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Military Vehicle Show Honors Veterans And The Armed Forces

“Our show’s main focus goes back to our grassroots,” says Findlay Military Association Commander John Cheney. “We pay tribute to the armed forces, thank our veterans, showcase some of their vehicles,

and educate the public about their sacrifices. Honoring our military heroes is our primary goal and directive.”

To help achieve that mission, the Findlay Military Association is sponsoring and host-

ing its 38th annual Military Vehicle Show at the Hancock County Fairgrounds in Findlay, Ohio, on Armed Forces Day weekend, May 15-18, 2025.

Now one of the largest shows in the United States, this year’s event will feature the Marlboro Mobile Museum, a massive military parts and memorabilia swap meet with more than 170 vendors and 500 booths and tables, an awards breakfast and ceremony, live music throughout the weekend, and food trucks.

Cheney expects 150 to 200 military vehicles from as far away as Texas and North Dakota to be judged for prizes. Light artillery cannons will be demonstrated, and reenactments and living history performances will represent WWII, the War of 1812, the Spanish-American War, the Cold War, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. An hour-long, live battle reenactment will highlight Saturday’s events.

A featured attraction will be the return of the American Huey 369 airships, offering static displays and flight demonstrations, with takeoffs and landings scheduled

throughout the weekend.

“There’s something for everyone during our 3 1/2-day show, whether you’re a collector or just here to view the displays and events,” Cheney says. “A key feature is that our vehicles aren’t just parked—they’re in motion. You’ll see everything from a half-track to a German tank driving around the fairgrounds.”

This year’s showcase is the “Duceapalooza Two-Ton Weekend.” The fairgrounds will stage plenty of “Duce and a Half” military cargo trucks.

“You’ll see vehicles here that you won’t see anywhere else,” Cheney says. “We’ve even got one of the two Jeep Tugs in existence coming from Mississippi.”

Tickets for the weekend are affordable for singles or families. Young children are free, and a full-weekend adult pass is \$20. RV hook-ups and camping are also offered.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Findlay Military Association, P.O. Box 24, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872 (www.findlaymilitaryshow.org).



“Custer’s Last Stand” features two bison fighting it out. It tells the story of Custer and Sitting Bull’s battle at Little Bighorn.

Artist Creates Unique Sculptures

John Lopez of Lemmon, S.D., creates sculptures from found objects to commemorate bygone eras in the American West. His work is featured at private and public establishments across the region, as well as the Kokomo Gallery in Lemmon.

“I first discovered sculpture in college,

then began working for professional artists,” Lopez says. “After losing my aunt in a car accident, I moved to her husband’s ranch. That gave me space to play around with fabricating sculptures out of found objects.”

Each piece takes Lopez between 6 and 12 months to complete. “I worked mostly in

clay, casting projects into bronze,” he says. “I sculpt out a maquette in clay before I weld anything on the fabricated piece.” Animals have long been his inspiration. “I grew up on a horse and cattle ranch,” he says. “Horses are very much in my blood. I like to really study the anatomy of the animal in clay first, how they move and react to the world around them. This lets me make sure I know exactly what I’m going to do.”

Lopez’s favorite piece, “Blackhawk,” is of a draft horse pulling a plow. “It’s really interesting to look at,” he says. “It’s made of pieces of old farming equipment, which makes you realize that all the different tools and parts and pieces included used to work the land.”

Another attention-grabbing sculpture is “Walleye Cowboy”—a rodeo cowboy riding a bucking walleye. It’s located in Mobridge, S.D., a town with lots of fishing and a deep-rooted cowboy culture.

The Kokomo Gallery, open to the public throughout the summer months, features one-of-a-kind originals Lopez has kept in his private collection. “The biggest draw

is ‘Custer’s Last Stand’ which features two bison fighting it out,” he says. “The piece tells the story of Custer and Sitting Bull’s battle at Little Bighorn. Sitting Bull was actually raised about an hour from the gallery, so the piece is locally relevant.”

Next to the gallery is a sculpture garden that features “The Tree of Life,” which represents a cherry tree in blossom. “Some of the blossoms were made by artists from around the world,” Lopez says. Across the way is a life-size sculpture of city founder Ed Lemmon on a horse.

Lopez manages the gallery with his mother, Elizabeth. “She loves to greet visitors,” he says. “I have so many people telling me what a sweetheart my mom is. So, if you find yourself in South Dakota, you ought to come over to the Kokomo Gallery. We’ll give you a grand tour.”

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Research Yields New Raspberry Varieties

New raspberry varieties are soon entering the market, thanks to research from Cornell.

“My goal is to help berry growers be more sustainable, both economically and environmentally,” says Courtney Weber, Horticulture Section Head and Professor at Cornell Agri-Tech. “That requires developing varieties that are more productive, more disease resistant, and more resilient to weather conditions while maintaining great eating quality.”

He’s also working to better align with market forces.

“Consumer preferences, labor availability, input costs, and production practices are always changing, and my goal is to anticipate and address these changes with new varieties,” Weber says. “That might mean larger fruit for more efficient harvest and better eye appeal, firmer texture for longer shelf life and the ability to pack in larger containers, disease resistance, more upright or self-supporting canes for easier harvesting and better pest management, and superior flavor and eating quality to meet specialty market demand.”

He shares that breeding new berry varieties is time-consuming and intensive. The research team begins with detailed observations of the genetic resources available for each crop to predict the best genetic combinations for the desired traits.

“I’ve been evaluating raspberry varieties within my program for 25 years and have built a knowledge base and understanding of

genetics and inheritance that affect the traits of interest,” he says.

“I choose different plants to combine through traditional hybridization to create new generations of seedlings to be evaluated for commercial potential. Thousands are evaluated each year, and a few dozen at most are chosen to propagate and observe in the following seasons. They’re moved through the program as future parents, then possibly as new varieties.”

It’s a slow process. Weber conducts trials with growers across New York, Illinois, Indiana, North Carolina, Massachusetts and more. The goal is to see how the varieties perform across a wide range of environments to avoid surprises for growers. On average, one new variety is developed every 4 to 6 years, or one from every 10,000 to 15,000 seedlings. That makes this year’s two new varieties noteworthy.

Crimson Beauty and Crimson Blush share some traits—“both have large, attractive berries with a balance of sweetness and acidity,” Weber says—but despite the similarity in their names, the two varieties have many differences.

“Crimson Beauty is a very early primocane (fall) bearing variety that flowers in mid-summer in upstate New York, meaning the fruit starts to ripen by the end of July. In contrast, Crimson Blush finishes up the fall season, producing fruit from late September



Crimson Blush canes have an extended vegetative growing period, which makes them tall and allows for a second crop the following spring and summer before the next set of canes flowers.

through the end of November. Crimson Blush canes have an extended vegetative growing period, which makes them tall and allows for a second crop the following spring and summer before the next set of canes flower.”

Despite these successes, the research team continues to press on.

“Breeding new varieties is a never-ending process. There’s always something new on the horizon,” Weber says. “For example, I’ve worked many years developing spine-free, fall-fruiting black raspberries. Our first potential varieties are in trials with growers now.”

He believes the berries have commercial potential due to their great taste and impressive nutrient levels. Likewise, he thinks

there’s room to develop new summer fruiting varieties, a neglected category.

“We need new floricanes (summer) varieties with better fruit and production characteristics. Most were developed decades ago and are more suited for jams and pies than fresh eating,” he says. “I have two types being tested with growers and am hopeful one or both will be Cornell’s first new floricanes variety in over 25 years.”

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