, a four-year restoration of this course was completed. The Charles Macdonald design features several holes that are modeled after some famous European holes.

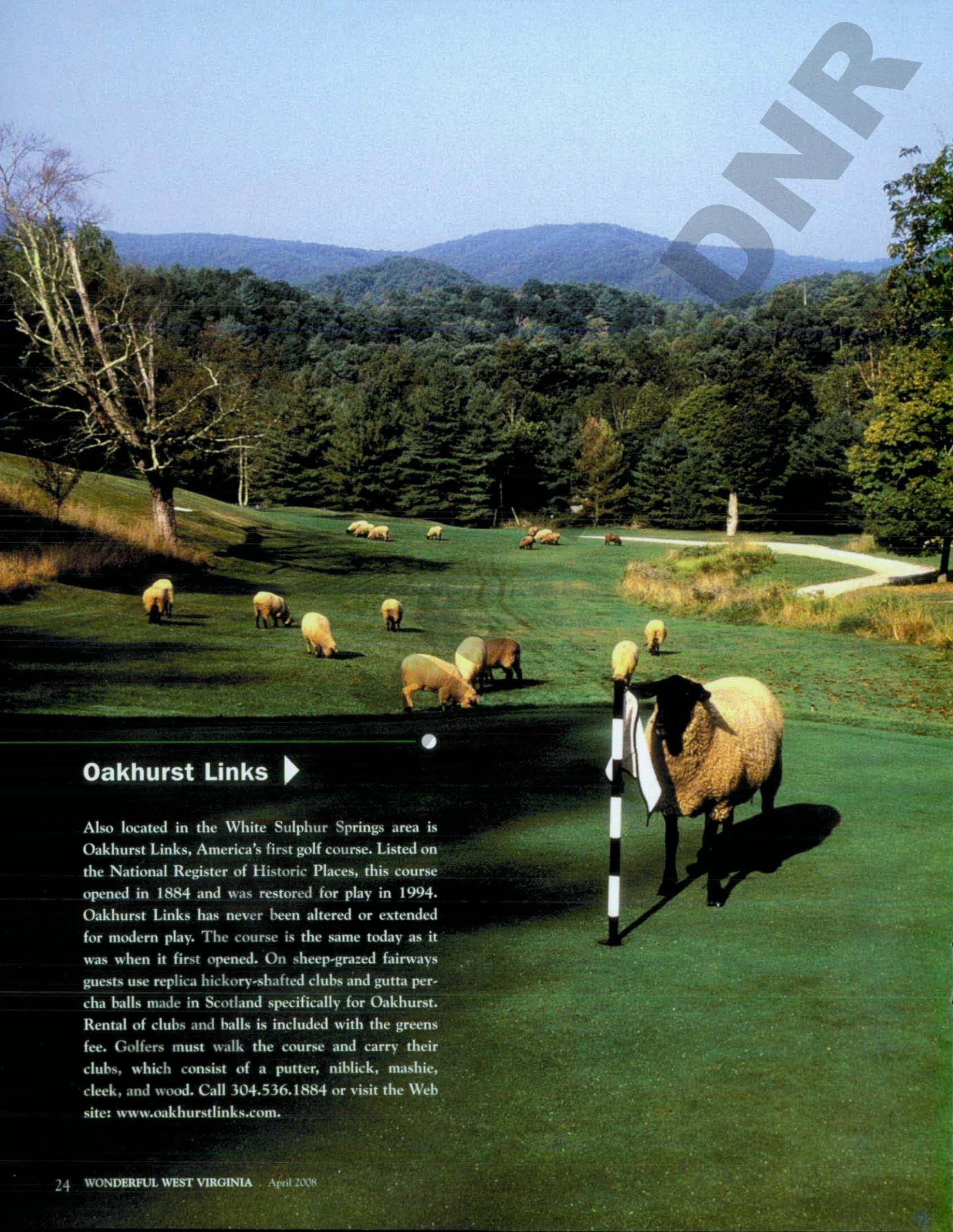
The Greenbrier Course, designed by George O'Neil, opened in 1924. In 1977, this course was redesigned by Jack Nicklaus for the 1979 International Ryder Cup Matches. In 1995, when he was 83 years old, Sam Snead shot his last hole-in-one (his 37th) on Hole 18 of the Greenbrier Course.

