

Spreading the.....

Farm Museum Newsletter

ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM
 "PRESERVING A BIT OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

FALL HARVEST DAYS INSANITY



The saying "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." is usually attributed to Albert Einstein. Being such a brilliant mind, it stands to reason that a person with such creativity understands that repeating activities does not change the outcome. The Farm Museum needs to set their desired outcome and then determine the course of action that will lead to that outcome.

Fall Harvest Days is a prime example of changing the course. Looking at the financial report of the past Harvest Days and looking at the projected expenses for the upcoming show, changes are being made from previous years. A price adjustment in the facility rental has necessitated the Board of Directors scale back the footprint of the show. This year, and probably into the future, we will not be utilizing the three North barns at the park. Having a difficult time filling those barns with vendors in the past few years has forced us to reconsider the added value of that venue. Orange fences will once again become part of our show.

Another item where the BOD has reevaluated our expenditures is in the camping area. Rule clarification on camping fees over previous years, has necessitated the Museum paying more in

fees. This year, all campers will be asked to make a donation to cover the entire camping fee rather than the Museum paying the fee for just one night. Next year, the cost will be required for camping.

Other activities that will be gone by the way-side include the All American Lumberjack Show and the Fiber Fair. It was anticipated that each of these events would bring in huge crowds of people but failing to do so, coupled with not renting the North barns, necessitated a change. Vendors will still be welcomed to set up outside with their own shelter.

In an effort to record data concerning attendance at the show, the BOD has changed the entrance fee structure by adding a one dollar entrance fee for children. This is in an effort to track the numbers of children attending the show. On the topic of entrance, next year we will need a new person or group to organ-

ize and operate the entrance at the gates. The previous chair person is stepping aside to focus her attention to the reason she enjoys being a member of the Museum. Thanks to her hard work, the gates have run smoothly for the past few years. Time will tell how this will change.

Change is good; it helps to keep the events fresh, keeps people returning and brings in new faces. Many of the events at the FHD remain the same, sawmill, threshing, hit-miss engines, tractors, bean soup, and the list goes on. As the summer progresses, changes will be revealed. What doesn't change is our time line for knowing what the show will look like.

Let's remember to not be "insane."

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THANK YOU

Getin' r Done

Thank you to Matt Ballard and Kyle Slifco for all of their effort and time spent restoring tractors.



Restored Ford 2N

Thanks to their efforts and those of Terry Dunn and Fred Peasley, the Museum now has increased their fleet of show (and work) tractors. I am sure there are others who worked on these tractors from time to time, so a big thanks to everyone who helped in some way to complete these projects.



Restored Farmall A

The Bull Pen



Bull Pen Resurfacing

Thank you to the County Park and it's employees for excavating the "bull pen" attached to the bull barn. Top soil was removed and cement millings placed to make this a "show area" for some of the Museum's equipment.

Annual Report

Thanks to Fred Peasley who delivered the Annual Report to the County Parks Commission. Fred gave an overview of the Farm Museum events that are held throughout the year and answered questions pertaining to the Museum operations. The report seemed to be well received by the commissioners. If you are interested in seeing the report presented, it can be found on the Museum website:

www.stclaircountymuseum.org

UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meetings

April, 2024

May, 2024

June, 2024

Board Meetings

April, 2024

May, 2024

June, 2024

Keeping in touch with the Museum happenings has never been easier. Information can be found on the Museum Facebook page or on the Museum's web site. As always, please consider joining us at one of our events.

Pantry Project

Despite the cold, snowy weather, many people helped out with this project. Thanks to all who helped.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

This years breakfast was a huge success. Over 650 people attended and enjoyed the meal, the egg hunt, kids crafts, bake sale, raffle baskets, and of course, the Easter Bunny. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out.



Plow Day

Plow Day is an opportunity to bring your tractor to Goodells County Park and help the Farm Museum prepare the fields for spring planting. This year May 11 has been selected as the day to play in the dirt, but if it's mud, we will be plowing on either May 18th or May 25th. Check the website or facebook for updates. Being your tractor and equipment, some may be available, or just come out and watch vintage tractors do what they do best. Activities by other groups will be ongoing at Goodells Park so you can make a day of it. Our concession stand will be open for part of the day in conjunction with the Fire Apparatus Flea Market. Hope to see you there.

WHAT IS THAT THING?

