

New Hampshire **GUIDE to FALL**

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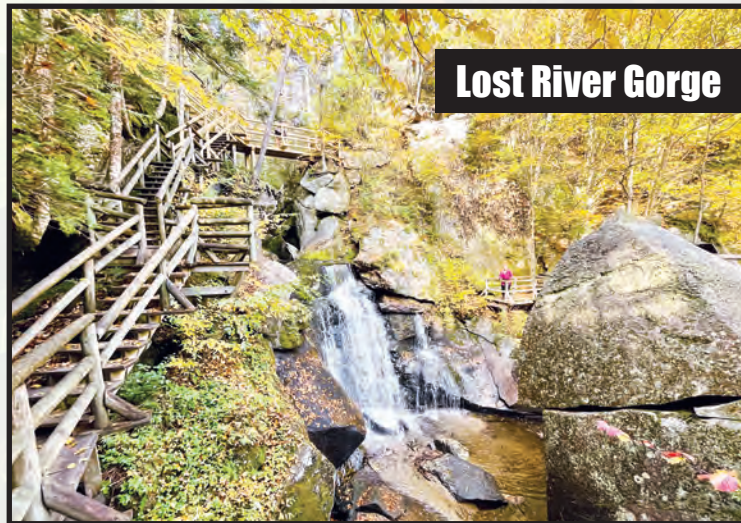
Castle in the Clouds



New England Coach



Lost River Gorge



NEW ENGLAND COACH

Let your guide do the driving, plan the meals and the activities

■ **Stress-free travel:** Upcoming fall destinations include Mount Washington Valley, the Lakes Region, and Boston and Salem, Mass.

By Darrell Halen
Special to the Union Leader

FOR ROUGHLY nine years, Eve and Richard Tracy have used the services of a local travel company to see many memorable sights in the United States — among them Dollywood, the Tennessee resort co-owned by Dolly Parton; the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Ohio; Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia; and the Louisville Slugger Factory and Museum in Kentucky.

And back home in New Hampshire, the Kingston couple has tapped the services of that company — New England Coach Tour and Travel, co-owned by Belinda Grace — to enjoy seeing several wonderful in-state sights, including the state's popular North Country foliage.

"I love the fall on the bus," said Eve, referring to the company's 56-seat motor coach with large windows. "She takes us to places where we know we're going to see fantastic colors."

The company, based in Raymond, offers retail tours, customized tours, employee outings, student tours, travel services to corporate groups, and tours to groups coming in from another state.

Both multiday tours, including trips abroad, and single-day tours are offered. Some trips in-

clude an airline flight to a destination where a motor coach is rented.

Day tours offered this autumn include Salem Haunted Happenings (Sept. 30), Mt. Washington Omni Resort Luncheon (Oct. 14), Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad (Oct. 16), and Freedom Trail and Tea Party in Boston (Nov. 5).

Don't worry, be happy

"When you go on one of our tours it's a worry-free experience," said Grace. "You don't have to worry about directions. You don't have to worry about traffic. Where am I going to have lunch? What's the best time to show up at a museum or a scenic overlook? People are leaving that to the experts, which are us, to plan these things so they don't have to worry about all the details."

Fremont resident Mike Quintal, who said he's been a client for roughly 15 years, is one of the many tourists who have enjoyed stress-free trips.

"It's nice to know everything is planned for you," Quintal said. "You don't have to worry about reservations. You don't have to worry about driving. You don't have to worry about airlines. They pretty much take care of it for you."

Like the Tracys, Quintal has enjoyed the camaraderie developed over the years with other regular New England



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY NEW ENGLAND COACH

Fall trips with New England Coach include decorations inside the bus (above) and foliage views along the way (below).



Coach passengers. Many have become friends who sometimes meet for lunch, according to Grace.

"You get to share time with people you would never know. It's a lot of fun to be with people. It's fun to see things you normally wouldn't, or probably not do, on your own," he said.

Quintal fondly recalls a three-day, two-night trip organized by the company to Rhode Island and Massachusetts last October.

According to the company, the trip included a narrated cruise in Newport Harbor and lower Narragansett Bay to see lighthouses, estates and forts, and a tour of the Sailing Museum and National Sailing Hall of Fame.

