



100th Anniversary PFLA Cottage Tour

*"I knew by the smoke, that so gracefully curl'd
Above the green elms, that a cottage was near,
And I said, 'if there's peace to be found in the world,
A heart that was humble might hope for it here!"*

Thomas Moore (1780-1852)



Anniversary Cottage Tour

Saturday, August 6, 2022

10 am – 2 pm

Following the theme created by the Anniversary Committee, cottages are being showcased which span the 100 years. From the first cottage built for a PFLA member to the last built, the goal is to show the progression of the housing development in our community and will include cottages from each decade. The number of cottages constructed in the 20's was 35, in the 30's there were 30 constructed, in the 40's just 2, the 50's had 5, the 60's had 7 and the last new construction occurred in the 70's with 2. Some generations, during WWII for example, there was little building which occurred.

From "Primrose Cottage" to "Grace on the Lake", the tour includes cottages that are basically unchanged from the time they were built. Others have experienced major renovations. Did you know that one of the charming cottages was built with a kit from Montgomery Ward?

This booklet must be presented at each cottage to gain admittance. It will be your choice to view the cottages, starting with the oldest or pick and choose the order which suits your schedule. In order to avoid unnecessary tracking of debris into the cottages, you will be provided with "booties" for covering your shoes.

The Tour is open to PFLA members and guests, aged 8 and over. There is no charge for this exciting event.

The Anniversary Cottage Tour has been organized and sponsored by the Membership Committee of PFLA. Thanks go to the owners who have generously allowed their cottages to be open for this event and to the volunteers that assisted the owners and committee.

A suggested tour route from the committee.

Definitely start by viewing the first cottage built in PFLA for a member, Cottage 48, 213 Sycamore Drive. Then proceed down Sycamore to Cottage 46, 225 Sycamore to view one of the first year-round cottages built. From there, follow Cedar Road and turn left onto Primrose Drive and tour Cottages, 56, 40 and 36. Cross Rt. 191 at Deer Lane and proceed down Nestledown Road to Cottage 70 (The Carriage House). From the Carriage House go back across Rt 191 and cross the stream bridge and turn left on Falls Drive to Cottage 24, 116 Falls Drive, then continue up Summit Drive to tour Cottages 21, 6, 7, 16 and to the top of Summit to Cottage 9 on Valley View Drive, (or you can start at top of Summit Drive and end at Cottage 24). Your final stop will be at Cottage 32, where you can stop and enjoy a wonderful view of the lake.

ENJOY YOUR TOUR

COTTAGE 48 (213 Sycamore Dr) Built Spring 1925 Owner: Neff Family

The following historical data is from David Neff, Sr. who only missed one summer vacationing at Primrose Cottage between 1941 and 2019. According to Paul W Ohl, his Aunt Nora, age 70, contracted with Harry Hulbert to build a very modest cottage on a vacant lot in the fields behind the only building in that area, the farmhouse on the highway dividing PFLA land. That farmhouse was to become known as the Kidnap Cottage. Nora Rebecca Ohl for two decades had been an anesthetist and office worker for famed Philadelphia surgeon, Dr. John B. Deaver who worked primarily at Lankenau Hospital. In 1908, at age 53, she opened a flower shop on North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA which she named Primrose Flower Shop. Her Paradise Falls cottage was completed and opened in the Spring of 1925, and she named it Primrose Cottage. The dirt road in front of the cottage was known as Primrose Lane. Nora Ohl died in late summer of 1935 at age 80. Primrose Cottage remained in the Ohl family until early January 1958, when Paul Ohl sold it to our Aunt, S. Marie Huppert.

Aunt Mimi, as she was known to her nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, had purchased Primrose Cottage for her family to enjoy, inasmuch as up until then family members had been guests or renters at Paradise Falls since the 1930s. For 97 years Primrose Cottage has been owned by just two families and it remains basically the same. The only major changes being a slight enlargement of the bathroom and the widening and enclosure of the rear portion of the previously screened in side porch. In 1958 the interior walls and ceilings were open boards and studs which have since been enclosed with various coverings. Primrose Cottage continues to be enjoyed by the many decedents, and their spouses, of our dear Aunt Mimi who passed away in the fall of 1958 leaving the Cottage as a most wonderful legacy.



