

Montana Blacksmith Selling His Historic Home-Built Wagons

Folks with an eye for historical detail will appreciate wagons created by Bill Snedigar, owner of Snedigar Welding & Blacksmithing in Stevensville, Mont. Snedigar worked on the 4 wagons when he wasn't doing custom welding work for area ranchers. Now retired at 90, he has 4 wagons for sale.

He built two delivery wagons, one for light town delivery and the other for heavy town delivery. His Yellowstone Park Tour Mud Wagon was used during the park's early tourism years.

"It was the most challenging because I had nothing to go by except a black and white photo," Snedigar says.

All three of the wagons are made of forged iron and oak wood to be pulled with single or doubletree horse hitches.

His fourth wagon has the most interesting history, he notes. It was imported from Austria for a countess living on a Montana

ranch. She had Snedigar make her a replica to race in Kentucky, because the 1930's Austrian cart had won two world championships.

When she died, Snedigar was given the original racing wagon, which he had fixed up.

"It was bent up because it had been in the races that make the Calgary Stampede chuckwagon races look tame," Snedigar says.

With the historical racing wagon back in its original glory and his own three creations, Snedigar invites entrepreneurs and individual to contact him for more details. Prices range from \$10,000 for the light delivery wagon, to \$15,000 for the mud wagon or race wagon to \$18,000 for the heavy delivery wagon.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Bill Snedigar, 767 Porter Hill Rd., Stevensville, Mont. 59870 (ph 406 777-3142; lablover4520@yahoo.com).



Over the years Bill Snedigar has built several historic horse-drawn wagons, including this heavy-built delivery wagon.



Traci Torres co-founded My Pet Chicken with her husband, Derek Sasaki. With 15 unusual crossbreeds, she caters to poultry hobbyists who want to "upgrade".

Add Color To Your Flock And Eggs With Designer Chickens

Easter may be over, but you can still have colored eggs whenever you want them as well as colorful and sometimes funky chickens. Nowadays there are plenty of exotic "backyard chickens" to choose from.

"People want friendly chickens, pretty colors and gorgeous eggs," says Traci Torres, who co-founded My Pet Chicken with her husband, Derek Sasaki.

With 15 unusual crossbreeds, she caters to chicken folks who want to "upgrade." Among them is television personality Martha Stewart, a fan of wild looking Frizzles that have curly feathers. Many of the cross breeds can be "frizzled" including the Easter Egger, one of My Pet Chicken's most popular breeds that comes in different colors. Or there is the Ameriflowers, a colorful cross between a Swedish Flower Hen and Ameraucana.

In addition to colorful plumages, crests and frizzled feathers, customers want chickens that put multi-colored eggs in their baskets.

Olive eggs are trendy, Torres says, and come from breeds such as the Partridge Olive Egger. Birchen Marans hens lay dark brown eggs while Ameraucanas lay light blue to greenish blue eggs.

Customers search for chicken traits and egg colors on a handy online list and can purchase as few as three eggs or two chicks (when available), as well as ducklings. Depending on rarity and availability, prices range from \$2.60 each for assorted day-old chicks to just over \$150 for 10 Super Blue Egg layer chicks. (Check out the online catalog for availability and breed details.)

Torres, who has a backyard flock of her own, also provides educational information on her website to help both veteran and



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newbie chicken hobbyists. Her team of growers is also constantly working on new designer breeds.

She hopes to introduce the Yeti in 2019. It will be profusely feathered including feathered feet and have a cheek tuft.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, My Pet Chicken, P.O. Box 219, Monroe, Ct. 06468 (ph 888 460-1529; www.mypetchicken.com; info@mypetchicken.com).



His collection includes this replica (left) of a race wagon originally imported from Austria for a countess living on a Montana ranch. A Yellowstone Park Tour Mud Wagon is modeled after ones used during the park's early tourism years.

Heavy Equipment Theme Park

If you are looking for hands-on "buckets of fun" entertainment at a theme park, check out Diggerland USA where you can operate an excavator to dig for "treasure", drive an ARGO ATV, and flatten ground with a roller.

Owned by two brothers who were previously in the construction business, the park has real equipment that has been modified to make it safe for kids to operate, says Chris Peters, Director of Marketing for Diggerland USA. For example, some excavators are stationary, but operators can maneuver the arms and buckets to accomplish different tasks like knock-down bowling pins. Depending on the ride, its function, and the purpose of the attraction, each piece of machinery has been reengineered to be safe for operation by the general public.

"Excavators are popular," Peters says. "Another popular item is the Argos the kids can drive."

The New Jersey theme park opened in 2014 and added five new attractions this year for a total of 25 attractions at its 21-acre site. New this year is a 700 ft. zip line that takes two people at a time the entire length of the park. Also new is a Ventrac articulating tractor.

"A 60-ft. scissor lift takes 6 people up at a time and you can see Philadelphia from it," Peters says.

In addition to equipment stations, there are rides like the Spin Dizzy, where guests sit in the bucket of a 20-ton excavator for a high-speed spin. There are also tamer rides for young children like the Dig-a-Round merry-go-round, and the Excavator Express train.

Other challenges include a 32-ft. rock wall and a four-story ropes course. Diggerland USA also offers packages for adults 18 and older to operate unrestricted equipment with one-on-one instruction.

"The most popular age range is 4 to 13. We tend to see a lot of kids with grandparents," Peters says. Many groups come as part of



Diggerland USA gives visitors a chance to operate heavy equipment that has been modified for safe operation by the general public.



birthday party packages that include food and unique activities like breaking a piñata hanging from the arm of a backhoe.

Diggerland USA has a height requirement of 36 in. and charges based on height (under 42 in. \$29.95 and over 42 in. \$38.95). Season passes (\$54.95) have been popular, Peters adds, and Diggerland USA changes themes through the season.

There are similar parks in the U.K. but Diggerland USA is the first of its kind in North America.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Diggerland USA, 100 Pinedge Dr., West Berlin, N.J. 08091 (ph 856 768-1110; www.diggerlandusa.com; info@diggerlandusa.com).