In addition, guests enjoyed a cotillion dinner; a visit to The Breakers, a Vanderbilt summer "cottage"; a tour of a cranberry bog; a visit to Plymouth,

Mass.; and the Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular at the Roger Williams Park Zoo that featured more than 5,000 carved pumpkins.

"You see thousands of pumpkins, they're all hand carved. You see different themes — from the Celtics to Jurassic Park, you name it," Quintal recalled. "We really enjoyed it. It was a fun time."

Interactive experiences

New England Coach started in 2001 as a charter bus company, and grew to have 17 coaches by 2008. Later, the company changed direction, deciding it wanted to start conducting its own tours and be a tour operator. Don Leonard is the co-owner.

For day tours, passengers are picked up by the company's 45-foot long motor coach off Route 101 Exit 5 in Raymond and Route I-93 Exit 5 in north Londonderry.

"Everyone has a great view," Grace said. "It's a very interactive experience. Group travel is for people who enjoy being around other people."

All tours are staff escorted with Grace or someone else serving as the trip's director. Grace, equipped with a microphone and tablet, sits at the front of the bus.

"We are directing what's going on, on the tour," Grace said. "Whether it's talking about what we're seeing, where we're going, giving (passengers) some background information maybe on geography or history."

"If it's a longer drive day, we might put some music on. If we're going to West Virginia, it might be bluegrass music, or country music down in Nashville, with a little history behind it just to get people focused on the tour that we're doing, add a little information as well. If it's on a longer tour, we might play a movie. The movie could be based on where we're going."

Eve Tracy credits the company with having everything "down pat" for the tours, and said she wouldn't change anything about their trips.

"You have a great tour guide with Belinda because there is not anything that she does not know," she said. "The bus trip is really fun. You go on the bus. You have, just one after another, these things unfolding. It's an 'Oh my!' type of day."

The Salem Haunted Happenings will include a guided walking tour in the Massachusetts city and a visit to the Salem Witch Museum. Passengers traveling to the Omni Mt. Washington Resort will enjoy scenic rides on Routes 16 and 302 and enjoy lunch in a grand hotel dining room and a self-guided history tour.

Passengers who journey to the Freedom Trail in Boston will meet characters from the American Revolution and experience the overthrow of tea from a ship to protest British taxation in the 1770s.

To check availability for the tours, visit newenglandcoach.com.



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CASTLE IN THE CLOUDS

Enjoy car show, graveyard tours, sunset views, workshops this fall

■ **Save the dates:** Car show is Oct. 4, Sunset Tours are Oct. 9 and 16, family-friendly Pumpkin Walk is Oct. 17 and Graveyard Tours have multiple dates.

By Kathleen D. Bailey
Special to the Union Leader

WHILE FALL is a busy — and lucrative — time for New Hampshire attractions, the board and staff at the Castle in the Clouds know what matters. “We intentionally limit ourselves to one tour bus per hour,” Executive Director Charles Clark said. “We need space for our regular visitors. We won’t be disgorging five buses at the same time.”

The Castle, also known as the Lucknow Estate, looks its best pretty much year-round, with its mountaintop location, gardens, lake and swoon-worthy views. But it’s especially appealing in autumn. Clark and the Castle team have a slate of fall activities planned to bring out the 111-year-old facility’s finest features.

Fall on the mountain

This fall Clark will be building on what he said was a “really great summer season,” despite all the early-season rain. Fall is one of his favorite times on the mountain. “There aren’t many places in New Hampshire that have such a beautiful autumn,” he said, pointing to the panoramic views. “It doesn’t get much better.”

The annual Castle Car Show, one of the Castle’s signature events, will be held Oct. 4. Last year the Castle hosted 500 antique and collectible cars, ranging from the turn of the century to late models. The event is family-friendly, and cost is \$5 per person.



“There aren’t many places in New Hampshire that have such a beautiful autumn. It doesn’t get much better.”

CHARLES CLARK
Executive director at Castle in the Clouds

October also brings the popular Graveyard History Walking Tours, according to Clark. The property boasts several cemeteries, all dating from before the Castle. There used to be a small community on the property, he explained, and the families homesteaded and were buried on their own land. “It does have a little bit of a spooky bent,” he acknowledged of the Graveyard Tours. Those tours will be held Oct. 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 23, 25, 27 and 30.

