

# QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS



## The Zagray Quarterly

September 8, 2011

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Summer is almost over and we have one more show to go. If you missed the July show you missed a good one. Weather is always a factor at any of our shows and July was pretty good. Warm, but not excessive. One of the highlights was the Firemen's muster held on Saturday. We had crews from Maine, New Hampshire, Mass, RI and Conn. The pumps they use are 1800's vintage machines, restored and operational. One machine had up to 40 people pumping. Pumpers range in all ages, sizes, shapes and genders. Quite a sight. They were a real crowd pleaser. One group came in a 50's era bus that was an attraction by itself complete with a card table and lots of coolers. You can only guess what's in the coolers. All in all a good show. They liked the venue and we have invited them back. They said it would be about 2 years.

The recent storm did some damage at the farm. It took 6 members all Labor Day weekend to clean up the mess. We lost one of the very large spruces near the machine shop. This tree was about 3 feet in diameter at the base where it broke off and at least 75 feet in length. A very large maple fell into a neighbor's yard and that took about a day and a half to clean up. There were numerous smaller trees along with branches to clean up. The cover over the Fairbanks engines was ripped to threads. We have another cover and it's going to take a number of guys to put that in place.

The storm also kept us from having our August meeting at the town hall. The building had power, but it was closed. I tried to call everyone that normally attend but was unable to connect with most.

Normally, August is when any candidate would have to have their request in to be on the Ballot for the October election. This is so it can be put in the Sept. newsletter. There are no Board of Director openings and I have not received any requests for any of the officers' positions. Also the Secretary position is still open. Dave McClary has been taking the minutes and Dianne Tewksbury has been taking care of any secretarial business for me. However, I would like to see someone step up and take this position. I am going to except write-in votes for secretary at the Oct. election.

The east side of the show field has been tilled and planted with buck wheat by the Fish and Game club with the Historical Society's permission. The crop is about a foot tall at this time and will probably be taller for the October show. Please stay off of this part of the field during the fall show. We do not need to further strain relations any more than they are already. We have other areas that we can expand into such as the area behind the food trailer and in the auction area.

The Board has decided to skip the October auction for this year. We do not have a lot of material and consignment items have been less the last couple of years. Scrap prices are up and that has an impact on the number of items in the auction.

Always need help during the shows, hope to see you there.

## **FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER – Art Chester**

Building plans remain our top priority and Ned has been working with CHS representative Deb Hayn on that and a number of other items. Financing remains an issue, but we have the winter to explore options as building will not begin until next spring. If anyone has any ideas as to who or what group we might approach for assistance, contact one of us.

Our July show went off nicely, aided by favorable weather conditions (read that 'no heat wave predicted'!). Thanks to everyone who helped out at the show in any way. Every task is important and we can always use a couple more hands to spread the load, so to speak. Additional hay wagon operators and spotters (to ride along on the wagon talking to people and making sure everyone gets seated, etc) are needed. You get to see the show from the tractor seat as an additional bonus! See me - I'll get you set up. I know Ned can use more help in the parking area, particularly during the busy mornings.

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 Dianne Tewksbury at [dtewks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dtewks@sbcglobal.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. 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.

We appreciate all donations in any form or size.

## **Happening at the Farm**

Our Farmall F12 project debuted at the July show, with the decals being applied at the show. We have a fuel pump issue, but other than that it ran nicely. 1953 GMC dump truck sits just outside my shop door, with the rebuilt head installed. The push rods I removed from what I believed to be a like 248 engine were more than an inch longer. It seems that there are two setups in that engine, depending on whether or not there are 'milk can' lifters installed. Naturally, I had the incorrect ones at hand and needed to order replacements. It's proceeding, however.

My summer has been tied up with several business and personal projects, but I planned to spend the Labor Day weekend at the farm catching up on a few things and helping with maintenance. Hurricane Irene altered those plans a bit. We spent the weekend with chain saws, loaders, dump trucks and the chipper in full operation. There are still a couple of trees down in the auction area, but we have the main problems taken care of.

I know I can speak for all of us doing hurricane clean-up when I say we were worn out by the end of each day!

One of our washing stations was more or less demolished in a confrontation with a semi-trailer and needed to be put back together. I got to thinking about a 'new and improved' version that would be more aesthetic, protect the barrels from UV light and keep the paper towels dry on a rainy day. The result is at the farm – tell me what you think. I've been asked when I'll do the other one already, though!

The Allis HD11 dozer has always had steering / brake issues and needed some attention. We now have it back together with modified battery boxes from our parts HD15, new brake bands, and freed up and properly adjusted steering clutches. With a few finishing touches and a new seat it will be good to go.

## **Zagray Saw Mill**

The mill has run several times this year after all six injectors were removed and sent out for rebuilding. Two of the six were bad, and a couple more were poor at best, but now the engine performs perfectly.

Remember that the material cut at the mill may be specific to a particular job or member.

So if you need something, check with Dave @860-982-5158 or Ned @860-537-2252 so you don't inadvertently use lumber slated for another project.

If you have trees taken down, please keep the sawmill in mind and cut the logs into lengths preferably 8'6", 10'6", 12'6", 14'6" or 16'6", depending on what will yield the best timber. We can arrange to pick them up if necessary. Most all species can be used, but hardwoods in particular are in the shortest supply.

If you need something specific cut - see one of us to discuss it.

We have slab wood, sawdust, and planer shavings (makes great fire starter!) as byproducts of this demonstration area available.

## **Fordson Accessory Guide, Volume 1**

It's not often that anyone you know becomes a published author, but our Vice President, Ed Bezanson has completed the first volume of his Fordson Accessory Guide. Now, I'm not a Fordson buff, but the sales literature collection in this volume makes for very interesting reading, regardless of the 'color' of your favorite tractor! A must have for the coffee table. They will be available at our shows, of course. \$30 a copy, see Ed or pick one up at the show trailer.

While I'm talking about books, there is a new one out about the Coolspring Power Museum in PA. If you have not been to the museum, you need to go. Don't think about it, go! I have not yet seen a copy of the book, but it ought to be another 'must have' for all of us who have enjoyed a show at Coolspring, Pa. copies can be ordered from Farm Collector Magazine

### **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 replacement for our Yellow Ford 600 dump

Two track pads for our 1929 Universal Shovel

A pair of 6788 IH front wheel weights (fits A,B,C,H,M,W4,and W6)

Steel 11 inch belt pulley for a Farmall H

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A vote is held at the general membership meeting in October. An absentee ballot below can be used in lieu of attending the Oct. general membership meeting. Also acceptable is a ballot by email. Telephone calls are not acceptable. Absentee ballots should be mailed to the President, Ned Tewksbury, 90 Park Road, Colchester, CT 06415 with a postmark **before** October 15<sup>th</sup>. E-mail ballots can be sent to [ntewks@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ntewks@sbcglobal.net) and need to be received **before** October 15<sup>th</sup>.

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### ABSENTEE BALLOT

|              |               | <u>YES</u>               | <u>NO</u>                |
|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| PRESIDENT    | NED TEWKSBURY | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| V. PRESIDENT | ED BEZANSON   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| TREASURER    | ART CHESTER   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECRETARY: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Dianne Tewksbury  
QVEA Editor  
90 Park Road  
Colchester, CT 06415*

## **APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

QUINEBAUG VALLEY ENGINEERS ASSOCIATION, INC.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DUES ARE \$20.00/YR PER PERSON. PAYABLE WITH APPLICATION.  
INCLUDES QVEA DUES AND INSURANCE.

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