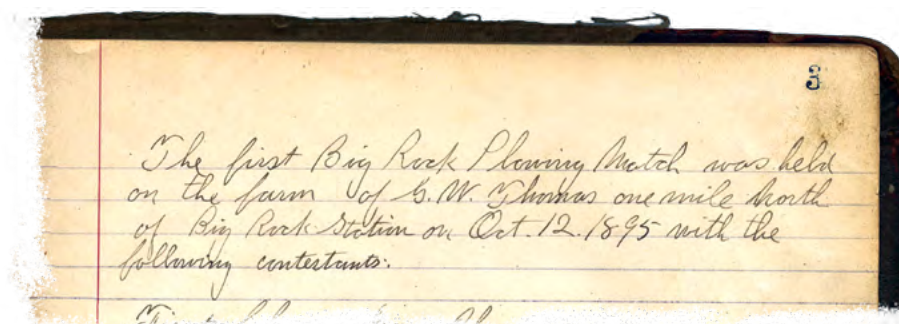


SITE OF FIRST PLOWING MATCH: OCTOBER 12, 1895



Since 1961 the plowing competition has been held at Davis Field. The Association dedicated a sign in 2025 commemorating the site. From 1895 through 1960 the plowing competition was held on 28 individual farms throughout Big Rock Township and it was common knowledge that the first plowing match was held on the G.W. Thomas farm in 1895. So, where was that farm?

The 1895 BRPMA minutes said one mile north of Big Rock station. Kane County Recorder files and plat maps were used to track land ownership. This research revealed that D.A. Dodge filed a land grant on June 18, 1845 for 40-acres and over the years, plat maps revealed a series of owners: 1860-J. Holstead; 1871-W. Thomas; and 1892-G.W. Thomas. The 1927 plat map showed the G.W. Thomas property along Davis Road had doubled to 80-acres; 1931-LeGrand T. Fowler; 1932-Fred and Mina Haberstick; 1950-Henry Haberstick; and 1998-Howard W. & Rebecca M. Rosenwinkel. As plat maps are infrequently published, further research will be completed at the Kane County Recorder's Office to fill in gaps and validate information through deeds. More in 2027.

The Rosenwinkel's were delighted to learn that their farm was historically significant to the Plowing Match and graciously gave permission to place the sign anywhere on their property. The sign is installed near the northwest corner post of the property owned by G.W. Thomas in 1895, on the east side of Davis Road just before the bend. Many saw the sign at Davis and Wheeler Roads, for about a week before the sign was moved north. Although the southwest corner of the Rosenwinkel property was

deemed the best site, in 1895 those 40 acres were owned by A.L. Long. A big oops that needed to be corrected and we did. Dedication photos and more will be on website.

We received research assistance in tracking land ownership through records and plat maps from: Steve Arnold, Kane County Farm Bureau; Mary Hauge, Big Rock Library; Brian Meyer, St. Charles Public Library District; and David Scholes, Tract Department, Kane County Recorder's Office.

We are grateful for these very generous in-kind contributions to the 1895 sign project.

- ◆ Ron Burgess for designing, building, and sign installation
- ◆ Rick Paver for assisting with welding and sign installation
- ◆ Gene Nehring, BRPMA, for facilitating loan of a flatbed truck to transport sign multiple times
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation for loan of a flatbed truck and staff to transport sign as needed
- ◆ Terry Sorensen, BRPMA, for equipment use and sign installation



FROM THE ASSOCIATION ARCHIVES

September 23, 1926

At a special meeting of the Big Rock Plowing Association, it was moved and carried that the plowing match be postponed from Saturday, September 25th to Thursday, September 30th, 1926. Heavy rainfall, beginning on September 23rd made it necessary to change the date.

September 30, 1926

On account of the weather being unsettled and the ground wet the plowing match was postponed from this date to October 9, 1926.

October 9, 1926

The weather on this day was favorable but the ground was so wet and soft that it would have been impossible for cars to enter the grove and plows used in the field. By general consent it was decided to postpone the plowing match until next year.

October 30, 1926

The regular annual meeting of the Big Rock Plowing Association was called at this time. Only four persons were present. Therefore, no business was transacted.

—Conrad Lind, Secretary

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Been quite a year with multiple improvements being completed at Plowman's Park.

- ◆ Concessions/Office building painted and weather stripping installed on roll-up windows
- ◆ Exhibitors Fair building-storage unit set-up, roll-up door installed and doors/trim painted
- ◆ Hosta beds mulched at the Exhibitors and Junior Fair buildings
- ◆ Pavilion end gables and Restroom building painted
- ◆ Stage received a new floor; stairs and railings, as well as floor and skirting were painted
- ◆ Fresh paint was applied to the flag poles and the poles supporting the plows
- ◆ Blacktop sealed
- ◆ Trees revitalized and new trees planted-read more on page 23

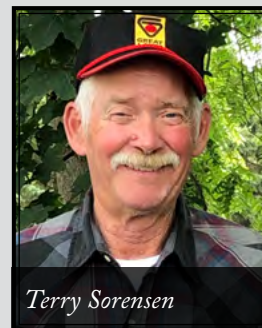
Last year we dedicated the Davis Field sign where the plowing competition has been held since 1961 and in August a sign indicating the site of the first plowing match was installed. Read more in the cover story. This year's highlights include: Olde Time Baseball, Magic Matt Magician, the Sociables on Saturday night, and the Fox Valley Brass Band playing during Sunday dinner. Chickabitty Designs offers a full line of Plowing Match merchandise—wear it proudly.

Carnival rides will be expanded this year. We are very grateful to individual donors for funding and recognize our Step-Up Sponsors: Legacy Level-The Village of Big Rock; and Harvest Level-Big Rock Township and Kids Golf Foundation & Rich Harvest Farms Golf Club.

If you would like to support the Plowing Match Association and help us continue our mission, please donate at the Office. Donation forms are available at the Office, Information Booth, near the sponsor wall and website. What we are able to do is only made possible by the support of our generous sponsors. We are most grateful. Thank you.

Everyone is invited to Plowman's Park for a fun, family-friendly weekend, September 18, 19 & 20 when we celebrate the 132nd Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival.