The Castle is also partnering with Moultonborough Recreation for a family-friendly Halloween event. The Pumpkin Walk will be held Friday, Oct. 17, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Children will walk through an area filled with lighted jack-o’-lanterns and some “not so scary” surprises, followed by snacks at a firepit. Costumes are encouraged. The event is also sponsored by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

The Castle will also host Sunset Tours Oct. 9 and 16, from



ROSS SCHUNDLER

A panoramic view of the area surrounding Moultonborough’s Castle in the Clouds and the Lucknow Estate as the autumn colors begin to sweep across the mountains.

5:30 to 8 p.m. Clark explained, “In the fall, the sun sets earlier. So we give a tour after hours, for a smaller group. There are beautiful sunsets up here, and it’s a fun way to experience the mansion.”

The final Lucknow Garden Tour of the season will be held Friday, Sept. 26, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. “We have one paid gardener and a cadre of volunteers,” Clark said. “We have beautiful colors all season.” The garden event will be “an intimate tour with our gardener,” he said, with a focus on pollinators and native species.

Nobody left behind

Upcoming classes include

“Wildcrafting: Herbal Tea” on Sept. 28 and “Watercolor Workshop” on Oct. 13. The facility is friendly to educators, with a Teacher Cocktail Night scheduled for Sept. 25. Guided hikes of the trails are available throughout the season, or patrons can explore on their own.

The Castle will also wrap up its season of Sensory-Friendly Saturdays on Oct. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. The event began in 2024, and according to Clark, helps guests with different sensory needs appreciate the facility at a slower pace. “The lights are lower, we don’t play the background music, and there are spaces for a quiet time,” he said. “At the height of the season, it

can be wild here.”

The sensory-friendly days are part of a growing trend among museums, he said, “to reach as wide a range as we can.”

Looking ahead

The Castle closes for the regular season Oct. 19. But it will open again for a special event, “Christmas at the Castle.” The Castle will be decorated for the season and open the weekend before Thanksgiving and the two weekends after Thanksgiving. The theme this year is “Season’s Greetings,” he said, and the decor will be based on antique Christmas cards. They

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Castle

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will also give a limited number of “Holiday Twilight Tours,” he said.

‘The Earl of Ossipee’

Castle in the Clouds has a storied history. Thomas Plant was a poor boy who left school at 14 to help support his family. He took a job as a shoelaster and within 11 years, he owned the factory. By 1910, his factory in Jamaica Plain, Mass., was the largest shoe factory in the world. Plant sold the factory, divorced his first wife, and embarked on

a tour of Europe, where he met Olive Dewey, a young schoolteacher. They married, and he began to look for their forever home, which turned out to be on Mount Ossipee in Moultonborough.

They bought a plot of land, bought up several farms surrounding it, and amassed 6,300 acres. They built a 16-room Arts and Crafts mansion, which they called “Lucknow.” The property had horses and stables, its own lake, a greenhouse, a golf course and tennis

court, and miles of hiking trails. It had the first electricity in the region. Plant was known by his neighbors as “The Earl of Ossipee.”

But the Plants’ spending caught up with them, along with the Depression. They began selling off parcels of land, and eventually sold the house to a friend, who let them live there until Tom’s death in 1941. Olive returned to her family in the Midwest.

The house and land passed through several

owners. It first opened as an attraction operated by Richard Robie in the 1950s, when it was also first known as Castle in the Clouds. The property passed through other iterations. It is now a National Historic Landmark. It is owned and operated by the Castle Preservation Society. The land is maintained by the Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

For more information and to register for programs, visit castleinthecLOUDS.org

“There are beautiful sunsets up here, and it’s a fun way to experience the mansion.”

CHARLES CLARK

Executive director at Castle in the Clouds



CHARLES CLARK

A stone wall and a fully-leaved tree frame the view at the Castle in the Clouds in Moultonborough.



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LOST RIVER GORGE & BOULDER CAVES

Enjoy autumn colors and mountain views on crisp, clear fall days

■ **See for miles:** On clear days, visitors can see as far as Waterville Valley and Mount Tecumseh.