From time to time, items in the Museum reveal themselves and provide a challenge when it comes to identification of its original use. In our modern world, most items we use are things we grew up with and we understand the evolution of the item. Often, items that were common place for our forefathers elude us to the use years ago. This new column is an effort to understand and identify the myriad of items in the Museum collection which remain unnamed. We will present pictures of items that need identification and give you the opportunity to submit your ideas of what the item is or its use. Sometimes, we may need to simply know how the item was used.

The first item is shown at right. The bottom “tub” is 15” diameter and 8” high and made of wood with metal straps. The 15” cross handle is iron as is the 14” long screw. The 24” cross piece with the turned handle has a threaded metal piece below the wood. A hole on each end indicates that there may have been additional pieces that held the cross piece so as to “squeeze” something between the circular plate and the inside of the “tub”. The original inventory tag indicates it is a press. But what did it press? If you have a guess of what this item was used for, please send your idea to rustyforgeblacksmith@gmail.com.



INTERESTING FINDS

SOULÉ STEAM FEED WORKS

In one of the past issues of *Farm Collector Magazine* newsletter, I happened across an article pertaining to the Soule Steam Feed Works that caught my attention and the headline stating it was “America’s last intact steam engine factory” begged me to learn more. An internet search led me to much more information about this factory and its long history.

The Soulé Steam Feed Works historic site is owned by the non-profit Mississippi Industrial Heritage Museum, Inc. that has a board of directors which oversees the preservation and educational activities of the museum. Much of the original equipment and furnishings are intact as is the longest operation line drive shaft in the United States. Measuring 106 feet, the shaft is turned by an electric motor and still powers belt-driven machines which

date back to the 1900’s. In 2005, it was determined that the Soulé Steam Feed Works was one of only five remaining foundry and machine shop factories with original workings in the United States but is now only one of three.

The company’s founder George W. Soulé, an inventor, and his descendants operated the factory for 110 years commencing in 1892. The product line included products for the needs of the sawmills in the South including Rotary Steam Engines of which some are in operation in the Museums steam engine demonstration room. One of the steam engines in the product line was used to run the carriage in a saw mill feeding the log into the blade, thus the name “Steam Feed”.

A few of the educational exhibitions this year include:

--“Celebrate the American Industrial Revolution: WORK”. Ending in December, this celebration of industry illustrated the American workers’ contribution in making the country an industrial giant.

--“Soulé Spring Steam-Up”. On May 11th, visitors can experience more than 15 steam engines in operation.

--“Maker Faire Meridian”. On April 6th, visitors can interact with makers, hobbyists, inventors, entrepreneurs, etc to experience their projects and talk about what the makers have learned.

If you ever get a chance to visit Meridian, Mississippi, be sure to check out the Soulé Steam Feed Works and let us know what you learned.

<https://www.industrialheritagemuseum.com/>

MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS

The Bull Barn addition is looking for a new tenant

Bats... the county park staff has installed a bat box on the South East corner of the bull barn with the hopes of attracting a few mosquito eating critters. Found during a cleaning spree, the unused boxes are being hung to hopefully attract bats to the area. Park staff will be monitoring the box for activity. If anyone notices bat activity please let the park employees know.

Apple Butter Anyone?

A proposal presented to coincide with the Pumpkin Fest is to make apple butter. The Museum recently acquired a donation of a small apple cider press which will be restored and used to demonstrate cider making. The Cider will then be boiled down in a copper kettle and after the addition of lots of apples, made into apple butter. As this is the first time making apple butter, it is anticipated that the process will take the majority of a day. Many hands will be needed to peel and core the bushels of apples needed. One idea is to partner with local apple orchards for donations of apples. Samples of the finished apple butter can possibly be given out to visitors.

This idea is still in its infancy so if you would like to be a part of the operation, please contact Scott at rustyforgeblacksmith@gmail.com

Medical Centre Truck Logo

As the restoration of the original St. Clair County Medical Centre Ford truck continues, so does the search for a picture of the "logo" that adorned the doors of the truck. Based on the memory of member Wayne Coon, a rendition of the logo has been created. And, thanks to the graphic expertise of Yvonne Markel of Laser Mark-It, the design is as close as Wayne remembers. If anyone has knowledge of or a picture of the original design, please let the Museum know asap as we are nearing completion of the restoration.



Current rendering created from memory

Honorary Member

On March 20th, long time member Glen Shade was given an honorary lifetime membership to the Farm Museum. A member since the early 1980's, Glen has contributed countless hours helping the Museum grow. His knowledge,

experience and skillful driving of the Rumley are a few of invaluable skills that he shares with the Museum. Thank you Glen, for the many years of dedicated service to the community.



