

## **ELLEN GRINSFELDER**

Ellen Grinsfelder, Innkeeper/Owner, at the Inn & Spa at Cedar Falls, has co-owned and operated it since August, 1987 along with her husband Terry Lingo. She graduated from Kent State University in 1978 with a B.S. in Health Education. Her career began in Columbus working for Children's Hospital and then the City of Columbus Health Department in Health Education.

Ellen relocated to the Hocking Hills in early 1987. The Inn was created and developed by Ellen's mother Anne Castle. They ran the business jointly until 1991 at which time Anne passed away. Ellen has been successful in developing the business in all areas of marketing, restaurant and spa operations and overnight accommodations. She and Terry have grown the Inn from the original 9 nine rooms, to include 6 log cabins, 12 cottages, intimate spa, expanded restaurant seating, gift shop and The Gathering Place for events. They are a premiere destination in the Hocking Hills and continue to host travel writers and bloggers at least twice a year.

She served on the Hocking Hills Tourism Association (HHTA) Board from 1992-1995. Presently, she serves on the marketing and green committee for HHTA. Ellen received the Small Business Person of the year award from the Logan-Hocking Chamber of Commerce in 1996. In 1997, Ellen was awarded the prestigious Ohio Hotelier of the Year Award from the Ohio Hotel & Lodging Association (OHLA). Ellen served on the OHLA board for 20 years. In 2007, the Inn was awarded the Family Business Center award for medium size businesses and in 2011 the Re-Invention Award. In 2008 and 2009, Ellen was a finalist for the NAWBO Visionary Award. Ellen is a volunteer with Fairhope Hospice. The Inn hosts two Red Cross Blood Drives each year. In 2014, Ellen was selected by Ohio Governor Kasich to serve on the Tourism Ohio board and remains in that position today. Ellen has served on numerous committees for Select Registry as well as a board member and was the President for Select Registry, Distinguished Inns

of North America from 2012-2015. In 2015, Ellen received the prestigious Stafford Smith Award from Select Registry.

Ellen lives with her husband Terry, who developed and built their business. They have two children: Sarah and Benjamin. Benjamin blessed the family with their first granddaughter, Kinsley Anne in 2015. Sarah added, Avery Anne, granddaughter number two in June, 2016. Ellen and Terry have begun to look at their next stage in life as their inn is on the market for sale. In addition to running the Inn with their current staff and spending quality family time, Ellen and Terry enjoy traveling, visiting B&B's and beach vacations.