By Kathleen D. Bailey
Special to the Union Leader

KATE WETHERELL, general manager for Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves, enjoys her attraction when it's bustling with people from all over the East Coast. But fall brings a private, quiet time that she relishes just as much.

"It's at the center of the Gorge, before the Lemon Squeeze but after Paradise Falls," she said. "It's a small loop trail with beautiful sweeping mountain vistas. I enjoy it most in the early morning."

The venerable attraction shows a different face in autumn.

Leaves to peep at

The atmosphere is a little different in the fall, according to Wetherell. While the weekends see the usual crowds, the midweek days are quieter. "We don't get the tour buses," she said. "It's retirees and couples." But these guests have more time, and they take the time to enjoy the complex.

The foliage tends to turn earlier than in the lower part of the state, Wetherell observed. The 157 acres has a mix of hardwoods and softwoods. There are white birches, yellow birches, beech trees and red maples. In the gorge itself the colors are mostly yellow, coming from beeches and birches.

"There are crisp, clear days and mountain views," she said. "You can see Waterville Valley and Mount Tecumseh."



PROVIDED BY LOST RIVER

The perks to climbing the steps up to the Lost River's Paradise Falls in autumn include colorful foliage, cooler temperatures and lower humidity.

Throughout the summer, the Lost River Gorge partnered with Squam Lakes Natural Science Center to offer live animal presentations. The final presentation of the season is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 27. The topic is "New Hampshire Wildlife," and a Squam Lakes naturalist will bring some animal ambassadors for patrons to view up close and personal. Advance registration is recommended for the event.

Once more, with family

Wetherell, who has been

with the company for 15 years, said that July was slow this year, due to the heat and humidity, and that May and June were also slow due to the rain. In an average May-to-October season, Lost River sees between 55,000 and 60,000 visitors, she said.

Her guests come from all over the Northeast. The gorge is accessible both by Interstate 91 and Interstate 93, so she hosts people from both Vermont and Massachusetts.

"We see a lot of folks from Boston," she said, adding that

the site is also popular with tourists from New York and the mid-Atlantic states.

Many are repeat customers of many years. "We ask them at the check in, 'Have you been here before?' and they'll say, 'Yes, I was here as a child. Now I'm bringing my children.'"

She said it's not unusual to see three generations standing in line for their tickets. And while they're in the area they take advantage of other attractions, such as the Cog Railway, Storyland and Santa's Village.

Lucky find

The gorge and caves, in Kinsman Notch, were formed 300 million years ago, according to Lost River's website. The Ice Age glaciers reshaped the rocks into notches and mountains. With the ice melting, the rocks were eroded into gorges.

The first documented exploration of the area took place in 1852, when the Jackman brothers, Royal and Lyman, were fishing in the stream. They decided to do a little exploring,

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Lost River

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and Lyman slipped out of sight and into a cave 15 feet below the surface. The cave still exists on the property and is called “Shadow Cave.”

At the turn of the 20th century, residents of the state worried that such natural wonders would be overcome by the logging industry. The brand new conservation organization, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, purchased

Lost River in 1912. It is still owned by the Forest Society and leased and operated by the White Mountains Attractions Association.

The site has been open to the public for more than a century. The core of the experience is a self-guided walk on a one-mile wooden boardwalk. Those who are claustrophobic or with physical limitations can bypass the caves, including the notorious

“Lemon Squeeze,” and simply enjoy the views at spots such as Valley Viewpoint and Giant Bird Nest Overlook. Guests can pan for gemstones at an extra cost.

Lost River Gorge and Boulder Caves will stay open until Oct. 19, Wetherell said. Online ticket purchase is recommended.

For information and to reserve tickets, visit lostrivergorge.com.

“We ask them at check-in, ‘Have you been here before?’ and they’ll say, ‘Yes, I was here as a child. Now I’m bringing my children.’”

KATE WETHERELL

General manager for Lost River Gorge & Boulder Caves



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NH'S LAKES REGION

Beautiful scenery, plenty of outdoor activities await you this fall

■ **A little bit of everything:** It's time for fall hikes, bike rides, golf, scenic drives, and maybe a resort getaway.

By Robert Levey
Special to the Union Leader

AS THE WATER COOLS and the lake traffic slows down with the seasons changing, the Lakes Region remains a busy and beautiful place to experience fall in the Granite State.

