



A Fair Deal

By Jonathan Ment

There's something in the air this time of year—it's a mix of familiar smells, children's gleeful yells and the sound of live music played under the stars. It's festival season, and throughout the Catskill Mountain Region plans are in place for another summer of tractor races, painted faces, cotton candy, crafts fairs and concerts under the stars. The major events are still ahead of us—county fairs in July and August, and through to Labor Day. Columbia and Greene counties have been designated "I Love NY Fall Festival" destinations, so you know the foliage won't be the only show at summer's end.

But have no fear, there's a sausage and pepper sandwich waiting around the corner for you at smaller June events, where the weather still betrays more than a passing familiarity with spring.

In Greene County, Hunter Mountain had barely shut down the ski lifts when it hosted the food and brew-tasting masses for April's TAP New York 2006, a celebration of more than 100 microbrews.

Full-blown festivals will return to slope side for the mountain's first-ever Cajun Country Festival on Saturday, August 5, to benefit Camp Loyaltown; and on the weekend of August 19 and 20 for Hunter's annual Celtic Festival, but there's no shortage of things to do in the meantime throughout the region.

Columbia County

On Saturday, June 10 you'll find the KinderCrafter Fair, put on by the Professional and Business Alliance on at the James Vanderpoel House, 16 Broad Street (Route 9) in the village of Kinderhook. The event promises crafts, music, food and fun for all ages and is held rain or shine from 10 am to 4 pm. Call 518 758 9265 or visit www.cchsny.org for more information.

The Capital Area Rods Spring Nostalgia Show, featuring drag racing, the car show and swap meet rolls into Lebanon Valley Dragway, 1746 US Route 20, West Lebanon on Sunday, June 11. Call 518 794 7130 or visit www.dragway.com.

Philmont Community Day is Saturday, June 17, and features a fishing derby at 8 am, and family events and music continues throughout the day on Main Street at Maple Avenue in the village of Philmont.

Among your pre-Independence Day chances for fireworks is the Saturday, June 24 Fireworks Extravaganza sponsored by Berkshire Bank at Lebanon Valley Speedway at dusk.

Delaware County

The Meredith Dairy Fest, held in East Meredith the weekend of June 10 and 11 from 10 am to 5 pm both days kicks off Delaware County's festival season. There's music, food, cow-plop bingo, clogging, an animal tent and more. For more details, read the May issue of Catskill Mountain Region Guide or visit www.dairyfest.com.

Dutchess County

LaGrangeville's Community Day will be held on Saturday, June 10 at Freedom Park. Entertainment will include Arlington schools music groups, service clubs, games, Bosco and The Storm, a pie eating contest, a D.J. and fireworks.

From Thursday, June 15 to Sunday, June 18, Kimisis Greek Orthodox Church hosts its Greek Festival at 140 South Grand Avenue in Poughkeepsie. Traditional Greek folk dancing, music, food and drink are



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featured, along with vendors and rides for children. The festival runs Thursday through Saturday from 11 am to 11 pm and Sunday from noon to 8 pm. There is no charge to attend.

Greene County

A weekend-long Mountain Jam returns to Hunter Mountain the weekend of June 3 and 4, featuring a line up of more than 20 bands on two stages. Featured bands and artists to perform at this year's Fest include 2005 veterans Gov't Mule, Robert Randolph and the Family Band and Medeski, Martin and Wood, plus newcomers Michael Franti & Spearhead, Mike Gordon & Ramble Dove, Keller Williams, John Brown's Body, DJ Logic, Grace Potter & the Nocturnals, Benevento-Russo Duo, The Wood Brothers, Shannon McNally, Benzos, Joey Eppard and The Trapps.

Overnight camping access is available and included with a \$115 two-day pass. A weekend pass without camping is \$110 and one-day tickets are \$60 if purchased day-of-show. For more information visit www.mountainjamfest.com.

The Thursday-night summer concert series at Dutchman's Landing on Main Street in Catskill begins on June 15 from 7 to 9 pm with No Limits, a '50s, Motown, Latin and Blues-inspired band. Country pickers Back Forty Band perform on June 22; and the folk act Smokin' Dick Vincent w/ The Big Caboose & Friends appear on June 29. For more information call 518 943 0989.

