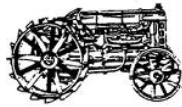
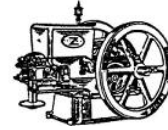


THE QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



↑ UPDATE



JUNE 2009

President's Notes

The calendar says that summer is almost here. Other than a hot spell in early spring the weather has been rather cool. However despite the weather Mark and Melissa Bezanson and company has the garden planted and Dave Dziomba has this year's corn crop in. Other things are progressing as well. ED Bezanson has the stone walls around the saw mill just about completed. There are a few more things on the saw mill that need to be finished before we can call it done. Art Chester has a good start on the floor that when done will give the people operating the mill a good place to work. It also gives the mill a nice appearance along with the walls that Ed has constructed. The wood for the floor was cut during the May show from logs donated by Dave McClary. We also have a new super metal detector made for scanning logs before any cutting is done. I guess there are numerous horror stories about hitting large metal objects that the trees have grown around over the years that can't be seen by eye. We certainly don't want anyone hurt or to ruin our mill. We still need to construct a sawdust removal system and refurbish the planer to make finished lumber. So you can see there are lots of things to do. I don't think we will ever run out of projects. Not as long as Ed is around. He has grand plans for the whole establishment, like a turn of the century barn made from old barns that have been donated. He plans this to be a welcome center. He also envisions bus loads of school kids coming to be educated on the ways of the past. Sound like a good plan to me. Donations keep coming in. Some are very nice pieces like the Chevy bruin tractor from the state of CT and some seem destined directly to the scrap bin upon arrival. However even scrap iron brings the farm museum money to support the many projects going on around the property. We will accept almost anything that we can use, auction or scrap. Old mattresses and furniture would not fit this category. If anyone has a nice shingle mill they would like to donate that would be very nice.

On another note the Colchester Historical Society has reestablished the original steering committee that is outlined in the legal papers of Harry Zagray. We are hoping that perhaps some of the problems between the three groups can be resolved. There is always room for hope. For those that couldn't make the May show it went quite well considering the weather that was cool and damp. We are doing more advertising and in different ways than we have been in the past. That and word of mouth are having the desired effect. I think our shows will continue to grow due to the advertising and the fact that we keep adding more features like garden tractor pulls, doodle bug pulls and a running saw mill, operating large shovels as well as all the other attractions that are always here. Things that move and make noise are always an attraction. Hope to see you around the farm.

QVEA INPUTS TO THE ZAGRAY STEERING COMMITTEE

Recently the long dormant Zagray Steering Committee has been re-energized and the members of that committee have held a couple of meetings. QVEA has forwarded a couple of requests and proposals to the committee for their review and analysis. The first proposal QVEA sent was a request to erect a large building, built by King Construction Company, at the site outlined by our surveyor. The other two are below, a reconstruction proposal and a request to clean out the pond. Only time will tell where we go from here.

1910 Post and Beam Barn Reconstruction Proposal

History of this project: A new retail mall is being built on Dayton Place in Waterford CT. The property contained 2 houses and a turn of the century post and beam barn. The town historical official was concerned about the destruction of the barn and caused some delays in the permits. Our Vice-President, Ed Bezanson lives in this neighborhood and stopped to look at the barn. It still had a good roof so it was still in good condition. He made contact with the real estate agent who gave him the name of the developer in Minnesota. We asked if we could dismantle the barn and move to the Zagray Farm where it could be reconstructed. The Waterford officials and the Waterford Historical Society welcomed the idea and the developer was delighted to have her problem solved.

In late October of last year a QVEA crew spent several weekends carefully marking and dismantling the 100 year old barn. The pieces were loaded on trailers and brought to the farm where they await reconstruction. The accompanying pictures show the barn before deconstruction and some of the process the engineers followed in taking it apart.

The barn is about 20X24 to 24X30 ft depending how many of the main chestnut beams can be reused. We wish to reconstruct this barn in the area that now contains the Food trailer, just across the causeway, as indicated on the supplied maps. The reconstruction would include a new stone foundation that will be built from the original foundation brought from Waterford. The barn has been sitting on this same stone foundation for the last 100 years. The stone came from the Foss quarry which was located 300 yards from where the barn stood. It is possible this barn was originally one of the Quarry buildings.

