



Buck Martin has always liked to stay busy. And he likes to collect things, lots of things – the more unusual, the better. After he retired and turned Martin's Auto Parts over to his son Stacy, he decided to turn his collecting hobby into the Shawnee Trading Post, a veritable compound on 10 acres with four buildings, one of them a 50,000 square foot showroom.

It's a good thing he has so much space because he needs it. Outside, customers can find an incredible assortment of items like bronze fountains and statues, garden furniture and accessories made of cast or wrought iron, or aluminum, plus concrete benches and bird baths, to name just a very few. Most popular are the bronze statues of children, turtles and frogs. Most

impressive are the dinosaurs (e.g. Tyrannosaurus Rex Triceratops) and big game animals like elephants, giraffes and lions. A kayak and skier represent two of the Deep Creek area's most popular sports.



The Shawnee Trading Post

An Emporium of the Unusual

Written by **Sara Mullins**
Photography by **Lance C. Bell**

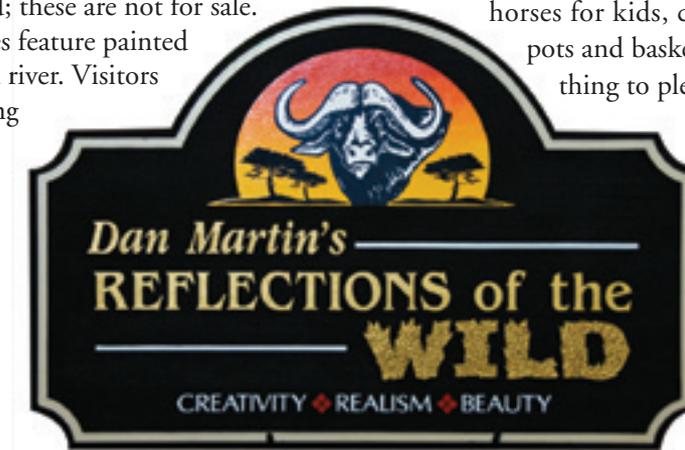


Some of the many statues and memorabilia inside and outside at Shawnee Trading Post.

The Shawnee Trading Post is located on Sand Flat Road, Deer Park, MD (near Deep Creek Lake).

301-334-4368

There's more inside, lots more, notably statues and furniture carved from mahogany or constructed of fiber-glass. Buck's favorites are the hand-carved mahogany elephants, rhinos and such from Thailand; these are not for sale. Some of the mahogany benches feature painted scenes like bears frolicking in a river. Visitors recognize familiar figures among the fiberglass statuary, including Arnold Schwarzenegger, Michael Jordan, James Dean,



Pocahontas, John Wayne and Santa Claus. Looking for something exotic? The Egyptian frieze might fit the bill. And how about the '57 Chevy car sofa? It might look pretty swell in the family room.

For those with more pragmatic tastes, the Trading Post offers a wide range of gifts. With items like hand-carved chests and benches from Mexico, pedestal cars and rocking horses for kids, clocks, vintage signs, plant pots and baskets. You'll surely find something to please even the pickiest person on your gift list.

Be sure to take a look at the taxidermy display mounted on the walls. Dan Martin, Buck's son, has contributed about 50 examples of his award-winning handiwork from his taxidermy business, "Reflections of the Wild."

If you'd like to take one home, just ask – several pieces are for sale.

It's been a lot of fun for Buck, who says, "I'm doing what I like. I enjoy people, plus my kids and grandkids help out." But now he's ready to turn the business operation over to his daughter Diana. Although he'll only be at the Trading Post now and then, he won't be bored.



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