

## **Brookside Inn is magical**

Visitors stopping at the Brookside Inn just north of Lafayette, could use the words “beautiful” and “serene” to describe the 22 shaded acres, but stay a few days and that description might change to “magical”.

Watch the mist rise above the pond, listen to the call of the coyote, or wander along trails lined with moss-covered trees and you may feel like you’re in an enchanted forest.

When Bruce and Susan Bandstra decided it was time to change gears and leave the hectic pace of Chicago and Seattle behind and return to their rural roots, they began looking for property in the Willamette Valley where their daughter attended college. Their search led them to a tranquil retreat on Abbey Road, which they purchased last May.

“It seems like a natural fit for us.” Said Bruce, who is the chef, and handles the marketing. Susan is the gardener and accountant. Together they share in the upkeep of the property.

Whether spending the night or enjoying the country setting for a wedding, retreat or corporate event, guests will find this inn a place to make treasured memories and new friends.

Two buildings, the main lodge and the carriage house, provide nine guest rooms, each with a private bath and unique view of the tranquil setting.

A visit to wine country, however, involves more than a good night’s sleep on a comfortable bed.

“It’s all about the food,” Bruce said. With the focus on food, he takes great pride in using Northwest products to highlight in his breakfast menu. The Bandstras shop at the local farmer’s market and fruit stands to find the best local ingredients. Then Bruce looks for ways to serve them, maximizing the natural flavors.

One taste of the Brookside Inn’s Oregon blueberry scones and guests will understand why the tasty quick bread has been known to disappear from the kitchen. The Brookside Inn’s polenta cakes with cured salmon, goat cheese and poached egg is another culinary favorite.

The property includes a 5-acre pond stocked with trout, thanks to the Oregon Fishing Club. Guests are permitted to fish—as long as they remember it’s catch and release.

There is an abundance of wildlife on the property and birds are plentiful.

“We have a wonderful piece of property here,” Bruce said.

The Inn is located at 8243 NE Abbey Road, Carlton, and is two miles north of Lafayette. Its website is [www.brooksideinn-oregon.com](http://www.brooksideinn-oregon.com).