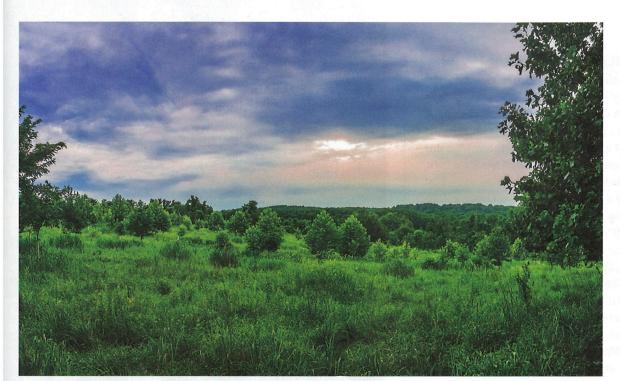


# ADVENTURES

10 Great Ways to Relish the Great Outdoors.

By Marty LeGrand

**ILLUSTRATIONS BY JASON SCHNEIDER** 



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Susquehanna State Park; Cook Forest State Park; Kingsmill Golf Club. Opposite page: New River Gorge; a BASE jumper on Bridge Day.



In pursuit of pleasure

# **GOLF WHERE THE PROS GO**

You could spend a fortnight playing a course a day in golfblessed Williamsburg, Virginia. Where to take tee? Start with the championship links at Golden Horseshoe Golf Club and the Kingsmill Golf Club. Reopened last year, the Rees Jones-renovated Gold Course at the former updates the timeless woodlands fairway designed by his father, the lauded Robert Trent Jones. Created and later renovated by golf guru Pete Dye, the scenic River Course of the latter has hosted numerous PGA and LPGA tournaments.

STAY: Book a Gold Golf Package at the Williamsburg Lodge, a stately Colonial Williamsburg hotel, and get a spacious room plus a free Gold Course round per night. Meanwhile, the swanky Kingsmill Resort's Signature Golf Package covers your guestroom, greens fees, and breakfast.

**SAVOR:** Dine like a tycoon on fresh oysters and steak with Yorkshire pudding at The Williamsburg Inn's Rockefeller Room, followed by a petit Pecan Financier cake with bourbon chantilly cream. Local landmark The Cheese Shop also crafts four-star sandwiches to carry along with your clubs. CLOSER TO HOME: Play on another Pete Dye design, the Bulle Rock Golf Course in Havre de Grace, host of past LPGA tourneys.





# **GO LAKE (OR LOCH) FISHING**

When summer ends, the beach-and-boating crowd deserts Deep Creek Lake, Maryland's largest, most popular body of fresh water, located in Garrett County. But the fish remain: smallmouth bass, walleye, yellow perch, pike, panfish, and others. Launch a skiff at the boat ramp or throw your line from the extensive shoreline of Deep Creek Lake State Park. You can also fish at the Route 219 bridge pilings, rent a boat from a marina, or hire a guide. Bill's Outdoor Center in Oakland is a one-stop shop with guided trips, tips, and tackle. Just be sure to check if you need to purchase a state fishing license before you go.

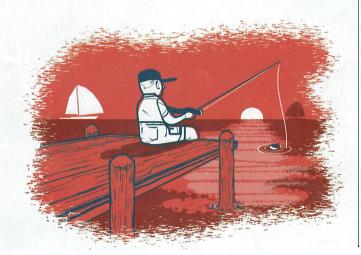
STAY: The fish are a stone's throw away when you sleep at LakeStar Lodge in nearby McHenry, with cozy lakefront rooms, kayak and boat slip rentals, a fire pit for toasting marshmallows, and pet-friendly policies.

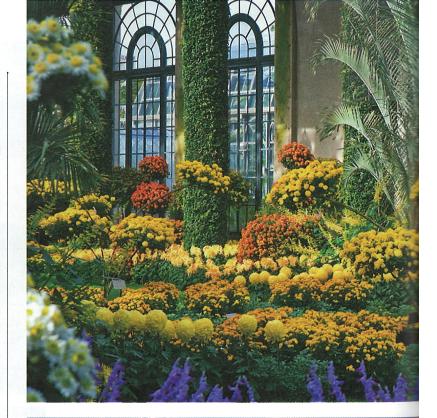
SAVOR: Surf, turf, vegan, sweets—whatever you're craving, the kitchen at MoonShadow in McHenry has you covered with an eclectic menu and décor, plus live music. Join locals for great java and breakfast goodies at Trader's Coffee House in Oakland.

CLOSER TO HOME: Scottish lochs famously hold salmon, but the Loch Raven Reservoir boasts state-record white perch, as well as small and largemouth bass and catfish. The Loch Raven Fishing Center in Phoenix covers anglers' every need.