Terry Sorensen, President



Terry Sorensen

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Registration and Entry Drop-off for	
Junior Fair & Exhibitors Fair	3 pm
Bicycle Parade (begins at fire barn)	4:30 pm
Carnival Rides	5-9:30 pm
Prairie State Railroad Club Train Rides	6-9 pm
Olde Time Baseball Game	7 pm
Music-Premier Entertainment DJ Darrin Lee	6-9:30 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Concessions	7:30am-9pm
Western & English Horse Show	8:30 am
Drawing for Lands	9 am
Plowing	9:30 am
Prairie State Railroad Club Train Rides	10 am-5 pm
Craft, Art & Vendor Show	10 am-5 pm
Petting Zoo	10 am-5 pm
Children's Races (in the cattle ring)	10:30 am
Magic Show	11:45 am-12:15 pm
Carnival Rides	11:30 am-5 pm
5 B's BBQ Pork Chop & Chicken Dinner	11:30 am-1:30 pm
Baked Goods Auction	1 pm
Pedal Tractor Pull (in cattle ring)	2 pm
Plowing Trophy Presentation	3:30 pm
Magic Show	3:45-4:15 pm
Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation	3:45 pm
Vintage Truck Raffle Drawing	
Kane County Phantoms Baseball Game	4 pm
Round Bale Roll-Off (in cattle ring)	4:30 pm
Live Music: the Sociables	6-10 pm

FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Tractor Trot 5K	8 am Start
Concessions	8 am-5 pm
Drawing for Lands	9 am
Plowing	9:30 am
Church Service	10 am
Prairie State Railroad Club Train Rides	11 am-3 pm
Craft, Art & Vendor Show	11 am-4 pm
Watermelon Eating Contest	11 am-1 pm
Mud Volleyball	11:30 am
5 B's BBQ Turkey with Ham Dinner	11:30 am-1:30 pm
Fox Valley Brass Band	12-1 pm
Carnival Rides	Noon-3 pm
Bags Tournament	1 pm Start
Prince & Princess Contest	1:30 pm
BINGO-Big Rock Park District (pavilion)	2:30 pm
Plowing Trophy Presentation	3:30 pm

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS

Carnival Rides	Prairie State Railroad rides
Children's Races	Prince & Princess Contest
Pedal Tractor Pull	Watermelon Eating Contest
Magic Show	Petting Zoo

CRAFT, ART & VENDOR SHOW

Saturday	10 am-5 pm
Sunday	11 am-4 pm

CONCESSIONS

Friday	5-10 pm
Saturday	7:30 am-9 pm
Sunday	8 am-5 pm

BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH TIMES, 2026 132ND BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH & FESTIVAL

- ♦ Editing Coordinator: A. Denise Farrugia
- ♦ Graphic Designer and Webmaster: Lyrka Lawler
- ♦ Ads: Lauren Paver
- ♦ 2025 Photographers: Garrett Austin, Wades World of Photography; and Patti Wilk, Patti Wilk Photography; and Hinckley-Big Rock High School students Angel Garcia, Bella Harding and Beckett Niebert.
- ♦ 2026 Photographers: Garrett Austin, Wades World of Photography; Gail Wiley, Gail Wiley Designs-Portrait & Family Photography.
- ♦ Printer: LabelTek, Inc.

BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH BOARD

Terry Sorensen, President
Bob Raymond, Vice-President
Kim Hummell, Treasurer
A. Denise Farrugia, Secretary

Bill Brickert
Sandy Madden
Abby Needham
Gene Nehring

Steve Ruh
Craig Thomas
John Thompson
Karen Yoder

SCORECARD OF THE BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

9:00 am Sharp	Drawing for Land
9:30 am	Plowing Starts
3:30 pm	Trophy Presentation

Total Possible Points: 100 Perfect Score

25 points: Low back furrows distinct (back to be slightly crowning and all trash covered)

25 points: Furrows of uniform depth and width, showing slight ridge and distinct from end to end

25 points: Line of furrow

15 points: Covering of trash

10 points: General neatness of the whole and appearance of ends

- ♦ All plowmen must plow 5 inches but not more than 7 inches deep.
- ♦ All plowmen must make 7 rounds.
- ♦ No assistance to any plowmen after the first round.
- ♦ All plowmen using 16-inch plows must plow not less than 14 inches.
- ♦ All plowmen using 14-inch plows must plow not less than 12 inches.
- ♦ All plowmen using 12-inch plows must plow not less than 10 inches.
- ♦ All plowmen must leave the field at designated finish time, unless granted more time by field committee for some reasonable cause.

All plowmen will be scored back:

- ♦ 4 points for each foot in width for not finishing the land by the specified finish time.
- ♦ 4 points for each inch less than the minimum depth of 5 inches.
- ♦ 4 points for each inch in excess of the maximum depth of 7 inches.

CLASSES ON SATURDAY

- ♦ Boys and Girls 15-and-Under Class
- ♦ Boys and Girls 19-and-Under Class
- ♦ Farmers Open Class
- ♦ Prizewinners Class: Plowmen who have taken two first places in the Farmers Class qualify to compete in this class.
- ♦ Expert Plowmen's Class: Plowmen who have won first place two successive years in the Prizewinners Class must compete in this class.
- ♦ Novelty Class: Judged on unit only, plowing does not enter in judging. Plowmen in this class are not required to make 7 complete rounds.

CLASSES ON SUNDAY

- ♦ Antique Rubber Class: Tractors made before 1939
- ♦ Antique Steel Class: Tractors made before 1939
- ♦ Novelty Class: Judged on unit only, plowing does not enter in judging. Plowmen in this class are not required to make 7 rounds.

SWEEPSTAKES

Given to the plowman with the highest score during the Plowing Match, except those entered in the Expert class.

WINNERS OF THE 131ST PLOWING MATCH COMPETITION, 2025

SATURDAY, 9/20/2025

15 & Under Class

Lincoln Wyant of Cooksville, 67 points

19 & Under Class

No entries

Farmers Open Class

1st - Heather Dollinger of Elburn, 92¾ points

2nd - Levi Marquardt of Waterman, 83½ points

3rd - Asher Thomas of Elbert, CO, 83 points

4th - Corban Nier of Kiel, WI, 80 points

Prizewinner Class

1st - Kurt Wurster of Aurora, 80 points

2nd - Trent Pierson of Elburn, 79½ points

Expert Plowman Class

1st - Mark Nier of Kiel, WI, 86 points

2nd - Paul Evans of Big Rock, 76½ points

3rd - Mike Winckler of Erie, 73 points

4th - Rick Wolf of Erie, 70½ points

Novelty Class

1st - Kris Johnson of Cortland

SUNDAY, 9/21/2025

Antique Rubber Class

1st TIE - Mark Nier of Kiel, WI, 87½ points

Lance Oleson of Aurora, 87½ points

2nd - Mike Winckler of Erie, 84 points

3rd - Jim Fraley of Cooksville, 83½ points

4th - Dana Nehring of Big Rock, 82 points

Antique Steel Class

1st - Heather Dollinger of Elburn, 91 points

2nd - Trent Pierson of Elburn, 90½ points

3rd - Paul Evans of Big Rock, 86 points

4th - Corban Nier of Kiel, WI, 85½ points

Novelty Class

1st - Kris Johnson of Cortland

Sweepstakes Winner

Heather Dollinger of Elburn, 92¾ points

The Plowing Match Association Board expresses their sincere gratitude to

- ♦ 2025 Plowing Judges for their time and expertise in assessing furrows and awarding points:
- ♦ Gerry Glover, Les Granart, Eric Hatfield, Steve Hauser, Wes Morris, Ron Ness, Jim O'Connell, Rollin Shaw and Roger Winckler.
- ♦ Greg Klotz for harvesting and preparing Davis Field for the plowing competition.

HAKE & RUH PLOWING MATCH LEGACIES

Jack Hake and Herb Ruh loved Big Rock and the Plowing Match and both contributed immensely to their community.