The interior of this barn will look exactly as it did in Waterford. The boards will be replaced as close as possible to their original locations. A secondary wall will be built around the outside of this structure which will contain insulation and wiring. This method will preserve the full post and beam structure on the inside for future generations to see how these classic barns were constructed.

The barn will be used as an orientation information center, office and meeting space. The barn will contain artifacts that reflect the history of the farm as it was then and now. We anticipate the time, in the not to distant future, when busloads of school children of all ages will come to the farm on field trips. The barn will be their first stop before they move out onto the grounds to witness first hand how things were done in the good old days.

Although the barn will have a total original look it will be equipped with heat, lights, computer terminals and anything else to make it a useable space. We are looking forward to starting this important project as soon as possible. The work will be carried out by our dedicated volunteers who are professionals in all construction fields. No outside contracts will be necessary to complete this project. We do ask the CHS for a \$10,000 endowment to cover new materials used on this project.

Pond - Carry Pit Clean out request

The Pond on the western side of the main field needs to be cleaned out. The pond was created sometime in the 1950's when the State of Conn. rebuilt Rt. 85 between Colchester and Hebron. The contractor purchased gravel from the Zagray Bros. and that gravel was removed from the area that is now the Pond. The construction industry calls this a carry pit or a place to get gravel or fill. This carry pit has been in existence for over 50 years during which time it has never been cleaned out. It has no stream flow in or out and the water height is determined by the level of the surrounding ground water. During dry spells usually in late summer the water level recedes and the pond dries up.

Over the years the pond has gradually filled with silt and rotting material such as leaves. At present this material is between 4 and 5 feet deep in all parts of the pond.

The QVEA wishes to drain the pond and remove the buildup of sediment that has accumulated over the years. The State of Conn. allows the removal of sediment in Farm Ponds every 10 years so that the water supply can be kept clean. The pond, as the diagram shows, is on average 250 feet long and 100 feet wide which means it contains about 3500 cubic yards of material. The question of the disposal of the soils from the pond is a very important consideration. There are several places on the farm where we can use this material after it is dried and screened of the roots and rocks. There are several low areas on the farm that could use this material to full advantage.

Another possibility is to use some of this material to build a bird habitat up in the woods on the other side of the Airline. Connecticut College has just cleaned out their pond in the Arboretum which was built in the 1930's. The College used part of the dredged soils to build a meadow or field habitat in which they have planted native grasses and wild flowers.

The wet lands commission of Colchester has already given us permission to remove the spoils that lay on their side of the town line. Once we get the go ahead we will start the permitting process with the town of Hebron. We have time because we wouldn't move forward with the project till the next dry spell whenever that may come. We can only effectively dredge the pond after 90 percent of the water has been removed.

The Colchester Fire dept. has already expressed interest in installing a fire hydrant in the pond once it has been cleaned out. They feel this is a good location to get emergency water if they have a fire in that part of town.

Any questions about this proposal should be directed to the QVEA project Co-coordinator Ed Bezanson 1-860-442-5182

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester

Our May show started out cloudy and quite damp. It seemed no two weathermen could agree on their predictions. But we had a show to put on – weather or not! By mid afternoon on Saturday, it was clear that this show, despite the marginal weather, was going to come very close to surpassing any previous May show. The parking lot was active, hay wagons full, and the aisles clogged with people making the most of the day. When the final counts were in for the weekend we were within \$200 of the May 2007 show that featured sunshine and temperatures in the high 70's. Thanks to all who help put on these events. There is always room for an additional volunteer to give one of us a longer break.

Newsletters are now printed quarterly – March, June, September, and December. Please, **everyone** who can receive their newsletter via e-mail rather than by USPS, make that request to Linda at enwot61@sbglobal.net It will save our printing-sorting-folding-mailing crew some labor, and save your club a **lot** of money, as well as being environmentally 'green'. 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. We appreciate all donations in any form or size.

Happening at the Farm

Our circa 1870's Lane sawmill continues to get attention and was in full operation for the show. Log donations have been received from Dave McClary and also from a friend of Bud Motuzick's, with more on the way. There was a good supply of ash from the McClary logs that we cut in 2" thick boards to become the flooring in the working area of the mill. The flooring is now 2/3 complete and looks very period. The diesel exhaust was extended above the roof as the prevailing wind from the SW tended to send the exhaust back into the sawyer's area. Adjustments and tweaking of various systems is nearly complete. The stone wall work is complete around the mill, with the final wall being built and material brought in for the spectator area the Friday of the show. We have an area for a shingle mill under roof, and are actively seeking one. We have looked at a couple, and heard about a couple more, but don't have a deal on one yet. It will happen, probably before the end of the year.