The Meadows Course was created in 1910 as a nine-hole course known as the Lakeside Course. In 1962, the course was rebuilt and enlarged to 18 holes. Robert Cupp redesigned the course in 1998, and in 1999, it reopened as the Meadows Course. This course's 579-yard, par-5 fourth hole is the longest hole of all the courses at The Greenbrier. For more information, call Lynn Swann at 800.624.6070, or e-mail lynn_swann@greenbrier.com, or visit the Web site:

○ www.greenbrier.com.

David Fattaleh



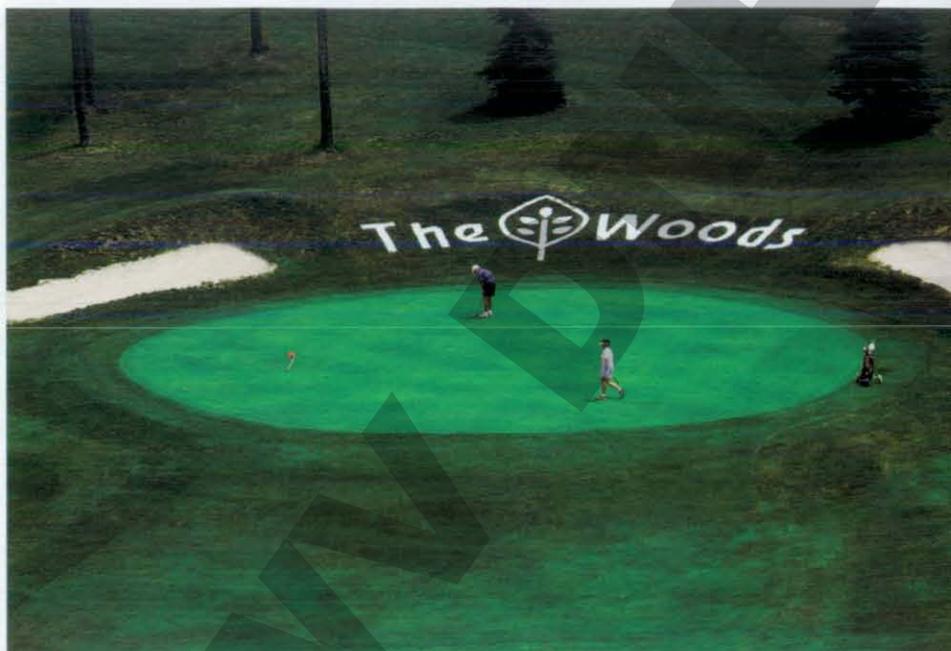


Oakhurst Links ▶

Also located in the White Sulphur Springs area is Oakhurst Links, America's first golf course. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this course opened in 1884 and was restored for play in 1994. Oakhurst Links has never been altered or extended for modern play. The course is the same today as it was when it first opened. On sheep-grazed fairways guests use replica hickory-shafted clubs and gutta percha balls made in Scotland specifically for Oakhurst. Rental of clubs and balls is included with the greens fee. Golfers must walk the course and carry their clubs, which consist of a putter, niblick, mashie, cleek, and wood. Call 304.536.1884 or visit the Web site: www.oakhurstlinks.com.

The Woods Resort ▶

The Woods Resort, a mountain hideaway in Hedgesville in the Eastern Panhandle, offers two golf challenges. The Mountain View course roams over a wooded plateau with views of Third Hill Mountain. Its fairways are framed by evergreens and hardwoods, including dogwood, maple, and oak. The mid-length, par-62 Stoney Lick Course rises and falls over 3,700 yards of ravine-cut landscape. The courses offer ideal layouts for walkers, high handicappers, and low handicappers who want to hone their short game. Call 304.754.7222 or visit the Web site: www.thewoods.com.



West Virginia State Parks

In addition to reduced green fees in the off-season, many state park golf courses offer rental carts, pro shops, driving ranges, and the opportunity to take lessons from a resident PGA golf pro.

In 2002, Arnold Palmer lent his expertise and name to the Palmer Signature Course at **Stonewall Resort State Park** in Lewis County. Ranked 23 among the nation's top 100 resort courses by *Golfweek* magazine, this 7,149-yard facility is tight, hilly, and tree-lined. It meanders around and over picturesque Stonewall Jackson Lake before moving up into the surrounding hills. Call 304.269.8885 or visit the Web site: www.stonewallresort.com.

