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RESORT HISTORY

The land where Nemacolin Woodlands Resort now sits has a long history dating back to 1740, when a rugged trail was carved through the Laurel Highlands between what is now Cumberland, Maryland and Brownsville, Pennsylvania. The trailblazer was native Delaware Indian Chief, Nemacolin. Assisted by frontiersman, Thomas Cresap, the trail was the most directed route from east to west. Later expanded by Colonel George Washington and General Edward Braddock during the French and Indian War, the trail eventually became known as the National High Way by Congress in the mid-1800s. Today, that road is called Route 40, the major mountain artery where Nemacolin Woodlands Resort now sits.

By the early 1900s, the Laurel Highlands became a popular and fashionable retreat for wealthy Pittsburgh industrialists and merchants. At the same time vacation retreats, such as the Kaufman family's Frank Lloyd Wright designed Fallingwater were being built, Nemacolin was also being minimally developed. During the 1930s, lots were established and offered for sale as summer homes and hunting retreats.

In 1949, Pittsburgh industrialist, Willard F. Rockwell (Rockwell International), purchased 60 acres here in the Laurel Highlands. Over the next several years, he added land, and in 1968 established a private game reserve on what is now Nemacolin Woodlands Resort. This property was named Nemacolin Trails Hunting Reserve. The Rockwell's invited friends and business associates to hunt and fish the 400-acre reserve, populated by silver fox, bear and white-tailed deer. A hunting lodge was constructed in 1968, designed by Rockwell's friend and former college roommate, C.W. Balling, of nearby Fairchance, Pennsylvania. The 10-room Tudor lodge was quickly expanded to 33 rooms, which were all decorated by Mrs. Rockwell. The Lodge, together with a golf course, tennis court, airstrip, and lakes Louise and Carol were also added, while Beaver Creek was developed into the excellent trout stream it is today.

The property was sold in 1979 to Cordelia Mellon Scaife, and became an exclusive conference center. Three years later, the property returned to the Rockwell Family. Kent Rockwell, Willard's son, purchased the conference center and opened it to the public. In the years immediately following, the Maples and Laurel Ponds townhouses and a number of private homes were established on the estate. Rockwell also added the first outdoor pool (now the Kidz Pool) and the resort's first restaurant, The Golden Trout, which was located where the Club Room is today.

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In 1987, Joseph A. Hardy, III, founder of the 84 Lumber Company, purchased a large portion of the Nemaquin property at auction (550 acres) – an auction he attended in the hopes of purchasing a few acres of woodlands near a lake or stream for his daughter, Maggie, who loved fishing. As Hardy recounts, “I left the auction without that piece of property for fishing because I bought the main parcel and was out of money.” Hardy and his daughter, Maggie, promptly set about transforming the property into its present state – a 2,000 acre world-class resort, rated Four-Stars by the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide and Four-Diamonds by the American Automobile Association (AAA). In 2002, Hardy transferred full ownership of the resort to his daughter, Maggie Hardy Magerko, who still serves as President and Owner, and continues to grow the resort. Today Nemaquin is proud home to Forbes Five-Star, AAA Five-Diamond lodging **and** dining at Falling Rock Hotel and Lautrec Restaurant.

The Nemaquin Woodlands Resort Timeline:

- **1987 (first year of Hardy ownership)** – The Tudor-style Lodge was expanded, and work on an elegant 68 room annex commenced, together with the Conference Center, which included the 200-seat Lecture Hall, and new lobbies. The Wine Cellar was opened. In November, The Links Golf Course underwent extensive renovations.
- **1988** – The Woodlands Golf Academy was established featuring 22,000 square feet of practice greens and driving range. The Woodlands Spa opened. Soon afterward, the Vending Gazebo became the Gazebo restaurant, and Lake P.J., and the Panorama Pavilion were constructed.
- **1989** – The Lodge Annex was followed by the Links Townhomes, and the 400 Club was established. In June, Fables was renovated and Allures restaurant was added. The Golden Trout moved to its new location where Autumn is today. Scenic hikes, jogging trails, guided horseback riding, boating, fishing, croquet were added.
- **1990** – Nemaquin Woodlands Resort and the Hardy family celebrated the first annual Royal Reception charity fundraiser. The CaddyShack (formerly Partridges restaurant), The Mews Family Recreation Center and the ZOO at the Woodlands Petting Zoo were opened in June.
- **1991** – The Grand Ballroom was added to the Conference Center.
- **1992** – The Tavern and the Equestrian Center were added. The CaddyShack received a massive expansion and the Fallingbrook miniature golf course next door opened.
- **1995** – Mystic Rock golf course is added and Mystic Mountain ski area at the Adventure Center opened. At the main hotel, the Paradise Pool, Kidz Club area, P.J.’s Ice Cream and Pizza Parlor, and Heritage Court Shoppes were built replacing the Stanley House Activities Center. The Misty Greenhouse was moved from that location to its new home at Mystic Mountain as the Mystic Garden Greenhouse.
- **1996** – Fatbird was adopted as the resort’s new logo and mascot.

