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Minnesota Valley
Antique Farm Power & Machinery Association



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MARCH 2018

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PRESIDENTIAL STATE OF THE HILL ADDRESS:

Greetings from Heritage Hill. March seems to be the transitional month from winter to spring, a time when our spirits are invigorated, a time when we look forward to the end of harsh winter conditions. Typically, March ushers in the season when maple syrup is produced, also known to those in the industry as "sugarbush". The term sugarbush actually has a double meaning. Sugarbush is a reference to the time of the year when maple syrup is produced; it is also a reference to a place deep in the hardwood forests. The

term sugarbush originates from the French Canadian providences, as the "bush" is a reference to the woods or the outback. Maple syrup production is no longer reserved for the traditional settings of hardwood forests of Vermont or Quebec where sugar shacks located throughout the woods, as we often vision. Maple syrup production has become increasingly popular among hobbyists in the northern climates, much like honeybees, vineyards and craft breweries. A quick look around will reveal an ample supply of maple trees in any small city or its surrounding countryside. The United States is home to 13 species of maple trees. Many of those species are found in Minnesota, including the sugar, red, black, and silver maple. Another species that fools many is the boxelder tree. Often the argument is made that maple syrup can be made from trees other than maples, citing the boxelder as an example. Actually only maple trees produce maple syrup, and maple syrup can be made from boxelders as boxelders are maples, one of the said 13 maple tree species. Birch and walnut trees



also produce sap this time of the year, but do not produce "maple" syrup, instead produce birch and walnut syrup, respectively. Most people in the industry, whether large or small scale, have other occupations besides producing maple syrup. One of the more difficult parts of the sugarbush is being ready to tap trees when the sap is ready to flow; the producer must be geared to drop all other activities, and began the process. The physiology of sap moving within a maple tree is rather complex. It all has to do with carbon dioxide dissolving into the tree cells when ambient air temperatures drop below freezing at night, and the same gas evaporating out of the cells during the day when temperatures warm above freezing, creating negative and positive pressures. Tapping maple trees involves drilling a 2.5 inch deep hole in the trunk somewhere 1 to 5 feet above the soil level, inserting a hollow tube know as a spile, and by various means, funneling the sap into a holding bucket. Sap must be collected and processed regularly as to prevent the sugar in the sap from converting to starch. The sugar concentration found in maple sap varies among the maples species ranging from an approximate 1.5% in boxelders and silver maples to about 5% in sugar maples. Approximately 40 to 60 gallons of maple sap is needed to make one gallon of syrup. The recipe for making maple syrup is rather simple: Bring the sap to a boil and keep adding sap. The water evaporates leaving an increasingly high concentration sugar. The final boiling procedures are a combination of art and skill. At a certain temperature and density the boiling process is completed and the syrup is ready for bottling. The history of maple syrup production is rather interesting as its origin cannot be traced, a skill that was honed by the indigenous peoples purportedly over thousands of years. Maple syrup processing was unknown to Europeans prior to venturing to North America. The French fur traders were the first to learn of this craft from the Natives. Natives who resided in North America lacked the tools needed to tap maple trees, instead using crude rock hammerheads, often resulting in the death of the maple tree. Europeans having access to tools and other metal products, aided the Natives by trading furs for needed tools, reducing damage to the maple trees, and at the same time creating a mutual interdependent relationships between the settlers and the Natives. Annual production of maple syrup in North America now exceeds 6.5 million gallons, with Quebec leading production at 71% of the total.

I hope to see you at the March 19, 2018 membership meeting. Take care, Leslie Bergquist, Treasurer

MEETING NOTICES & COMING EVENTS

Membership Meeting	Monday, March 19 th , 7:00 PM @ the Montevideo Community Center
Board Meeting	Sunday, April 8 th , 7:00 PM @ Heritage Hill
Servers for February	Floyd and Waunita Kanten, Wes and Dorraine Thompson, Beatrice Olson
Montevideo Lions – Circus	Thursday, June 7 th , 2018 @ Heritage Hill
Heritage Hill 2018 Threshing Show	August 17 th – 19 th , 2018

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES: February 19, 2018 – Bob Schultz, Secretary

Vice President Hegna called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at the Montevideo Community Center.