Herb Ruh is remembered as a great neighbor, “that guy that would help anyone that needed a hand,” and for always being immediately right there. He was especially right there for Bill Brickert the day his first child was born. Bill and Herb’s dairy farms were right next to each other and when Jane said it was time, he still had six more cows to milk. Bill called Herb and he was there in a flash to finish the milking. Craig Thomas recalls Herb’s help with marking the lands for the plowing competition. Herb would ride along, jump off the vehicle, drive the stakes into the ground, get back on and repeat until all 50 lands were marked. In later years he drove the truck or tractor and left the jumping off to the youngsters. Herb loved the plowing match and served as a plowing competition judge for over 40 years. Ruh Farms continued the family support with the new dugouts at Kenny Field and is an ongoing sponsor of the Association.

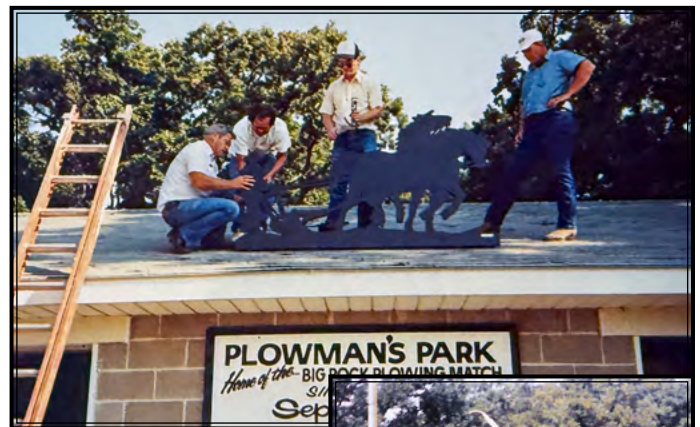


Herb and Steve Ruh with plow horses



Herb Ruh milking cow

Jack Hake will be remembered as a man very interested and invested in the plowing match who also created and installed things at Plowman’s Park. He was responsible for additional flagpoles that would fly the State and Plowing Match flags. Jack also created a left-hand walking plow to match a right-hand one, mounted each on poles and installed both to flank the flagpoles. The “Walking Plow and Horses” mounted on the roof of the concession/office building is a visual reminder of our plowing tradition.



Installing “Walking Plow and Horses” (from left: Roger Hatfield, Marv Ray, Ed Hake, Bill Brickert)

Installing plow near flagpoles (from left: Roger Hatfield, Jack Hake, Bill Brickert)



Jack’s ideas resulted in the round bale roll-off and the old-fashioned children’s games, both becoming long-standing traditions on our event schedule. He served on the 100th Year Plowing Match Special Committee, responsible for the Beard-growing contest and other events during the celebration, as well as selling Plowing Match flags and driving his 1909 Moon Brothers horse-drawn buggy with Grand Marshall Albert Lash on board. Jack’s contributions to the community extend beyond the Plowing Match and include the Big Rock Park District and Big Rock Historical Society.

The legacy of these two men lives on today through their descendants as they continue to support the community with Jack’s son-in-law Gene Nehring and Herb’s son Steve Ruh serving on the Plowing Match Board. The Association is extremely grateful to the Hake and Ruh families for years of support. The legacies of these two families to the Big Rock Plowing Match is most sincerely appreciated.

ESPECIALLY

CHILDREN'S RACES

SATURDAY



Step back in time with these old-fashioned races and games that test cooperation and teamwork. Children from preschool through eighth grade can join in to test their skills and strength.

Races begin at 10:30 am in the Cattle Ring.

- ◆ Preschool: Run to Mom/Dad, Bunny Hop and Penny Race
- ◆ Kindergarten and 1st grade: Crab Walk, Balloon Walk and Penny Race
- ◆ 2nd and 3rd grade: Crab Walk, Balloon Race and Three-legged Race with ties provided
- ◆ 4th, 5th, and 6th grade: Egg on a Spoon, Balloon Walk, and Three-legged Races with ties provided
- ◆ 7th and 8th grade: Egg on a Spoon and Three-legged race with ties provided
- ◆ All-Ages Egg Toss

Prizes include ice cream tickets and cash.

Coordinators: Lynne Paver, Sandy Madden, Emily Herrmann



PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

SATURDAY

It may sound easy, however this competition challenges kids to ride a pedal tractor and pull a weighted sled as far as they can. That truly demands strength as the pedal tractor sled is designed to create friction as it is dragged and the weight moves forward, making the sled difficult to pull. Fifty-nine kids took the challenge in 2025. We invite you step up and give it a try this year.

There are six weight classes: under 30 pounds, 31-40 lbs., 41-50 lbs., 51-60 lbs., 61-70 lbs., and 71-80 lbs. Tips from previous winners: always look ahead—the faster you get going, the farther you'll go; and when it starts getting hard, pedal harder.

Registration begins at 1:30 pm at the Cattle Ring. Pay the \$1 entry fee and weigh in to qualify. The competition begins at 2 pm.

The Big Rock Plowing Match Association sponsors the first place awards in each class. Second and third place awards are sponsored by the Big Rock Park District. All children receive a participation ribbon.

BICYCLE PARADE

FRIDAY

SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Kick-off Kids' night with the bicycle parade. Families are invited to gather at the Big Rock Fire Protection District building/fire barn located at 47w863 Second Street. Arrive early to line-up at 4:15 pm so you are ready at 4:30 pm when the BRFPD Emergency Vehicle hits its siren and leads the way to Plowman's Park.

Tell your neighbors and friends about the parade and challenge them to decorate their bicycles. Route is 8/10th of a mile. The parade will arrive at Plowman's Park just in time for the 5 pm opening of the amusement rides and the Prairie State Railroad Club train rides at 6 pm are followed by more evening activities.



FOR KIDS

AMUSEMENT RIDES

FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Expanded carnival rides, primarily for ages 5-14, will be presented by Alpine Amusement Company on Friday: 5-9:30 pm; Saturday: 11:30-5 pm; and Sunday: Noon-3 pm. We are very grateful to individual donors for funding, as well as the Step-Up Sponsors: Legacy Level-The Village of Big Rock; and Harvest Level-Big Rock Township and Kids Golf Foundation & Rich Harvest Farms Golf Club.

Purchase your unlimited carnival ride wristbands ONLINE at bigrockplowingmatch.org beginning at noon on Saturday, September 12 and ending at 9 pm on Wednesday, September 16. Purchase daily unlimited ride wristbands online at \$25 for Friday OR Saturday; \$15 daily unlimited rides on Sunday; or \$50 for a 3-day weekend wristband. These prices are only for ONLINE wristband purchases.

Purchase your DAILY unlimited ride wristbands ON-SITE at ticket booth for \$30 per day Friday or Saturday and \$20 on Sunday. Weekend wristbands will be available for purchase on-site only on Friday for an additional fee. Cash or check accepted, payable to Big Rock Plowing Match Association.

Individual ride tickets will be available onsite for \$4 each, cash only, at the ticket booth. ATM at Concessions building. Here's to a family-friendly weekend full of fun for everyone.

Legacy Level Sponsor



Harvest Level Sponsors



BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP
408 RHODES STREET
P.O. BOX 252
Big Rock, IL 60511



JUNIOR FAIR/SCHOOL EXHIBITS

Young people, ages 3 to 14, are invited to enter baked goods, handmade items, and photos. Over 80 classes, divided by age brackets, are included on the Premium List. Browse the list for classes that interest you to have your handmade items on display for the weekend.

