

Kids Korner

New Sorghum Maze Opens In Blair County

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
ROARING SPRING (Blair County) — Kids of all ages can enjoy what is probably Pennsylvania's newest maze located behind the Hinish Farm Market in Roaring Spring.

"We've been visiting other mazes and decided to try one on a smaller scale," says Neil Hinish. "It was my wife, Cindy, and I who actually cut through the trail.

Planning way ahead, the Hinish family planted more than seven acres of sorghum in June. "We knew it would grow fast and actually hoped it would get taller than it has," explains Neil as he gestures to the eight-foot plants. "Also, recent hard rains have taken some of the stalks down, more than we had hoped. But, everyone still seems to be having a good time."

When the stalks were about knee high, Neil mowed the first path. As the stalks grew, either he or Cindy continued with the pathway. The path is approximately 15-inches wide.

Since the Hinish Farm grows mostly apples, they decided to stick with an apple theme. Arriving at the maze, visitors are given a sheet of paper with pictures of



Kate Bassler and Mallory Burns, both of Roaring Spring, enjoy the Hinish Maze on a cloudy Sunday afternoon.

ting lost forever. "Actually," says Joe Feather, a young attendant, "We keep track of everyone who enters the maze. If they don't come out in a couple of hours, we would go look for them."

To date the shortest amount of time in completing the maze has been 20 minutes. The longest has been an hour and 45 minutes. Average is about 40 to 45 minutes.

"So far we are pleased with the success," says Neil. "We have had teens and a lot of families with small children and are getting some youth and Scout groups." "We thought we could get some real excitement for the older kids by holding a flashlight hunt. We plan to do one on Halloween eve and maybe another prior to that."

Folks who enjoy the maze can also enjoy the neat, clean, and attractively arranged fruit market, which is open, almost all year. The Hinish family sells their own peaches and apples and an array of other locally grown fruits and vegetables as well as crafts. The bakeshop, always a popular item, has pies, gobs, cookies and, of course, apple dumplings.

The maze is open to the public on Thursday and Fridays from 3:30 until 7:30 p.m. Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. until October 29. Cost is \$3 per person.

Neil Hinish can be contacted at HYPERLINKmailto:CLHINISH@aol.com CLHINISH@aol.com.

Johnny Appleseed and colors listed below. The maze wanderer must take stickers from each location to attach to the sheet.

If a child, age 10 or under, finds all the stickers, he or she is treated to a cookie at the farm market bakery. Adults who complete the scavenger hunt can enter a weekly drawing for prizes. First prize will be a fresh fruit pie baked at the Hinish bakery or a T-shirt, and second prize is a gift certificate.

There are colored flags available if anyone has a fear of get-

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WALKINGSTICK

Is choosing my socks important?
It may seem ridiculous for Bob and I to talk about choosing the right socks, but have you ever stopped to think about the wide variety available? Some people may require special styles or colors, even certain fabrics in their socks. And choosing the right pair is important for happy feet. If your feet are uncomfortable, the rest of your body doesn't feel so good either. (Just ask us, we have lots of feet and we know what we're talking about!) Commonly used fibers used to make socks include cotton, wool, nylon, acrylic, polyester, olefin, and spandex. Some people even have socks made from linen, cashmere or silk! Socks are knitted to give them stretch and the ability to conform to the foot and leg. Men have four major types of socks to choose from—dress, casual, sport and work. Women usually wear socks for casual or sports activities. They may be ankle length, calf-length or knee length. There are summer and winter socks, sports socks and thermal socks. Why so many choices? Sock companies want to make us and our feet comfortable. In fact, special sock scientists—also called designers—spend hours trying to create the perfect pair of socks for us!

Scientifically yours,
Twig



Neil Hinish converses with attendants Joe Feather and Mary Heaton.

Pumpkin Patch Weekend

LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.) — Take a horse-drawn wagon ride to Landis Valley Museum's pumpkin patch and select one to carve and decorate during Pumpkin Patch Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 21, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 22, noon-5 p.m., at the museum's living history village of Pennsylvania Dutch life.

In addition to pumpkins, there is the opportunity to create a scarecrow, listen to storytellers, and hear live folk music. Sample pumpkin bread and shoofly pie made in the museum's outdoor bake oven.

Stroll the museum's picturesque 19th century village, and tour the tavern, country store,

Victorian hotel and schoolhouse. See the barns and farm animals.

The event will be held rain or shine and adjacent parking is free.

The Landis Valley Museum is located 2.5 miles north of downtown Lancaster on Rt. 272/Oregon Pike. For more information, call (717) 569-0401.