



The House Of Yoder Newsletter Winter 2024

Like the legendary Phoenix– Spruce Forest Artisan Village rises from the destruction of the early morning hours of April 8, 2020



In the early morning hours of Wednesday, April 8, 2020 a strong wind storm touched down in the Spruce Forest Artisan Village. Many of the old tall Norway spruce trees, estimated to be over 100 feet tall were destroyed. Tops of the trees were torn off and blown many feet

away. Several trees were uprooted. Several of the cabins in the village were damaged, some being destroyed. The House of Yoder received damage to the roof, front entrance and chimney. A total of 46 trees were removed from the Spruce Forest Artisan Village . Broadwater Tree Service. Of Grantsville, MD began cutting up and hauling out the downed trees and branches later that same day.





Over time, the debris was cleared and hauled away. And new trees planted



October 17, 2021

While The House of Yoder celebrated our 25th Anniversary in 2024, stock piles of cut timber that was reclaimed from the spruce trees which were destroyed in the April 8, 2020 wind storm, were being readied to be used in the new construction of the pavilion at the Spruce Forest Artisan Village.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE NEW PAVILLION



The pavilion footer and cement floor being poured.

The reclaimed timbers from the destroyed spruce trees, being cut and fitted to form the restrooms. The other side will be an open area with picnic tables and perhaps a place where concerts will be performed. The bottom pictures show the pavilion as of December 7, 2024. The pavilion was used for

Christmas in the Village, held December 6 and 7, 2024. Dwight Yoder, son of Ruth and the late Kenneth Yoder, demonstrated his glass blowing in the open portion of the new pavilion. You can check Dwight out at www.KeenandBright.com. Delays in construc-



***The new pavilion in Spruce Forest Artisan Village**

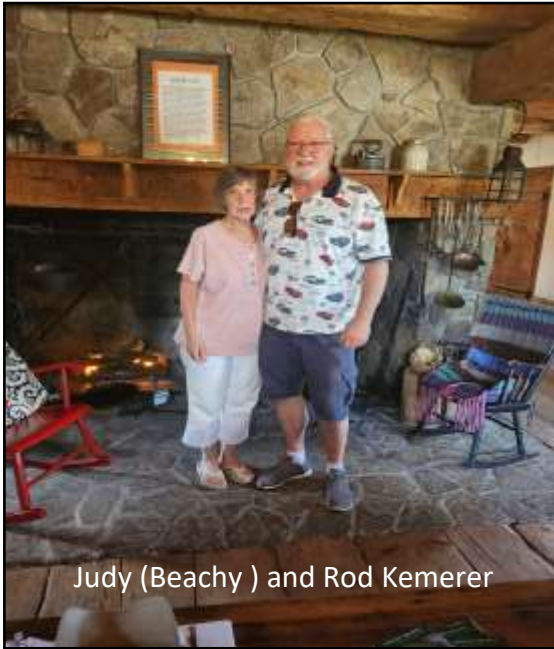
tion has the finish time set for the spring, 2025.

*Photos courtesy
Keith Yoder

2024 HOSTS AT THE HOUSE OF YODER

Judy (Beachy) and Rodney Kemerer

Judy and Rodney Kemerer from Lawrence, (near Pittsburgh) PA. They both were born and raised near Salisbury, PA. They frequently come to the area to “visit their roots” and to see family. Judy is a great great great Granddaughter of Solomon D. and Catherine (Yutzy) Yoder



Traveling is a favorite past time and they always like to explore off the beaten path places. They have traveled some in the U.S. and made a trip to Europe in 2006. Rod enjoys history of any era and is always interested in ancestry and genealogy, Both are of German and Swiss ancestry.

Rod and Judy are semi-retired. Rod was self- employed accountant and has scaled back to one client. Judy retired

from a career in Early Intervention, coordinating therapeutic services for children. She now works part-time in an assisted living community.

They have two daughters, one is a nurse practitioner and lives near Pittsburgh with her husband and 14 year old son. Their other daughter is an architect/ community developer, also living in Pittsburgh, PA.

Judy and Rod hosted July 7-13. Judy and Rod enjoyed their time hosting and hope to return.



