Day Tripping - September 2023

This month we are traveling to the Trexler Nature Preserve in the Lehigh Valley. The Preserve is located on 5150 Game Preserve Road, Schnecksville, PA. It is a 1,108-acre public park that not only focuses on land conservation but also protects endangered bison and elk.

Part of the preserve is The Lehigh Valley Zoo. It is less than an hour drive either down the turnpike or other roads through Lehighton, Palmerton, Slatington, and Schnecksville.

General Harry C. Trexler (1854-1933) purchased the land to create a game preserve to protect bison, elk, and white-tailed deer. Then in 1933, he gave the land to Lehigh County in his will. Today, there are many opportunities to explore and experience nature. The hills offer views of the Lehigh Valley. There are 18 miles of trails for wildlife observation, bird watching, hiking, walking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. There is also an ADA trail providing access to Jordan Creek for fishing and picnics.

The trails in Trexler vary in difficulty. Here are some of the best suggested by AllTrails. https://www.alltrails.com/parks/us/pennsylvania/trexler-nature-preserve If you are not up to hiking, there is a great road through the preserve that you can drive. You will see the bison and elk. You can stop along the way and enjoy the hills and scenery.

Also located near the preserve is the Geiger Covered Bridge that dates back to 1860. it crosses over Jordan Creek and spans 112 feet. There are several other covered bridges in the area and I will take us on the Lehigh Valley Covered Bridge (12 of them) Trail next month.

Located in the preserve is the Lehigh Valley Zoo, home to more than 275 animals . It is a very peaceful, and well kept zoo. Our grandkids really enjoyed themselves as they saw the animals, played in a farm setting and had their pictures taken at many board scenes. The price for the zoo is reasonable at $16.00, adults; $15.00 seniors, $14.00, children 2-11. For more information see: https://www.lvzoo.org/