# **TOUR GLORIOUS FALL GARDENS**

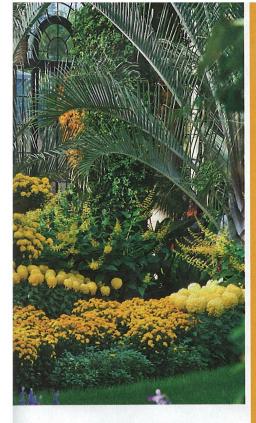
Come fall, Pennsylvania's Brandywine Valley positively glows, and in few places brighter than the region's du Pont estates. The autumn flora starts to color in October at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, entrepreneur Pierre du Pont's splashy, formal oasis. Don't miss the Chrysanthemum Festival (October 25-November 18), when bazillions of bonsai-styled mums form a floral, Seussian landscape. In nearby Winterthur, Delaware, wander horticulturist Henry Francis du Pont's more naturally landscaped Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library and behold billowy viburnums, brilliant beautyberries, and delicate white wood asters. STAY: Relax like aristocracy at The Inn at Montchanin Vil-











## **ТОР ТО ВОТТОМ:** Chrysanthemums at Longwood

Gardens; the scenic waterfront in St. Michaels; geese wade in the Loch Raven Reservoir.



# **GREAT PUMPKIN CELEBRATIONS**

### **PUNKIN' CHUNKIN' FESTIVAL OCTOBER 20**

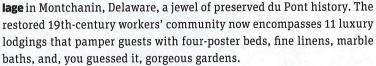
Bald Eagle State Park, Howard, PA

Wild factor: Watch catapult teams sling giant gourds hundreds of feet into Savers Lake at this annual local fire company benefit. visitpennstate.org.

### **PUMPKINFEST OCTOBER 6**

Irvine Nature Center, **Owinas Mills** 

Mild factor: The kids get to paint pumpkins, pet the resident snakes, and reconnect with nature at the center's celebration of fall. explorenature.org.



SAVOR: Where Montchanin's village blacksmith once toiled, you'll find Krazy Kat's, the inn's fine-dining, feline-decorated restaurant. Try game dishes (grilled elk) and farm fare (mushroom Vichyssoise). Also sample the culinary flavor of the local Latino community at La Pena Mexicana in Kennett Square, where the tortilla chips are bottomless, and the tacos and enchiladas are spiced just right.

CLOSER TO HOME: Turning leaves, ripening berries, and blooming fall flowers offer eye-popping contrasts to **Ladew Topiary Gardens** in Monkton.

### SET SAIL ON THE CHESAPEAKE

On Maryland's Eastern Shore, St. Michaels and Tilghman Island showcase the maritime heritage of both the Chesapeake Bay's leisure and working classes. For the former, imagine you're F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald aboard **Selina II**, a 1926 luxury yacht that plies the historic harbor of St. Michaels, home to iconic sailing regattas. Aboard the 1886 Rebecca T. Ruark, raconteur Captain Wade Murphy shares tales of Tilghman's hardtoiling watermen and estuary ecology during two-hour sails on the Bay's oldest working skipjack.

STAY: The new, buzzworthy Wylder Hotel continues the island's slow gentrification, replacing the Harrison family's iconic Chesapeake House



seafood outpost. Kick back and enjoy the refurbished waterfront bungalows, saltwater pool, and beach-house vibe.

SAVOR: The Wylder boasts two dining options: Tickler's, a chic crab shack at the edge of the Choptank River, and Bar Mumbo, a nautically themed pub run by a D.C. fine-dining veteran with foodie tweaks on Shore classics such as crab cakes, fried oysters, and rockfish.

**CLOSER TO HOME:** Brush up on local history with an educational sail on the tall ship **Summer Wind** off of Key Highway.

### SOAR WITH THE WINDS

Commemorate a special occasion or surprise your beloved with an excursion aboard aeronautics' most colorful and carefree conveyance—the hot-air balloon. Travel peacefully at the wind's whim as **Delmarva Balloon Rides** pilots you on a morning or afternoon journey above the Eastern Shore's panoramic farm fields, pine forests, and waterfowl refuges. Perks include a lesson in ballooning history, the chance to help with flight prep, and the traditional Champagne toast to celebrate your return to terra firma.

STAY: The French introduced hot-air ballooning (and, arguably, the art of romance), so where better to enjoy a couple's getaway than the French Suite at The Inn at 202 Dover in Easton, one of five luxurious guestrooms at the historic downtown inn?

**SAVOR:** Make it a sans souci weekend as you linger over house-roasted coffee and fresh pastries at Easton's own Rise Up Coffee Roasters. For dinner, reserve a table at splurgeworthy Bas Rouge, located just up the street, where multicourse prix fixe dinners exude European-style fine dining. Afterward, swing by **The Stewart**, its fancy sister Scotch bar. **CLOSER TO HOME:** Try leaf peeping from above the rolling hills of Carroll, Howard, and Frederick counties. Friendship Hot Air Balloon Company in West Friendship offers regular and special scenic flights. B