Left; Joyce Yoder Harter and her sister Judy Yoder Resler

Joyce Yoder Harter

and

Judy Yoder Resler

Joyce Yoder Harter is from Greenville, Ohio. She hosted with her sister Judy Yoder Resler July 21-27. Joyce, her sister Judy, along with another sister, grew up in Union City, Ohio. After injuring her back while working at a factory, Judy received an associates degree in office administration. She then worked as a receptionist. Judy has two children, and a son that is deceased. She cares for her one year

old great grandson that gives her great joy. Judy is active in her church, enjoys glass bead work, coloring and crocheting . Joyce reports that she enjoyed showing the children through The House and showing them things like the draw string door latch. She especially liked the children's treasure hunt game.

Judy Yoder Resler, from Goshen Indian, also enjoyed her time as a host. Judy is a widow, with three daughters and one son that is deceased. She has three stepsons, fourteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren .She is a retired receptionist from her church. Judy has been on missions trips to Kenya, Haiti, Mexico and Honduras. She loves to quilt, traveling, reading and genealogy. She also enjoyed her time hosting. Both sisters plan to return.



Daniel J. and Lois (Beachy) Yoder

Daniel J. and Lois (Beachy) Yoder

Daniel learned about the House of Yoder through Casselman Valley Historians. Dan grew up in Oakland, MD. He and his wife Lois, live in Charlotte, North Carolina. Daniel comes from Christian Yoder that lived in Somerset County, PA. Christian's son, Tobias, (YR23443) moved to Indiana. Daniel retired after 32 years with Choice Books. First as a route salesman then as a district manager.

Lois, who is a sister of Judy (Beachy) Kemerer, one of our new hosts, comes from Peter Bitschie I. Peter Bitschie I first came to the Springs PA area approximately 1783. Lois, is a daughter of Alvin Beachy, one of the sons of "Beachy and Sons" (apple butter and small engines shop). Lois is a great -great -great- Granddaughter of Solomon D. and Catherine (Yutzy) Yoder

Lois, after receiving her master of Library Science Degree, worked as a librarian for several years. Daniel and Lois have one son and one daughter and four grandchildren, all living in North Carolina. Lois and Daniel enjoyed their hosting experience, allowing them time to visit family in the area. Daniel and Lois hosted September 1-7. They are hoping to return to host at The House of Yoder.



Sanford and Alice Yoder

Sanford and Alice Yoder

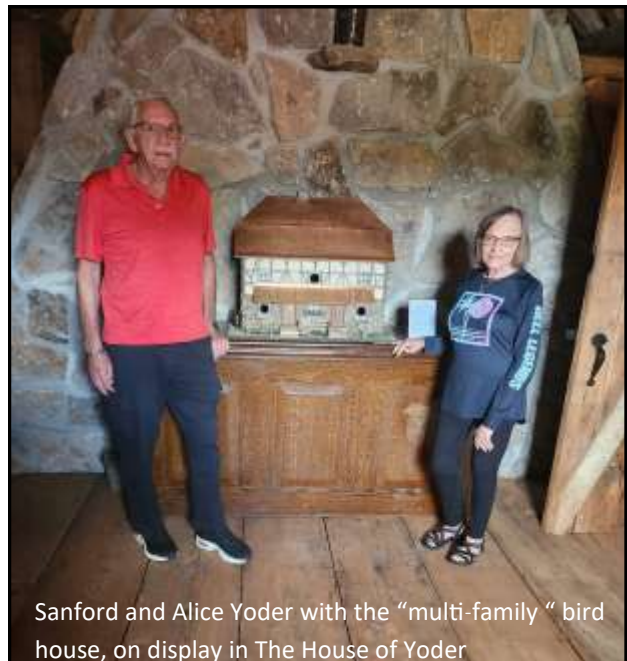
Sanford and Alice Yoder of Venice Florida were new hosts for the hosting season of 2024. Sanford grew up in the Davidsville, PA (near Johnstown, PA). He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh with a degree in electrical engineering. He worked in this field for 33 years in the Allentown, PA area. In 2004 Alice began having health problems, the couple relocated to Venice, FL. Alice had been employed with various stores and banking institutions. Sanford has two sons, two grandchildren, and a 15 year old great granddaughter. Alice has three children, three grandchildren and one great grandson. For Sanford's 80th birthday, the couple traveled to Switzerland for their

"heritage tour". The couple hosted September 22-28.

Sanford and Alice, pictured below standing with the "multi-family" bird house., located on the third floor at The House of Yoder. The bird house was built by Brian Pebley, of White Oak, a suburb of Pittsburgh, PA for the 2006 National Yoder Reunion held at The House of Yoder, Grantsville, MD. Brian is a nephew to Sanford and Alice.