The permanent show post project is complete in the main field, with over 250 posts planted. What did take several men ½ day of measuring and pounding in oak posts can now be done literally by one person in less than an hour. It was a tedious task for all of us, particularly the guys on their knees installing the receivers. Thanks to all who helped. We might want to add a few in the vendor area at the top of the hill, so let's not forget how this is done!

The Hough 30 loader is getting a new ring gear (no more grinding!), the Ford plow truck a rear wheel cylinder, the HA carb and gas tank work after getting a lift cylinder repair (thanks, Peter!), the combine engine is back at my shop for re-assembly, the Simplicity auction tractor has a motor and is being reassembled, and the list goes on.

The garden is planted, the corn is in and up, the rye field is almost ready to cut, a small wall has been added to the flower bed near the side door of the barn, and the Dick Babbitt memorial has perennials planted around it.

ITEMS NEEDED!!!!

There are always a few new items on our 'needed' list. Call Art at 982-5158, or Ned at 537-2252. The help in this area we've received in the past has been terrific! Thanks to all of you!

A grain wagon for harvesting the corn
Two track pads for our 1929 Universal Shovel
A pair of 6788 IH front wheel weights and a steel belt pulley for a Farmall H

PROJECTS

A complete refurbishment of the drying shed – see Andy Milardo to volunteer!
Carriage shed (near the machine shop) rebuilding.

Repair and assembly of a bleacher set for the sawmill.

Sawmill site work (re-grading / seeding)

Sawmill framework painting.

Clark forklift transmission repairs (something is now in the works on this! Does anyone have a parts or service manual for a Clark CY60 forklift? Call art at 982-5158).

Lighting in the machine shop 'working' area
We have a couple F20's in need of refurbishment / repair.
Installation of the tractor pulling pit. We have the clay on site now.
Another bleacher set or two for the Garden Tractor Pulling Pit
Fairbanks Morse engine pad - the 4 cylinder will run again in 2009

DONATIONS

Our thanks to all who have donated items or services in the past, those listed here, and for those offers of 'call me when you need something' that allow us to progress rapidly once we identify the project needed. I will try to acknowledge donors in this section as I hear of them. Call me if I miss something!

Chris Withington has donated 2 dump trailer loads of clay for our tractor pulling pit. We are very happy to get this material as it is becoming more difficult to find. Thanks to Chris and Butch for the loads!
The State of Ct has on loan to us a Chevrolet Bruin single axle fifth wheel truck. Everything works! It will be handy moving equipment around for shows. Thanks to Frank Shaw for orchestrating the deal!
I saw a 1950's two cylinder Wisconsin generator in nice condition that I have to round up information as to it's donor, and I know I've missed a couple of items. I'll round up the information for the next newsletter.
John Ostuno has donated several flats of annual flowers and provided a terrific lunch, I'm told. The flowers have been planted near the barn and the memorial flagpole.

Thanks again to all of you!

FOR SALE !

Model 146 John Deere loader from our 2150 tractor (QVEA owned) \$750.00

call Dave @982-5163

ADDITION TO THE BY LAWS – STANDING RULE

An addition was made to the QVEA By-Laws at the April meeting which was approved by 2/3 of the members present. It is as follows:
Rule 16. A large operational circular saw mill requires strict adherence to safety precautions and a qualified operator for protection of those observing, either Club members at any time or the public during shows at the farm. Accordingly, it is required that only those persons designated by the President and the person in charge of the saw mill shall be authorized to run the saw mill for cutting of logs. In addition, it is required that the engine and or controls be physically blocked from operating by use of a padlock with key holders limited to those designated by the Club President.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Now is the time to think about if you would like to run for an office.

The Board of Directors, serving as a nominating committee, will be considering nominees for all club officer positions. They will be choosing the slate of officers who will be running. There will be no vacancies on the Board of Directors this year as everyone is happy where they are.

