



The Lodge at Woodloch Offers a Bog-ucation Vacation

As a state-designated Natural Heritage area, the award-winning property strives to bring education and awareness to endangered plants and ecosystems

For Immediate Release: Hawley, PA, April 23, 2013- This May, The Lodge at Woodloch, a destination spa resort, is set to launch its Bog-ucation Program. The cranberry bog surrounds the resort's private 15-acre lake. This protected area is home to more than four species of endangered plants and four special plant communities. The bog is a sanctuary to animals, birds and reptiles native to the lake region of Northeast Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program has designated Little Lake Teedyuskung as one of eleven areas in Pike County that have exceptional significance when it comes to plants and natural communities.

The Lodge at Woodloch has embraced a relationship with noted botanist, Dr. Timothy Block. Dr. Block is the John J. Willaman Chair and Director of Botany at the University of Pennsylvania's Morris Arboretum and an adjunct professor of biology at Penn. Dr. Block is helping the outdoor staff and gardening team at The Lodge realize the bog's full potential as an ecological treasure and educational forum. When asked what is the greatest threat to bogs, Dr. Block replied, "the lack of public appreciation for the ecological value of bogs to our environment." Recognizing the need for more awareness, The Lodge at Woodloch has developed several workshops and protection programs to help increase the knowledge about the bog and its importance in the bio-diversity of the property. "The Bog-ucation Program was developed to help bring recognition to bogs and our delicate eco-system surrounding The Lodge," explained Paul Fitzpatrick, managing director of The Lodge at Woodloch. "We want our guests and community to know more about the precious resources that surround us and why they are important."

The Lodge at Woodloch has rolled out a bog walk which takes guests on a tour of our naturally-occurring bog and showcases many of the endangered plants that call the bog home. The Bog Walk even allows guests to feel the peat moss under their toes (seasonally and based on guests' interest) and witness the animals and birds that take refuge in the bog. In addition, The Lodge at Woodloch will invite local elementary schools to experience a bog walk during designated times throughout the year to help "bog-ucate" children about the significance of bogs and natural wetlands and their impact on the surrounding environment.

The Lodge at Woodloch has committed to a bog protection program which will help protect the bog and its array of endangered plant species. Protection from water run-off will be enhanced by planting indigenous trees on property that will help absorb water. There are also plans to implement a natural rock filtration project.

Josh Heath, manager of the outdoor adventure program, has been a long-time advocate of using the bog as a learning resource. Josh and his team spend each and every day on and around the bog and recognize the significance of the wildlife and beauty that this natural resource brings to the property. "One of the outdoor adventure team's favorite times of year is cranberry season when the bog truly comes to life," explains Josh. Cranberry season begins in late September continues through mid-October but is always dependent on Mother Nature. During cranberry season, the outdoor adventure team adds a special kayak excursion to pick cranberries when they are in available. Cranberry season also brings unique cooking demonstrations with Cranberry-related recipes as well as Cranberry-inspired spa treatments.

Bog Walks are available from March through November and are available at no extra cost to guests of The Lodge at Woodloch.

About The Lodge at Woodloch:

The Lodge at Woodloch is an award-winning all-inclusive luxury destination spa resort, offering complete spa programs, treatments, outdoor adventure activities, golf, classes and packages in a pristine mountain retreat environment. Located on over 150 wooded acres with a private lake in the Lake Region of Northeast Pennsylvania, The Lodge provides an oasis for personal awakening and renewal just 2 ½ hours outside of New York City. The exclusive property features 57 luxury accommodations and a 40,000-square-foot spa. Additional information and reservations are available toll-free at 1-866-953-8500 or on the Web site at TheLodgeAtWoodloch.com.

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