Growing up in the Hollsopple, PA (near Johnstown, PA) area, Brian became interested in building miniatures. He built a scaled model of his own 125 year old home in White Oak, PA. After touring The House and taking many pictures, and measurements, and as Brian said "having a pretty good eye for spacing", the project was begun. Brian brought the bird house to The House of Yoder to be auctioned off at the public auction held in conjunction with the Yoder National Reunion, October 20, 2006 at Spruce Forest Artisan Village. The bird house sold for \$800.00 . Ted Yoder of Hickory, NC was the winning bidder.

In November 2012 the birdhouse was returned to The House of Yoder, with one stipulation: that it not be outside, but in the House, on display for everyone to enjoy.



Sanford and Alice Yoder with the "multi-family " bird house, on display in The House of Yoder

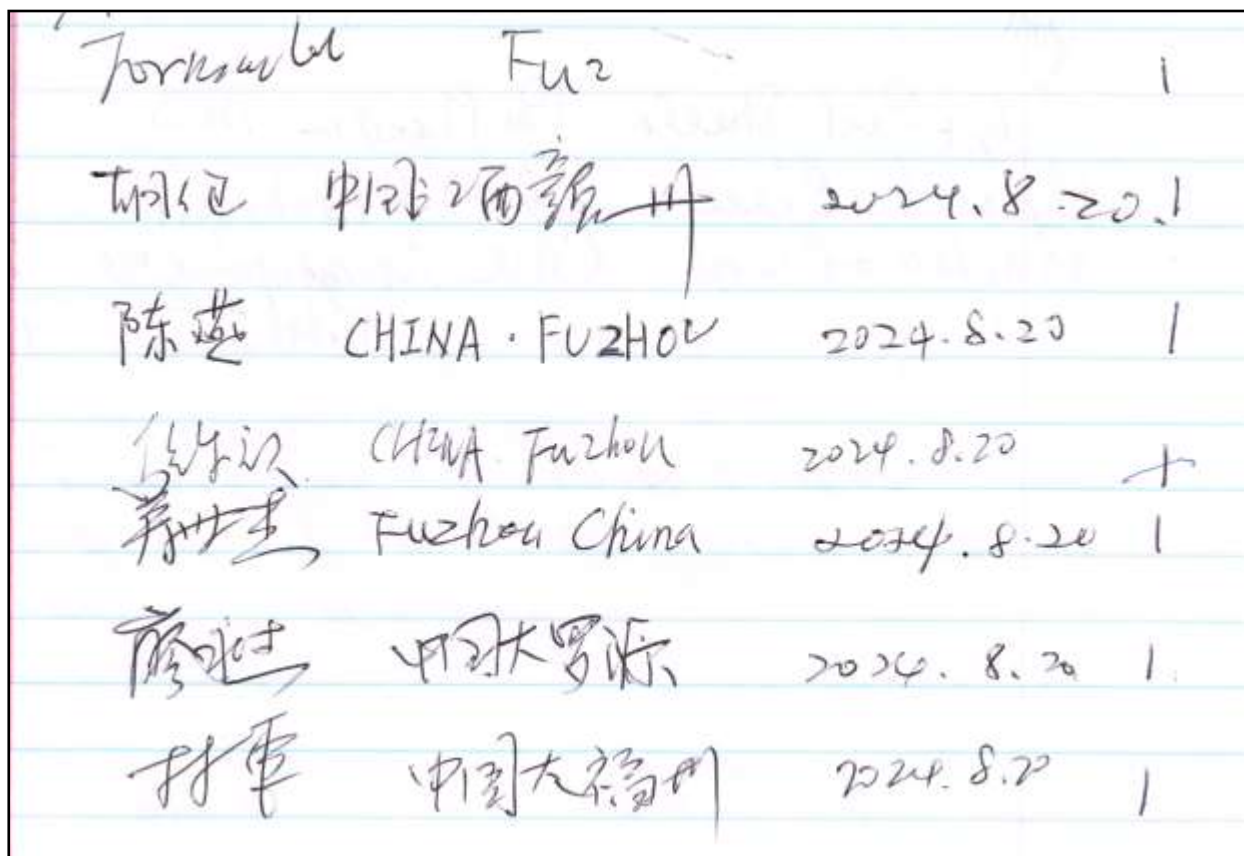
5,218 VISITORS TO THE HOUSE OF YODER

Not all visitors signed the guest book.