FIRST COTTAGE BUILT FOR A PFLA MEMBER

COTTAGE 70 (104 Dietrich Lane) Built 1926 Owner: Bob & Carol Ashton Hergenhan

This masonry structure was built in 1926 as the carriage house/garage for the Nestledown Inn. The second floor served as the summer dormitory for the wait staff of the Inn. Once the Inn closed, the carriage house was abandoned. John and Peg Mangum made an offer for the place in the summer of 1959 and acquired the membership in 1960. They purchased it from the Association for the cost of tearing it down -\$200.

When the Mangum's acquired it, half of the roof was gone as was most of the front where the garage doors would have been. Two inches plus of dirt/mud had washed in to cover the floor. The place was full of rubbish, beds from the dormitory days, and a fire-wagon. Downstairs there was a bathroom closed in at one end and a small room at the opposite end of the building. Access to the second floor was by an outside stairway with a door that opened right beside the second-floor toilet (which was already there) or a ladder through a trapdoor. The second floor was all open. The studs and sheathing were exposed.

In 1961 a hole was punched through the masonry back wall for the picture window. An elderly, local carpenter, Mr. Bush, installed it and did the initial renovations--enough to close the place in to keep it dry and make it livable.

The second floor remained an open dormitory space until about 1967 when it was subdivided into bedrooms and the dormer windows were installed. At that point the place was completely insulated so it could be used in the cold weather.

Friends of Scott Mangum built the addition around 1972. A local handyman/self-styled sculptor, named Fred Schrum, designed the original back stone patio. He moved the rocks in by himself from the woods out back.

Between the time of sale by Peg Mangum and the 2015 purchase by Bob and Carol Hergenhan, the cottage had two owners. Brenda Lange named the cottage Meadowview. During her time there, what had been the laundry room was opened up into the addition and remodeled into an open kitchen, and the former galley kitchen in the main part of the structure was converted into a laundry area.

Bob and Carol Ashton-Hergenhan bought the membership in 2015. Bob's family had owned a cottage for about 45 years before selling it to the Linders. Carol's uncle (Bob Bauers) purchased the old Dietrich farmhouse in 1953, which is contiguous to the Carriage House.

When you visit the cottage you can see the original bill of sale from PF, two early photos of the property once the Mangum's enclosed the front and later when they had installed their wood stove, as well as photographs from 1942 of a nineteen-year-old Carolyn Mary Bauers (Ashton), on the dock at Lack Crawford and on an Adirondack chair at the center, taken when she was vacationing at Nestledown.

COTTAGE 24 (116 Falls Dr)

Built 1926

Owner: Sollberger Family

Fallscrest was built in 1926 as a summer cottage. The cottage was constructed from a kit designed by the Gordon VanTine Company. The company made kit houses which were sold through Montgomery Ward. The kit was shipped via railroad from Iowa to Henryville and was constructed by a Quakertown builder.

The basic layout of the house was modified by placing the screened porch on the side rather than the front of the cottage. The foundation stones and patio stones were locally available on site.

The Sollbergers purchased the cottage in 1988. They replaced the windows, remodeled the kitchen and bathroom, added insulation and wallboard to the walls and installed one roof window in the bathroom and two skylights in the living and dining area.

COTTAGE 56 (106 Primrose Dr)

Built 1927-1928

Owner: Porter Family

106 Primrose was built during 1927-1928 by Harry Hulbert who built many other cottages at Paradise Falls around the same time. A photo from the archives appears to show there was once a door with a stoop on the front of the house facing the street. There was also a small open porch at the right side of the house. A later photo from the 75th Anniversary shows the front of the cottage looking as it does today, only the side porch had not yet been enclosed to make the laundry room. We are not sure when the side was enclosed.

Inside the cottage, the previous owners, the D'Amatos, completely renovated the cottage, adding an additional bathroom and a bedroom, redesigned the kitchen, upgraded the plumbing and also the heating and cooling in the cottage. Current owners, the Porters, added the aqua cupboard that belonged to Debbie's mother and the wall shelving to make the coffee/tea station. The Oriental china in the dining area hutch is also from Debbie's mother. The bottles have been collected by Andy for many years. The Porters also added the garage.