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- **1997** – Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort celebrated its 10th Anniversary of Hardy ownership. The elegant Chateau Lafayette hotel – including 124 rooms, the Cigar Bar, Hardy & Hayes Jewelers, and Lautrec fine-dining French restaurant – opened. The Marquis Ballroom was added where Fables restaurant was once located and Allures restaurant becomes the newly expanded Amenities Sundry Shop. The Golden Trout restaurant’s outdoor dining area received a patio renovation.
- **1998** – Major renovation and expansion of the Woodlands Spa began.
- **1999** – The Shooting Academy opened with 140 acres housing 30 stations and a 7,000 square foot Lodge housing Orville’s restaurant. The renovated 32,000 square foot Woodlands Spa opened including Season’s restaurant.
- **2000** – The Auto Toy Store opened, featuring a number of rare and collectible automobiles, and the Laurel Mountain Information Center was created at the resort entrance sharing information on area attractions.
- **2001** – The Pride and Joy Airplane Hangar opened, featuring vintage airworthy aircraft. The Links Townhomes and the Lodge underwent room renovations.
- **2002** – Mr. Hardy’s daughter, Maggie Hardy Magerko, became the President and Owner of Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort. The Woodlands World Outdoor Store opened along Route 40 hosting 50,000 square feet of outdoor and sporting equipment, apparel, taxidermy and dining at the Chuck Wagon. Next door, the Peter J. Magerko Gun Museum opened showcasing over 460 early American firearms. The Off-Road Driving Academy also opened at the Adventure Center featuring Hummers on “The Rock” - a manmade off-road course meant to test the limits of the Hummer’s driving capabilities.
- **2003** – In May, The John Daly Learning Center opened on The Links golf course, and in September the PGA TOUR 84 Lumber Classic came to Mystic Rock course. The original Lodge guestrooms and lobby are renovated along with the Chateau Hospitality Suite.
- **2004** – The Frank Lloyd Wright inspired boutique hotel, Falling Rock, opened hosting Aqueous restaurant, Amber Bar, and the Mystic Rock Pro-Shop. Mystic Rock golf course underwent extensive renovations. The Off-Road Driving Academy was expanded to include “The Crater” and trails, taking off-road driving into more natural surroundings.
- **2005** – The Woodlands Spa was expanded, adding 12 treatment rooms, a squash court and relocated Fitness Center where Seasons restaurant was once located. Horizon Point conference center and Estuary Spa opened adding to Falling Rock’s amenities. The Conference Center received new carpet in the Lecture Hall in January and Lautrec received a total renovation adding vibrant colors with new visual accents such as a ceiling mural and commissioned artwork, updated furnishings and dramatic drapery. Nemaocolin ventured into downtown Uniontown with the opening of 30 East Main restaurant and the Nemaocolin Collection - 3 designer apparel shops. Nemaocolin hosted its first annual Savoir Affair cultural event. Dogsledding was added as a winter adventure offering. Nemaocolin established its first major membership program since the 400 Club with the Elite Club.

