



Dekalb County Horsemen Association

VOLUME 39

MAY 2019

Club attends Power Antique Show

Club Officers

**Denis Oster
President**

**Jeff LaRowe
Vice President**

**Mark Carunchia
Sec/Treas**

Board Members

Bill Knott

Dick Griffis

Clayton Hursh Jr.

.The third week in March was a very busy week. There were three different activities going on that week keeping the members hopping from one event to another. The main event was the antique tractor show at Auburn auction in Auburn Auction Park. Dick Griffis and his crew worked very hard to move into the Auction Park on a Monday morning getting everything set up of the

show. The show did not start until Thursday,, but the club was set up ready to go. There were good crowds every day. The Draft Animal Museum was open on Friday and Saturday for anybody who attended the Power show to come out and



view our museum. Dick and his crew did an excellent at staying at the display and helping spectators understand what they were looking at and an explanation on how it worked. Many people were saying that they used that at the farm when they were little. Dick did an excellent job in moving at the equipment to the Museum. A special thank you to the Power Club for inviting us to the show.

Club Activities

The third week in March was also the Topeka Draft Horse Sale and implement sale. Tuesday is the day for the implement sale, that is why Dick and his crew worked so hard on Monday so they could be free on Tuesday's sale. There were some changes to the sale and some people did not understand the new rules or there was not a good cross section of equipment. First time in a very long time that somebody from the club did not purchase an item. The weather was cold, windy which put a damper on the activities so after lunch and another quick look to make sure we did not overlook any items, then an early trip home.

Club Activities

During the Topeka Draft Sale the John Marsh estate sold the two mares and the young colt. Wednesday was the Percheron day, with quite a wide selection of Percherons. The Belgian Draft Horses were sold on Thursdays and Friday. There were no purchases of draft horses at the spring sale by club members. The cost of the horses were still high. On that weekend the LaGrange Maple Syrup Festival was in full swing. Because of the warm weather there was little sap running but sugar bush was running. The LaGrange park rangers were doing an excellent job of telling the story of the sugar bush and the native America Indians who showed the pilgrims on how to take the sap and boil sap down to make maple syrup. They also had a large kettle over an open fire boiling off the water to make maple syrup. This was a two day event, the club had three wagons and six teams each day. The pull was extremely hard, there was a large hill the horses had to climb to drop off their passengers. The wagons were full adding to the weight. The weather was warm and the trails were covered with stone which made some of the trails easy going but the hill was not stoned, just mud and the horses had a hard time pulling up the hill. This was the first time out for a lot of the horses and with the winter hair, they tired quickly. When some club members give rides they talk to the riders, mostly the young people and we have one member that will start out of the ride and get half way through the ride and pull the horses up and tell the kids on the wagon that he has run out of gas. What comes around goes around, when driving his semi- tractor and trailer home, he really did run out of fuel. We are now looking for a two gallon diesel fuel portable tank that we can give him so that he will not run out of fuel again. If any member would like to help in this please contact us and we will get you in touch with the proper person. This warm weather gets us all out hooking our teams or singles to start driving. Some times when we get these horses out we get in a hurry and do some dumb things which can cause us to get knocked down, drug, and get run over by the cart as we watch the horse run up the rode trying to get between the house and a tree. The horse made it but the cart did not. What do you expect with a horse named Hoosier. At least everybody came through this without any broken bones but our pride was hurt. The cart has been repaired and the horse is back in harness with no major problems. The Percheron breed is a very smart breed and some times they get out of their pasture and run up and down the road, St. Rd 205, when the horses did get off the road the lawns and fields were extremely wet. As the horses ran through the yards, the left huge divots and I mean huge divots very large in circumference and depth. There was about a 30 minute time frame before catching the team and the long walk back to the barn where a double chain system is now installed on the gate. There is never a dull moment with this club. To all the club members who helped in making sure all the animals were fine and nobody was seriously hurt, we thank you. With all the rain and then the warmer weather, some of the club members are coming to the farm and doing some plowing. The club did not do any plowing last year at the farm. It is good that they are coming and doing some plowing. The club had to say good by to a member of our club, 85 years old Max Barker. He was one of those gentlemen that was extremely active when draft horses were not the "in thing". He was one who opened his farm for plow days ever year and opened his shop during the winter to repair wagons. He had Belgians Horses and the Club had the honor to carry Max to his final resting place. Bill Knott drove his Percheron with the Caisson He is one gentleman who will be greatly missed. The annual pancake and sausage breakfast was held to the Draft Club's Farm with at very good turn out. The club also held a bake sale with the members of the club baing some great pies, cakes, and cookies. The bake sale sold out during the breakfast. A Special thanks to all the members who worked at the breakfast and bake sale. There was a large number of club members who turned out to help at the breakfast and bake sale. Without your efforts neither events would have been possible. Special thanks to Denis Oster, who found a grill on wheels, this grill was donated to the club and was a great help in grilling the pancakes. The grill can cook 30 pancakes at a time. The club did not have the waiting lines like we had in the past. The weather was just perfect, With all the sunlight and the breeze for a couple days, the fields dried out enough and some of the club members brought their horses and they did some plowing. There is still plenty to ground to plow.

Club Pictures





Up Coming Events

The next meeting is May 1st at 7 pm at the farm. On April 29, the Waterloo parade is scheduled to step off at 10am by the water tower. The Club is staging at the Church parking lot, where we were last year. There is room for the wagons and truck and trailers. There are 9 or 10 teams that will be in the parade. It will be fun to come out and ride in the parade, there will be plenty of room. Coming in May is the Alliance Industries fundraiser. This will take place on May 13 at the farm, please plan on attending. The DABA downtown history ride on scheduled on May 21. On May 29, the club will be pulling the Caisson at the Memorial Day Parade in Ft. Wayne. Line up time is 10 am and the parade starts at 11 am. The Club will stage at the Memorial Coliseum parking lot and ride down to North Side High School and line up. There will be the caisson, and a cannon pulled by draft horses this year along with the color guard and the rider less horse with reverse stirrups. There is always a need for field work at the farm, plowing, disking and we hope to do some planting with horses this year. June is our wagon train ride. And we are also having the draft horse 101 class at Solomon Farm on June 10 at 1 pm. We will be starting at 1 pm and need as many different breeds of draft horses as we can get. We will also be giving rides and there will be a class on how to harness, what are the names of different parts on the harness and what is their purpose. This activity should last about 2 hours. There is a lot to do and we need all our members, please plan on attending our next meeting May 1, at 7 pm at the farm.