Cottage 36 (134 Primrose Dr)

Built 1929

Owner: Stiller/Pohl

This cottage was one of the original cottages in the Association. It was built by William Vernoy in 1929. It has been in the same family since its construction. The first membership who owned the cottage was Emma Hasse, the present member's grandmother. The cottage originally had six bedrooms which were rented during the season for many years. In 1953 with the passing of Emma Haase, the membership went to Adolf and Ruth Hasse. Ruth had the first floor of the cottage winterized and remodeled. She was one of the first members to be a year-round resident. In 1996, Ruth changed the membership to Ruth Smalley as she married Paul Smalley. Nephew, Alfred Stiller was added in 1998. In 2022, JoAnne Pohl, Alfred Stiller's wife was added to the membership.

COTTAGE 40 (1519 Deer Lane)

Built 1930

Owner: Dan and Mary Long

The cottage (Long Pines) was completed in 1930 from blueprints dated 1928 by builder Earl Tygert for Florence Tienken. The home's exterior walls are double walled, steel reinforced, poured concrete. The first floor interior walls are constructed of concrete block while the second floor interior walls are plaster. Alfred and Marie Long added a forced air furnace, renovated the kitchen and bathrooms, and added the great room's bay window in the 1970s. Originally, there was a hallway from the kitchen to the first floor bathroom and bedroom which was closed off to hold the furnace. Dan and Mary Long have so far focused on repairing/replacing the home's vital systems such as plumbing, roofing, heating, and the cosmetic issues of paint and flooring to make the home functional and comfortable while preserving fond memories of Alfred and Marie.

Notes: The painting above the fireplace is St. Johns Lutheran Church in Nazareth PA where Alfred Long was pastor for 25 years. The needlepoint in the great room, "Friendship is a Sheltering Tree", belonged to original owner Florence Tienken. The quilt displayed on the stair landing was crafted by PF member and Dan's uncle, Bill Tkacs, for Dan and Mary. The secretary desk on the second floor landing belonged to Alfred Long and was used often for sermon writing. The needlepoint displayed in the second floor hallway was crafted by Marie Long. The oil painting in the second floor bedroom depicts the farm in Bucks County where Erwin W Moyer was born in 1875. Erwin W Moyer was Dan's Great-Great Grandfather on his mother's side and a PF member who owned the Lake View cottage.

COTTAGE 16 (413 Hemlock Lane)

Built 1931

Owners: DePue, Miltner, Walburton, Hauck

The Ammon cottage has been a part of our family history since 1934 when our father, Rev. George Ammon, was the first Social Director at PFLA and spent many days off visiting the previous owners, the Messners, at this cottage.

The cottage had been a beige color originally and the porch had been open until the early 1950s when it was enclosed to keep the bugs out! The cottage was built in 1931 as a summer cottage and was never insulated or winterized in any way. But by 2011, we did have to have a well dug since PF was not going to have any above ground pipes after 2015. Later, the cottage was painted a barn red color with the beige trim.

Not much else has changed in the cottage except for a few improvements along the way such as making the dining room into a 4th bedroom to accommodate a growing family. We added an outdoor shower in 1994 and in 2015 we renovated the downstairs bathroom. Then in 2018 two trees fell on our cottage in a major early March storm causing extensive damage to both front and back. We needed to re-do the garage portion of the back and repair damage in the front bedroom area. At this time the cottage was painted green with beige trim.

The furniture in the upstairs back bedroom is a beautiful set that was original with the cottage. All the trim in the entire cottage is chestnut provided by the original owner, Mr. Messner, who owned a planing mill.

We have been the official owners since 1959 when the Messners signed it over to the Ammon family. This place has been our family's summer retreat where wonderful memories have been made over so many happy years.

Cottage 9 (111 Valley View Dr)

Built 1931

Owner: Flothmeier Family

The Flothmeier family, Friedrich, Alwine, and their children Fidi, Ernest and Meta began visiting Paradise Falls in the 1920s and they loved it here. It was a respite from Friedrich's demanding church responsibilities as pastor of Tabor Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. In 1929 Friedrich and Alwine asked their young children to contribute their bank savings in order to help them put a deposit on building a house in Paradise Falls. As such, when the banks failed they were fortunate to have invested their hard earned dollars in building their beloved mountain cottage.