In 1974, golf architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. created a well-laid-out course at **Cacapon Resort State Park** near Berkeley Springs, which has since drawn many golfers from the Baltimore and Washington, D.C., areas. Located in a valley at the foot of Cacapon Mountain, the course's front nine holes are fairly level, while the back nine feature several holes with marked elevation changes. The course is known for a double green that is more than 100 yards wide and also features 73 well-placed sand bunkers. There are three ponds on the course, as well as several other water hazards in the form of small mountain streams. Call 304.258.1022, ext. 165, or visit the Web site: www.cacaponresort.com.

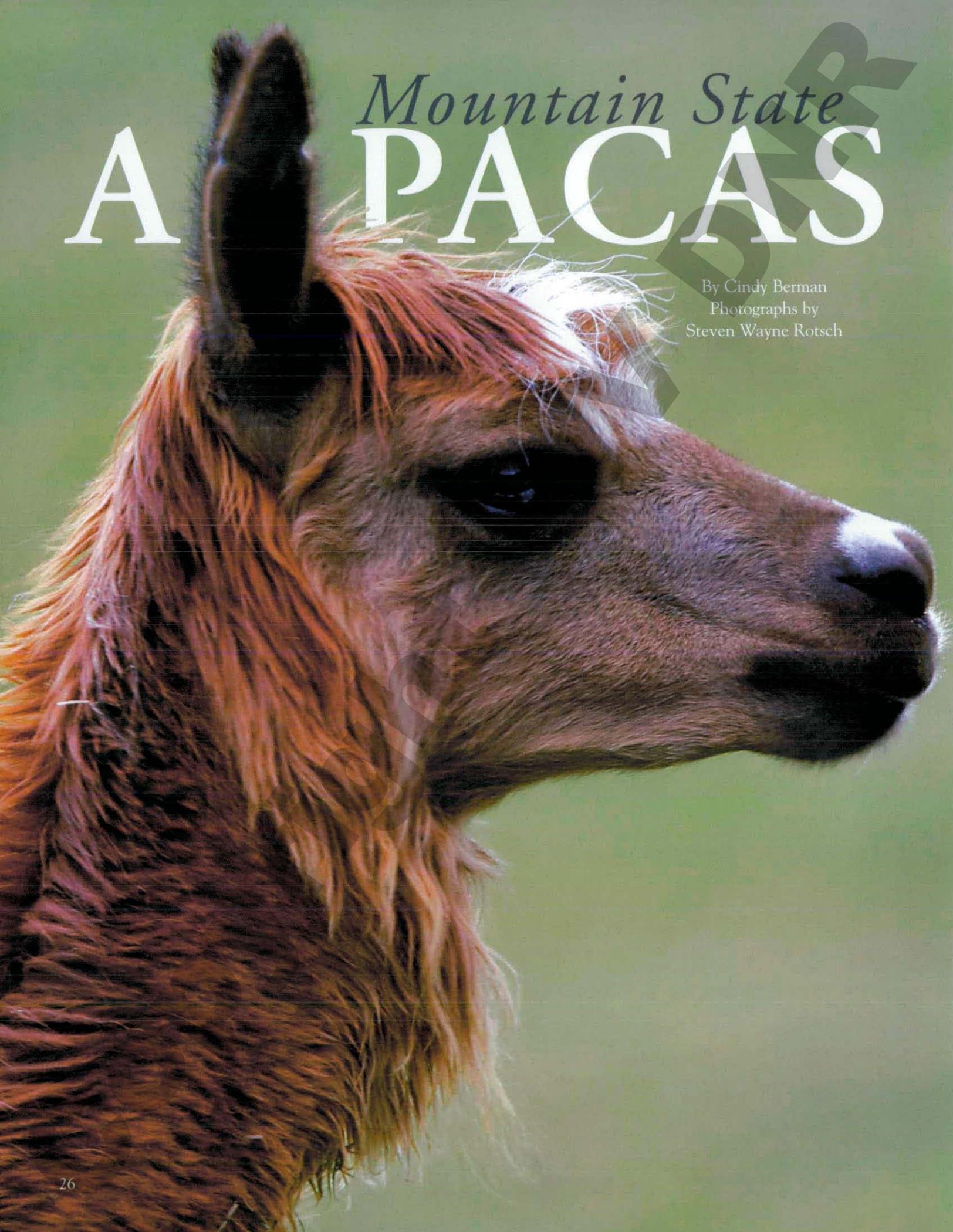
In a high-mountain bowl near Davis in the Potomac Highlands lies **Canaan Valley Resort State Park**. The