This year's Special Entry classes are:

- ♦ Squishy Sensory Toy
- ♦ Baking: Make It Your Own Cornbread using the Special Entry Recipe

Details for the Special Entry classes, as well as all classes, are on the Junior Fair Premium List.

Baking entries placing first and second are sold at auction at 1 pm on Saturday afternoon. Consider bidding on some delicious treats to take home to enjoy! The cash awards for each class and the special awards for the person with the most entries and most blue ribbons across all classes are funded by our generous sponsors. We thank our sponsors for their ongoing support.

The School Exhibit features classroom artwork projects by Hinckley-Big Rock School students. Browse the exhibit on Saturday and/or Sunday.

Contact a Junior Fair Coordinator with questions, suggestions for a new class and to share your ideas:

- ♦ Donita Bartoszek 630.556.9000
- ♦ Amber Hayes 630.624.2296
- ♦ Sarah Magro 630.335.6205
- ♦ Mary Rogerson 630.330.0114
- ♦ Danyell Schollmeyer 630.918.8115



Learn more about the Big Rock Park District's special events on pages 16 and 17.

OFFICIAL PLOWING MATCH MERCHANDISE

It's the 132nd and Chickabitty Designs, authorized vendor of Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival merchandise, has created a red, white and blue line of t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps and more with our name and logo. Drop by their trailer and booth at Plowman's Park or place your order: <https://www.storessimple.com/cbd/plowingmatch>



Looking for vintage Plowing Match merchandise? Caps from the 125th, wine glasses, and more will be for sale at blow-out prices at the Information Booth.



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FOLLOW US!

SATURDAY NIGHT VIBES

the Sociables are a 6-piece acoustic/electric rock band of long-time friends with over 200 years of combined entertainment experience. They will take the stage at 6 pm performing 4-hours of music with fresh set-lists from artists Jackson Browne, Phil Collins, Elvis Costello, Inxs and more. Their unique brand of entertainment fuses tight vocal harmonies, stellar guitar tones and a rock-solid rhythm and keys section to perform songs you love to sing and dance to. Catch up with friends and enjoy an evening of night music, brews and food.



MUM SALE

(plants from Orland Fasel)

Hanging baskets in a variety of sizes and colors, as well as multi-color in same basket

Friday, 5-8 pm | Saturday, 9 am-5 pm
Sunday, 11 am-2 pm

Watch for updates on website,
Facebook, and Instagram

Thanks for your support

OLD FASHIONED VINTAGE BASEBALL

BIG ROCK WILDCATS VS DuPAGE COUNTY PLOWBOYS
Friday: First pitch at 7 pm

The Big Rock Wildcats and DuPage County Plowboys will compete again under the lights at Kenny Field. The Wildcats have secured the win since 2023. Can they do it again? With returning familiar faces, strong community connections and new team jerseys, the Wildcats are hard to beat. Even without gloves, overhand pitching, and stealing, the Wildcats continue to build their skills with this 1850s style baseball game. Fill the stands and cheer them on. You might even catch a foul ball!



2025 Score: Wildcats 33, Plowboys 8



FOX VALLEY BRASS QUARTET



The Fox Valley Brass Quintet returns to play a medley of tunes for your dining pleasure on Sunday from Noon-1 pm at the pavilion. This encore performance features Cheryl Ciammetti on French Horn, Mark Fenne and Randy Micheletti on Trumpet, Angel Lopez on Tuba, and Carolyn Parks on Baritone. These five musicians have been performing together for several years and look forward to playing again at Plowman's Park. They are members of the Fox Valley Brass Band which is one of nine groups in the Fox Valley Music Consortium. This dinner performance is the gift of Patricia Austin, Austin's Violin Shop, Sugar Grove.





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Sugar Grove
(3 miles west of Aurora Airport)
Mike Dugan, Owner
*Serving the Community
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Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday by Appointment
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

TRADITIONAL

DINNERS

OLD-FASHIONED

5-B'S CATERING OF HINCKLEY

SATURDAY | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

2 pork chops or half chicken or combo Plate
(1 chop & ¼ chicken) served with baked beans,
coleslaw, and applesauce—\$17

1 pork chop or ¼ chicken served with baked beans,
coleslaw, and applesauce—\$15

SUNDAY | 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Ham with turkey served with au gratin potatoes,
southern-style green beans with bacon bits,
applesauce, roll and butter—\$17

The Association thanks Sheri Sorensen and Bob
Raymond, Dinner Coordinators, and all the
volunteers assisting with the dinner service.

MUD VOLLEYBALL

SUNDAY

Deep mud. Big fun. Mud volleyball returns for the fourth year with games starting at 11:30 am. Register at bigrockplowingmatch.org. Courts are next to Kenny Field. We play rain or shine!

Seven teams competed in 2025 in the double elimination tournament. The first place team “Cutie” lost one of their first games and had to work their way back to the championship game; quite an exciting achievement. The Association thanks Dean Hummell, Wray McKenzie, Dan Sittig, Bob Raymond, and Jim Raymond for court set-up and the Big Rock Fire Protection District for supplying 13,000 gallons of water to create the mud courts.

First Place—Team Cutie (photo right)

(in no particular order) Chanea Butler, Josie Caliendo, Dominic Jandowski, Jerome Jankowski, Matthew Myszka, Michael Myszka

Second Place—Team Hustle

Cameron Alexander, Jason Coburn, Isaiah Duffy, Chris Gousios, Abbie Greenbert, Chris Gousios, Josh Oesterie, Meadow Oesterlie, Athena Zarris



TRACTOR TROT 5K

Sunday 8 am Start

Take in the beauty of rural Big Rock with the Tractor Trot 5K. Run or walk through paved roads past farmland and countryside views. Start at Plowman's Park entrance. Arrive by 7:45 am: race begins at 8 am. Same-day registration available. Fee: \$30 - Register online at bigrockplowingmatch.org.

Event Sponsors: Big Rock Park District, Herrmann & Sons Farms; JB Industries; The Lakone Company, Steve & Sherry Michael; and Suburban Lawn. Thank you to Big Rock Fire Protection District for support services.

Event Coordinators: Jacqueline Madden Michael and Tim Smith

2025 winners

- ◆ Overall 5K: Allen Griffen at 20:27
- ◆ Under 18: Emmet Schumann at 23:23
- ◆ Ages 18-29: Donovan Smith at 24:24
- ◆ Ages 30-39: Ryan Michael at 24:53
- ◆ Ages 40-49: Allen Griffen at 20:27
- ◆ Ages 50-59: Jen Tieman at 25:56
- ◆ Over 60: Wray McKenzie at 32:58



ROUND BALE ROLL-OFF

SATURDAY

The round bales return for the 32nd year! Do you have what it takes to balance on top of a round bale while it is pushed by your trusted friends? If you think you do, come out and try something new! Spectating the event is also a crowd favorite, so come early to grab your seats.

Registration, \$15 per team, starts at 4 pm .The contest starts at 4:30 pm in the Cattle Corral. There are two divisions: ages 13-18 and ages 19 plus. No cleats or spikes allowed.

