Welcome to Pennsylvania’s Crawford Lake Lands Scenic Byway! Crawford County has a great deal to offer in terms of scenery and with eight major lakes all right here, it’s easy to see why! This driving tour will focus on our two largest lakes – Pymatuning Lake and Conneaut Lake - as well as many of the attractions and fun things to see during your drive. We will also look at the history of the region and you might even learn some fun facts along the way. We hope you enjoy!

We will start our tour at the Western Gateway to Route 6, just outside of Linesville at the Pennsylvania/Ohio border. The designation of the “Western Gateway to Route 6” was granted to Linesville by an official act of legislation, proposed by Senator Robbins, in the form of Senate Bill 1206 which was ultimately passed becoming Act 183. Another fun fact; Route 6 was named Pennsylvania’s twelfth Heritage Park by Governor Rendell in 2005 – so as you can see this portion of Route 6 is an important area of the State!

Begin your tour by heading east on Route 6 and right away you will see why people rave about the scenery of Crawford County. This area is almost entirely untouched by man making the real beauty of nature stand out. After following Route 6 East for about two miles you will begin to catch glimpses of Pymatuning Lake. Pymatuning Lake is Pennsylvania’s largest man-made lake with 64 billion gallons of water and a maximum depth of 35 feet. As a result of its size, it is home to an incredibly diverse population of wildlife.

We’ll talk more about Pymatuning later on in the tour but for now, let’s make our way on to Linesville, about seven miles away from the Pennsylvania/Ohio border. Linesville is a quiet little community with a few small shops and restaurants lining the streets of the downtown area. If you are looking for a place to shop, Treasured Gifts is a great place to stop as you are driving through town. Right next door are two great places to eat - Rebecca’s Family Restaurant and Ginny’s Bulk Foods – these are shops that have been around for a long time and are definitely worth a look. Right across the street from these stores is Knickerbocker, a family owned haunted Inn which is always an interesting place to stop and look around. The Linesville Museum is also in town and is a good way to learn more about the history of the area.

After making your way through Linesville you will be once again entering through a rural section of the county where large fields line the sides of the road and make this part of the drive very pleasant. Soon after you go through Linesville, Route 6 will split with Harmonburg Road; stay on Route 6 East heading towards Conneaut Lake.
Conneaut Lake is a community full of history and culture. The Berry Basket is a great place to stop on your way into town. This is another small gift store that features gifts, novelties, candles, quilts, and angels. Once you make your way into town keep an eye out for Ice House Park, a newly renovated lakeside park which features benches and a small boardwalk that looks out over the serene and scenic view of the lake from the shore – a perfect place to stop on a scenic driving tour! The Ice House Park currently sits on the previous site of The Ice House Company, a company founded in 1878 that shipped large blocks of ice all over the country. The annual harvest was estimated to have been around 100,000 pounds of ice annually which was enough to meet the needs of about a third of New York City. Refrigerator units quickly made ice harvesting obsolete but the incredible history of the company lives on in the park.

One you are ready to move on from the Park, go just across the street to Conneaut Cellars Winery, famous for several award winning wines. If you didn’t get a bite to eat in Linesville, Silver Shores Restaurant is another great place to stop. Silver Shores is right down the street from Ice House Park and Conneaut Cellars Winery and its dining room has a beautiful view of the lake that is not to be missed.

After visiting all the places to see in Conneaut Lake we will make our way down to the road to Route 18 where you will turn left. Route 18 will take you right along the edge of Conneaut Lake which should prove to be a great view. Conneaut Lake itself is the largest natural glacial lake in Pennsylvania and is about a mile long and over 50 feet deep at its deepest point! The natural beauty of this lake makes it truly a sight to behold so be sure to take your time and enjoy. In addition to its beauty Conneaut Lake is also one of the best fishing spots in the State. The state records for both Muskellunge and White Bass are currently held at Conneaut Lake making it a destination for anglers. In fact, the Muskellunge caught at Conneaut Lake weighed in at just over 54 pounds making it one of the largest fish caught on record in Pennsylvania.

After following this Route 18 for some time you will eventually pass the lake and run into Route 618 – take a left here. Route 618 will take you down the other side of Conneaut Lake which features lots chances for family fun. Conneaut Lake Park, one of the oldest parks still in operation, will be on your left as you head south on Route 618 (you can’t miss it). This is a great place to stop during the summer months and the park has entertainment suitable for all ages, not to mention the great view from their 650 foot boardwalk! The park is free to enter and is also home to the 6th oldest wooden roller coaster, The Blue Streak – a true American treasure.

After visiting the park, continue going south on Route 618 until you hit Route 6 once again. Make a left onto Route 6 (towards Conneaut Lake) and then make a right onto Route 285 about a half a mile down the road.
A couple of miles after turning onto Route 285 you will start to enter the State Game Lands near Pymatuning State Park. These areas are perfect for hunting if you are from out of town and are well regulated by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. After driving through the game lands you will once again begin to enter the greater area of Pymatuning Reservoir. Pymatuning was once a large swampy area that was of little value in terms of its agricultural uses. Since the building of the Pymatuning Dam, this swamp has turned into an ecological hot spot for the local wildlife and the Pymatuning State Park Area is now visited by approximately 3.1 million people annually. One of the major wildlife attractions at Pymatuning is a chance at sighting a Bald Eagle. These majestic creatures were nearly driven to extinction as a result of deforestation and poaching but have made an astonishing recovery thanks to local efforts of reintroducing injured eagles back into the wild.

About five miles after turning onto Route 285 you will come to the intersection of Hartstown Road and Route 285. If you continue straight onto Route 285 you will continue on towards the largest part of Pymatuning after which you will enter into Ohio and you can loop around back to where we started our tour. If you take a right onto Hartstown, you will make your way towards the smaller section of Pymatuning and the Spillway – one of the most popular attractions in Crawford County! The Spillway is one of the most apparent examples of why Pymatuning is considered such a large ecological center and is the only place in the lake where people can actually feed the fish. Not only do people feed the fish here but the fish actually come in droves to be fed! The spillway is truly a sight worth seeing and is a great destination for children of all ages.

This concludes Pennsylvania’s Crawford Lake Lands Scenic Byway! Please visit us again at VisitCrawford.org for more driving tours as well as more things to do in Crawford County. Also feel free to call us at 814-333-1258.
YOUR TOUR AT A GLANCE