There was a quorum present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bob Schultz reviewed the minutes of the January 15th, 2018 Membership Meeting. M/S/P Les Bergquist/Doug Chip Grube to approve the minutes.

Les Bergquist presented the Treasurer's report. M/S/P Floyd Kanten/Jim Roe to approve the Treasurer's report.

- **Members:** Art Benjamin recently had a bad fall and suffered a bad cut. He is currently recovering. Elsie Holtan is doing well and sends her greetings.
- **Ole and Lena Days:** Gene Zeller and Dustin Johnson attended Ole and Lena Days on Saturday, February 3rd. They sold 36 tickets for the raffle. Gene stated that tickets were a "tough sale" with a bare table. (no big prize like a shotgun to show as in the past)
- **Mini Pulling Sled:** Kyle Ashling & Tim Stensrud have donated their mini pulling sled to the club. (It is normally stored during the off season at our sight.) Thank you Kyle and Tim. It is still "up in the air" as to whether or not we will be having a garden tractor pull during the 2018 show.
- **990 Policy/Conflict of Interest/Document Retention & Destruction/Whistle Blower Policyies:** These 4 policies were reviewed and approved/adopted by the Board of Directors at the February 1st meeting. The 990 Policy was filed and will be posted on the club's website.
- **2017 Audit:** The 2017 Financial Audit will occur immediately after this evening's meeting.
- **Fire truck Donation:** The Board of Directors also accepted the donation of a Ford Louisville fire truck (pumper) from the Boyd Fire Department at the February 1st meeting. A big "Thank You" to the Boyd Fire Department for their generous donation!
- **Burgers for the show:** Bill Pauling was contacted and **is not interested** in doing burgers for the 2018 show. Does anyone else have any ideas on this?
- **Nominating Committee:** We need to form a nominating committee to develop our ballot of potential officers for the 2019 year. Everyone (except board members) is eligible to serve on this committee. Please step up and help with this important task.
- **Saturday Night Entertainment:** The possibility of a pork feed/polka service for the Saturday Night Entertainment was discussed. The board would appreciate input/ideas from the membership for this year's entertainment.
- **Steiner Tractor Supply:** Steiner Tractor will be sending out bundles of giveaway items for our show again this year. A big "Thank You" to Steiner Tractor.
- **Jim Roe:** Jim Roe reports that on the brochures and advertising that we would like to list an extra 65 tractor display to occur at Doug Norman's Museum across Highway 7 from the show site. A bus would take people from our site to Doug's to shuttle people back and forth. We would need a bus and help to make this happen.
- **New Dairy:** Wes Thompson suggested that a bus to the new dairy complex on Highway 40 northeast of Montevideo might be a good event (and an extra draw) for our show, either this year or in the future. Also, the "Diesel Brothers" of Discovery TV fame have built a monster truck with tractor tires at all 4 corners for the Soybean Growers Association. This truck runs on Bio-Diesel and **is booked to be at our show all day Saturday**. It is based out of Mankato, MN. They will be sending info for our poster. There will be no charge for this. Thanks to Eric Haugen and Wes for setting this up.
- **Kitchen Help:** Dorraine Thompson needs a crew of helpers to help with the kitchen. Dorraine starts at 5:00 AM every morning preparing food for the breakfast and noon meals, setting up serving areas, cooking and serving the food and the cleanup. The rolls are put down to rise at 8:30 to 9:00 PM to rise for baking the next AM. It is a long, long day. This takes a big **CREW**, not just a couple of workers. Please talk to Dorraine and volunteer to get on the list to help with this. This is the biggest money maker of our show. Men and women can help. We need people early in the morning to make this work. **Please step up to help!!!**
- **Raffle Tickets:** Raffle Tickets are available for sale. We still need a ticket coordinator.
- **Next Board of Director's Meeting:** Thursday, March 1st @ 7:00 PM @ the Montevideo Chamber of Commerce Office.
- **Next Membership Meeting:** Monday, March 19th @ 7:00 PM in the Montevideo Community Center.
- **Servers for March:** Floyd and Waunita Kanten, Wes and Dorraine Thompson, Beatrice Olson.
- **Adjournment:** M/S/P Les Bergquist/Bob Schultz to adjourn.