Cash prizes are awarded to winning teams in each division: \$150 for first place and \$75 for second place. Also awarded are great prizes from local businesses: Indian Oaks Golf Course, Classic Cinema of Sandwich, Funway of Batavia, Hill's Country Store, Jewel Foods, Napa Auto Parts, Sugar Grove Family Fun Center and others.

Thank you to all our sponsors and to the Byington Family for supplying the round bales.

Coordinators: Lynne Paver, Sandy Madden and Emily Herrmann

2025 WINNERS

Ages 13-18 Division–One Direction

- ♦ 1st Lily Bostic, Savannah Bostic, Travis Duggan; 30.0 seconds
- ♦ 2nd Judd Bark, Travis Herrmann, Gavin Pickert; 44.5 seconds
- ♦ 3rd Ceci Bostic, John Niels, Luke Bostic; 1 minute, 8 seconds
- ♦ 4th Caughton, Hadessah, Snetella; 1 minute, 18 seconds

Ages 19 + Older Division–One Direction

- ♦ 1st Brandon Bickers, Nathan Galway, Joe Turk; 17 seconds
- ♦ 2nd Ryan Byrnes, Andy Kalin, Jared Kalin; 17 seconds
- ♦ 3rd Luke, Mike, Nick; 23 seconds
- ♦ 4th Lee Klein, Jake Paver, Lauren Paver; 23 seconds



BAGS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY

How many four baggers can you get in a single game? Compete in our Bags Tournament to show off your consistency and precision.

- ♦ Open to adults, 21 and older
- ♦ Blind draw for partners at 1 pm
- ♦ Double elimination tourney
- ♦ Entry fee is \$25 per person
- ♦ Register ASAP for available spots
- ♦ Maximum number of players is 40
- ♦ Application form at bigrockplowingmatch.org
- ♦ Registration for spots, if available, will open before tournament.

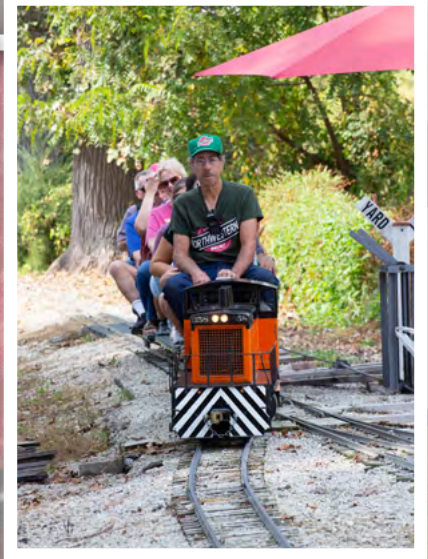
Prize winnings

- ♦ 1st Place Team–\$500
- ♦ 2nd Place Team–\$250
- ♦ 3rd Place Team–125

Tournament sponsor: Fireside Grille

Contact Steve Ruh at 630-461-9879 or steve@ruhfarms.com with questions.







41ST ANNUAL HORSE SHOW—SATURDAY

STARTS PROMPTLY AT 8:30 AM



The 41st Horse show offers 27 performance, pleasure or fun classes, as well as English and Western classes for riders of all ages to compete for ribbons, cash awards and bragging rights. Entry fee is \$8 per class. There is a cash award of \$10 to the first-place winner in each class. High Point Awards are given in two age groups: age 15 and under and age 16 and over.

Stroll west to find the horse arena adjacent to Kenny Field. Be part of the fun by placing a bid to “own” one of the horses and rider in the *Shelley Mroz Open Calcutta (\$\$\$) Pleasure Class*. You can cheer on your horse and rider and if they place in the top 3, your “ownership” will be financially rewarding. This day-long event has lots to offer, so drop by for an hour or more and enjoy watching the showmanship and horsemanship of riders under the oaks.

Congratulations to our 2025 High Point Award Winners

- ♦ High Point Award for Age 15 and under: Raylee Vazquez
- ♦ High Point Reserve: Mia Iraci
- ♦ High Point Award for Age 16 and over: Katie Miller
- ♦ High Point Reserve: Merieigh Rodriquez

Check out the 2026 show bill below.

Classes

1. Open Pony Halter (14.2" & under) English & Western
2. Open Horse Halter (Horse 19 yrs. & under)
3. Open Senior Horse Halter (Horse 20 yrs. & older)
4. Open Showmanship – English & Western

Tack Change

5. Open Western Walk, Trot, Warmup, Pleasure
6. Western Pleasure (15 and under)
7. Western Pleasure (16 and over)
8. Open Western Pleasure
9. Western Horsemanship (15 and under)
10. Western Horsemanship (16 and over)
11. Open Western Horsemanship
12. Beginners Only Walk, Trot
13. Lead Line

– LUNCH –

14. Open English Walk, Trot, Warmup Pleasure
15. English Pleasure (15 and under)
16. English Pleasure (16 and over)
17. Open English Pleasure
18. English Equitation (15 and under)
19. English Equitation (16 and over)
20. Open English Equitation
21. Shelley Mroz Open Calcutta (\$\$\$) Pleasure Class

Audience bids to own the horse & rider. All monies bid is pooled and distributed to winning “owners” based on placement of top three horses. First Place 50%, Second Place 35%, Third Place 15%. Riders receive ribbons.

22. Non-Blue Ribbon Winner Pleasure

Just for Fun

23. Open Command Class (100% Payback for 1st, 2nd, 3rd plus \$50)
24. Musical Cones
25. Egg & Spoon Race
26. Ride-A-Buck (bareback)
27. Bribe Your Horse

Classes

Classes: \$8 per event payable in cash or check at show

General Guidelines

- ♦ All contestants must wear proper attire except in classes: 12-13-23-24-25-26-27. The decision of the judge is final.
- ♦ Five-minute tack change allowed if notified to the announcers booth.
- ♦ NO ONE under the age of 18 may show a Stallion.
- ♦ The Show Committee has the right to combine, cancel or divide a class when necessary.
- ♦ The Show Committee has the right to refuse check or issue tabs. A \$50 charge on all returned checks.
- ♦ Entries are non-refundable.
- ♦ The Horse Show is not liable for theft, accident or injury to rider, equipment or horse.

The Show is designed to be educational, fun and may be financially rewarding.

- ♦ Cash awards to all first place and high point winners.
- ♦ All ribbon winners are eligible to win a \$100 cash prize Drawing at end of show. You must be present. No stand-ins please.

High Point Awards: age 15 and Under

4-6-8-9-11-15-17-18-20-21-22

High Point Awards: age 16 and Over

4-7-8-10-11-16-17-19-20-21-22

Judge: Karen Sander, Union

Directions: Eleven miles west of Aurora, via Route 30. Turn south onto Rhodes Road at the Gazebo. Cross the railroad tracks, immediately turn right onto Hinckley Road. Proceed west to Plowman’s Park. Enter main gate and head west to trailer area between park fence and baseball field.

Ample trailer parking available.

Lunch break at approximately 12:30 pm

For more information, contact Donna at 630.802.4629 or at donnahieser@yahoo.com.

