



# BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH

## BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH: PRESERVING THE HISTORY



**T**his we know. October 12, 1895. The George W. Thomas farm, north of Big Rock, was host to the first Big Rock Plowing Match. William T. Thomas was president and the site was his son's farm, one mile north of Big Rock Village.

The plowmen gathered at 8:00 a.m. with the contest to commence at 9:00 and finish at noon. The rules required that one-half acre be plowed with a depth from 5 to 6 inches. There were classes for gang plows, riding sulky plows and walking plows, and boys under 18 years of age could use any kind of plow.

There were nine plowmen—actually eight as one was disqualified because he used two instead of three horses. They competed for three prizes in each class: \$6 for 1st prize; \$4 for 2nd; and \$2 for 3rd. The best plowing with any kind of plow was the sweepstakes winner and received \$5. Benjamin Thomas earned the title that first year.

And so it began and so it continues. By the turn of the 20th century there was a plowing match every weekend

in September: Big Rock, Lily Lake, Troy and Wheatland. Only the Big Rock Plowing Match remains.

Today, as we look forward to 2019 and the celebration of the 125<sup>th</sup> Big Rock Plowing Match, we reflect on the agricultural traditions and ponder how to preserve the history for future generations. Over the years Plowing Match history has been chronicled in newspaper articles, newspaper inserts, published booklets,



# SCORECARD OF THE BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH

## LAND DRAWING

### Saturday

9:00 am Sharp  
9:30 am Start  
12:30 pm Finish

### Sunday

10:30 am Sharp  
12:00 pm Start  
3:00 pm Finish

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.
- ◆ Horse or Mule 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 120<sup>TH</sup> PLOWING MATCH COMPETITION, 2014

### SATURDAY, 9/20/2014

#### 15 & under

1st—Joe Turk, Elburn, 71½ points  
2nd—Jackson Kettelkamp, Elburn, 69½ points

#### 19 & under

1st—Alex Turk, Elburn, 71 points

#### Farmers Open

1st—Rick Wolf, Erie, 90½ points  
2nd—Mark Nier, Chilton, WI, 89 points  
3rd—Dana Nehring, Big Rock, 88 points  
4th—Jerry Davis, Sandwich, 84 points

#### Prizewinner

1st—Kurt Wurster, Aurora, 79 points

#### Expert

1st—Mike Winckler, Erie, 90½ points  
2nd—Sharon Harris, Rockvale, TN, 90 points  
3rd—Paul Evans, Big Rock, 89½ points  
4th—Tom Evans, Big Rock, 89 points

### Novelty

1st—Kris Johnson, Cortland  
2nd—Bruce Johnson, Rochelle  
3rd—Larry Waloszyk, Aurora

### SUNDAY, 9/15/2014

#### Antique Rubber Class

1st—Mike Winckler, Erie, 91½ points  
2nd—Mark Nier, Chilton, WI, 89½ point  
3rd—Dana Nehring, Big Rock, 86½ point  
4th—Rick Wolf, Erie, 86 points

#### Antique Steel Class

1st—Paul Evans, Big Rock, 86½ points  
2nd—Trent Pierson, Elburn, 84 points  
3rd—Heather Pierson, Elburn, 80½ points  
4th—Tom Evans, Big Rock, 77¼ points

#### Novelty Class

1st—Bruce Johnson, Rochelle  
2nd—Kris Johnson, Cortland  
3rd—Ralph Johnson, Waterman

Sweepstakes Winner  
Mike Winckler, Erie

## PRESERVING THE HISTORY (CONT.)

and since 2012, in a revived Plowing Match Times newsletter. There are premium sheets that give us a glimpse of the favorite baked and canned goods of eras past. Trophies won by great-grandfathers, granddads, husbands, wives, sons, daughters, sisters and brothers celebrate the plowman and the match. And stories passed from one generation to the next carry on the tradition.