With cooler temperatures and lower humidity, visitors can enjoy hiking, biking, fall golf and outdoor dining surrounded by brilliant foliage throughout the

fall months. Visitors looking for an overnight or multi-day stay have a new option, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam — a 114-room, independent year-round resort and spa in Tilton. More than 70% of guest space features direct lake views with either private balconies or patios. “This really became a passion project,” said Ed Rocco, who will run the resort alongside his wife Patti, both of whom are veteran hoteliers and investors in The

Lake Estate on Winnisquam. Living in New Hampshire’s Lakes Region, the couple initially explored existing properties but found few that could provide a sustainable living. However, fate soon intervened. “We were introduced to a couple who had the same dream of creating a luxury resort in the Lakes Region,” she recalled. “I like to say it was a match made in heaven. Both of our dreams were going to come true, and neither of us could have fulfilled them without the other.” The couple was Dan and Elaine Dagesse, whose financial backing and shared vision made the impossible possible.

“This property wouldn’t be here without their financial backing,” Ed said. “They had vision. None of us would be talking about this, and this beautiful resort wouldn’t exist without the Dagessees. This was his first venture into hotels, but he understood this was a legacy project—a long-term relevant asset.” The partnership proved transformative, as what started as conversations about mutual interests evolved into hiring architects, designers, and branding companies to create an independent hotel identity. “We brought in all of these folks and talked about vision,

and the vision was to build a grand estate on the shore of Winnisquam,” said Ed. The property is positioned in a great spot for guests to get out and explore the Lakes Region this fall. Golfers, for example, can enjoy a round at the close-by Lochmere Country Club in Tilton, Waukegan Golf Club in Center Harbor, Kingswood Golf Club in Wolfeboro and Birch Hill Country Club in Moultonborough. Nearby Gunstock Mountain in Gilford offers adventurous ways to enjoy fall’s weather and scenery, including its Mountain

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Lakes Region

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Coaster, Aerial Treetop Adventures, zipline tours, hiking and scenic lift rides.

For shoppers, the Tanger Outlets in Tilton are just minutes away.

Fall fun for the whole family that’s within a short drive includes Beans & Greens Farm in Gilford with a corn maze, hay-rides and firing the apple cannons. Take a ride on the Winnepesaukee Scenic Railroad or visit popular area fall festivals.

At the Lake Estate on Winnisquam, guests can walk through the woods on the property to enjoy fall scenery, or perhaps

stay in and enjoy fine dining, spa treatments or quiet time in the library.

In addition to the walking trails, other fitness activities include tennis, pickleball and swimming in the pool.

The luxury at the Lake Estate extends beyond aesthetics to service levels that Ed believes could eventually earn New Hampshire’s first five-star, five-diamond rating.

“There are a lot of beautiful buildings and hotels,” he said. “What really makes a hotel special is the people, the culture we create, and serving others.”

For the Roccas, who opened their first hotel together in Bedford, Mass., in 1981, The Lake Estate on Winnisquam represents both a culmination and a new beginning.

“We went through everything we went through for this pre-opening (in late August),” said Patti. “We never thought we’d open a hotel, design, make every decision, and hire staff on top of it. It’s been an amazing opportunity for us, and it doesn’t happen often.”

To learn more about The Lake Estate on Winnisquam in Tilton, visit thelakeestatenh.com.



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A rendering of the pool at The Lake Estate on Winnisquam luxury resort.



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■ **Family fun:** Pick your own apples, enjoy a hayride and the playground, visit the farm animals, and relax on the porch.

By Kaarin L. Clausen
Special to the Union Leader

HIGH ATOP THE HILLS in Pittsfield, a rust-colored retriever sits on the porch of a large white farmhouse, animatedly wagging his tail and eagerly awaiting his next visitor. Kooper is the unofficial greeter of Appleview Orchard, and he relishes each visit to his farm and home with equal parts friendliness and enthusiasm.

With his feline sidekick, Scamp 2.0 — named after her predecessor, the first Scamp who sadly passed away last year at the ripe old age of 22 — the pair are one of many draws to this charming orchard that is sure to provide its guests with the quintessential New England fall experience.

