Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

RIVERFEST

EVENT GUIDE



THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS! KEEPING THE SPARK ALIVE IN 2025











DISCOVER COLUMBIA
HARMONIC WAVE PRODUCTIONS

ENGLE PRINTING SAHD META
LET'S ROLL BIKE SHOP H&H CA

SAHD METAL RECYLCING H&H CASTINGS RIVERTOWNE TROLLEY CO. GUMPTION DESIGN

WINDOW DEPOT OF CENTRAL PA BEST CONTRACTING TOPP HOME

EVENT KEY

FRIDAY JUNE 27

➡Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours
10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM, 1706 Long Level Rd., Wrightsville

Kindling Kickoff
5 PM-8 PM, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

Bring a lawn chair or blank to River Park for live music from lan Carroll, an amazing fiddler. Enjoy the riverfront with firepits, food, and kids activities to kick off the weekend!

REE Fireflies with PA DCNR

Kids' activity & walk, 8 PM, Susquehanna Riverlands State Park, Hellam Township

SATURDAY JUNE 28

Bridge Burners Challenge

9 AM, Multi-Sport Race, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

REE Bucket Brigade Race

10:15 AM, Kids' Fun-Run, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

REE River Rec Expo

9 AM-1 2PM, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

Over 20 recreation vendors! Find a new hobby, learn about volunteer opportunities, and book your next river adventure. Grab some grub from a local food truck and watch the Challenge racers on the river!

Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours

10 AM, 12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM Boat Tours 1706 Long Level Rd., Wrightsville

Columbia Architectural Tours with the

Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

10 AM and 1 PM, Walking Tour, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

REE SATURDAY LECTURES

Columbia Crossing River Trails Center 41 Walnut Street, Columbia "The Skirmish that Turned the Tide"

9 AM Lecture w/Cindv Beaston

"On the Double Quick: Marching from Wrightsville into History"

10 AM, Lecture w/ Cindy Beaston

"The Aftermath: Battle of Gettysburg

12 PM, Lecture w/ Cindy Beaston

The Ma & Pa Railroad: Engine of Development

1:30 PM Lecture w/ Craig Sansonetti

!! How Old is the Susquehanna?

3 PM Lecture w/ Jeri Jones



Purchase Required



New This Year



Free **Experience**

SATURDAY June 28 (Continued)

!! Register Combread, Fried Oysters, Candied Yams: West African Cultural Knowledge and Cherished Chesapeake Foods with Chesapeake Gateways (NPS)

Drop in 10 AM-3 PM, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

Guided Preview Tours of the Mifflin House

10 AM - 4 PM, 202 Cool Springs Rd., Wrightsville

!! Phonographs & Ice Cream at Ma and Pa Railroad Heritage Village

11 AM-5 PM Nostalgic music and ice cream at 1258 Muddy Creek Forks Rd., Airville

The Underground Railroad in Wrightsville and Columbia

11:30 AM and 2:30 PM, Bus Tours w/ the African American Historical Society of South Central PA, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

REE Burning of the Bridge Diorama

1 PM- 4 PM, Historic Diorama, 124 Hellam St., Wrightsville

Check out the story of the night the Wrightsville bridge was set ablaze in an attempt to block the Confederate soldiers from moving eastward. Because they were unable to cross the river, the South's attention turned toward the town of Gettysburg and, thus, altered the Civil War's outcome.

REI Columbia Historic Preservation Society

1PM-4 PM Museum Open, 21 N. 2nd St., Columbia

REE Historic Wrightsville Museum

1PM-4PM, Museum Open, 309 Locust St., Wrightsville

!! Mt. Pisgah Cemetery & AME Zion Church

1 PM-4 PM Drop in exhibits and displays, 210 Mulberry St., Wrightsville

Marietta Vaccine Farm

1 PM Lecture at the Old Town Museum, 5 W. Walnut St., Marietta

🖖!! Susquehanna Sampler Paddle with KayakLanco

1 PM, 2:30 PM and 4 PM Relaxed Paddle and boat rental, 234 N. Front St., Wrightsville

‼ № Native Bees

2 PM, Kids' Nature Activity with PA DCNR, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

HOMETOWN HISTORY AT MIFFLIN FARM

5:30 PM - 8 PM

The Historic Mifflin Farm, 202 Cool Springs Road, Wrightsville Bring a lawn chair or blanket to watch a live episode of Hometown History. Jamie Noerpel, Dominish Marie Miller, and Jim McClure will explore local history in a casual and conversational setting. Learn about the farm's history from the Revolutionary War to today! Half Nuts Popcorn and Softie Whirl Ice Cream will be on site selling sweets too.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

REE Mason-Dixon Trail Hike

9 AM Trail Hike with PA DCNR, Parking Area 1, River Farm Rd., Hellam Township

Columbia Architectural Tours with the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County 10 AM and 1 PM, Walking Tour, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

II REE Guided Preview Tours of the Mifflin House

10 AM - 4 PM, 202 Cool Springs Rd., Wrightsville

🖖 Geology Walk

11 AM-1:30 PM, Walking Tour w/ Jeri Jones, 29 Furnace Rd., Marietta

The Underground Railroad in Wrightsville and Columbia

11:30 AM and 2:30 PM, Bus Tours w/ the African American Historical Society of South Central PA, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours

12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM Boat Tours, 1706 Long Level Rd., Wrightsville

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REE Historic Wrightsville Museum

1PM- 4 PM, Museum Open, 309 Locust St., Wrightsville

Paddle the Battle

1 PM, 2 PM, 3 PM, and 4 PM Guided History Paddle, 234 N. Front St., Wrightsville

🖖 !! Phonographs & Ice Cream at Ma and Pa Railroad Heritage Village 1 PM-5 PM Nostalgic music and ice cream at 1258 Muddy Creek Forks Rd., Airville

Musselman/Vesta Iron Furnace Complex 1PM - 3 PM, Museum Open, 26 Furnace Rd., Marietta

From Weeds to Trees: Historic Wild Foods of the Susquehanna 1:30 PM, Historical Plant and Foraging Presentation, 4945 Horn Farm Rd., York

Living the Experience Underground Railroad Reenactment & Interactive Experience

3:00 PM Performance, 41 Walnut St., Columbia

IGNITE CONCERT & FIERY FINALE

4 PM-9 PM, John Wright Restaurant Lawn, 234 N. Front St., Wrightsville

REE Ignite Concert with Dillweed

Bring a Lawn Chair or Blanket!

Vendors & Partners

Historic Wrightsville serving up Burgers, Dogs & More! CASH ONLY

8:30 PM

REFire Performers, Burning of the Bridge Story & Lighting of the Piers

TROLLEY TOURS

Trolley Tours sell out quickly, and pre-registration is encouraged! Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.RiverfestPA.com or the Columbia Crossing Front Desk.

FRIDAY JUNE 27

TOURS LEAVE FROM COLUMBIA CROSSING

Columbia Heritage Tour

10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, 1 PM, 3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, and 7 PM

Take a ride through Columbia's rich past with SNHA staff or local historian Cindy Beaston. Explore how the river shaped this community, and why the Burning of the Bridge remains a defining moment in Columbia's history.

!! NEW! Architecture & Preservation Tour

6 PM ONLY

Join Matt Barley of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County for a special one-time tour of Columbia's architectural treasures. Discover 18th, 19th, and early 20th-century buildings with insight from an experienced interior designer and preservation advocate.

SATURDAY JUNE 28

TOURS LEAVE FROM MUSSELMAN VESTA, MARIETTA

9 AM, 10 AM, AND 11 AM

Back by popular demand! Join experts from Rivertownes PA USA to uncover the lesser-known stories of Marietta's industrial and community history.

TOURS LEAVE FROM COLUMBIA CROSSING

2 PM, 3 PM, AND, 4 PM

Take a ride through Columbia's rich past with SNHA staff or local historian Cindy Beaston. Explore how the river shaped this community, and why the Burning of the Bridge remains a defining moment in Columbia's history.

SUNDAYJUNE 29

TOURS LEAVE FROM THE HISTORIC MIFFLIN FARM

10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, AND 1 PM

Explore the timeline of the Burning of the Bridge on the very streets where history happened. Discover the strategic decisions, military maneuvers, and the fiery moment that changed the course of the Civil War right here in Wrightsville.

TOURS LEAVE FROM JOHN WRIGHT RESTAURANT

3 PM, 4 PM, 5 PM, 6 PM, AND 7 PM

Explore the timeline of the Burning of the Bridge on the very streets where history happened. Discover the strategic decisions, military maneuvers, and the fiery moment that changed the course of the Civil War right here in Wrightsville.



Visit www.RiverfestPA.com to purchase tickets and learn more

Greetings River Steward,

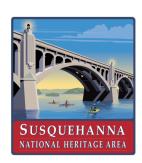
Riverfest is proudly presented by the Susquehanna National Heritage Area, a nonprofit organization sharing stories of national significance from Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania. The festival is held on the anniversary of the burning of a massive wooden covered bridge during the Civil War—when, in the summer of 1863, communities united around the Susquehanna River, a vital artery for goods, people, and hope.

Today, we gather once again around the Susquehanna—not just as a crossing, but as a vibrant corridor of heritage, culture, and outdoor adventure. Alongside our partners in preservation and recreation, we celebrate the river as a living resource that connects our past, present, and future.

As you explore Riverfest, please know that ticket fees for tours directly support the local organizations who lead them—strengthening their mission to protect and share this region's rich history. If you're visiting one of the many free museums or sites, consider making a donation to support their ongoing efforts.

Thank you for being part of Riverfest. Your presence and generosity help keep the spark alive.

Here's to sparking new memories— Susquehanna National Heritage Area & Our Riverfest Partners



Parking

FREE PARKING LOTS:
Front & Locust Street, Columbia
Front & Commerce Street, Columbia
N Front & Walnut Street, Wrightsville
29 Furnace Road, Marietta
Marietta, Wrightsville, and Columbia have some free and some metered street parking - limit 2 hours.
Street parking is free on SUNDAY!