resort's 18-hole Geoffrey Cornish-designed course is open April 1 through mid-November (weather permitting) and features water hazards on eight holes with 65 sand bunkers. The most difficult hole, Number 9, is a 573-yard-long, par-5 dogleg, with water in front of a green guarded by four sand bunkers. Canaan Valley Resort is located on Rte. 32 halfway between Davis and Harman. Call 304.866.4546 or visit the Web site: www.canaanresort.com.

Twin Falls Resort State Park's 18-hole, par-71 course is narrow in design with water on 15 holes. The original nine holes were designed by Geoffrey Cornish in the late 1960s. In 1982, nine more holes designed by George Cobb Sr. were added. Tucked in the southern West Virginia mountains in Wyoming County, this course is open year round, weather permitting. Call 304.294.4000, visit the Web site: www.twinfallsresort.com, or e-mail twinfallsinfo@wvstateparks.com.

Pipestem Resort State Park also offers two popular courses: an 18-hole, par-72 championship course designed by Geoffrey Cornish, which features views of the beautiful Bluestone Canyon, and a challenging, 9-hole, par-3 course. The 18-hole course is open year round, weather permitting. Call 304.466.1800, e-mail pipesteminfo@wvstateparks.com, or visit www.pipestemresort.com/recreation.html. 🍷

Freelance writer and photographer Mary Syrett lives in North Carolina and visits West Virginia as often as possible.



Mountain State
A PACAS

By Cindy Berman
Photographs by
Steven Wayne Rotsch

Alpacas are much easier to raise than other livestock; they are friendlier, cleaner, and healthier.

As a kindergartner, David Moran dreamed about one day raising sheep. The Oregon native grew up to earn a doctorate in hydrodynamics and to teach at both the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis and George Washington University. Yet through the years, he kept the idea of raising livestock in the back of his mind, considering it perhaps for his retirement.

Then, in 1994, David's wife, Lori, read an article about alpacas in an airline magazine. She was intrigued by the animals, which are known for being alert, intelligent, curious, and predictable. She and David began to research them. They visited farms and talked to farmers who owned alpacas, read books, and attended seminars. They discovered the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association (AOBA) and they attended the organization's national conference, where they participated in many workshops and classes.

In 1997, the couple purchased 120 acres of land in Preston County and two alpacas. Today, their farm, which they named the Crimson Shamrock Ranch (www.crimson-shamrockalpacas.com), is home to a herd of 55 of the animals, as well as numerous Wensleydale sheep. David retired from teaching but still operates a consulting business part time. Lori still works part time as a structural engineer in Washington, D.C. In addition to tending the animals, she weaves and crochets fine fiber products that are distributed nationally and also sold through private commissions. With 12 years in the business, the Morans are pleased with their thriving enterprise.

"Alpacas are much easier to raise than other livestock," says David. "They are friendlier, cleaner, and healthier."

Cousin to the llama, the alpaca is native to the Andean Mountain range of South America, particularly the countries of Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. This animal, which measures approximately 36 inches at the withers and generally weighs between 150 and 200 pounds, converts grass and hay to energy very efficiently. Thus, it eats less than other farm animals. While grazing, alpacas do not pull grass up by its roots. Gardeners find that alpaca dung makes rich fertilizer perfect for growing fruits and vegetables. Alpacas do not have horns, hooves, claws, or incisors. They are social animals that communicate mostly by humming softly.

The average lifespan of an alpaca is 20 years. After a gestation period of 11.5 months, female alpacas normally give birth

to a single *cria*. Twins are extremely rare (1 in 2,000 births).

Alpacas were first commercially imported into the United States in 1984. What began as a small community of alpaca owners blossomed into an official national organization, the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. Today, AOBA has more than 4,000 members and more than 100,000 registered alpacas in the United States.

There are two types of alpacas, Suri and Huacaya (wah-KI-ah), and while they look nearly identical, they can be distinguished by the fiber they produce. The Huacaya, the more common of the two, has a fluffy, extremely fine coat. The Suri produces fiber that is very silky and resembles pencil-locks.