Fulfilling a dream

Appleview Orchard and farm



KAARIN L. CLAUSEN

Appleview Orchard is famous for its homemade apple fritters.

were purchased in January of 2008 by Dennis and Mary Straight — Vermont natives who had been on the hunt for their dream property. A pharmacist by trade, Dennis was no stranger to farm and country life, but after purchasing the orchard, he admitted that there was a definite learning curve to discover everything he needed to know about apples. He learned a lot through research, UNH Extension and trial and error. It also helped to have friends in the farming industry that he could turn to for help.

“When I bought the orchard, I learned by the seat of my pants,” Straight said. “I’d call up my friends and ask, ‘Hey, how do I deal with this? How do I deal with that?’ Farmers are a close-knit group and we’re always willing to help each other out.”

Straight jumped in full force after purchasing Appleview and immediately began to expand the orchard. Starting with 3,500 apple trees and 11 varieties of apples, Appleview now boasts a total of 4,000 trees featuring 26 varieties and a second orchard that was added in 2012, just a short drive away. In addition to apples, they now grow peaches, pears, plums, cherries, apricots, nectarines, as well as blueberries, strawberries, raspberries and pumpkins.

Farm produce is sold in their country store, which the Straights also expanded after purchase. Walls were knocked down and a commercial kitchen was added, where Dennis and Mary diligently bake their New England fall treats. Guests can satisfy their sweet tooth with homemade apple crisps and pies, several flavors of whoopie



KAARIN L. CLAUSEN

Owners Dennis and Mary Straight sit with their retriever, Kooper, on the porch at Appleview Orchard in Pittsfield.

pies and a full-service ice cream counter.

One-of-a-kind fritters and ciders

The pièce de résistance is Appleview’s famous apple fritter. Unlike the typical apple fritter, theirs are more akin to a ball of cinnamon donut with pieces of apple generously sprinkled throughout. Upon entering the store, arriving guests usually make a beeline towards the samples in the kitchen. Mary recalled an amusing story about how the fritter recipe came about.

“The recipe was kind of an accident,” she said. “I took a recipe on allrecipes.com and I screwed it up. That’s how the fritter was born. And then some guys came in and they wanted to eat the leftovers. That’s how samples were born.”

Frequent visitors to Appleview also anxiously await the year’s first batch of homemade apple cider. After the Straights purchased the farm, Dennis expanded the cider operation

by adding a larger press. The orchard now produces a couple hundred gallons of unpasteurized cider every week.

“We use a mixture of apples in our cider,” he said. “The taste depends on what apples are available during a particular time. We don’t use drops; we actually pick our cider apples off the trees, then they go through a wash, then into the grinder and press. Our cider is generally very sweet to begin with because we’re using early season apples. The taste changes as we go along and use different varieties.”

Dennis said this year’s apple crop looks excellent, in part due to great weather and the 100,000-plus bees that are brought in annually to perform a very important job.

“We had an excellent pollination this year,” he said. “We just hit it perfect. The bees came in on a Saturday night and it turned 70 degrees for the next six days. We had one week of great pollination, and we have



“We had an excellent pollination this year. We just hit it perfect ... We had one week of great pollination, and we have one heck of a crop this year.”

DENNIS STRAIGHT

co-owner of Appleview Orchard

one heck of a crop this year.”

Appleview’s early apple varieties include early McIntosh, Mollie’s Delicious and Zestar, followed by Cortlands and Macouns. Other varieties round out the season, including Brock, Crimson Crisp, Crimson Topaz, Empire, Fuji, Gala, Ginger Gold, Golden Delicious, Honeycrisp, Red Delicious and Summer Treat.

It’s about making memories

The Straights both have fond recollections of farm life from their childhood. Dennis was raised in the Vermont countryside and spent a lot of time on farms with his father. Mary’s younger years were filled with horses prancing through the snow and maple sugaring with her aunt and uncle who owned a large dairy farm in Vermont. The couple strives to provide Appleview’s guests with similar happy memories.

A hayride takes visitors through the orchard where they can pick their own apples. Children run around the playground and visit the farm’s friendly

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New England Coach



Vermont Christmas

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17 Freetown Rd., Raymond, NH

Applevue

From Page T12

animals, including sheep, pigs, chickens and ducks, as well as a rabbit and goat. Picnic tables beneath the covered pavilion offer a good spot for lunch after picking.