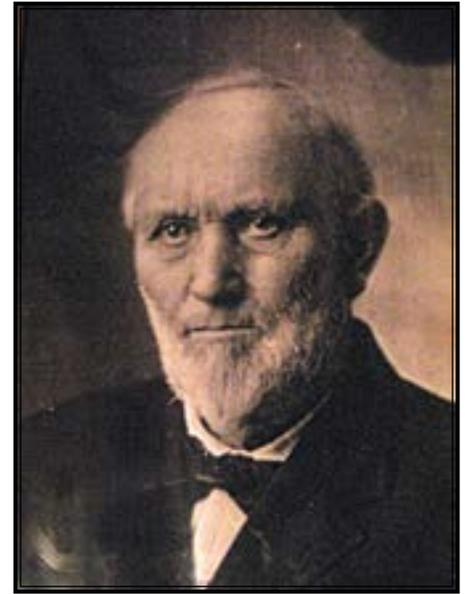
The Big Rock Historical Society has an area dedicated to the Plowing Match. Walls are covered with photos of Plowing Match Association Presidents, as well as the Chairperson of the Ladies Division. Trophies line the shelves, cases and even the eaves. Files include newspaper articles, photos, premium lists, booklets and more. Association Board members and coordinators of events are keepers of Plowing Match history. As are community members with family who have participated in the many events across the past 120 years.



As much as we have, there is so much more to gather to fill in the gaps, to put a name to a face in a photo, to acknowledge and honor all the men and women who have carried on the tradition before us. We are looking to gather and preserve as much history as we can before it is lost. Key plowing match history that is missing are the records about the plowing competition from 1959 to 1978.

We ask you to check your basement, attic, crawlspace, garage and barn for boxes of items that may have mementos, trophies, newspaper clippings, photos and other plowing match treasures. Take a look in those boxes from your grandparents', parents' or aunts and uncles' homes. Talk with your elders about their experiences with and at the plowing match.

Do you have stories about the kids' games, entering the Junior or Ladies Fair or riding in the horse show? We want to hear those stories, and would be delighted to accept or make copies of any information you are willing to share about the Big Rock Plowing Match. Please contact Board members to share information.



Founding Big Rock Plowing Match president  
William T. Thomas

Plowing completion: Bill Brickert at 630-556-3190 or Craig Thomas at 815-495-9418 Other events, mementos or information: Anita Novicki at 708-751-4904 or A. Denise Farrugia at 630-556-4771

You are invited to experience the plowing competition on Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:30 pm and Sunday from noon to 3:00 pm. The fields are located across from Plowman's Park, adjacent to the Historical Society on land provided by Marvel Davis. Walk over or get a ride to the fields. Looking forward to seeing you at the 121st Big Rock Plowing Match.

This event is the reason we gather on the third weekend in September.



# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18—KIDS' NIGHT

|   |              |
|---|--------------|
| Bicycle Parade (begins at fire barn)                        | 5:15 pm      |
| Old-time Baseball   | 6:00 pm      |
| Carnival "Wristband Night"<br>DRS Skinner's Amusements Inc. | 6:00-9:30 pm |
| Premier Entertainment by DJ Darrin Lee                      | 6:00-9:30 pm |

## SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Western & English Horse Show             | 8:30 am          |
| Farmers Market Silent Auction Begins     | 9:00 am          |
| Horseshoe Tournament                     | 9:00 am          |
| Drawing for Lands                        | 9:00 am          |
| Plowing                                  | 9:30 am          |
| Children's Races (in the cattle ring)    | 11:00 am         |
| 5 B's BBQ Pork Chop & Chicken Dinner     | 11:30 am-2:00 pm |
| Junior Fair Baked Goods Auction          | 1:00 pm          |
| Ladies Fair Baked Goods Auction          | 1:30 pm          |
| Pedal Tractor Pull (in the cattle ring)  | 2:30 pm          |
| Plowing Trophy Presentation              | 3:30 pm          |
| Round Bale Roll-off (in the cattle ring) | 4:00 pm          |

