

**McConnells Mill State Park
Moraine State Park Complex
225 Pleasant Valley Road
Portersville, PA 16051-9650**

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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McConnells Mill State Park Community Programs

Saturday, September 20, 2008 2:00 PM “Art in Nature”

Whether you like scrap booking, stamping, or wildflower collecting join the park naturalist for a look at collecting and pressing flowers. Put those invasive species to good use and learn environmentally responsible techniques for plant collection. Meet the park naturalist in the courtyard of the old mill ready to design and create your own work. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area in McConnells Mill State Park, hike down to the mill. Handicapped & physically challenged parking available at the mill.

Saturday, September 27, 2008 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Sunday, September 28, 2008 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM

“McConnells Mill Heritage Festival”

Mark your calendars for the 16th Annual Heritage Festival at McConnells Mill State Park. Vendors, dressed in period costumes, will display their crafts inspired by those dating back to the operational period of the historic gristmill - 1852 to 1928. Free admission, free parking, and free hayride shuttle to the mill. Special tours of the mill and period music will be offered, free of charge. A new turbine has been installed in the McConnell's gristmill to demonstrate corn grinding and the fascinating machinery that ground the grain for the community surrounding Slippery Rock Gorge. Entertainment for the festival includes bluegrass music by “Mountain Therapy”, cloggers, and old time music by “Elk Creek Family Band”. A civil war encampment brings history to life, and artisans & craftsmen will demonstrate their skills throughout the festival. Animals, games and face painting are some of the fun activities for the children. Lots of good food!

The Portersville-Prospect Rotary Club, aided by several local businesses and non-profit organizations, sponsors the Festival. Come out and visit McConnells Mill State Park the last weekend in September, the 27th & 28th. Hours on Saturday are 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and on Sunday from 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM. For more information contact Natalie Simon at 724 368-9320 or mcmill@localnet.com.

Saturday, October 4, 2008 2:00 PM "Wild Teas"

Many wild plants have been used for teas in the past, both for medicinal purposes and pleasure. Such simple infusions of leaves have had a significant impact on our history and society. Come discover some wild plants used in the past, meeting in the courtyard beside the old mill. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area, hike down to the old mill. Handicapped and physically challenged parking available at mill.

Sunday October 12, 2008 3:00 PM "Native Plants"

Come see the new native plant garden at McConnells Mill and hear about plants native to Pennsylvania. Lawrence County Master Gardeners will talk about the benefits of gardening with native plants, some habitats in our region, and the flowers that are found in them. Next, briefly tour the new native plant garden in the mill courtyard and join a guided wildflower walk to see what is blooming. Meet the Master Gardeners on Sunday October 12th at 3:00 p.m. at the mill, rain or shine. Park at Kildoo Picnic Area and allow time to walk down to the mill. Handicapped and physically challenged parking available at the mill.

Friday, October 17, 2008 6:30 PM "Owl Prowl"

Bats, owls, fox: many Pennsylvania creatures only come out at night. Join the search for nocturnal surprises on Hell's Hollow trail. Allow 15 minutes to get to Hells Hollow (no facilities) if coming from the old mill. Bring a flashlight, wear sturdy shoes, and meet park staff at the Hell's Hollow parking lot for a nighttime adventure.

Saturday, October 25, 2008 1:00 PM "Autumn Colors Hike"

Join the park naturalist for a guided hike in beautiful Slippery Rock Gorge. Meet at the courtyard of the historic gristmill for an exploration of how the natural world prepares for winter. Come prepared to hike down the North Country Trail to Eckert Bridge, then returning to the mill on Kildoo Trail, about two miles over moderately rough terrain. Parking available at Kildoo Picnic Area, then take the stairs down to the old mill.

♿ Access for People with Disabilities

If you need an accommodation to participate in park activities due to a disability, please contact the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks:
888-PA-PARKS (voice)
717-558-2710 (local or international voice)
888-537-7294 (TTY)
717-558-2711 (local or international TTY)
800-654-5984 (PA AT&T Relay Service)

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