

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

# RIVERFEST

## EVENT GUIDE



THANKS TO OUR LEAD SPONSORS!

LOUISE STEINMAN VON HESS FOUNDATION





Visit [www.RiverfestPA.com](http://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 nationally significant stories from Lancaster and York Counties, Pennsylvania.

This year's festival is especially meaningful as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary and the lighting of all the historic bridge piers across the Susquehanna River. Riverfest is held on the anniversary of the burning of the massive wooden covered bridge during the Civil War—when, in the summer of 1863, communities united to defend this vital crossing for goods, people, and hope.

Today, we gather once again along the Susquehanna River to celebrate the stories, landscapes, and traditions that continue to connect our communities. Alongside our partners in preservation, recreation, and culture, Riverfest honors the river as both a historic crossroads and a vibrant destination for exploration and discovery.

As you enjoy Riverfest, please know that ticket fees for tours directly support the local organizations who lead them, helping preserve and share this region's remarkable heritage. If you visit one of the many free museums or historic sites, we encourage you to consider making a donation to support their ongoing work.

Thank you for being part of Riverfest and helping keep the history, community spirit, and glow of the river alive for future generations.

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



**Susquehanna**  
National Heritage Area

# FRIDAY JUNE 26

## EVENT KEY

### **!! The Underground Railroad: Beyond the Susquehanna Van Tour**

10 AM - 12:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

### **Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours**

12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM, meet at Zimmerman Center  
Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

### **!! Marietta's Hidden Legacy: Notable African Americans Past & Present, who helped shape the nation**

1 PM, Lecture at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center

### **Free African Communities of the Susquehanna Van Tour**

2 PM - 4:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

### **Columbia Architectural Walking Tour**

6 PM, Walking Tour, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

### **!! York County in the American Revolution**

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM, Wrightsville Trinity Lutheran Church  
Presented by Historic Wrightsville Incorporated



**Purchase  
Required**



**New This Year**



**Free  
Experience**

# SATURDAY JUNE 27

### **River Rec Expo & Bridge Burner Challenge**

9 AM-1 PM, at Columbia Crossing

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

Find a new hobby, learn about volunteer opportunities, and book your next river adventure. New this year, enjoy recreation demos and hands-on clinics from local outdoor partners throughout the day. Grab some grub from a local food truck and watch the Challenge racers on the river!

### **!! Historic Wrightsville Scavenger Hunt & Museum Activities**

9:30 AM - 5 PM, Historic Wrightsville Museum  
Presented by Historic Wrightsville Incorporated

**9:30 AM - 5 PM:** Meet 45th PA Volunteer Reenactors

**10:30 AM:** Dedication of the Legends and Lore historic marker. Learn about Union soldier Silas Smith and the legend surrounding his Bible.

**1 PM - 3 PM:** Enjoy live music from The Home Comfort Bluegrass Band on the lawn.

**2 PM - 4 PM:** Wrightsville's Passport to History. Come along to visit Wrightsville locations and learn about their significance in history.

**4 PM - 5 PM:** Ron Bupp will present a talk about the small arms of the Civil War.

# **SATURDAY JUNE 27 - Continued**

## **🔥 Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours**

12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM, meet at Zimmerman Center  
Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

## **🔥 Columbia Architectural Walking Tour**

10 AM - 11 AM and 2 PM - 3 PM, Walking Tour, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

## **🔥 !! The Underground Railroad: Beyond the Susquehanna Van Tour**

10 AM - 12:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

## **🔥 !! Once Upon a Barstool: Stories of Marietta Taverns Van Tour**

10 AM - 11:15 AM, 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM, 1 PM - 2:15 PM  
meet at Musselman Vesta Iron Furnace Center  
Presented by Rivertownes PA USA

## **FREE Historic Mifflin Farm Tour**

10:30 AM, 12:30 PM, 2:30 PM  
Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area  
**Plus, meet the reenactors from the 3rd Regiment of United States Colored Troops between 11 AM and 6 PM**

## **FREE Old Brickyard Tours of Mount Bethel Cemetery**

11 AM, 3 PM  
Presented by Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery

## **FREE Burning of the Bridge Diorama**

1 PM, 2 PM & 3 PM, tours begin on the hour  
Presented by Historic Wrightsville Incorporated

## **FREE Columbia Historic Preservation Society Open**

1 PM - 4 PM

## **🔥 !! Marietta's Hidden Legacy: Notable African Americans Past & Present, who helped shape the nation**

1 PM, Lecture at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center

## **🔥 Tea with Susannah Wright**

1 PM - 3 PM, at Mount Bethel Cemetery  
Presented by Friends of Mount Bethel Cemetery

Enjoy high tea with Susannah Wright, portrayed by Janet Wood. Susannah Wright was a prominent 18th-century resident of what is now Columbia, Pennsylvania, known for her intelligence, independence, and influential role in her community.