EXTRAS: Allis-Chalmers Tractors and Dawn of Rubber Tires

Most tractor and farm equipment manufacturers and their engineers have been credited for multiple inventions and innovations over the course of years. Allis-Chalmers as credited with implementing rubber tires on tractors. In 1926 Harry C. Merritt was hired as Senior Manager – Tractor Division for Allis-Chalmers. During his tenure at the A-C company, Merritt turned a losing tractor production division into profit center that dominated about 60 % of the company sales. Merritt was most noted for viewing a field of poppies in bloom in 1929, and convincing the board of directors to change the tractor paint color from drab grey to the notorious Persian orange, a huge success for Allis-Chalmers. The Allis-Chalmers U was the first tractor to bear the new Persian orange. In 1932 Merritt was also credited for teaming with his acquaintance Harvey Firestone to experiment with rubber tires on A-C tractors. Chief engineer C. E.



Frudden set forth to test the idea by installing pneumatic tires on an Allis-Chalmers U owned by Albert Schroeder; Schroeder owned a farm near Waukesha, Wisconsin. It was soon learned that rubber tires on tractors would become a huge success. At first the tractor tires were in affective at high pressure, but lowering tire pressure from 70 to about 15 pound per square inch; the tractor tires gained the needed traction. Engineers soon learned that the tractive efficiency of the U was greatly enhanced whereby the same tractor developed over twice the drawbar horsepower using rubber tires. This was not the first time rubber was used on tractors. History indicates that solid rubber cleats were first used on steam traction engines in 1871, but the Allis-Chalmers U was the first to utilize pneumatic rubber tires. Additional benefit included the comfort it created for the tractor operators as well as the reduction in fuel required for the same number of acres of tillage. Going forward rubber tires sold in great quantities, and the steel wheels were soon littering the salvage yards throughout the nation. Allis-Chalmers tractors and equipment will be featured at the 2018 Heritage Hill Threshing Show, August 17, 18 and 19.

DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES: March 1, 2018 – Bob Schultz, Secretary

The Board of Directors met Thursday, March 1st, 2018 @ 7:00 PM at the Montevideo Chamber of Commerce building. Secretary Bob Schultz called the meeting to order. Vice President Orlynn Hegna joined mid meeting and took over chairing the meeting.

Present were Orlynn Hegna, Les Bergquist, Chip Grube, Scott Thissen, Dustin Johnson, Stephen Coon and Bob Schultz. Jim Roe was a guest..

Secretary Bob Schultz presented the minutes of the February 1st, 2018 Board of Directors meeting. M/S/P Les Bergquist/Chip Grube to approve the minutes.

Les Bergquist presented the Treasurer's report. M/S/P Chip Grube/Stephen Coon to approve the report.

- **Parade Sign Updates:** Stephen Coon was given the go ahead to get the parade signs for the 2018 show updated at DC Signs.
- **Sponsorships:** Les Bergquist will send a record of past sponsors for 2015 – 2017. We will begin soliciting sponsors for our 2018 show. Sponsorship is for the 2018 show, **NOT** for the tractor pull. We will designate a highly visible place to post each sponsor's sign if they submit one.
- **Board of Director's Meeting Dates:** After much discussion, M/S/P Les Bergquist/Scott Thissen to move the monthly Board of Director's meetings to the **first Sunday of the month** to accommodate board member's other commitments. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Saturday Night Entertainment:** Please be ready to share your thoughts and opinions on what we should do for our Saturday night entertainment at the March 19th meeting.
- **Bus to the Norman Tractor Museum:** Jim Roe has arraigned to use the American Legion Bus to take people to the Norman Tractor Museum. We will need a bus driver. If we do this, we must also make certain that no one parks along the highway in front of the Norman's. There are other logistics to be worked out as well.
- **Kitchen Concerns:** Discussion about staffing the kitchen occurred. Please refer to the bulleted item in the **Membership Meeting notes**.
- **Saint Patrick's Day Parade:** The city will be having a St. Patrick's Day parade. Is there any interest in participating in this parade? It occurs on March 17th.
- **Nominating Committee:** We should be approving a Nominating Committee at the March 19th meeting so as to have a complete ballot ready for elections this fall.
- **Tractor Drive:** Stephen Coon will be in charge of looking into having another Tractor Drive at this summer's show. Logistics and routes will undoubtedly need to be changed.

