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## Rare Montgomery Ward Carriage Part Of Collection

Daniel Bussey may have 50 horse-drawn carriages in his collection, but one stands out. It was originally owned by the founder of Montgomery Ward and used on his 300-acre horse breeding estate near Oconomowoc,

Wis. He was noted for not only his horses but many fine carriages.

"It's a Roof Seat Break with the passenger seats at the driver's seat level," says Bussey. "It was a carriage to see from and be seen in.

It has a big box at the tailgate that would have been used to pack picnic supplies for guests riding around the estate."

The carriage was made by C.P. Kimball & Company, a Chicago maker of high-end carriages at the turn of the century. Ward reportedly favored Kimball carriages. He referred to the Roof Seat Break as his "Tallyho" carriage and took people for rides on the estate. Ward entered carriage driving contests and won a world championship with a Tallyho drag and a 4-horse hitch.

"Ward's carriages were kept in a barn on the estate until put up for sale in the 1940's," says Bussey. "Edmond Schultz bought it and others and restored quite a few. The Roof Seat Break was never restored and remains untouched from when it was owned by Ward."

Bussey purchased the carriage from the Schultz family, having learned of it from Edmond's son Truman. It was Truman who had encouraged his dad to leave the carriage as it was.

"My goal is to conserve it and keep it in the condition Edmond and Truman found it in," says Bussey.

Bussey encourages others interested in preserving a carriage or other horse-drawn vehicles to also refrain from full restorations.

He explains that the carriage market is in decline, and decent carriages ready to be driven can now be purchased for \$500 on up.

"If you hire someone to restore a carriage, you'll never get your money back," says Bussey. "If you want to preserve it for personal or sentimental reasons, use something like a Williamsville Oil or Williamsville Wax. It'll bring out the old paint colors, even if they are really faded."

He also recommends Scott's Liquid Gold, a spray wax. It's available at most retail stores, protects the paint, and brings out the colors.

"Don't paint it with linseed oil," he warns. "It's actually the worst finish, as it never dries, collects dirt, and gets grubby," he says. "If you cover it, use a breathable cloth like canvas, not a plastic tarp."

Bussey, who also collects sleighs (Vol. 39, No. 2), is adding a new storage and display building for them. That'll open up space in the current storage building to better display his carriages.

While his private museum is not open to the public, the Montgomery Ward carriage will be displayed at the Villa Louis Carriage Classic this fall in Prairie du Chien, Wis.

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While the moon garden may have a special night radiance, it's beautiful in the daylight, too.



Photo courtesy of Proven Winners

## Expand Garden Time With A Moon Garden

If you're looking for something different to grow this year, you may want to think "white" as you order seeds and plants. With "Moon Gardens," gardeners can enjoy their outdoor spaces during the day and after the

sun sets.

"Moon, white, or evening gardens have been around for 1,000 years and back to the 1830's in the U.S.," says Nina Koziol, a horticulturist and garden writer. She lives and

gardens 40 miles from Chicago and recently wrote the book "White Gardens: Creating Magnificent Moonlit Spaces: Guide to White and Luminous Plants; Create a Night Garden with Plants that Reflect the Moon or Bloom in the Evening" published by Fox Chapel Publishing due to be on sale in late February/early March.

"The book is a guide for creating a white garden, from containers on a balcony to a sweeping garden to a border around the front door. White flowers just glow at night, and there's the added charm of fragrance," Koziol says.

Moonflower vine is an annual anyone can grow, she says, noting it's like a morning glory, except its blooms twirl open at dusk and release a slight fragrance. Nicotiana (tobacco flower) blooms also open slightly bigger at night and attract nighttime pollinators such as moths.

With white options in so many varieties, it's easy to plan for blooms throughout the growing season, from Lily of the Valley and daffodils in the spring to mums and clematis in the fall.

"They don't have to be just white flowers; they could be pale yellow flowers or

variegated shrubs, sedges and hostas," Koziol notes.

To enhance the moon garden atmosphere, she suggests adding a water feature or small fountain with gently bubbling water. Fire pits, candles, and subtle lighting also intensify the blooms' glow at night.

While deer don't like a few plants, such as white flower swamp milkweed and fuzzy-leaf lavender, flowers in moon garden varieties are just as tasty to deer as other plants. Koziol protects most of her plants by spraying them with Ro-Pel, which provides a waxy coating that lasts longer.

The effort is worth it, she says, to create a vibrant outdoor space to relax in at the end of the day.

Use the same design elements as in regular gardens and consider different heights and textures. For example, plant moonflower vine on a fence for the backdrop and plant white varieties of short sunflowers, compact zinnias, and salvia in front of it.

While the moon garden may have a special night radiance, it's beautiful in the daylight, too.

Contact: Nina Koziol (www.beautyandthefeast.net).



Blades are repurposed into benches and tables weighing up to 2,000 lbs.

## Windmill Blades Get Second Life

Fiberglass wind turbine blades are getting cut up and repurposed as park benches, planters, and more. Finding a use for the 3,000 to 8,000 blades being retired every year is a growing concern. Ohio startup Canvas is doing its part.

"We've upcycled around 250 blades and delivered more than 1,000 products in our first 6 months," says Mike Crissman, Canvas. "We use the largest part of the blade called the root, which is the 100 ft. closest to the turbine.

The smaller and thinner parts can be cut up and burned in concrete production kilns."

Crissman explains that the wind energy industry has struggled to find uses for the root portion of the blade. Until recently, blades were largely landfilled. As pressure builds to keep them out of landfills, wind energy companies have struggled to find alternatives.

Canvas was started to find uses for the blades. Initially, their team of designers and engineers came up with more than 150

possible uses. This was narrowed down to eight.

"To address the magnitude of the problem of retired turbine blades, we needed to create products that were scalable and could be produced in mass," says Crissman. "The final list boiled down to benches and picnic tables ranging from 200 to 2,000 lbs. They're designed largely for public areas in municipalities, parks, and schoolyards. They're also available for purchase by commercial customers."

The products range in price from \$3,689 to \$8,212. They range in size from one and 2-person benches to covered benches, picnic sets, and gathering benches for groups.

"Our prices are very much in line and, in some cases, more cost-effective than alternative outdoor furniture for parks," says Crissman.

Canvas starts with the raw fiberglass, cutting it to size with diamond rope saws used to cut granite. The first step creates filets, straight cuts through the blade. From there, the craftsmen utilize a proprietary finish to protect the fiberglass and prevent breakdown.

"It was a point of emphasis in our planning to turn a section of a blade into a functional

form that would stand up to the elements," says Crissman. "After assembling, we add an extra coat of protection."

The designers used the molded curves for the final product, whether to cradle a seating area or for an overhead shelter. Canvas goes a step beyond simply upcycling the fiberglass blades. The company also uses recycled rubber from shoes and tires, mixed plastics, and composite lumber for seating material.

The outside furniture can be purchased primed and ready for resident artists to decorate at the company design center or for local artists to decorate onsite.

Their products can also be ordered in one of three colors selected to fit into the natural environment. These finishes are produced with a two-part epoxy paint that is graffiti-resistant.

"We have a brilliant team of designers, always thinking of new ideas. We welcome ideas and would like to see others create similar solutions for repurposing these blades," says Crissman.

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