

# QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



## The Zagray Quarterly

December 2023

### FROM THE PRESIDENT, Connor Bishop

Well, we are looking at another great year at the Farm coming to a close. While we did have some bad weather for some of our show days, it encourages me to see that there are still plenty of die-hards that will show up, no matter what! We made great headway cleaning scrap and have more to go, and as projects get crossed off the list, more appear! For anyone interested in getting involved, check out our running Project List at <http://www.zagrayforum.com>, and get in touch with me or the appropriate Committee chairperson for more info.

The Chester Building is coming together well, with about half of the engines being bolted into place (Art spent an untold amount of time cutting angle iron to length and drilling hundreds of holes for brackets!). I have two more skids to build, and some welding work on others so they can also be bolted down. I also plan to work on the plumbing in tandem, so hopefully we will have more running engines next year as well.

With more running engines, we need more engineers! If anyone is interested in helping in this area, let me know. We also can use donations of good clean pipe, fittings, and valves. 1" and 2" NPT I plan to use the most, but any sizes are appreciated. We also can use a Wilson Pinstar (or equivalent) electric friction wheel starter. Any leads or donations would be appreciated.

Engine Building 1 is also receiving a makeover, with wallboards and shelving being installed in the same style as the Chester Building. It is a much-needed improvement and will add a perfect professional touch to the building. My Superior is also finally rolled into place next to the Bessemer, finally freeing up space on the front apron of the building. Once the air, water, and exhaust (with a muffler!) are plumbed in, it will be another permanent display installation for Engine Building 1.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and look forward to the year ahead!

Connor

## FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

**Dues for 2023-24 are due, and still \$20.00 per year.**

Lifetime memberships are \$500 and help the museum grow!

**Donations for the Ray DeZara engine collection for the fourth and final payment of \$35,125 are welcome. I need to make that payment in late April, 2024. Please note on your donation that it is for this purpose.**

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.

## Saw Mill

The saw mill was busy during the Summer show providing some additional material for our construction needs. But I used it all up! I'm in need of 1" boards, mostly.

Needed! Pine logs 8'6" to 16'6" as always. Our supply of shorter material is rather thin.

## Bob Chester Engine Building

We have been busy on the building over the last couple of months. The painting has been completed (20+ gallons of stain!) The half walls on the front have been completed except for the top plates. We have ordered clear curtains to enclose that front display area and protect the engines for the winter months.

Perhaps they will be installed for the fall show. The last 2 engines were moved into the building, the Clark on a new skid built by Conner. All of the engines have been set in their final locations in preparation for bolting down. When that is complete, we can begin the plumbing needed to get these engines running again! And figure out the Clark exhaust piping, a pad for the propane tanks, and an entrance apron on the west side door (that was waiting on the Clark exhaust installation).

**See Conner to help, we need it!**



# Other Projects

A half wall has also been installed on the pavilion and clear vinyl curtains ordered and make the area more usable during poor weather, and transform it into a usable 3 season space. Our picnic tables that were built in 2007 and stored outside have started to decay. Ned gave them needed repairs and stain to extend their life, but we needed more tables under the pavilion. Rather than building 4 or 5, we decided to replace all of them and use the old tables outside around the building. So, Allan, Bob Lee and I collaborated on a design and 14 tables were built and clear coated. They look great!

Engine building one has a new 24' by 8' rear workroom under part of the rear overhang. It's framed and plywood installed at this moment, and will get siding and paint shortly. A much needed addition to this building for tools and support materials.

The second bleacher set for the pulling pit needs to be shortened to match the first one completed last fall. The trailer used by the pullers got a major overhaul, new roof, door, trim, paint, and solar charging for the sound system (thanks, Alan and Bob Lee) as well a refurb of our wash stations.

The upper part of the farmhouse has been painted and at least part of the front garage will see some paint soon, hopefully.

Our old repair shop up front is getting a much needed sorting and cleaning with the intent to continue to make it a working machine shop. See Chris Allen to help.

George Jarvis donated in his will his truck, Murphy parts, Northwest parts, and plenty additional items. So you'll see George's 1972 Ford with the iconic 80D license plate at the farm. We are glad to have it. The model 6 that George talked about often has also made it to the farm and looks great. We will be culling a few items deemed expensive to keep or duplicates.

**.....AND THERES PLENTY MORE!!!!!!**

**So come out and lend a hand when you can!**



Tractor Pulls usually on Sunday during shows.



The Bezanson corner of the Tractor Barn



The Cub Cadet corner of the Tractor Barn



Nancy (*Bob Chester's widow*) standing next to Bob's "putt-putt".



Marc Bezanson giving his Farmall some exercise.



Bovaird & Seyfang engine being moved the Chester Bldg



Connor and Bill-Bill the day they moved George Jarvis' trailer to the farm. George donated nearly everything he had to the museum.

**FROM THE SECRETARY/EDITOR, Dianne Tewksbury**

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**FUTURE SHOW DATES for 2024: May 4-5, July 20-21, Oct. 5-6**

Location: 544 Amston Rd. (Rt. 85), Colchester, CT

Admission: \$10 per person / Children 15 and under are FREE!

Hours: 7am – 4pm Rain or Shine

Show Info: Connor Bishop @ 203-313-5362

Vendor Space: \$30 Weekend – 30' x 18'

Vendor Space Info: Karl Hansen 860-887-0144

Camping with your display (no hookups)

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**A ZAGRAY FARM MUSEM FLAG?**

During the March 2023 meeting, someone brought up the idea of having a Zagray flag. If you have any interest in creating a design for a Zagray Farm Museum flag, please let Connor know at 203-313-5362.

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**WINTER STORAGE AVAILABLE:** First come, first served space is available in our Tractor Barn over the winter months for a fee of \$17 per foot for your RV, trailer, vintage vehicle, etc. The measurement needs to include the tongue and tail lights, plus anything attached. Vehicles can begin to enter the building a week after the Oct. show and need to be removed by April 15.

Please contact Ned Tewksbury at 860-537-2252

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to unwanted robocalls, we do not answer the phone if we do not recognize the name. Please leave a message and we will call you back.

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Our Website: [ZAGRAYFARMMUSEUM.ORG](http://ZAGRAYFARMMUSEUM.ORG)  
Follow us on Facebook @zagrayfarmmuseum  
Zagray Forum: [Zagrayforum.com](http://Zagrayforum.com)

**Zagray Engine Maintenance Records**  
Go to [Docs.google.com](http://Docs.google.com) or [Sheets.google.com](http://Sheets.google.com)  
and log in using this email address:  
[zagraymaintenance@gmail.com](mailto:zagraymaintenance@gmail.com)  
Password: Secureless

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**HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
EVERYONE!!!**



Dianne Tewksbury  
QVEA Secretary & Editor  
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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**