

## Scrapbookers make memories at inn

Weekend getaway in Indiana attracts groups of women

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ARCADIA, Ind. — Locals tooling through the Indiana countryside no longer do a double-take when they see a bunch of women in fluffy white robes posing for pictures near a white picket fence topped with a colorfully painted rooster.

They know these women are the latest guests at Crop-A-Doodle-Do, an inn and spa dedicated to scrapbooking fanatics.

The 2-year-old inn is open weekends only, and it typically is booked six months out.

Women come from all over the nation to scrapbook with their friends without the distractions of home.

Guests must bring their own supplies, although the inn has a variety of tools available such as die cuts, stamps, paper cutters and fancy scissors.

Don't worry about forgetting something; scrapbook stores in two neighboring towns offer guests a 10 percent discount.

While scrapbooking is an obvious highlight of the weekend, pampering is a priority, too. It starts with the inn, a charmingly restored 1865 farmhouse on 100 peaceful acres in Hamilton County, 45 minutes north of Indianapolis. The inn sleeps up to 11 in rooms that accommodate groups of two, three and six so you can buddy up with a best friend or have a slumber party.

Rocking chairs gently creak on the porch, and Adirondack chairs are scattered on the grounds facing west so guests can watch the sun set, luring even the most intense scrapbookers outside for a break.

And then there are the meals. While not quite gourmet, co-owners Melissa Keene, Bob and Brenda Webster and Brett Morrow serve Food Network favorites such as the Barefoot Contessa's turkey lasagna and Paula Deen's chicken pot pie.

Their signature offering is a layered cornbread salad served at lunch consisting of a bed of crumbled cornbread topped with Romaine lettuce, cheese and bacon bits, then drizzled with a peppercorn-buttermilk dressing.

But what would a weekend getaway be without spa services? On Fridays, facials are available, while Saturdays are reserved for massages and nail services.

"Our guests absolutely love the charm of the farm," Brenda Webster said. "It's quiet and peaceful and incredibly relaxing. But they really love being so completely pampered."

So far, only women have booked scrapbooking weekends, although Crop-A-Doodle-Do is open to men. And, last fall, a Mom and Me weekend was held for mothers and their daughters ages 8 to 14 years.

And what about the pictures taken near the rooster-topped fence? That's a "welcome to the inn" tradition. And, sometimes, in lieu of scrawling grateful guest book messages before they head home, visitors transform the pictures into tiny scrapbook pages for their hosts.