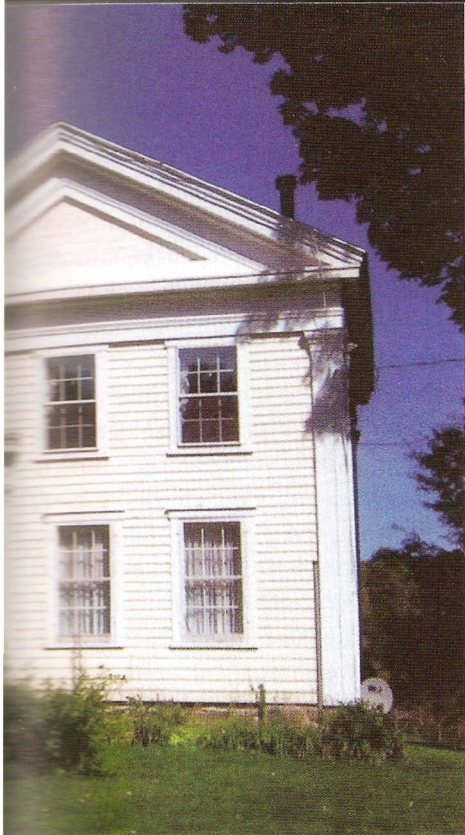


The Bucolic La Basse Cour

by Joe Munster
photography by the author unless otherwise noted





La Basse Cour is a charming French phrase that literally translates to "lower courtyard" but actually means "The Farmyard" where the chickens range free. La Basse Cour B&B is part of a diversified working farm, set in pasture lands on 32 acres of rolling hillside in rural Delaware County.

Kaatskill LODGINGS

Diane Frances and her husband Larry Hepner are uniquely suited to run such a special lodging. Diane spent her childhood vacations near this farm and purchased the large property in 1996. She researched deeds that indicated the land had been farmed as early as 1833. Larry is a professor of agriculture at Delaware Valley College. When they married they jointly decided to create a farm-themed bed and breakfast. Diane is very involved in helping several local not-for-profit organizations, and manages the Headwaters Farmers Market in nearby Stamford on Saturdays in the summer and fall. Together, they are restoring the barns and outbuildings, growing vegetables, raising plump chickens, selling the very freshest brown eggs, and sharing the good life and clean country air with their lucky guests.

Breakfast at La Basse Cour is a special event, where you can have just about anything you desire. Seriously! Just specify your choices when making your reservation and Diane will do her best to accommodate. She bakes fresh breads every morning, like the zucchini bread we had. (Ask for the recipe!) How about blueberry- or pumpkin-flavored pancakes served hot with local pure maple syrup and fresh butter from a nearby creamery? Diane has access to the finest local meats, fruits, veggies, syrups, and dairy products; after all, she is manager of the Farmers Market. Breakfast is served in a brightly lit, warm, cozy, dining room, around an oaken farm table, just off a real farm kitchen where a large wood-burning stove does double duty both as cook stove and heat source. A plentiful supply of split maple logs, of just the right size, is readily at hand, to keep the oven stoked. The kitchen is where the magic happens, and there is always the aroma of something good cooking.





There are two guest bedrooms, each with a private bathroom. Upstairs is a family-oriented chamber with two double beds at opposite ends of a long large space wrapped partly around a staircase. (It is hard to describe, look at the picture.) The cozy downstairs bedroom has a wrought iron and brass double bed. All of the rooms throughout the house have wide plank pine boards and beautiful rugs. Slow down, and sit a while in the warm, comfortable, sitting room, perfect for reading, knitting, or just plain talking. (Remember conversation?)

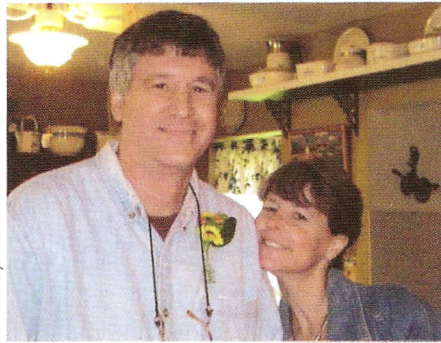
Diane and Larry also operate a farm store and a produce stand at La Basse Cour. At the farm stand on wheels are sold seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, jams and jellies, honey, maple syrup, cut flowers, pickles and preserves, grown without pesticides or herbicides, all on the self-



serve honor system. When we were there a dozen ears of fresh-picked corn cost only \$3.00. At the farm store, in a lovingly restored barn, you can buy grass-fed meats, brown eggs, baked goods, handicrafts, antiques, collectibles and gift items.

Diane and Larry say "Come experience our farm, hear the roosters, walk the fields, fish in the pond, or sit on the porch..." As a guest, you are welcome to explore all 32 acres of the foot trails here. Bring your fishing rod as the pond is stocked with trout and bass. Open year-round, La Basse Cour is dog-friendly. (They have two Jack Russell terriers and two Border collie mixes.) 🐾

La Basse Cour is located at 3228 Gunhouse Hill Road, South Kortright. Make your reservation at (607) 538-9707 or visit www.la-basse-cour.com



Your hosts, Larry Hepner and wife, Diane Frances.

courtesy La Basse Cour



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