- **Slow Tractor Race:** Is anyone interested in running the slow tractor race this year? (Stephen and Glen have a conflict that day).
- **Mini Tractor Pull:** The board will be checking with Kyle to see if his group is interested in a mini tractor pull this year.
- **Pedal Pull:** Do we have enough participants to merit the expense of a pedal pull this year?
- **Popcorn Stand:** We need a group to step up to man the popcorn stand this year.
- **Hamburger Issue:** Hamburgers for the kitchen were discussed. Does anyone know of a group or individual that does this at shows like ours? Perhaps we need to go to "pulled pork sandwiches", "sloppy joes" or something similar.
- **2019 Queen:** Does anyone have in mind a candidate to be our next Queen? (to be crowned at this August show?)
- **VAC Tractor Mower:** There was talk of rebuilding the Woods Mower drive on our VAC tractor. Is this still happening?
- **Allis Chalmers Club:** it is noted that there is not an Allis Chalmers Club scheduled for our show this year. A few of our members will be showing their Allis tractors at "The Gathering of the Orange" in Hutchinson this year (about a month before our show) and plan to invite (through word of mouth, posters, and sharing our interests in all things Allis) to encourage people attending and showing their equipment in Hutchinson to attend our show in August.
- **Next Board Meeting:** 7:00 PM, Sunday, April 8th at the Heritage Hill Thresher's Kitchen. (*notice change of day, date and location*)
- **Next General Membership Meeting:** Monday, March 19th @ 7:00 PM in the Montevideo Community Center.
- **Servers for March 19th Meeting:** Floyd and Waunita Kanten, Wes and Dorraine Thompson, Beatrice Olson.
- **Adjournment:** M/S/P Chip Grube/Stephen Coon to adjourn.

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 2018

Financial Statement: February 1, 2018

<u>Internal Accounts</u>		<u>Depository Accounts</u>	
\$19,361.16	General Fund	\$3,279.73	Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking
\$411.90	Building Fund	\$48,036.33	CAB - Preferred Money Market
\$4,043.00	Chapel Fund	\$0.00	CAB - Certificate of Deposit
\$17,500.00	Farming Fund	\$51,316.06	TOTAL
\$10,000.00	Insurance Fund		
\$51,316.06	TOTAL	\$0.00	Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank

Operating Statement

\$51,316.06 **Balance: February 1, 2018**

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>DISBURSEMENTS</u>	
\$7.64	Interest	(\$321.28)	Electricity
\$30.00	Meeting Lunch Donation	(\$20.00)	Memorial - Donald Dambrotten
\$235.00	Membership Dues	(\$15.00)	MN Dept of Ag - Annual Fee
\$90.00	Newsletter Donation	(\$180.00)	MVTV - Webpage Fee
\$560.00	Raffle Ticket Sales	(\$50.00)	Office/Postage
\$922.64	TOTAL	(\$586.28)	TOTAL

\$51,652.42 **Balance: February 28, 2018**

Financial Statement: February 28, 2018

<u>Internal Accounts</u>		<u>Depository Accounts</u>	
\$19,697.52	General Fund	\$3,607.72	Citizens Alliance Bank - Checking
\$411.90	Building Fund	\$48,043.70	CAB - Preferred Money Market
\$4,043.00	Chapel Fund	\$0.00	CAB - Certificate of Deposit
\$17,500.00	Farming Fund	\$51,651.42	TOTAL
\$10,000.00	Insurance Fund		
\$51,652.42	TOTAL	\$0.00	Loan Balance - Citizens Alliance Bank

Leslie K. Bergquist, Treasurer