## **🔥 Free African Communities of the Susquehanna Van Tour**

2 PM - 4:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing  
Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

## **FREE !! Fields of Fire**

5 PM - 7 PM at Historic Mifflin Farm  
Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

Enjoy live acoustic music by Dill Weed and food trucks serving up tacos, pretzels, and more. Bring your own chair to relax by the fire pits and learn about the artillery positioned on the farm and their role in the burning of the bridge.

# SUNDAY JUNE 28

## **Free African Communities of the Susquehanna Van Tour**

10 AM - 12:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing

Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

## **!!! Marietta's Lumber & Iron Industries Walking Tour**

10 AM, 11 AM, 12 PM, meet at Musselman Vesta Iron Furnace Center

Presented by Rivertownes PA USA

## **Historic Mifflin Farm Tour**

10:30 AM, 2:30 PM

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

## **Flames Across the Susquehanna Boat Tours**

12 PM, 2 PM and 4 PM, meet at Zimmerman Center

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

## **!!! Living the Experience: Underground Railroad Reenactment**

12:30 PM at Historic Mifflin Farm

Presented by Bethel AME Church/Living the Experience

## **Burning of the Bridge Diorama**

1 PM, 2 PM & 3 PM, tours begin on the hour

Presented by Historic Wrightsville Incorporated

## **Columbia Historic Preservation Society Open**

1 PM - 4 PM

## **!!! Historic Wrightsville Scavenger Hunt & Museum Activities**

1 PM - 5 PM, Historic Wrightsville Museum

Presented by Historic Wrightsville Incorporated

**2 PM - 3 PM:** C. Dahl Denning will present "Washington's Return Trip to Philadelphia, June 1791."

**3:30 PM:** Scavenger Hunt ends and prizes are awarded.

**4 PM - 5 PM:** Rob Bupp will present "Artillery Used at Gettysburg."

## **Musselman Vesta Iron Furnace Center**

1 PM - 3 PM, Museum Open

Presented by Rivertownes PA USA

## **!!! The Underground Railroad: Beyond the Susquehanna Van Tour**

2 PM - 4:30 PM, meet at Columbia Crossing

Presented by the African American Historical Society of South Central Pennsylvania

## **Bringing the Heat: Inside the 1863 Bridge Burning with Scott Mingus**

5 PM - 6 PM, at Columbia Crossing River Trails Center

Presented by Columbia 300th Committee & Columbia Parks & Recreation

**Buy Tickets [www.RiverfestPA.com](http://www.RiverfestPA.com)**



**SUNDAY JUNE 28**

# RIVERFEST FINALE

Susquehanna National Heritage Area will light all 26 historic piers across the river ablaze this year at 7:45 PM. This special spectacle has been funded by the Wright's Ferry Mansion, Louise Steinman von Hess Foundation, in memory of Louise McClure Tinsley Steinman von Hess. We invite you to view the piers from one of four different locations:

## **Burning Bridge Bash VIP Party**

7 PM – 9:30 PM, in the River Room at John Wright Restaurant

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

**\$75**

Limited to just 100 guests, this special evening includes premium patio views overlooking the river and the burning bridge piers, robust fire-themed appetizers, and one complimentary drink ticket. Meet one of the community advocates who helped rehab the historic piers more than 20 years ago.

## **Riverfest Ignite Finale**

5 PM – 9 PM, at John Wright Restaurant Lawn

Presented by Rivertownes PA USA & Susquehanna National Heritage Area

**FREE**

Bring your own lawn chair to relax on the lawn, listen to Big Boy Brass Band, and meet the heritage organizations that put this weekend-long event together. Kayak excursions during the pier lightings are available from KayakLanCo! Be amazed by a riverfront fire juggling and breathing show at 8:30 PM.

## **Columbia 300<sup>th</sup> Light the Night Watch Party**

6 PM – 8 PM, at Columbia River Park

Presented by Columbia 300<sup>th</sup> Committee & Columbia Parks & Recreation

**FREE**

Bring your own lawn chair to relax on the lawn, listen to Maxwell Project, and learn about Columbia's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Enjoy food and drink from vendors too.

## **Veterans Memorial Bridge Pedestrians Only**

7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Presented by Susquehanna National Heritage Area

**FREE**

View the fiery piers up close by walking across the historic Veterans Memorial Bridge. The bridge will be completely closed to vehicular traffic during this unique spectacle.