When breeding his alpacas, David Moran breeds strictly for fiber quality. "My goal is to ensure the future of high-quality alpaca fiber," he explains. The Morans breed Suri alpacas because they are rarer and because they prefer their looks and personality, David says.

Alpacas are shorn without harm every 12 to 18 months. Once a treasure of Incan civilization, the alpaca's luxurious fleece, known as the "fiber of gods," was reserved for royalty. Each animal produces 2 to 10 pounds of luxurious fiber that is stronger, warmer, and lighter than wool. "It is as soft as cashmere and has the luster of silk," David says. "Most people who are sensitive to wool usually find they can wear alpaca without itching or irritation." Alpaca fiber also comes in many natural colors and is hypoallergenic and fire retardant.

The Morans were among the first to discover the peaceful lifestyle of farming the gentle alpaca in West Virginia. Bob and Lee Ciszewski were also state alpaca pioneers. The Ciszewskis, who both worked in Washington, D.C., owned property in Augusta in Hampshire County and had dreamed about escaping from the Washington rat race.

In 1997, Lee saw an advertisement in the *Washington Times* for an "Alpaca Jubilee" in Virginia. Neither Lee nor Bob knew what an alpaca was. They were curious, so they went to the jubilee. There they fell in love with alpacas. "We also met some really nice folks who were obviously in love with their animals and the lifestyle," recalls Lee.

That same year, Bob and Lee purchased their first alpacas. In 1998, they opened their farm, Almost Heaven Alpacas and Guest House (www.almostheavenguesthouse.com), for busi-

ness. The couple also operates a bed-and-breakfast and an alpaca products store on their farm.

Since the late-1990s, some 35 alpaca farms have sprung up around the state. West Virginia's terrain and moderate climate are perfect for raising alpacas, says Liz Lena, who, with her husband, Bill, relocated to West Virginia from southern California to raise the animals.

"Alpacas love the snow and cold weather here," she says. "And they tolerate the humidity, if we keep them cool. We also have lush pastures for them here. You don't get that in southern California."

About 20 alpacas and nine llamas currently reside at the Lenas' 27-acre St. Nicholas Ranch (www.stnicholasranch.com), located just north of Leon in Mason County. Drawn by West Virginia's climate and the opportunity to live near family members in Charleston and southern Ohio, they bought the ranch in August 2005. Bill Lena is retired from the construction business and Liz is employed at a Charleston law firm as a legal nurse consultant. She also serves as vice president for the recently formed West Virginia Alpaca Organization.

Summarizing the appeal of alpaca farming in general, Liz says that the animals are less work-intensive than other livestock, such as horses and cows. "We saw the opportunity for a nice income as we got older," she adds. "And we love animals. We've also got four dogs, two cats, and four birds."

As for their move to West Virginia, Liz says, "It's a beautiful place to live. We love our farm." An experienced builder, Bill Lena renovated and upgraded the property's 50-year-old barn, adding a climate-controlled maternity suite for mother and baby alpacas. The Lenas plan to build their herd in order to sell the animals. Alpacas can range in cost from a few hundred dollars for a fleece animal to an average of \$15,000 for a female.

Like Liz Lena, David Moran has taken a leadership role in the fast-growing alpaca community, serving as president of the new state organization. He is also a member of the local Rural Development Coalition. For those interested in getting into the alpaca business, he has this advice:

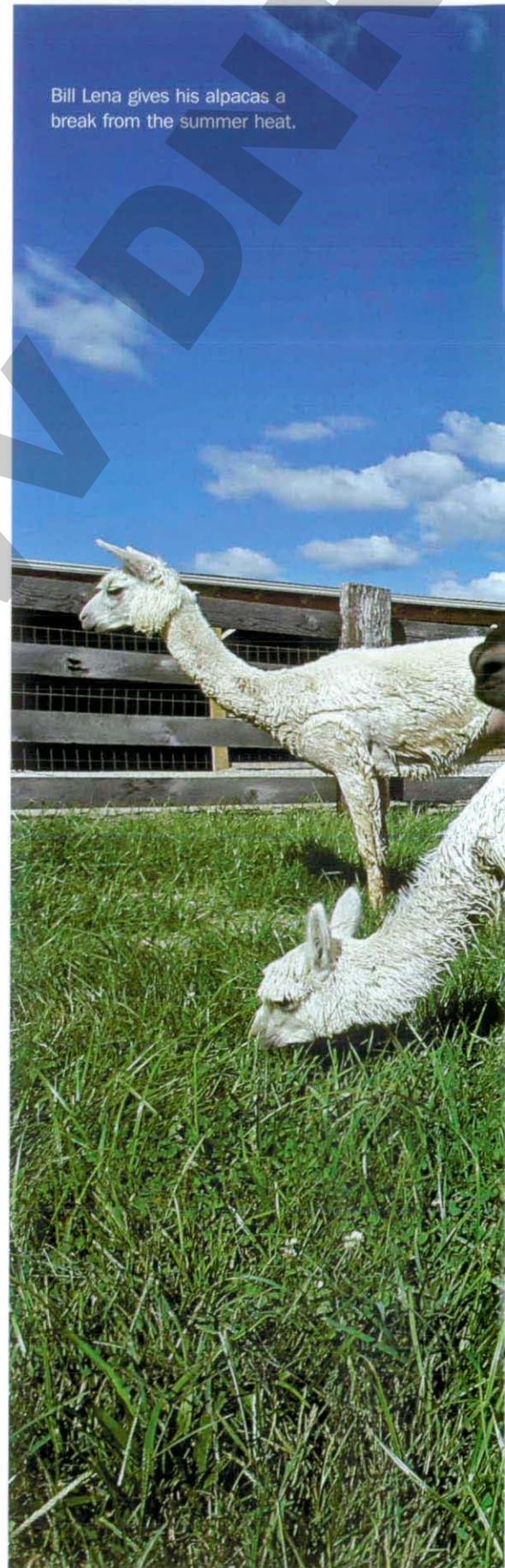
"First, decide if you really want to raise livestock. As easy as it is to maintain alpacas, you still have to be prepared to be a farmer," he says. "Then, once you decide you really want to commit to raising livestock, you can never study too much. The more you study, the better you get." David is currently taking graduate classes in animal sciences at West Virginia University.

"Finally," David notes, "When farming alpacas, concentrate on all aspects of creating a sound fiber business and a sound livestock business."

In recognition of alpacas' growing contribution to the agricultural community in West Virginia, Governor Joe Manchin III proclaimed September 29 and 30, 2007, Alpaca Farm Days. Alpaca breeders across the state held open houses and encouraged visitors to explore their farms and unique lifestyles. This year, Alpaca Farm Days will be held September 27 and 28. For more information, call the West Virginia Alpaca Organization at 304.735.6413; write to WVAO, P.O. Box 7, Eglo, WV 26716; or visit www.wvalpacas.org. More information about alpacas is available at www.alpacainfo.com or by calling the AOBA office at 615.834.4195. 🍷

Cindy Berman is the director of public relations for Brown & Miller Advertising and serves as spokesperson for the Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association.

Bill Lena gives his alpacas a break from the summer heat.