If you are interested, and meet the by-law election requirement of having been a member in good standing for two years and have attended at least 60% of the past year's meetings before the August 26th meeting, please notify any Board member in writing before the August 26th Board of Directors meeting begins. You may include any justification and material and member support information as may be desired. Notifying the Board at the general meeting on August 26th will not be acceptable, as the by-laws require notification before the Board of Directors meeting. E-mail notification is also acceptable- enwot61@sbcglobal.net always works.

If you are in doubt as to whether you have been a member for the required two years, contact the treasurer as he has the necessary membership records or the secretary who has the attendance records.

WANTED

Old chainsaws for parts or restoration. Contact Sven Johnson at 860-376-9507 or email at hotsaw@ct.metrocast.net.

Machine Shop Activities - by Dave McClary

Two major items were completed this spring. The twenty foot long line shaft that has been hanging by ropes in the small room of the machine shop has been mounted in the hangers that were donated with it. This is a two inch diameter shaft supported in three hangers suspended from the ceiling. These hangers are massive, weighing about sixty pounds each. Two parallel lengths of fir 2 x 10 were attached to span two ceiling joists with small lag screws. Then, lengths of heavy two inch angle iron were bent in a "U" shape, held up in place to capture these timbers using a Lally column as a jack and bolted through the joist, one at each end of the 2 x 10's. Holes were pre-drilled for the 3/4" hanger support bolts and the bolts put in place from above. Then the hangers were put up in place and nuts installed. The line shaft was then carefully transferred over and up into the hanger and the bottom cross pieces bolted in place. This was done with a chain loop around the hanger as a safety measure using a floor jack. The shaft was then cleaned, the existing pulleys were removed for cleaning and the bearings were readied for installation. The bearings halves are cast iron backed poured babbit, seven inches long. Under the bottom half is a cast iron support and oil catch container that also serves as the bearing point for three position adjusting bolts. A fourth bolt from

above clamps the two interlocking halves together. All of these pieces were well preserved due to the long years of having been oiled liberally when originally used in some factory, presumably, and during use by two subsequent owners. The patent date on the hangers is 1901. Next, it is planned to connect a motor by belts and a jack shaft to turn the line shaft at a relatively low speed. Two countershafts will also be hung from the ceiling and belted up to the Shepard, Lathe & Co. engine lathe and the Hendey shaper, two donated machines. The intent is to run the shafts quite slowly to avoid any safety concern related to fast moving belts. But the operation of the machines as well as a typical line shaft installation can be demonstrated. It is noted that long bolts that would have supported three smaller line shaft hangers were found hanging down from ceiling joists and positioned over the Pratt & Whitney lathe that was used there by Stanley Zagray. That lathe when found by QVEA had a home made motor mount, indicating that Stanley Zagray probably modified it for direct motor operation at some point in time.

The second item accomplished was to assemble the W. L. Chase Co. Eagle Foot Lathe, an engine lathe that was donated and restored over the winter. It was described in the March newsletter and on display during the May show.

Hudson provided another bargain for tinkerers like this writer. A Canedy-Otto Mfg. Co. bench drill press was purchased for ten dollars. It dates from the mid 1920's, has a 1/4 hp motor and weighs a heavy 90 pounds. Canedy-Otto was formed in 1894 as a maker of post drills and blacksmithing equipment such as blowers. Products expanded to heavy duty drill presses until the company went out of business in 1942. The drill press pictured below was found in excellent condition although oily dirty.

Information about the company was found on the Old Wood Working Machine web site (OWWM.com).

Canedy-Otto Mfg. Co. bench drill press found in Hudson by Dave McClary.

COMING EVENTS

June 30 – Regularly scheduled meeting.

July 18-19 – Zagray Summer Show. Volunteers will be needed.

July 28 – Next regularly scheduled meeting.

MINUTES OF MEETING MAY 26, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Ned Tewksbury with 32 members present. The treasurer gave his report and spoke about the May show profits in spite of the threatening weather all weekend.

Ned explained the new rules for bidding on items at the farm. Due to the change to quarterly newsletters, the old system just wouldn't work. A new system for accepting donations is also now in place.

Ed Bezanson discussed two proposals coming up before the steering committee. See articles above. The garden has been planted, the corn has been planted and the rye is ready to be cut. It has taken a lot of work but the stakes for the show lines are finally in place.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.