The country gift shop features New Hampshire gifts, traditional New England fare, stuffed animals and an array of baked goods. The perfect end to a fun-filled afternoon is a

snack on the wraparound porch — a beautiful location to enjoy a Richardson’s ice cream cone or steaming cup of hot apple cider while watching the sun go down.

It’s all about making memories and is the primary reason why the Straights love owning an orchard.

“I enjoy the interaction with people,” said Dennis.

“That’s important. I love seeing families have fun and having them come back year after year. People love to come here.”

Guests come for the apples, but they return for the warmth and friendliness provided by the Straights and their dog, Kooper.

“The best ambassador we have for this business is right there,” Mary said,

pointing at her beloved retriever. “He sits on the front stoop and when cars come in, he’ll meander over and do his greeting. People marvel at him wandering around. He’s the best boy.”

Applevue Orchard is located at 1266 Upper City Road in Pittsfield. To learn more, visit applevieworchard.com or check out their Facebook page.

“I enjoy the interaction with people. That’s important. I love seeing families have fun and having them come back year after year. People love to come here.”

DENNIS STRAIGHT

co-owner of Applevue Orchard



KAARIN L. CLAUSEN

Chickens are among the family-friendly animals visitors will see at Applevue Orchard in Pittsfield.

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Thursday Trivia Night at 7pm

Friday Live Music starting at 5pm

Great places around the state to find the foliage this fall season

Conway Scenic Railroad

In addition to the perennial favorites like The Mountaineer and Valley Train Excursion, a new offering in 2025 is the Crawford to North Conway round trip option. Halloween Express rides are scheduled for Oct. 18-19 and 25-26.

conwayscenic.com

Scenic Railriders

Booking are available for the fall season through Nov. 2. Pedal your rail bike on a 6.2-mile round trip from Concord to Boscawen. Enjoy scenery along the Merrimack River and visit the Hannah Duston Memorial Statue during your tour.

scenicrailriders.com

Cannon Mountain Aerial Tram

Fall operations run through Sunday, Oct. 26, which marks the end of an era for Tram II. A retirement party will celebrate Tram II's 45 years of operations. It will be replaced by Tram III. You do not need a ticket to join in the festivities, but you need a reserved ticket to ride the Tram.

cannonmt.com

The Cog Railway

Rides to the Mount Washington summit at 6,288 feet of elevation run through Oct. 26. While you're at the summit, explore the Sherman Adams Visitor Center, the Tip Top House, the interactive weather exhibit, cafeteria and gift shops.

thecog.com

Kancamagus Scenic Byway

Everywhere you look on this 34.5-mile scenic drive carved through the White Mountain National Forest will be bursting with color. Enjoy views of the mountains, Swift River, Sabbaday Falls, Lower Falls and Rocky Gorge.

kancamagushighway.com

Sunapee Cruises

Both the scenic lake tour and the dinner cruise will be offered through the weekend of Oct. 25-26. Enjoy the brilliant foliage in the hills surrounding the lake and views of Mount Sunapee from the water.

sunapeecruises.com

Great Glen Trails Outdoor Center

Great Glen Trails is a one-stop destination for outdoor adventures in the Pinkham Notch/Gorham area. Activities include kayak tours, bike rentals, and trails for running, walking and biking — all while surrounded by beautiful mountain views.

greatglentrails.com

Mt. Washington Auto Road

Drive yourself up to the top of "The Rockpile" and earn the famous "This Car Climbed Mount Washington" bumper sticker. Or you can book a guided tour and relax the whole way up and down. ATVs and UTV's can also ride up the mountain.

mt-washington.com

Mount Washington Cruises

Popular cruises on the M/S Mount Washington include Narrated Scenic Tours; Sunset Dinner Cruises; and Sunday Brunch Cruises. "Haunted Winnepesaukee" with live actors reading ghost stories, running Thursday-Saturday evenings in September and October.

cruisenh.com

Alpine Adventures Zipline

Year-round adventures include Tree Top Zipline Tour; Timberline Zipine Tour; Super Skyrider Zipline Tour; Thrillsville; Off-Road ride to the top of Barron Mountain; Side X Side Tours where you drive your own off-road vehicle.

alpinezipline.com

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