

Garrett County Spring Adventures

Garrett County, Maryland, has broad shoulders. It's not just the beautiful mountains that support skiers and snow boarders in winter and the expanse of Deep Creek Lake and the wild rivers and streams that lure summer visitors. Garrett County has worked hard to broaden its shoulder seasons, spring and fall, to provide a truly year-round experience.

Although March still offers opportunities for snow sports, Wisp Resort recognizes the change of season on March 20-21 with its annual Beachin' Weekend

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with live music, games, and the Cardboard Box Derby for which the tubing park turns into a downhill course. "You might see a Red Baron or a Yellow Submarine sliding down the course," says John McCracken, of Wisp Resort. "People go all out in decorating their boxes."

Wisp saves the last of the winter snow for the Memorial Day Rail Jam. The snow is piled at the tubing park and covered with hay until May 29 when the competition and demonstrations take place with many spectators seated in lawn chairs.

Fly Fishing

Garrett County draws anglers for fly fishing because it offers a "grand slam" opportunity, since all five types of trout can be caught in the Western Maryland county's waterways.

Wisp is among the Garrett County outfitters that offer fishing guide services. "All our guides are Orvis trained," says Lori Epp, who promotes Wisp. "Carrying the Orvis name is really prestigious."

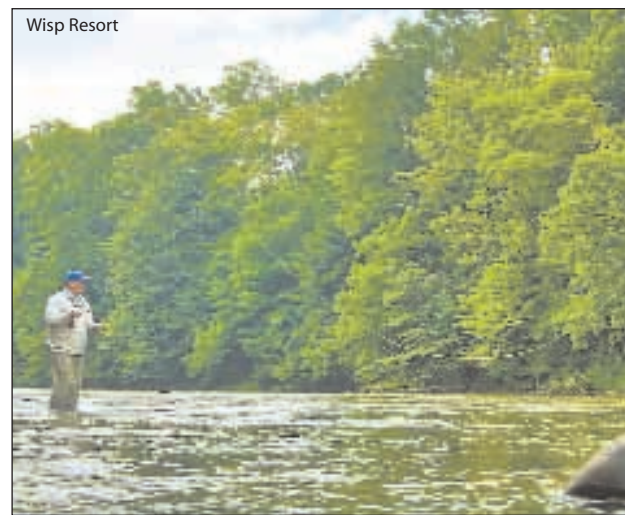
Wisp offers learn-to packages with equipment and instruction, as well as half-day experiences and full-day float trips for veteran anglers.

The county's mountain streams have raised generations of anglers and its tourism website (www.visitdeepcreek.com) lists nine fly fishing businesses.

Golf Emerges in the Spring

As the snow melts, the county's two golf courses change, switching from cross-country ski terrain to fairways and greens. Wisp's course opened four new holes last season and boasts a new golf cart fleet this year.

Just minutes from Deep Creek Lake, Oakland Golf Club is a public course with six Par 3 holes that might be the most challenging in the region. In fact, if you can validate a total score of par or better on them, golf pro Pat Warren says your next green fee is on the club!



Garrett County offers a "grand slam" opportunity for catching all five types of trout.

Cooking and Wine

Haley Farm Bed and Breakfast, Spa, and Retreat Center takes on a different aura on April 24 as actor Mary Ann Jung portrays Julia Child and talks about her two loves, French cooking and her husband. The event includes tea and the movie *Julie & Julia*.

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BEFORE YOU GO

Garrett County Tourism: 301-387-4386,
www.visitdeepcreek.com
Wisp Resort: 301-387-4911, www.wispresort.com

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