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- 2006** – In February, Woodlands World Outdoor Store moved to downtown Uniontown. Wildlife habitats were built, bringing black bears, elk, emus, Patagonian Cayvees, Australian wallabies, and zebra to the resort. The Golden Trout restaurant was renovated and transformed into Autumn, featuring Italian cuisine. In May, the CaddyShack restaurant and Half-Way House reopened with a new look and menu. The Conference Center was improved with the addition of the Nemaocolin Business Center. The John Daly Learning Center reopened as the David Leadbetter Golf. The Hardy Girls' Gym, a 8,400 square foot Olympic caliber facility, was constructed.
- 2007** – Marked the 20th Anniversary of Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort and Mr. Hardy's 84th Birthday. Paige's Beach was created as the home for the new Canoe Museum and horse stables, while The Equestrian Center becomes the new Wildlife Academy. Buffalo – including a very rare solid white male named Snowball – joined the mix of Nemaocolin's wildlife habitats, as well as hyenas, moose and tigers. A wine tasting classroom called the Academie du Vin and the Chateau Signature Boutique and Gallery opened in the former Nemaocolin Art Galleries. ThemeWorks was developed to assist in creating memorable conferences and social events. Falling Rock hotel was awarded the coveted AAA Five-Diamond Award.
- 2008** – Falling Rock hotel retained Five-Diamond status for the second year, and Lautrec was the only new restaurant in the entire eastern half of the United States to be awarded the Five-Diamond rating, making Nemaocolin one of only 21 resorts worldwide to offer both AAA Five-Diamond lodging and dining. The WildSide, a unique entertainment emporium, located in the former Woodlands World complex, opened featuring an eight lane bowling alley, 65 arcade games, sports bar and pool tables, indoor climbing wall, exotic bird habitat, miniature train display and private areas for children's birthday parties and other social events. Nemaocolin hosted its first annual Fall Festival.
- 2009** – Lautrec retained the coveted AAA Five-Diamond Award and acquired the Mobil (now Forbes Travel Guide) Five-Star Award, becoming one of only 14 restaurants in the country to have both ratings. Falling Rock hotel retained Five-Diamond status for the third year. Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort became the first resort to be designated as a PET PROUD facility, and partnered with Nemaocolin Wooflands, the area's premier Pet Resort and Spa, which opened to provide lodging and spa services for pets. Additionally, a number of guest rooms were designated to accommodate guests traveling with dogs. In May, Spa Voyage, a kidz spa, opened to accommodate children ages 5 – 15 with age appropriate services. The Off-Road Driving Academy was renamed the TOMCAR Tactical Training Center featuring an open air vehicle driving experience with TOMCARs, and disc golf were added at the Adventure Center. The Animal Care Center, a primary animal care hospital complete with rehabilitative facilities, opened near Nemaocolin Wooflands in the old indoor equestrian arena. Millioke Meadows was established in November, making Nemaocolin home to two sacred buffalo named Lightening and Thunder. Nemaocolin joined social networking and establishes a presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

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- **2010** – A Petting Zoo was added to the Wildlife Habitats featuring camels, llamas and sheep. The Fatbird Flyer and Little Tykes Ropes Course opened at the Adventure Center. The Off-Road Driving Academy was reopened featuring JEEP® Rubicons. The CaddyShack restaurant was reopened as a Barbeque Joint featuring a Smoke House and Rotisserie. Nemaocolin partnered with Ohio State Park to offer adventure activities within the park including White Water Rafting, Natural Rock Climbing and more. The Prince of Nemaocolin was born, a rare white lion, whose parents, Dandy and Stewy, reside in our Wildlife Habitats. Nemaocolin's Falling Rock hotel was honored with the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Fifth Star. Lautrec also retained its Forbes Fifth Star, making Nemaocolin one of only 6 resorts in the world to offer both Forbes Five-Star and AAA Five-Diamond lodging and dining. Nemaocolin hosted its first annual ICS sanctioned Five Alarm Mountain Madness Chili Cook-Off to benefit the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department. In December, The Magical Fashion World of Shells opened at the Canoe Museum as a sea shell exhibit featuring shells from around the world.
- **2011** – In April 2011, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board honored Nemaocolin as the selected location for the final Category 3 Gaming License. Flat Screen TVs were added to all rooms and the Links Townhomes were redecorated. The Conference Center also received many renovations. The Marquis Ballroom and Foyer received new carpeting, as did many connecting hallways throughout the main facility. The Club, Nemaocolin and Sequoia rooms will be completely remodeled by the end of the year. Our Banquets department received enhancements this season with new uniforms, banquet tables, place settings and food displays. In summer 2011, a fire-pit and outdoor recreation site was constructed in front of the Lodge. The Wildlife Academy added a new check-in station and arena for the Wild Animal Shows near the Adventure Center and Off-Road Driving Academy. Situated 40' in the air, this high altitude jungle gym consists of swinging tires, cargo nets, log crossings, zip-lines and much more, The Fatbird Canopy Tour was opened. Additionally, the Little Tykes Ropes Course was expanded, and the Adventure Shop opened at the Adventure Center. The Fatbird Express Train, a guided tour of the resort's animal enclosures and habitats, was added to our Wildlife Academy amenities, and the Hardy Girls Gym reopened to the public. Sunset Terrace at Falling Rock was transformed into a Pan Asian fine-dining option and Autumn Restaurant rebranded itself as a "Going Green" restaurant receiving a Two-Star Green Destination by GRA!, the Green Restaurant Association. Mystic Rock established a golf membership program for the 2012 season.

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