

SENIOR TIMES

OHIO'S FOREMOST
NEWSMAGAZINE FOR
BOOMERS & BEYOND

OCTOBER 2019

Volume 38 - Issue 10

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COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING

Runnin' & gunnin' at Congress

by Mark Wright
Mid-Ohio Marauders

The sport of Cowboy Mounted Shooting began in 1994 and has spread like wildfire ever since. It is the fastest growing equestrian sport in the nation. And it is a featured event at the All American Quarter Horse Congress for the eighth year.

On Sunday, October 27, 2019 spectators can enjoy the Cowboy Mounted Shooting events at the Congress in the Celeste Center and Buckeye arenas, hosted by the Mid Ohio Marauders, a Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association from central Ohio.

What can you expect? Cowboys, Cowgirls and their mounts shooting balloon targets on horseback with their two .45 caliber single action revolvers! They are scored based on time and accuracy. Each competitor will run 4 different patterns (out of 80+ possible patterns), hoping to finish fast and clean, in hopes of winning a paycheck and the cov-



Dan App still competing at 72



Judy Foster winning in 2013

eted Congress buckles! No need to worry about bullets flying through the air--the guns are loaded with specially made blanks filled with black powder. The black powder burns an ember that, when fired, shoots and pops the balloon.

In addition to the Main Match, there are also additional classes—Rifle, Shotgun, and

Cavalry. Imagine the thrill of dropping the reins in order to lever and aim your long gun at targets at full run!

The Cavalry class combines historical re-enactments and horsemanship, while paying tribute to the mounted soldiers of the Cavalry. Inspired by the great diversity of colorful military uniforms from, the Civil War (1861-1865) Union and Confederate,

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Mark Wright

Quarter Horse Congress open all month

COLUMBUS, OH - The All American Quarter Horse Congress returns October 1-27 as not only the largest single-breed horse show in the world, but as the largest event and convention in the Columbus area.

Over the years, the Ohio Expo Center hosts more than 650,000 visitors each October, including over 7,500 horses. The three week show generates \$409 million for the central Ohio economy.

Over three weeks, more than 7,500 horses will show in hundreds of classes, ranging from barrel racing to cattle cutting, horse jumping, cowboy mounted shooting, reining, and pleasure classes. Competitors from across the country and internationally will gather to compete for more than \$3 million in cash and prizes, including trophy saddles, sterling silver buckles, trucks, trailers and the coveted Don Bell bronze trophies.

Local equestrians, up-and-coming riders and world

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For the Love of Travel

Aaron Leventhal



Exploring the Laurel Highlands of Southwestern Pennsylvania

Recently, Beth and I experienced a delightful getaway to the scenic Laurel Highlands, about a four-hour drive from Columbus. We decided to splurge on our lodgings and stayed at **Nemacolin Woodlands Resort** (nemacolin.com), nestled in the bucolic surroundings of the lush valleys and rolling foothills of the Allegheny Mountains in rural Fayette County. It proved to be an ideal base

complimentary shuttle bus tour. We were surprised to discover a remarkable collection of sculptures and art work displayed on hillsides and in gardens, the Outdoor Wildlife Habitat filled with exotic animals, challenging ziplines, mid-air ropes course, electric bike tours and the Lady Luck Casino.

During our three-day stay we were impressed that Nemacolin, recog-

the resort's founder Joseph A. Hardy and his daughter Maggie, who took over its leadership. At age 95, Hardy still resides on the property and is frequently seen at its restaurants and attractions.

Ohiopyle State Park (discoverohiopyle.com), with its rugged natural beauty, is the Laurel Highlands' biggest draw. The rushing Youghiogheny River cuts through the park's more than 20,000 acres and offers some of the best white-water rafting in the eastern United States, along with scenic vistas and waterfalls.

The park is popular for fishing, camping and more than 75 miles of hiking and biking trails. In the small



Nemacolin Woodlands Resort is located on 2,000 acres in Southwestern Pennsylvania's Laurel Highlands.



Ohiopyle State Park is a popular destination for outdoor activities.

for exploring the region's outstanding attractions.

Nemacolin features two Pete Dye-designed championship courses—Mystic Rock and the new Shepherd's Rock; Woodlands Spa and Holistic Healing Center; and several restaurants, including fine dining at Aqueous and Lautrec and casual Italian fare at Baratollo's. The Woodlands Wine Cellar has the state's largest private collection. Numerous specialty shops include a cigar bar, clothing boutiques and Hardy and Hayes fine jewelry. Daily offerings include Afternoon Tea at 3 p.m. and Art Tours of resort founder Joseph A. Hardy's extraordinary collection.

The concierge recommended an orientation to the sprawling 2,000-

nized as one of the country's premier resort destinations, has been able to maintain an authentic ambiance—informal, laid-back and devoid of glitzy pretensions and gimmicky programming. Many of the staff attributed this to

village of Ohiopyle, diners serve up salads and sandwiches and seasoned outfitters offer bike and boat rentals as well as guided tours and instruction for rafting, fly fishing, rock climbing, zip lining, kayaking, canoeing and moun-



Tour guide Tim Fischer, a former Columbus resident, points out Frank Lloyd Wright's unique architectural design at Kentucky Knob.

tain biking.

The Laurel Highlands also is famous as the location of two masterpieces designed by legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright—**Fallingwater** and **Kentuck Knob**. Though the homes differ in size, setting and use, both exemplify Wright's philosophy of organic architecture that promotes the harmonious union between human beings and nature through design.

Fallingwater, (fallingwater.org) was designed by Wright in 1935 for Pittsburgh department store owner Edgar J. Kaufmann, Sr. as a weekend vacation home. The multi-level structure, named the "Best All-Time Work of American Architecture" by the American Institute of Architects, is dramatically cantilevered over a 30-foot waterfall, forcing its occupants to walk out to its concrete terraces to see it and the glorious natural landscape. In 1963, Edgar Kaufmann, Jr. entrusted the home and surrounding 469 acres to the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Fallingwater is open daily March-December; a guided tour is included with admission.

Only minutes away is Kentucky Knob, spectacularly perched on a bluff high



Travel writer Aaron Leventhal and his wife, Beth Ervin-Leventhal, enjoy the natural beauty of the Laurel Highlands.

above the Youghiogheny River Gorge and wedged tightly into the brow of the hillside. In 1954, Hagan Ice Cream founder I.N. Hagen convinced the 86-year-old Wright to design a house on an 79-acre tract of farmland. Wright never saw the home completed.

Unlike Fallingwater, Kentucky Knob is modest in size and served as the Hagen residence for 30 years. The uniqueness of the single-floor home is the hexagonal grid incorporated into all of its rooms. In 1986 the Hagens sold their home to English property developer and art collector Peter Palumbo, who eventually opened it to the public. Kentucky Knob is open

March-December; admission includes a 45-minute guided tour.

Everyone we spoke to during our trip highly recommended a visit to the Laurel Highlands in October and early November, when the hillsides become a palette of red, orange and gold leaves.

Aaron is a frequent contributor to The Senior Times travel pages. If you're interested in joining a small group tour to the Laurel Highlands in May 2020, send an email to leventhal43206@gmail.com, 614-506-9666

Photos by: Beth Ervin Leventhal



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For tour information please visit:
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