



## Glenlaurel's Melissa McConnell shares with Rotarians about the inn

By Lindzay Mason and Dave Horning // December 9, 2025

(HOCKING COUNTY) — In November, Innkeeper Melissa McConnell came to speak to Circleville Noon Rotary about Glenlaurel, the Scottish Inn & Cottages located at 14940 Mount Olive Road in Rockbridge, just 12 miles east of Laurelville in Hocking County.



Glenlaurel has an inn with rooms and suites as well as crofts (small cottages) and full-sized cottages for guests to stay in. Each room, suite, croft and cottage has accommodations for up to two people. McConnell explained that “people come here for memories. They come here for occasions, special occasions, or to create special occasions to make happy memories.”

An example of a Glenlaurel croft, a small cottage for just two to enjoy, with its own outdoor deck and personal hot tub.

These memories are reserved for adults only — no children, no pets.

On special occasions, such as Thanksgiving Lunch or Mother's Day, children ages 12 and older are allowed to come and dine in the dining room.

“Our maximum capacity at the dining room is 44. We have 22 guest accommodations, so when everything's full, we have 44 guests.”

“When everything's not full or some people are choosing not to dine, and that's when we'll take people for dinner only, with advance reservations required,” McConnell explained.

Dinner is six to seven courses, but McConnell stated that “the only thing guests know, as far as what their menu is going to be, is what they choose for an entree. We have a feature every day, and that is the entree for the night, or people can choose to divert to an alternate entree. But beyond that, the chef usually comes in and looks at the menu from the day before and what’s in-house and creates the menu that day for that evening.”

Glenlaurel also serves breakfast. “Breakfast is for everybody on the property, so if you stay overnight, you get breakfast. It’s a three-course breakfast,” McConnell said.

Aside from meals, Glenlaurel has other activities to offer its guests.

“We do have, on property, a Scottish Links golf course, which is an eight-hole golf course built around the architecture of the land. People play golf on treated sand greens with sand tees. The golf balls are about 50 to 60 percent of the weight of normal golf balls, and you play with 100+ year-old hickory shaft clubs. So, it’s very whimsical. It’s very fun,” McConnell said.

“In addition to the Scottish Links Golf, we also have on our 140-acre property hiking trails that are exclusively for our guests. And pickleball, bocce ball, horseshoes. Some people come and venture out into Hocking Hills and hike or do other things. Other people come and settle in and just stay on property and totally restore and relax. Read during the daytime, enjoy the personal hot tubs that are available on an outdoor deck for each croft or cottage, enjoy the meals... We do not have network TV. The owners really don’t want people to come in and sit and watch TV. They want them to come in and reconnect with whoever they’re there with, or find solitude, find rest,” she continued.



As for the owners, the original owner was Michael Daniels.

McConnell explained that he had a “dream or vision” about the place, and so he had it built that way. It was meant to be a tribute to Ceymus McTavish, a Scottish country estate, in honor of Daniels’ heritage.

The ground was broken in '93, and the doors were opened in '94. He lived here; he greeted guests in kilt and tails (a formal Scottish Highland dress outfit), and loved having people here.

“The current owners are primarily three businessmen from Columbus. They purchased it in 2005, and they’re very invested. Two of the three are very active in running the inn. When they’re not onsite, there are six senior team members who work under their direction to keep things running. My husband and I are two of the managers, and we do live on-site,” McConnell stated.

When McConnell was finished, a few Rotarians asked her some questions. One was about how it works for groups, an example of six sisters was given.

Her answer was that groups do come in, but accommodations would need to be arranged prior. As stated, Glenlaurel’s rooms and suites only have room for up to two people. McConnell explained, “you would either need like three accommodations and double up, or six accommodations if you wanted privacy.”

Another question referred to dietary restrictions — gluten and dairy specifically.

McConnell stated that it is possible for those people to eat at the Inn, but that a ‘no cross-contamination promise’ cannot be made. She shared that the chefs are willing and able to work around those sorts of things.

A third question was about costs and discounts. McConnell said that their guest services manager is the one who coordinates with the owners to potentially provide them with some sort of discount.

McConnell responded that no discounts are guaranteed, but would be considered depending on the time of year.

As for pricing, it can range depending on the time of year as well as the size of the room or cottage. Of course, larger spaces and busier times will cause prices to be more expensive than smaller rooms and less popular stay times.

Glenlaurel, A Scottish Inn & Cottages can be reached at **740-385-4070**. Their website has more information as well as booking, and is [glenlaurel.com](http://glenlaurel.com). They can also be emailed at [info@glenlaurel.com](mailto:info@glenlaurel.com).