Events Statewide | April

April 3 - 6

School of the Longhunter

Prickett's Fort State Park
Fairmont
304.363.3030

April 4 - 6

Women's Getaway Weekend

North Bend State Park
Cairo
304.643.2931

April 4 - 6

Guitar Workshop

Twin Falls Resort State Park
Mullens
304.294.4000

April 4 - 6

Appalachian Heritage Weekend

Pipestem Resort State Park
Pipestem
304.466.1800, ext. 379

April 5

**25th Annual Sue Browning
Wildflower Hike**

Chief Logan State Park
Logan
304.855.5863

April 5 - 6

Elvis Tribute Artist - Franky Dee

Hawks Nest State Park
Ansted
304.658.5212

April 11 - 13

**Point Pleasant River Museum -
Annual River Art Show**

Point Pleasant
304.674.0144



April 11 - 13

Ballroom Dance Weekend

Pipestem Resort State Park
Pipestem
304.466.1800, ext. 379

April 12

5th Annual Fishing Rodeo

Pinnacle Rock State Park
Bluefield
304.248.8565

April 18 - 20

Redbud Weekend

Cacapon Resort State Park
Berkeley Springs
304.258.1022

April 18

**Appalachian Children's Chorus
Spring Concert**

Charleston
304.343.1111

April 18 - 20

Spring Photography Workshop

Twin Falls Resort State Park
Mullens
304.294.4000

April 19

Annual Spring Bird Walk

Prickett's Fort State Park
Fairmont
304.363.3030

April 19

Lost Cannon Bluegrass Band

Hawks Nest State Park
Ansted
304.658.5212

April 19 - 20

Scrapbooking Weekend

Canaan Valley Resort State Park
Davis
304.866.4121

April 21

Antiques Appraisal Clinic

Blennerhassett Island Historical
State Park
Parkersburg
304.420.4800

April 23

**Marshall Artist Series -
Little Women**

Huntington
304.696.6656

April 25

National Arbor Day

Cathedral State Park
Aurora
304.735.3771

April 25 - 27

Glass Fest

Weston
800.296.7329



April 25 - 27

Spring Mountain Festival

Petersburg
304.257.2722

April 25 - 27

Spring Cleanup Weekend

Cass Scenic Railroad State Park
Cass
304.456.4300

April 25 - 27

Irish Road Bowling Weekend

Pipestem Resort State Park
Pipestem
304.466.1800, ext. 379

April 26

**Helvetia Ramp Dinner at
Helvetia Community Hall**

Helvetia
304.924.6435

April 26

Ramp Dinner at Hacker Valley Elementary School

Hacker Valley
304.493.6488

April 26

Annual Spring Bird Walk

Prickett's Fort State Park
Fairmont
304.363.3030

April 26

Osbra Eye Memorial Walk

Kanawha State Forest
Charleston
304.925.2771



April 26

Show-Me Hike

Greenbrier State Forest
Caldwell
304.536.1944

April 26 - 27

Jones-Imboden Raid Civil War Weekend

Prickett's Fort State Park
Fairmont
304.363.3030

April 26 - 27

Murder Mystery

North Bend State Park
Cairo
304.643.2931

April 27, 2:00 PM

West Virginia Humanities Council Little Lecture Series

"The Monongah Mine Disaster of 1907" with Davitt McAteer
MacFarland-Hubbard House
Charleston
304.346.8500

April 27

West Virginia Youth Symphony Spring Concert

Charleston
304.561.3542



April 30

Marshall Artists Series - Hairspray

Huntington
304.696.6656

APRIL						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

Times and events are subject to change. To ensure you have a wonderful experience, please call ahead before attending an event.

Moving? Don't forget to take us along.

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Housekeeping

Cabin ID: Some readers called to ask the identity of the log cabin pictured on the inside back cover of the February 2008 issue. It is the McWhorter Cabin, located at the WVU Jackson's Mill State 4-H Camp in Weston in Lewis County.

Correction: Sometimes typographical gremlins slip stealthily past our spell checkers and proofreaders, and then leap out at our readers. Thus, it was brought to our attention that we misspelled Pocahontas on pages 12 and 15 of the February 2008 issue. Our thanks to the reader who pointed out this error, and our apologies to the Native American maiden and the residents of this highland county!

Large-Print Version

If you are having difficulty reading *Wonderful West Virginia*, you can now go to www.wonderfulwv.com, click on the **LARGE PRINT** link, and complete the form, filling in your e-mail address and subscription number (found on the address label located on the magazine's back cover). Submit the form and a large-print version (which includes text but no photographs) will be e-mailed to you monthly at no additional cost.

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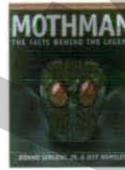


Monongah: The Tragic Story of the 1907 Monongah Mine Disaster: The Worst Industrial Accident in U.S. History

By Davitt McAteer

\$30.00, 6 x 9.25, 331 pages, Hardcover

■ The result of almost three decades of exhaustive research, *Monongah* documents the events leading up to the horrific explosion that claimed nearly 500 lives. McAteer delves deeply into the personalities, economic forces, and social landscape of the mining communities of north central West Virginia.



Mothman: The Facts Behind the Legend

By Donnie Sergent Jr. and Jeff Wamsley

\$19.95, 8 x 11, 164 pages, Paperback

■ On November 15, 1966, two young couples drove into the abandoned TNT area north of Point Pleasant. What they saw has evolved into a fascinating mystery: just who—or what—was the Mothman? Drawing from a wide variety of sources, *Mothman* carefully presents much factual information and many eyewitness accounts but leaves what to believe about the Mothman legend up to the reader.



Laughter in Appalachia: A Festival of Southern Mountain Humor

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