EXHIBITORS FAIR

Look at all that is new on the 2026 Exhibitors Fair Premium List. Traditional and favorite classes are a plenty, as well as multiple new classes. With 143 different classes, of which 24 are new, you will certainly find plenty of opportunities to enter and showcase your talent. Consider entering several baked goods, your favorite candy, a few pints of canned vegetables or fruit and then some handicrafts. Our prize premiums range from \$5 to \$30 with ribbons awarded. Entry is free and everyone is encouraged to enter.

New and Different in 2026

- ◆ Special Handicraft: Diamond Art
- ◆ NEW classes being introduced in various categories are:
 - Specialty Cakes: Bundt
 - Breads: Sourdough
 - Bars: Brookie
 - Canned Goods: Apple Pie Filling, Jalapenos, Green Beans, Hot Sauce, Berry Sauce, BBQ Sauce, Custom Seasoning Blend, Seasoned Salt
 - Flowers: Arrangement in Pumpkin, Framed Pressed Flowers
 - Art: Pencil Drawing, Acrylic Painting, Watercolor Painting, Digital Art-Printed
 - Handicrafts: Handmade Clay Piece, Recycled Art, Handmade Wood Piece
 - Photography: Action, Funny
 - Vegetable & Grain: Pears, Melon

Have a favorite recipe? There are classes for that as well in pies, muffins, cookies and candy. Include your recipe on a 3"x5" card with entry.

Remember to print your entry labels to affix to each item. Labels and entry form are on the website.

Over \$2,000 in prize money is offered to winners of the Special Awards sponsored by local businesses, memorials and the Association. Baked goods, candy entries and vegetables earning a ribbon will be sold at auction. All non-winning baked goods, candy entries and vegetables will be sold after auction. Details in Exhibitors Fair building.

Lynne Paver's Carrot Cake is this year's Special Recipe. Lynne has fond childhood memories of enjoying this cake baked by her mother, Ruth Brigel. With a cream cheese frosting covering the moist cake, this family recipe will have you seeking a second slice. Follow the recipe for your chance at prize money: \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place, and \$10 for third place.

This year we welcome Nan Long to the Committee. Nan lives in Big Rock and enjoys reading, cooking and baking—her favorite. Giving back to the community through volunteering and assisting others is in her blood. Over the



Bonnie Smith, 47th recipient of the Harley Davis Memorial Award in 2025.

years she has served various organizations: Kane County 4-H Foundation, Kane County Farm Bureau Board and HBR-FFA-Alumni. Glad you have joined us.

We always welcome new entrants and new sponsors, as well as buyers at our auction. If you are interested in being a volunteer or have questions, contact any Committee member: Karen 630.220.4753; Megan 630.940.4553; Kate 630.927.2244; or Nan 815.693.7214.

An advertisement for Bickford Electric. It features a white service van with the company logo and name. The text includes: "BICKFORD ELECTRIC", "ELECTRICAL, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING", "Scott Bickford 630-688-5686", "BIG ROCK, IL", "Jared Bickford 630-669-6886", "RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL", "FURNACE & AIR CONDITIONER CLEANING", "GENERATOR INSTALLATION", "TEMPSTAR Heating and Cooling Products", "GENERAC", "630-669-6886", and "Family Owned & Operated for 3 Generations!".

MAGIC MATT

The Park District is thrilled to provide a new family entertainment event on Saturday. Marvel and laugh as Magic Matt dazzles you with his close-up magic with lots of audience participation. Magician and Balloon Artist Matthew Scherer will present two 30-minute magic shows at 11:45 am and 3:45 pm on the stage. In the morning from 10-11:15 am and in the afternoon from 1-3:15 pm, Magic Matt will be creating balloon art at the Park District booth. Plan out your Saturday to be able to enjoy all the kids' activities: Children's Races at 10:30 am, Pedal Tractor Pull at 2 pm, and multiple hours of carnival rides and petting zoo.



2026 PRINCE AND PRINCESS CONTEST

Hear Ye! Hear Ye! All boys and girls three, four and five years old, living in Big Rock and the surrounding communities, are hereby summoned to take center stage on Sunday at 1:30 pm. Wear your finest attire and be ready to be judged on poise, appearance and smile. Check in at the stage by 1 pm.

Register online on the Park District website bigrockparks.com by September 11. Contact Amanda Hummell at 630.656.8961.

The 2025 Court: Prince Otis Assell and Princess Ellie Harper, Calloway Gosch and Zealous Ritchie. Returning 2024 Prince John Ritchie and Princess Briar Brucks assisted with crowning the 2025 Court.



WATERMELON EATING CONTEST

The competition reached new heights with 33 contestants in 2025. Divided into four age groups, each eats a designated amount of watermelon with the first one done winning cash and bragging rights. Will you be a winner in 2026?

- ◆ Age 11 and under will eat a half slice, \$10 award
- ◆ Ages 12-15 will eat one slice, \$20 award
- ◆ Ages 16-20 will eat two slices, \$30 award
- ◆ Age 21 and older will eat three slices, \$40 award

Sunday is the day. No entry fee. Minimum of two contestants per age group.

Register at the stage beginning at 10:45 am. Contest begins at 11 am.

Winners in 2025 were: David Schroeder, half slice; Hadessah Schroeder, one full slice; L. Sherman, 2 full slices; and Joe Farrugia, three full slices. And we had repeat winners AGAIN: David with a repeat and three-peats for Hadessah and Joe. Be there to see if they do it again.

JUNIOR & EXHIBITORS FAIR

BAKED GOODS & VEGETABLES AUCTION

1 PM at the Bandstand

Award-winning homemade baked goods: cakes, pies, bars, cookies, candies, and more

Preview List and bidder numbers available 12:30-1 PM

Bidder numbers also available via email at bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com

A bonus this year are watercolor paintings by local artist Cynthia A. Ray. Thank you to Jeanne Jackson for donating the paintings.

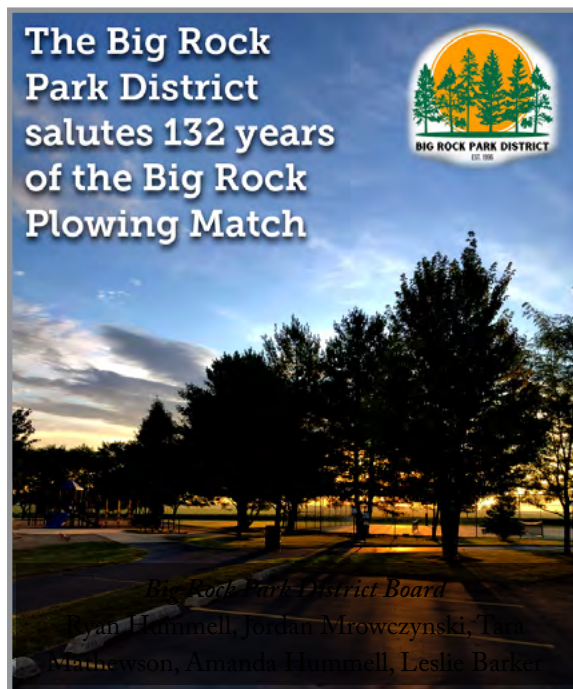
Visit bigrockplowingmatch.org to learn more

ROCK PARK DISTRICT

PETTING ZOO

Sponsored by the Big Rock Park District and Big Rock Plowing Match Association

The red and white striped tent located near the Junior Fair/School Exhibit building is where you will find farm animals waiting for you. Enjoy hands-on interaction with pigs, donkeys, Nubian goats and more on Saturday from 10 am-4 pm. This fun exhibit will be presented by Rod Farm Market of West Brooklyn, Illinois.