The Friends of the Greenville Library Craft fair has been revived, and returns to the library lawn at the intersection of Routes 32 and 81 on Saturday, June 17 from 10 am to 3 pm. In its first year, the event will feature close to 50 craft artists. The rain date is June 18. The event is free. Visit www.mentgroup.com/greenville.htm for more details.

The village of Tannersville Crusin' on the Mountaintop car show runs from 10 am to 4 pm on Father's Day, June 18.

The Riedlbauer's Resort Bavarian Festival returns on Saturday, June 24 from noon to 10 pm and continues on Sunday, June 25 from noon to 6 pm for a weekend-long celebration of Bavarian music, schuhplattlers, bell ringers, and other entertainment plus food, drinks and arts and crafts.

Riedlbauer's is located at 43 Ravine Drive, in Round Top. Call 518 622 9584 or visit www.riedlbauers.com for more information.

Otsego County

The 27th Annual Friendship Craft Festival at Spring Park will be held on Saturday, June 10 from 9 am to 4 pm, with more than 100 crafters from across the Northeast, food booths, a giant bake sale and a Brooks Chicken Barbecue.

On Saturday, June 24, the 12th Annual Cooperstown Antiquarian Book Fair will see more than 60 dealers of antiquarian books, prints, ephemera and autographs fill the Clark Sports Center on Susquehanna Avenue from 10 am to 4 pm.

Schoharie County

Richmondville Days returns for its 30th annual celebration from June 2 through 4 with the fun beginning Friday evening with a chicken barbecue and dance, running all day Saturday with breakfasts, a parade, a baby parade, a cow chip challenge, bed races, clown performances, magic, a bounce house and inflated slide, petting zoo, plus alpacas, historical events and tours. There will be a Stone Fort Volunteer Militia Revolutionary War encampment, antique cars and engines, the longest ice cream sundae, vendors, crafters, pie sale, spaghetti and roast beef dinners and music under the tent with Bred 2 B Broken, plus fireworks at dusk. On Sunday, following a church service under the tent at 10:45 am, the celebration continues until 4 pm featuring the Richmondville Historical Society pig roast and an ice cream social both beginning at noon.

Cobleskill Days, held Saturday June 10, includes the Dairy and Berry Celebration from 10 am to 4 pm, Main Street garage sale from 9 am to 3 pm, Take a Kid fishing from 8 am to noon, and a community dog walk from 9 am to noon. For more information visit www.cobleskill.org.

Sullivan County

Double E Alpaca Farm, at 469 Hurd Road, Bethel, hosts alpaca shearing days the weekend of June 10 and 11 with demonstrations of shearing, spinning and weaving, plus a tour of the alpaca farm and supervised children's activities from 11 am to 4:30 pm. Call 845 583 7543 for more information.

The Trout Parade, also Saturday June 10, is to fish, what Garlic Festivals are to, well...imagine a parade celebrating the arts, fishing, theater and all things piscatory. In addition, there will be bands, artists, craft vendors and food from 11 am to 5 pm. Call 845 439 4859 for more information.

Main Street in Callicoon will be the scene of a tractor parade beginning at noon on Sunday June 11. For more information, call 845 887 5640.

Ulster County

The New Paltz LGBTQ Pride March on Sunday, June 4 kicks off for a walk through town at 1 pm leading to the festival in Hasbrouck Park held until 5 pm. Call 845 853 3085 or click on www.newpaltzpride.org for more information.

Benmarl Winery hosts "Smokin' in the Tent," a cigar, wine and food festival, also on June 4 from 4 to 7 pm. Rocky Patel premium cigars and food from Schlesinger's Steak House will be features along with music, raffles and more. Call 845 236 4265 or visit www.benmarl.com for more details.

On Saturday, June 24, starting at 10 am, the Town of Wawarsing will celebrate its bicentennial with Cragsmoor Day. The event will feature historic house tours, art exhibits, a silent auction, movies, drama and concerts, hiking, golf, events at Sam's Point, a book sale, kids' activities and lunch and dinner events. Visit www.cragsmoorday.com for more information.

These are but a sampling, a dim sum platter of family fun, with an eye toward what will likely be the larger of numerous smaller events. Bear in mind every Main Street will find some reason to celebrate this time of year, and you should find some excuse to venture out and see what you have not yet seen. With so many choices, some barely a half-hour's drive from one another, you'll have little excuse not to get out this month and enjoy the local offerings. With most June festivals held free of charge to attendees, you may not find a more fair deal anywhere.

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