Friedrich wished to have rest and privacy when at PFLA and so chose a location far from the hub of activity, a decision his children and grandchildren bemoaned when having to climb up to the top of the hill multiple times a day. After Friedrich's death, Alwine spent her summers here living upstairs, while renting the downstairs.

At the time the Flothmeier cottage was built, the road on which it was located was, and still is, named Valley View Drive, which was fitting since there was a beautiful view of Hunter Lake in the valley below. It was so lovely that the Flothmeiers built their home facing that view, which means the back of the house faces the road. Hanging in the living room of the cottage is a painting of this view done by a relative who visited the Flothmeiers in the 1930's.

The house was not changed or updated until Ernest and his wife Rosemary took possession of the cottage in the early 1970's. They modernized the kitchen by moving the water heater into the basement and adding a more modern sink, new cabinets and countertops. Also, the original cottage had a beautiful stone-walled terrace which collapsed in the 1960's, leaving a pile of rubble in front of the house. They replaced this terrace with a wooden deck which is still in use today. Ernie used the terrace rocks to build a lovely path to the basement.

The cottage today remains very much the same as the original house, with the addition of some modern conveniences and technology. Today the fifth generation of Flothmeiers is still enjoying summer days in "Paradise".

COTTAGE 32 (163 Beach Road)

Built 1939

Owner: Bell Family

Our cottage, built in 1939, is one of many cottages at PF built by Harold Heydt. The cottage was originally owned by Alfred and Bertha Crawford. Mrs. Crawford paid 25% of the cost of the dam to create what is now Lake Crawford, named in honor of her husband. She also frequently hosted opera singers from New York as guests, who would perform for the people at PF.

Ramon and Sonia Naus purchased the Crawford membership in 1965 and named their cottage "the Naus Haus" although they usually referred to it as "Chipmunk Manor" because of the large population of these entertaining creatures. A beautifully designed and perfectly executed major renovation was completed in 1978, significantly expanding the size of the cottage, and updating both the electric service and plumbing. A screened in porch was added on one side, and the master suite and attached garage were added on the other side. You can see comparison photos of the original cottage vs. the renovated cottage in the front hallway. The second floor originally had four bedrooms and one bathroom; it now has five bedrooms and three and half bathrooms. Four generations of the Naus family enjoyed dozens of summers at PF.

Bob and Marcia Bell bought the Naus membership in 2014, and later renamed the cottage "Grace on the Lake." The Bells have made several cosmetic changes to the cottage over the past several years, including tiling the floor of the screened-in porch room, updating the kitchen counters and island, replacing the wood on the back porch, refinishing several floors, adding a deck near the lake, and removing a section of the lake wall to create a kayak and canoe launch area. Grace on the Lake has hosted the ELCA Southeast PA Synod Bishop and Deans for several two-day retreats, hosted a bride and her bridal party for a recent wedding, and has been auctioned for weekend stays to raise money for camperships at Bear Creek Camp.

This cottage is extremely comfortable, wonderfully designed, and great for entertaining ... and the view of the lake never gets old!

COTTAGE 46 (225 Sycamore Dr)

Built 1958

Owner: Carole Stumpf

The very private cottage located at the end of the road (where the other six cottages were built in the 1920's and early 1930's), was built as a year-round cottage with a full basement, in 1958 for Adolph and Mae Klein. The Kleins owned the cottage until 1990 when it was purchased by Don and Dottie Miller for year-round residency. The only renovation done during the Klein/Miller ownerships was a carport, which was added by the Millers.

In 2002, Fred and Carole Stumpf purchased the 3 bedroom, one and one-half bath cottage as a part-time residence and began major renovations. Between 2004 and 2006, the kitchen was redesigned, the seasonal back porch was enlarged and redesigned as a family room, an office/4th bedroom was added, another bathroom was added, the laundry/utility room was renovated and a garage was added. A very private deck, that looks out to the woods and from which you can hear the Falls which is a short walk through the woods, was also added. At that same time, the outside was Hardipanked and stone was added to the front of the cottage. In 2016, the Stumpfs made the cottage their permanent residence.