Fred Peasley(left) presents Glen with Honorary Lifetime membership

Concession Stand

It is no secret that the proceeds from the sale of food at Melanie's Diner concession stand provides much of the financial resources that the Farm Museum needs to maintain the operation throughout the year. Yvonne Markel has worked relentlessly to make sure the diner is a successful fundraiser. Now is the time for all members to step up and help out with this lucrative venture. Several dates this summer have been scheduled to provide concessions for 4-H horse shows, the 4-H & Youth Fair, and Fall Harvest Days. Please contact Yvonne at 810-334-6355 if you can help. Dates can be seen on the Museum Calendar.

The St. Clair County Farm Museum Presents:



Plow Day

Saturday, May 11, 2024

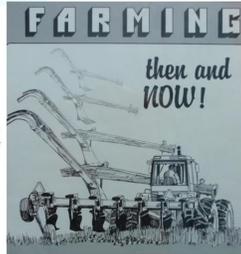
9 am - 2 pm

Weather Permitting
Rain Dates: May 18 or 25

AS A SPECTATOR SPORT:
Watch as vintage tractors work the fields.

AS A PARTICIPANT:

Bring your tractor and equipment and help prepare the fields for planting. A few plows may be available. We need to plow, disk and drag the fields and remove stones.



Location:
Goodells County Park

Find the Farm Museum at:
Goodells County Park
8310 County Park Drive
Goodells, MI. 48027

www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.org 810-325-1737

The museum is a 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization operated by volunteers.



Please consider joining to help us preserve the heritage of the farming communities of rural St. Clair County

The St. Clair County Farm Museum Presents:



Fall Harvest Days

August 23, 24, 25, 2024

2024 FUNDRAISER Raffle

1st. Prize

Reconditioned Golf Cart



New paint, batteries and solid state charger

2nd. Prize

\$500 Gift Card



3rd. Prize

2 Collectable John Deere Toys



TICKETS

\$5 ea.

or

5 for \$20

Available at Museum Events
or from Museum Members

Drawing

August 25, 2024 - 4pm

at Harvest Days Event

Do not need to be present to win.

Winner must pick up prize within 30 days of drawing.

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The St. Clair County Farm Museum Presents:



Join Us At The Fair

Come see us at
the St. Clair County 4-H
and Youth Fair
July 15th - 20th, 2024



- Stroll through the barns and see the Museum artifacts, 12 - 6 Mon - Fri, 9am-6pm Sat
- Check out the newly restored tractors & the machinery display
- Get a bite to eat at Melanie's Diner
- See the Port Huron steam engine powering the Port Huron sawmill, 5:30-7:30 Thurs & Fri, 4-6 Sat



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The St. Clair County Farm Museum Presents:



Fall Pumpkin Fest and Corn Maze



2024
Take a wagon ride to the farm's pumpkin patch,
pick a pumpkin, try to not get lost in the Museum corn maze

Stroll through the museum buildings

Corn Stalks For Sale



- Concessions Available
- Spinning Demonstrations
- Kids Activities
- Hand Corn Shelling
- Face Painting

October 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20

Saturdays & Sundays 12 noon - 5pm

Pumpkin Patch,
Corn Maze, Wagon Rides, Barrel Train, and More

While Supplies Last

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WE'RE ON THE WEB
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



**S T . C L A I R C O U N T Y
F A R M M U S E U M**

8310 County Park Drive
P.O. Box 202
Goodells, MI 48027

810-325-1737
sccfarmmuseum@gmail.com

Museum Board

Fred Peasley, President
Terry Dunn, V. President
Linda Taylor, Secretary
Bill Schultz, Treasurer

Keith Barnhart
Yvonne Markel
Kim Schultz
Melissa Wilson

The mission of the St. Clair County Farm Museum is to provide an understanding of our heritage, add to our areas cultural base and enhance regional tourism. This is achieved by acquiring, preserving and presenting agricultural and domestic equipment and related artifacts in structures and settings which will portray the origin and evolution of farming and rural living from when the area was first settled until about 1960.

The museum is a 501c3 charitable non profit organization which is operated entirely by volunteers. The museum always welcomes new volunteers to join us in achieving our mission. An agricultural background is not a requirement to become a member. Please join us at our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Community Building at Goodells County Park.



St. Clair County Farm Museum
P.O. Box 202
Goodells, MI 48027