Pennsylvania	North Carolina	Vermont
West Virginia	Colorado	South Carolina
Ohio	Maine	Mississippi
Virginia	Arizona	Oklahoma
Tennessee	Kentucky	Alaska
New York	Rhode Island	Alabama
California	New Mexico	Nebraska
Montana	Delaware	New Hampshire
Massachusetts	Michigan	Missouri
Texas	Washington	Utah
Louisiana	North Dakota	New Mexico
Connecticut	Washington D.C.	Rhode Island
Georgia	Wisconsin	Iowa
Florida	New Jersey	Illinois

INTERNATIONAL

Austria	Puerto Rico
Philippines	South Africa
Turkey	Brazil
Ontario	New Zealand
Scotland	Ireland
Germany	Lithuania
Spain	Canada
France	China
United Kingdom	Netherlands



Above is a portion of the guest book at The House of Yoder for August 20, 2024. We had visitors from China. This is how they signed the guest book.

Our returning hosts for the hosting season of 2024:

Bob Swartz, Waterford, MI; John and MaDonna Yoder, Catonsville, MD; Brad Yoder and Jeanne Smucker, Noblesville, IN; Danielle and Jacob Davis and their daughters: Josephine, Aryanna and Cordelia, Woodbridge, VA; Mike and Cindy Garrepy, Columbus, OH; Linda Maurer, North Bend, OH; Val and Sandy Dzwonczyk, Baltimore, MD; David and LouAnn Kanagy, Archbold, OH; Randi Stiffler, New Paris, PA; Curtis and Daisy Duff, Oakland, MD; Harvey Yoder, Bellville, PA; Robbie Dickey, Berlin, PA; Emmalynn Dickey, Berlin, PA; and Mark and Mayla Yoder, Berlin, PA .

A very sincere Thank You to our hosts. With out them, the doors at The House of Yoder could not be opened to visitors.

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE

December 6 and 7 2024



Spruce Forrest Artisan village



House of Yoder Board of Directors, Keith and Esta Yoder, Winchester, VA, helping to hand out some of the more than 950 bags of popcorn to the visitors to The House.



*Looking out the window at the crowd during



The large table in the "kitchen" of The House

KEEN AND BRIGHT



Dwight Yoder, demonstrates glass blowing.

Dwight H. Yoder, (YR2611914346) of Dry Run Road, Swanton, MD, demonstrates his talents in glass blowing during Christmas in the Village. Dwight, his wife Janelle and their three children, Aiyana, Caleb and Blake are busy with their endeavor of “Keen and Bright. (www.Keen and Bright. com). Dwight has 20 years experience of glass blowing, and they have found that glass is best when created by hand. “Like each stroke of the paddle, each piece takes us along on the adventure we were meant to live” The name Keen and Bright comes from an old Canadian folk song and captures the spirit of adventure that we are called to follow. Below are a few items that Dwight created. Check out their web site and see more creations: glass fish, glass antler, antler pendant, Ashes to Antlers and unity glass.



Christmas balls



Your own glass experience



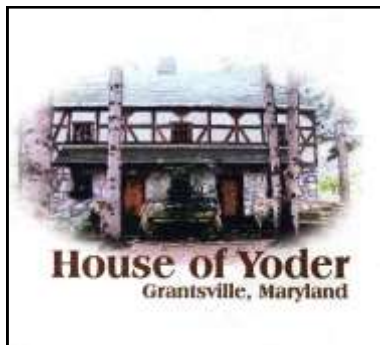
Dry Run Wren

The House of Yoder Newsletter

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The House of Yoder Newsletter is published by The House of Yoder, Inc. Grantsville, MD. 21536, located 1/2 mile east of Grantsville, MD., on Route 40 East. at Penn Alps Restaurant and Spruce Forest Artisan Village President: Harvey L. Yoder; Vice President: Curtis Duff; Secretary: Mayla H. Yoder, Treasurer: Heidi Yoder. Board Members: Mark H. Yoder. Esta Yoder, Keith Yoder, Daisy Duff and Lowell Bender. Editor: Mayla H. Yoder

	1 Year	5 Years	Lifetime
Individual	\$25.00	\$100.00	\$1,000.00
Couple	\$35.00	\$150.00	\$1,500.00