

## Fall Tour

*The trees are in their autumn beauty  
The woodland paths are dry  
Under the October twilight  
The water mirrors a still sky*  
**William Butler Yeats**



**Autumn usually hits Crawford County in full force around the second or third week of October. All it takes is a hard frost to draw out the vibrant fall colors that signal the true end of summer. Then almost overnight the trees seem to explode with vivid yellows, reds, pinks and oranges. It is one of the best times of the year to take a driving tour through Crawford County's beautiful landscapes.**

**On this tour we'll enter the county at the state line on Route 198, a pleasant two-lane road that winds through the Pennsylvania countryside. Like most of the secondary roads in the county, it cuts through a combination of farm country and wooded areas populated with a mix of evergreen and hardwood trees. Of course it is the hardwoods that put on the real show as the chlorophyll drains from their leaves allowing their fall colors to emerge.**



**After following 198 about four miles you'll come to the village of Palmer, a tiny four-corners community designated only by Palmer United Methodist Church. After Palmer, the road will twist and turn for another four miles until you come to a tee in the road. At this stop sign turn left. You are now in Conneautville. Within a few tenths of a mile you will cross over Conneaut Creek and the Bessemer railroad and come to another stop sign. You'll be turning right. Routes 198 and 18 join here briefly. Samuel's Market is at this corner and is a good place to gas up or grab snacks for the road. If you need something more substantial, head to Ruth's, a local restaurant a short way down the street. Founded in 1844, this small community was located along the banks of the Erie Canal and was a thriving farming and manufacturing town. It is still surrounded by fertile farmland.**

**Follow 198 and 18 about a mile and a half through town until 198 splits off to the left. Rigby Used car lot will be at this corner. Take this left and follow 198 east towards Saegertown. The next few miles of road are lined with hardwood forests; the rustic colors of the maples and oaks make this a particularly pleasant part of the drive.**



**As we head east, the next village we'll come to is Norrisville, another four corners village marked by a Methodist church. A few miles beyond Norrisville, the road will begin a fairly steep descent for about mile, at the bottom of this hill is a stop sign and flashing red light at the intersection of Routes 198 and 98. We will continue straight on 198. The road will begin to ascend again. At the top of the ascent we will pass under Interstate 79 at approximately 18 miles since we began at the state line.**

**The road between here and Saegertown is very winding with a few nearly 90 degree turns, so take your time and enjoy the scenery. As we approach Saegertown, we will go over a bridge spanning French Creek and will then come to a stop sign at a tee. Take a right. At this turn 198 will run with routes 6 and 19 through town for about a mile. At the Saegertown Plaza we will follow 198 to the left. This turn is about 22 miles since the starting point of the trip.**



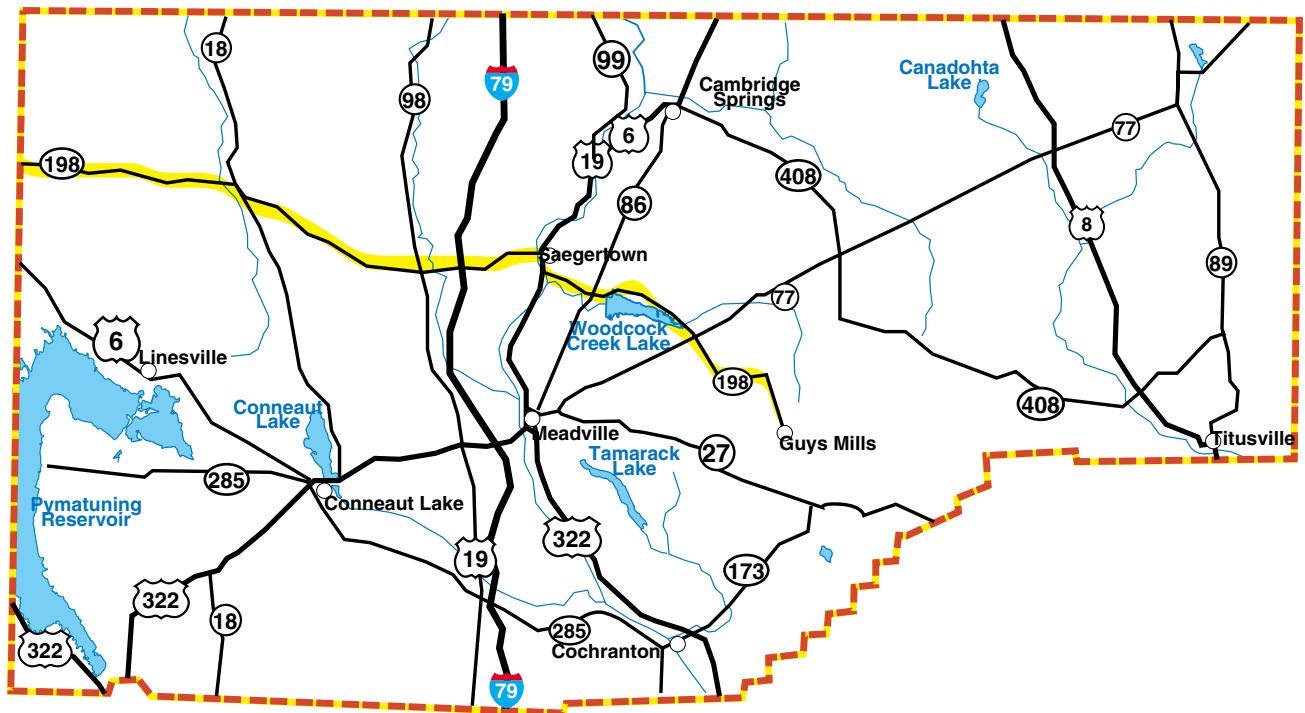
**Heading east, about two miles further, we will come to a stop sign at the intersection of 198 and Route 86. Turn right and then take an almost immediate left as 198 continues east. The Ice Cream Cottage is at this corner if you are in the mood for a bite to eat.**

**After taking our left we will be entering the Woodcock Dam and Reservoir area. There are picnic areas, hiking trails and camping facilities along with boating and fishing in the Woodcock Reservoir. If you have packed a picnic lunch or dinner this is a perfect spot to stop. If you want to stretch your legs, you can walk across the flat, paved surface of Woodcock Dam, which is great for a leisurely stroll or jogging, and roller blading. For a more challenging hike try the Bossard Nature Trail at the Bossard Nature Center. The hike, which takes about an hour, follows a loop along the ridges above Woodcock Creek and then descends into the creek valley where you'll find a series of small waterfalls.**



**Colonel Crawford Park is also located in this area and offers boating, camping and picnic facilities. Access to all these attractions are close together and easy to find.**

**About four miles on ahead, we come to Blooming Valley at the intersection of Routes 198 and 77. There is a small general store at this corner if you need to make a stop. A few miles further east, we'll come to Guys Mills, which will be the end of the road for this tour. 198 continues on towards Titusville and the Oil Heritage Region, but that's a trip for another day. We covered 36 miles of road and enjoyed a lot of autumn color in a wonderful, enchanted time of year in Crawford County Pennsylvania.**



**Roads To Take:** Route 198

**Points of Interest:** Woodcock Dam & Reservoir, Bossard Nature Center, Colonel Crawford State Park

**Communities:** Palmer, Conneautville, Norrisville, Saegertown, Blooming Valley, Guys Mills

