

QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



The Zagray Quarterly

December 8, 2016

PRESIDENT'S NOTES – George Lehr

I had hoped that I'd have good news to report as an update on the CHS lawsuit. However, progress on transferring ownership of the farm to the QVEA has been stymied; see Art's update later on in the newsletter.

On a more pleasant note, the October show was very successful, despite the dreary weather. The Engine Building is complete, has power and is quickly filling with engines of all configurations. Several donations were received, including a Terex 8220 dozer and a 1943 Case Model S industrial tractor.

The Shaw Du-all Collector's Annual Reunion will be held in conjunction with our May 2017 show. Members of the Eastern Regional Vintage Garden Tractor Club of America will be in attendance. The show will feature garden tractor plowing on Saturday with walk behind tractors and pre 1970 riding tractors. Cliff Bridgford recently came to the farm and harrowed the corn field in preparation for the event. The event should be a benefit to our show.

We received a note from Dave Dziomba asking for some possible help. He's currently living and has gotten steady work in northern Maine. He wondered if anyone would be willing to help get the rest of his implements and his D2 crawler that are still at the farm up to him in Maine. He offers a place to stay for the night, a nice hot meal and \$150.00 toward fuel. It's a day's ride from here to his place in Maine. If anyone is interested, please call him at 207-210-3503 between 3 and 6 pm. He would be very thankful.

There will be no December meeting for the QVEA. Enjoy the holidays.

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

It's that time of year again! 2017 dues will remain at \$20.00 per year. Make your check payable to QVEA, and mail it to 180 South Plumb Road, Middletown, CT 06457. There's no need to fill out a new membership form, but if you have changes to your address, phone number or email, please include the changes. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is also welcome. Any and all donations beyond the dues are tax deductible and very much needed and appreciated!

If you have an email address, *please* email Dianne Tewksbury at tewksbdk@outlook.com to change from snail mail! That would help save our club the cost of materials, printing and mailing, plus the labor of sorting/folding/stapling/labeling/stamping.

For those of you who contribute to the United Way campaign, QVEA is now listed as a charitable organization allowing you to direct your donation to us for the support and expansion of the Zagray Farm Museum. The Pfizer Foundation also has a volunteer program that provides QVEA with substantial donations each year, based on the volunteer work of members who work or are retired from Pfizer.

Happy Holidays to all!

Stationary Engine Building

The building is complete, save for the air intake for the Fairbanks! We did not get to the three concrete pads in front of the doors, so they will need to wait till spring. We will move on to the electrical work in the spring as well, which consists of lighting, plugs around the perimeter and exterior lights out front. Most of the materials have already been procured and are on site. We could use an electrician's scissor lift for the project. If any member has access to one, let me know. Otherwise, they are \$600 a month to rent, or around \$4,000 for a decent used one.

The building looks AWESOME!!

A few pictures are at the end of the newsletter.

We had a great team for the entire project, thanks go to all who helped out!

Power Project

The power is ON!! Finally! Just as we finished the building, of course. What a pleasure to be able to work without listening to the generator running. We plan to have Comcast install to the building as well, as there is a substantial discount program at the moment that we don't want to miss, and at some point we will want to install IP cameras for security.



Atlas Imperial Project

The base and center-frame took a trip up to MA to a hot water wash booth for cleaning. But then we (well, Mike) had to clean the wash booth which took longer than cleaning the engine. It's done and back in the shop. I have made up the hold down clamps for the main bearing bottoms so that we can bed the crankshaft in properly. That operation will hopefully take place before Christmas. It's waiting on a crank polish job, not a simple task on a crank that is nearly 10 feet long!

The Year In Review

Where do I start on what has been a great year at the farm. While all three of our shows featured weather that was less than stellar, there was still decent attendance. We are due for some of that stellar weather, for sure. Then we'll see some new records set and pack the place again!

We built the engine building, moved the 4 cylinder Fairbanks, sold the 3 cylinder to a collector in VA and completed the electric project. We bought and moved a nice screener, bought a better plow truck, brought in loads of logs, moved the loading dock and continued to make building material for the next project.

Numerous pieces of equipment received repairs and maintenance including the HD11, Case forklift, 15B, F250 diesel, IH210, PayHauler, Dynahoe, TD14 and D4 on the antique construction equipment side. Another F20 is ready to get a replacement head, our F20 wood splitter has been repaired, and most of our farm tractors have been run and given repairs as needed. The Fairbanks and the Atlas projects are still in motion with the hope that both will run in 2017! Writing this I can't recall everything, there was just that much happening all summer.