BINGO

Be ready to shout out “BINGO” when you get that last number before anyone else. Join in the Sunday fun in the pavilion at 2:30 pm. Everyone has a great time, with individual game winners receiving \$25 in prize money and there’s a grand prize of \$50 for filling an entire card.



CRAFT, ART & VENDOR SHOW

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

Kick-off the weekend Friday night when you can enjoy ice cream and sweets at Hill’s Country Store and get your Plowing Match official gear and merchandise at Chickabitty Designs, our authorized vendor. On Saturday and Sunday stroll through the park to discover over three-dozen new and returning vendors.

Artisans, crafters and vendors will present their hand-crafted wares. Show times are Saturday 10 am-5 pm and Sunday 11 am-4 pm. We welcome new art, craft, vendor or businesses. Find more information and an application at bigrockplowingmatch.org



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BIG ROCK BULL BASH AND BRONCS

Saturday was a perfect night for professional bull riding with great weather, feisty bulls and skilled riders. *Whiskey Romance* played to finish the evening. On Sunday an early afternoon rain did not dampen the spirits of the crowd. Fun was had by all. We are most grateful for all the new and returning sponsors for underwriting both the bull and bronc events, to Matt Noble and Next Level Productions for producing the events, to the Big Rock Lions Club for their partnership, to all the volunteers assisting in a multitude of duties and to everyone for attending these fundraising events in support of the Big Rock Plowing Match Association. Another tremendous weekend.

Event Director: Bob Raymond with Abby Needham, Assistant.

BULL RIDING SPONSORS

Main Event: High Choice Feeders

Bull Fighter Clown: O'Donnell Excavating and Trucking

90 Gates: Vacationland

Chute-Gate: Brian Michel Edward Jones; Fireside Grille; JD's Auto & Trailer Repair; LabelTek Inc.; Lewis Veterinary Services; Nedrow Painting

Cowboy-Gate: J & D Door Sales; Koalafied Heating & Air, LLC

Arena Banner: Accurate Auto Glass; Bar K Farms; Bickford Electric; Big Rock Park District; Big Rock Township; County Line Customs; DeKane Equipment Corporation; Dirty Paws; Fitzgerald's Electrical Contracting, Inc.; Hickey Auctioneering; Hoyt Services; The Lakone Company; LDL Transfer, Inc.; Naperville Construction Fence Rental; Needham Shop; Ness Hay & Straw Sales; RayVac Plastic Decorators, Inc.; Resource Bank; Rooster Ag; Ruh Farms; Schollmeyer Landscaping, Inc.; Terra-Bounty Outfitters & Timber Ranch; 3-D Auto Repair; Trian Transport; U Tow USA; Village of Big Rock; White Tail Properties Real Estate; Willrett Farms Trucking

Special Thanks: Executive Affiliates; Bob & Sharon Schoger; Condon Construction Company; Hoyt Services

BRONC AND SADDLE BRONC SPONSORS

Chute-Gate: Brian Michel Edward Jones; Nedrow Painting, Inc.; White Tail Properties Real Estate

90 Gates: Vacationland

Arena Banner: J & L Stables; Naperville Construction Fence Rental; RayVac Plastic Decorators, Inc.; Ruh Farms

Special Thanks: Executive Affiliates; Bob & Sharon Schoger; Condon Construction Company; Hoyt Services; Mike Long



Garrett Austin

Wades World Of Photography
Photographer

wadesworldofphotography@gmail.com
wadesworldofphotography.com
(331) 707-2150

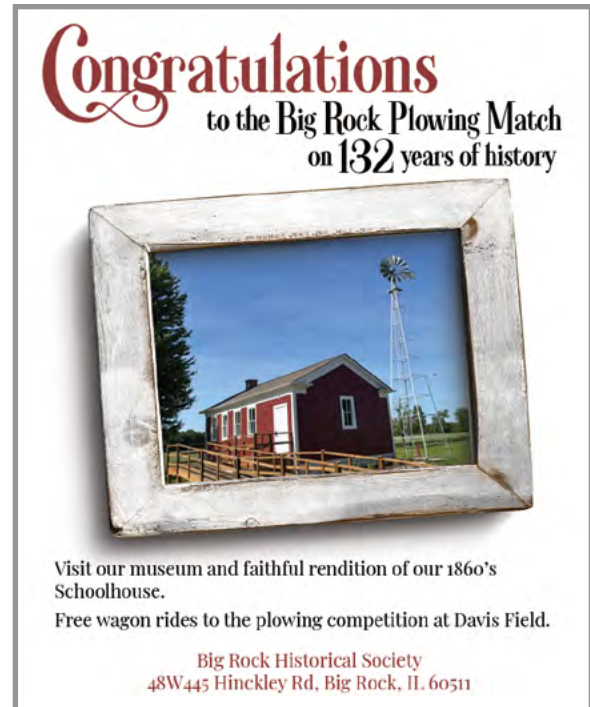


SPECIAL THANKS

The Plowing Match Association Board expresses their sincere gratitude to all the individuals, businesses and companies that have provided expertise and services in support of the Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival, Bull and Bronc events, and Plowman's Park.

- ◆ Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for promotion of the Plowing Match & Festival.
- ◆ Bickford Electric for their generous in-kind assistance with our electrical needs.
- ◆ Big Rock Historical Society for use of Davis Field for plowing, allowing parking on their property and providing rides between the plowing competition and Plowman's Park.
- ◆ Big Rock Park District for sponsoring Bingo, Watermelon Eating Contest, the Prince & Princess Contest, co-sponsoring the Tractor Pedal Pull and Petting Zoo, and adding a magician to entertain families with balloon artistry and magic shows.
- ◆ Dairy Joy Drive-In for assistance with concessions supplies.
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation for continued support.
- ◆ From My Garden to Yours for maintaining the garden beds at the entry sign, around the flagpoles and the Plowmen's Point board.
- ◆ Hinckley Big Rock Middle School 8th grade students for cleanup help on the Monday after Plowing Match weekend.
- ◆ Kane County Phantoms for maintaining Kenny Field.
- ◆ LabelTek Inc. for printing and underwriting the cost of the 2026 Bull and Bronc event tickets, Plowing Match posters and Plowing Match Times.
- ◆ Mike Long for allowing parking on his property.
- ◆ Nedrow Painting for enhancing our buildings (Restroom, Concession/Office, Exhibitors Fair, Stage and Pavilion) with fresh white paint and green trim.

The Plowing Match Board appreciates everyone's assistance in keeping these private grounds beautiful. We are very proud to be part of the Big Rock community.



PLOWMAN'S PARK AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Have your family, school, church or community event at this beautiful park during the week, as well as on weekend dates, May-October. Amenities include an upgraded kitchen, pavilion table seating, open areas for activities under an oak canopy, accessible restrooms and ample parking.