# EVENT LOCATIONS



**Columbia Crossing River Trails Center**  
41 Walnut Street, Columbia, PA



**John Wright Restaurant and Lawn**  
234 North Front Street, Wrightsville, PA



**Musselman Vesta Iron Furnace Center**  
26 Furnace Road, Marietta, PA



**Burning of the Bridge Diorama**  
124 Hellam Street, Wrightsville, PA



**Wrightsville Historical Museum**  
309 Locust Street, Wrightsville, PA



**Historic Mifflin Farm**  
202 Cool Springs Road, Wrightsville, PA



**Zimmerman Center for Heritage**  
1706 Long Level Road, Wrightsville, PA



**Columbia Historic Preservation Society**  
21 N Second Street, Columbia, PA

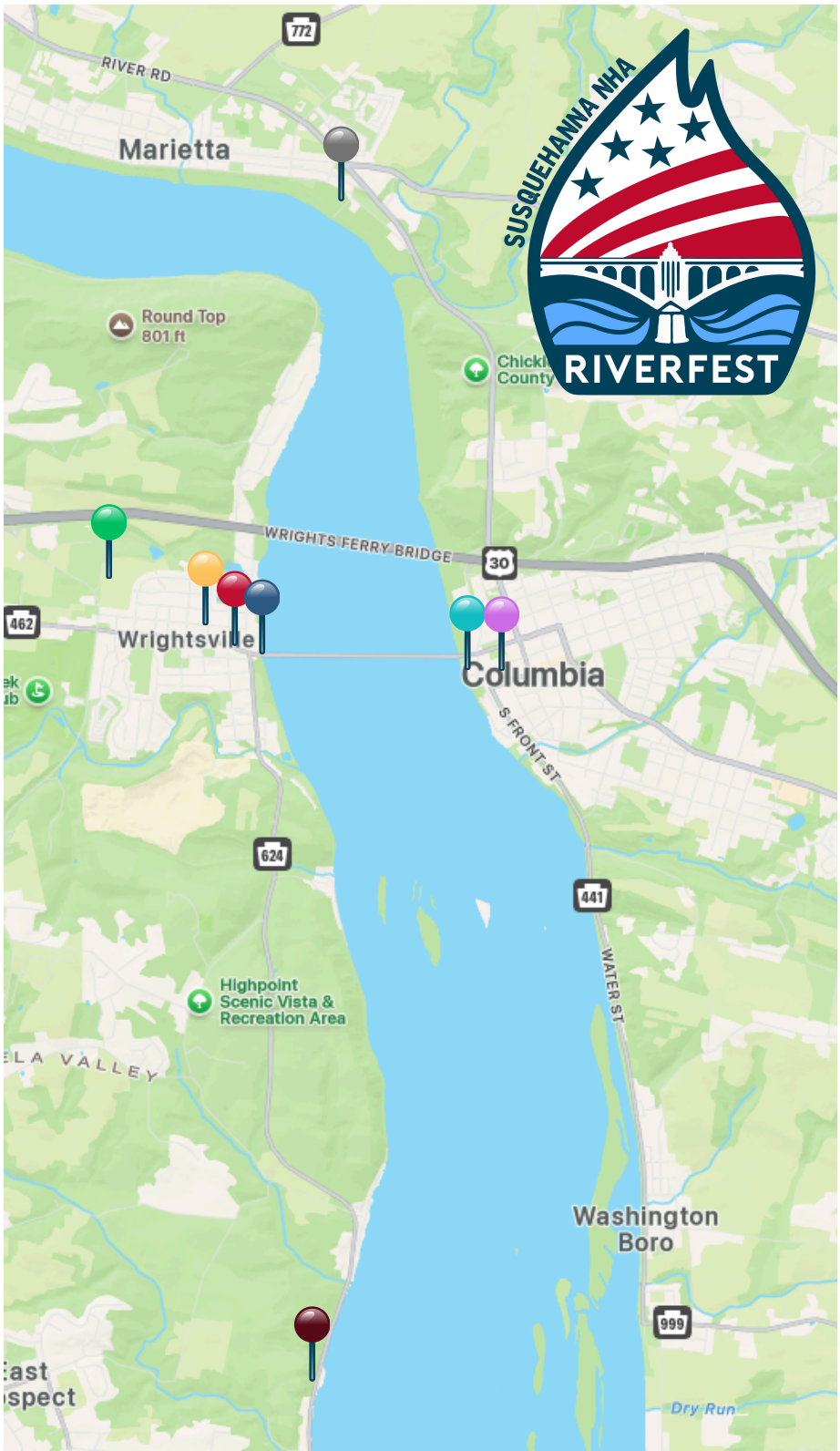
# PARKING

## 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!

Need help? Call Susquehanna National Heritage Area at 717-449-5607 ext 0 to reach our friendly staff.



Marietta

Round Top  
801 ft

SUSQUEHANNA NHA

Chick  
County

RIVERFEST

WRIGHTS FERRY BRIDGE

30

462

Wrightsville

Columbia

S FRONT ST

624

Highpoint  
Scenic Vista &  
Recreation Area

441

WATER ST

ELA VALLEY

Washington  
Boro

999

Dry Run

East  
Aspect