While all of this is going on, we still found time for all of the annual maintenance on the property, mowing, plant and harvest the garden, general clean-up, repairs to existing buildings, leaf removal, tend the orchard, etc.

***Anyone who has some extra time and can help out is welcome.
Let us know what you would like to do and where your expertise lies.***

Still Wanted: Logs for the saw mill. Even though we received a substantial number of logs, we are still on the lookout for more -- 16'6" pine logs in particular that are 20 inch diameter or more on the small end will make good rafters. 12'6" logs of similar size will be used for 2X4's and siding. We have a good supply, but having extra material in stock would be nice.

CHS – QVEA – CF&G

The CF&G has elected to contest the transfer of the property from CHS to QVEA. Without going into too much detail, their version of how the property should be transferred involves a complicated subdivision with them taking the lions share and places unreasonable restrictions on the remaining land. It will go to court in February of 2018. We believe that the Judge will agree that the plan put forth by the CHS is a sound one and the best course of action.

Wanted!!!

A SMALL rock crusher, preferably flat belt driven, to complement our screening plant!!!

BRIMFIELD FIND - by Dave McClary

Brimfield is a small town on Rt. 20 between Sturbridge and Palmer along the southern border of Massachusetts. It is famous for hosting a very large antiques show three times a year. Local residents set up their land to furnish vender lots and/or parking spaces. Shows are held in May, July and September and more information can be found on the web site brimfieldshow.com. I have been visiting these shows for a number of years and by now have a few favorite vendors and can head straight for their spots ignoring those selling items which hold no interest for me, like jewelry or furniture. One vendor in particular is my favorite and this features a large variety of vintage hand tools, shop items and others very interesting to inspect. This past September one item in particular caught my eye. It was what appeared to be a cast bronze Fairbanks Morse sign over three feet long and half a foot wide. I asked the attendant if they had a shop somewhere with the intent to visit after checking for interest from our engine guys, but the answer was no. All the items on display are kept at one or more homes located south of Worcester. I got a card intending to following up on this item and perhaps one or more of several brass gauges with the Fairbanks Morse name on the faces which could be used for air pressure, for example. After some thinking about this rare opportunity to get a vintage sign of interest, I called the number on the card and made arrangements to go and buy it. Located at the far eastern side of Sutton and nearly in Northbridge, MA, it was not too long a drive. I showed the owner a picture of our 80D crane lifting the engine onto the new foundation and he was quite impressed. He said he got it at a permanent flea market in Maine and I began to think about where it might have been used originally, perhaps a logging locomotive or a tug boat. Upon initial

clean-up it was found to be made of cast iron, not bronze, that color seeming to be the result of a very light film of rust on the ground, raised surfaces of the letters and border. It was mounted on a stained oak board to provide a means for mounting. The picture below shows the sign mounted on the finished board and I am pleased to make it a donation for our newly constructed Engine Building.



For Sale: 1998 Kubota B2100 bucket loader. Has about 550 hours, always garaged. Asking \$7500. Call Dave McClary at 860-456-3932.

Included in the September Newsletter were pictures of club members working on the walls and roofing of the new Stationary Engine building. Here are pictures showing the “completion” of the building.



After all the wood work was done and three huge doors were built and installed, more club members helped cover the shiny new hinges and the cement foundation which cleared the way for Art Chester to start painting. Thankfully, there were a few volunteers on hand to help him finish the job.



***The exhaust for the
Fairbanks Morse
engine fabricated
by Ed Bezanson.***





With the exception of cement pads in front of the three doors, electrical wiring, installation of lights, a few items for the operation of the Fairbanks Morse engine, this building is complete and ready for the Atlas Imperial engine!



A few of the farm tractors have already found a new "protected" home under the building's overhang.

Dianne Tewksbury
QVEA Secretary & Editor
90 Park Road
Colchester, CT 06415

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, INC. (QVEA)



NAME _____
STREET _____
CITY _____
STATE/ZIP _____
PHONE _____
E-MAIL _____

Dues are \$20.00 per person for one year, payable with application.
Dues include liability insurance at the farm.

RETURN TO: QVEA, 180 SOUTH PLUMB RD, MIDDLETOWN, CT 06457