To have your event under the oaks, submit your request via our website bigrockplowingmatch.org using the provided forms. Expect a response within 3 business days. This private park is owned and maintained, without any tax or public funds, by the Big Rock Plowing Match Association.



THE BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH ASSOCIATION GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE SPONSORS OF THE 132ND BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH

Legacy—\$10,000+

Village of Big Rock-Amusement Rides

Harvest—\$5,000+

Big Rock Township-Amusement Rides
Kids Golf Foundation-Amusement Rides
Rich Harvest Farms Golf Club-Amusement Rides
LabelTek, Inc.
Herbert G. Ruh Memorial

Sow—\$2,500+

Big Rock Park District
The Lakone Company

Plow—\$1,000+

Big Rock Lions Club
Ron Burgess
Kane County Farm Bureau
Jim & Norma Leifheit
Wesley & Diane Morris

Platinum—\$750-\$999

Gold—\$500-\$749

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Big Rock Historical Society
Les & Sandy Granart
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Hollembek Construction, Inc.
In Memory of Wesley & Lucille Landmeier
Jerry Rich
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Silver—\$250-\$499

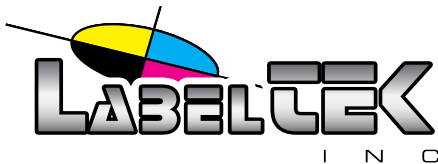
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Bronze—\$100-\$249

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*Sponsorships and donations received from September 2025 – August 15, 2026.
Please bring any inaccuracies to our attention by contacting Denise at
bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com*

*The Big Rock Plowing Match Association is a 501(c)(4) not-for-profit
organization that owns and maintains Plowman's Park and Kenny Field, and
holds the Bull Riding, Bronc Match and the Plowing Match & Festival without
any tax or public funds.*

*Donations may be sent to: Big Rock Plowing Match Association, P.O. Box 261,
Big Rock, IL 60511.*

*All donations are greatly appreciated and will lead to the continued success and
work of the Association.*

PRAIRIE STATE RAILROAD CLUB

Everyone looks forward to a train ride around Plowman's Park. Board the trains at Plowman's Station, just east of the Junior Fair building, for rides on Friday from 6 to 9 pm, Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11 am to 3pm. Large-scale model steam, diesel and electric locomotives pull the train cars for a ride along-side the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railroad line, through the woods and back to the station.



The Club provides rides at the Big Rock Car Show and several private events at Plowman's Park, as well as at the Sycamore Steam Show. Approximately 5-acres in the northwest area of the park and one mile of track, as well as Plowman's Station in the northeast corner of the park, is maintained by Club members.

As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, our mission is to educate the public about safe conduct around railroad facilities and crossings, including distribution of Operation Lifesaver materials at Club sponsored events. For information about the club visit the website at prairiestaterr.com

PUMPKIN TRAIN 2026

Fantastic family-friendly fall fun is happening on Saturday, October 3 from 1-8 pm. The Prairie State Railroad Club, in partnership with the Big Rock Plowing Match Association, will offer activities for everyone to enjoy. Enjoy all the seasonal displays along the tracks as you take a train ride through the park between the hours of 1-4 pm and 5-8 pm. The new start time means the trains will be running after sunset in the dark.



Satisfy your hunger with delicious treats at food trucks, munch on fresh popcorn and enjoy sweet treats and hot chocolate provided by the Exhibitors Fair Committee. Children age 10 and under will receive a free pumpkin and trick or treat bag, while supplies last. A train display, pumpkin decorating, bean bag toss, Tick-Tac-Toe, pumpkin bowling, photo op areas and more await your visit. This free event is open to all.

Families, individuals and businesses may sign up NOW to create a track-side display where you can decorate an area adjacent to the track for riders to enjoy. Details at prairiestaterr.com. Remember to register by September 21. Questions? Contact Jerame at 815.715.3476 or Nancy at 815-546-6437 or send an email to prairiestaterrclub1@gmail.com.



TREES AT PLOWMAN'S PARK

The tree project began in 2024 to revitalize the old growth trees ranging in age from 85-220 plus years in the park that is classified as a Pre-Settlement Oak Ecosystem. To date approximately \$132K has been invested throughout Plowman's Park. We are extremely grateful for the \$70K in grants from the Kane County Board, through its Office of Community Reinvestment, with funds from the Grand Victoria Riverboat Casino. These grants enabled us to achieve more, expanding our stewardship to additional trees and areas. The Association contributed over \$40K to improve the health of and to save as many trees as possible. We also thank our tree-hugging community members for \$15K in donations. This project also benefitted from several supporters who provided \$7K through in-kind contributions.

TREE PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS: 2024-2026

- ◆ 250 trees were tagged, inventoried and GIS mapped. The tree inventory and assessment provided genus, species, condition, recommendations and relevant information.
- ◆ 92 trees near buildings and areas where people are present were pruned to remove dead, broken and minor cross over branches and/or crown cleaned.
- ◆ 20 trees received an application of a liquid soil growth regulator to help improve overall health and reduce stress by improving root system regeneration.
- ◆ 37 trees received a liquid ground injection of natural compounds to encourage soil microbiology, with Phosphonates added to help improve plant defenses.
- ◆ Aeration of approximately 3-acres to relieve soil compaction, improve water, air and nutrient movement, enhance root development and improve drainage.
- ◆ Bio-char, applied in designated areas/ approximately 3-acres, is a natural amendment that improves soil structure to provide a habitat for soil micro-organisms to help the trees pull/ absorb more nutrients.
- ◆ 38 trees mulched with wood chips to conserve/extend available water and moderate temperature extremes.
- ◆ 5 native Kentucky Coffee Trees were planted to introduce tree species diversity



Our gratitude to:

- ◆ Charles Shonts and Lon McCaslin, ISA Certified Arborists, Davey Tree Expert Company for expertise and execution of the multi-year project.
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation for use of equipment.
- ◆ Hinckley-Big Rock HS students and teachers for spreading wood chips to mulch the trees.
- ◆ Generous supporters who wish to be anonymous.

Sadly, over a dozen trees were lost this year, primarily due to storm damage and other natural causes. With the dwindling canopy we are doing our best within available funding to diminish the trees' vulnerability to changing climate, disease and storms and will seek monetary donations to ensure trees may be enjoyed by future generations.

Project Coordinator: A. Denise Farrugia

TREE-HUGGING DONORS SEPTEMBER 2025-AUGUST 2026

- ◆ Christine Berzins
- ◆ Diane Christian
- ◆ A.Denise Farrugia
- ◆ Groch Family
- ◆ Pat Heerdt
- ◆ Rich & Sharon Kokes
- ◆ In Memory of Wesley & Lucille Landmeier
- ◆ Wesley & Diane Morris
- ◆ Dianne Raymond
- ◆ John & Mary Rogerson
- ◆ Danial Schleifer

Our stewardship will continue and if you would like to be a 2026/2027 Tree Hugger, contribute by mail or drop by the Information Booth or Office during the Plowing Match & Festival. Your support will be greatly appreciated.



Plowman's Park
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