As you walk through the cottage you will see a collection of shells that the Stumpfs collected while living on the Outer Banks of NC. You will see several sculptures in the living room bookcase and above the fireplace by the artist "Arthur" who was one of the artists that designed the Iwo Jima Memorial. In the family room bookcase you will see a collection of original Southwest pottery, baskets and Kachinas. There are also items from family travels and family antiques in the bookcase. You will also see a drop leaf table and dry sink that Fred & Carole purchased and refinished from the Seemiller Cottage (Narramore) in the 60s when they rented the Ruth Haase (Stiller/Pohl) cottage.

COTTAGE 21 (141 Summit Drive)

Built 1963

Owner: Johnson Family

This home began life in 1963, as a "typical" raised ranch, so popular in the 1960's, built by Harold Smith for Wyeth & Mildred Maclean.

When purchased in 2008 by Stephen and Irene Titus, it had fallen into disrepair and seriously needed to be introduced to the 21st century.

The "Titus Duo" immediately began the transition from old and tired to new and exciting. Out with the old and in with the new, from wall to wall and everything in between, this cottage was completely remodeled in 2009-2010. First the magnificent "Great Room" was constructed with a 16 foot Poplar cathedral ceiling using cut nails. The log walls were cut from the oak trees in the backyard and hand-hewn by Stephen, using an old-time "draw-knife", (which can be seen on display in the house) to remove the bark. The log walls were hand "chinked" by Stephen and his wife Irene. The rafters and custom gable windows added additional elegance to the entire house, all done on an "Open Concept" ranch style home. The kitchen, dining area and bedrooms all continue the fresh open theme.

Additionally, there is a very private full deck in the rear of the home with a six-person hot tub. There is a custom laid quarry-stone walkway leading to the front entrance, laid by Stephen and Irene. All the stones were retrieved from the old quarry located in the woods, behind the house.

The home was sold in 2018, to Allan and Carlene Johnson, and currently in use by Carlene, her children Lauren and Glenn and grandchildren. They enjoy the rear deck, rain or shine, with the installation of a retractable awning.

COTTAGE 7 (162 Summit Drive)

Built 1963

Owner: Eugene Fritz Family

In 1963, Cora and Albert Niebaum purchased three lots at Paradise Falls from Harold Heydt. Harold and his crew built the three bedroom cottage on the crest of the hill facing the lake, completed in May 1963. Cora and Al moved in in June 1963 and named the cottage "The Hemlocks". In 1965, a large screened porch was added by Mr. Heydt. In 1968, a well was added and in the summer of 1968, Cy hand dug a laundry room in the basement of the cottage. In 1973, a primary bedroom and bath were added by Albert Storm. The cottage was used by Cora and Al, their children Mary and Louise, their spouses, Cy Fritz and Jack Bogan, and five grandchildren, Jeff and Jean Fritz and John, Steven and Anne Bogan.

Mary Niebaum Fritz and husband Eugene "Cy" Fritz took over the cottage membership in 1995. Son Jeffrey and daughter Jean and her husband, Dennis Rykaczewski, and their daughter Megan and late son Craig, spent many vacations at PFLA.

Mary and Cy, their son Jeff, daughter Jean and her husband Dennis, and their granddaughter Megan Rykaczewski Das and her husband Srikant Das continue to enjoy PFLA.

LAST COTTAGE BUILT FOR A PFLA MEMBER

COTTAGE 6 (154 Summit Drive)

Built 1973

Owner: Ed, Dayle, Liz Malantonio

In 1968, George and Barbara Snear purchased 3 lots that overlook the lake. However, they did not break ground until the spring of 1973. In June, construction was halted because of the PFLA summer season restrictions and resumed again in the Fall of 1973. The cottage was completed by January 1974. The cottage floor plan has remained the same and only upgrades to the kitchen and bathroom have been completed. Barbara and George loved entertaining family and friends, especially on the back porch, and this tradition has continued for the Snear/Malantonio family for the past 48 years.