



The Lodge at Woodloch Breaks Ground for New Orchard

Adding a new eco-system while bringing the property back to its 70+ year-old lustrous farm history is a dream come true

For Immediate Release: Hawley, PA, August 12, 2015- In this fast-paced world, there is one thing that can be counted on to be slow and sure- nature. This past Arbor Day, the garden team at The Lodge at Woodloch broke ground for a new orchard that will complement the Farm-to-Table Garden and add to the eco-system of the property.

The Lodge at Woodloch, an award-winning destination spa resort located in Northeast Pennsylvania chose to expand their farm-to-table offerings through the expansion of their fruit, vegetable, and herb production through an orchard as a way to pay homage to the past. Apple trees that are approximately 70+ years old were found on their newly acquired property and remnants of an orchard and working farm gave the team a vision and a dream. “Having an organic and sustainable orchard on property is a long-term dream which is hard to grasp in this society that is assimilated to immediate gratification,” explains Derrick Braun, Organic Farmer at The Lodge at Woodloch. “By working with nature, and not against her, we will be creating a healthy, diverse, and resilient system that will benefit our eco-system and soil.”

The team celebrated Arbor Day by planting over 65 trees in the newly fenced 2-acre area. The orchard will bring new harvests of apples (one variety grafted from the original apples trees found on the property), pears, Asian pears, peaches and plums. The orchard will be supported by companion plants such as currants, mint, rhubarb, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries and other herbs and plants that help support the trees and the helpful wildlife (birds, bees, butterflies and more) that sustain the environment. There will be a total of 250 new plants and trees in the orchard area!

Grafting is a horticultural technique which inserts tissues from one plant into another so that the two sets of vascular tissues can join together (inosculation). In this case, the new trees were selected for their roots and the 70+ year old apple trees were selected because of their fruits. The older apples trees’ genes will be duplicated for future production if the graft takes (vascular connection takes place). This process usually takes a few weeks and is not always successful.

While at the beginning, the trees seem like small sprigs even though they are 5-8 feet tall. The vast forest surroundings at The Lodge at Woodloch make the orchard seem so small compared to the mental picture that an orchard might typically conjure. However, once the trees are established, they will provide a large yield of fruit for decades to come, requiring little human input. Comparing that idea to the growth of annual vegetables in the garden that requires planting, weeding, watering and pest control it was an easy decision. By late summer next year, there will be fruit production and within 3-5 years there will be enough fruit for the property to utilize as well as provide new guest programming such as cider pressing and apple or berry picking. As a deep-rooted, long-lived perennial, the orchard will have time to adapt to the Northeast Pennsylvania and be more resilient.

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The benefits of this dream come true will continue to grow as well. Orchards offer a space to learn from each other and nature, and a place in which the training of traditional skills can occur, such as pruning and grafting. The Lodge at Woodloch's orchard will help improve the soil and rain-water capture. It will provide a sanctuary for birds and wildlife and will promote locally grown foods while saving on fossil fuels of shipping fruits from afar.

The companion plants that will be grown with the Orchard were selected very carefully by the garden team. The plants used underneath orchard trees can serve a multitude of functions. Some of the benefits of companion planting underneath a fruit tree are for pest prevention, beneficial attraction, scent masking, soil remediation and general beautification, but the common goal is generally the health and fruit production of the primary tree.

The new orchard is located along the Blue Nature Trail on the property map and can be enjoyed throughout each season. With the property celebrating its ten year anniversary in 2016, having an orchard to help mark the anniversary and the years to come will be just one more *notch in the branch* for having this new amazing resource.

About The Lodge at Woodloch:

The Lodge at Woodloch is one of the finest all-inclusive [luxury destination spa resorts](#) in the U.S., offering complete spa programs, treatments, outdoor adventure activities, golf, classes and packages in a pristine mountain retreat environment. Located on over 400+ wooded acres with a private lake in the Lake Region of Northeast Pennsylvania, The Lodge provides an oasis for personal awakening and renewal just 2 ½ hours outside of New York City. The award-winning property features 57 luxury accommodations, a 40,000-square-foot spa, gourmet restaurant and more. Additional information and reservations are available toll-free at 1-800-WOODLOCH or visit TheLodgeatWoodloch.com, [Facebook.com/LodgeAtWoodloch](https://www.facebook.com/LodgeAtWoodloch), Twitter ([@LodgeatWoodloch](https://twitter.com/LodgeatWoodloch)) and Pinterest ([@LodgeatWoodloch](https://www.pinterest.com/LodgeatWoodloch)).

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