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Church Service                          | 10:00 am         |
| Drawing for Lands                       | 10:30 am         |
| 5B's Catering Roast Beef Dinner         | 11:00 am-1:30 pm |
| Watermelon Eating Contest               | 11:00 am-1:00 pm |
| Plowing                                 | Noon             |
| Horseshoe Tournament                    | Noon             |
| Farmers Market Silent Auction Ends      | 1:00 pm          |
| 4-H Beef Show (in the cattle ring)      | 1:00 pm          |
| Prince and Princess Contest             | 1:30 pm          |
| Bingo—Big Rock Park District (pavilion) | 2:30 pm          |
| 4-H Beef Auction (in the cattle ring)   | 3:00 pm          |
| Plowing Trophy Presentation             | 4:30 pm          |

### CARNIVAL RIDES DRS SKINNER'S AMUSEMENTS INC. (WEATHER PERMITTING)

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Friday   | 6:00-9:30 pm |
| Saturday | Noon-5:00 pm |
| Sunday   | Noon-4:00 pm |

### CONCESSIONS

|          |                 |
|----------|-----------------|
| Friday   | 5:00-9:30 pm    |
| Saturday | 7:30 am-5:00 pm |
| Sunday   | 8:00 pm-4:00 pm |

### CRAFT, ART, & ANTIQUE SHOW

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Saturday | 9:00 am-5:00 pm  |
| Sunday   | 11:00 am-4:00 pm |



## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is over and fall is approaching—must be time for the 121<sup>st</sup> Big Rock Plowing Match. Each year we strive to improve the events at the Plowing Match. Since the 100<sup>th</sup>, the Plowing Match has been three days of events for everyone to enjoy. We kick off on Friday with a kids bicycle parade followed by a night of carnival rides. Kids Night has grown to be a huge success delighting both the kids and their parents.

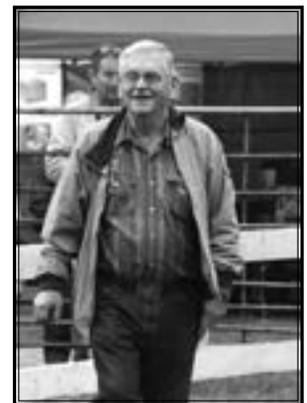
Enhancing Plowman's Park is a continuous challenge. In 2014, we added more blacktop to improve and make it easier to move around the grounds. Storms resulted in damaged trees and rain last year forced the cancellation of some events and held down attendance.

2015 is a new year and the Board has been working hard to make changes that will lead to a bigger and better Plowing Match. We look forward to families gathering at Plowman's Park to celebrate our farming traditions. So, spread the word, invite your friends to come out and have a wonderful time at this year's Plowing Match.

On behalf of the Big Rock Plowing Match Association Board, I would also like to thank everyone who has and will be helping to make this a successful year. Thank you all for your help and participation. Let us know if you have any questions or suggestions to improve the Plowing Match. We look forward to many more years of celebrating our traditions.

*Roger Hatfield*

*President, Big Rock Plowing Match Association*



# CARNIVAL WRISTBANDS

DRS SKINNER'S AMUSEMENTS INC.

The carnival will be at Plowman's Park from Friday night through Sunday afternoon, weather permitting. It all begins with Wristband Night Friday from 6:00-9:30 pm and continues on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Watch for the Carnival Wristband presale flyer coming to your school. Saturday wristbands will be available for purchase only at Plowman's Park. Individual ride tickets may also be purchased at the park during carnival hours.

Hours for the carnival rides will be:

|          |              |
|----------|--------------|
| Friday   | 6:00-9:30 pm |
| Saturday | Noon-5:00 pm |
| Sunday   | Noon-4:00 pm |



## WATERMELON EATING CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK PARK DISTRICT

Who will have the fastest time in 2015? Find out on Sunday at 11:00 am. The person with the fastest time after eating slices of watermelon will win a cash prize: \$10 for age group 7-11 eating one slice, \$20 for age group 12-15 eating two slices and \$30 for age group 16 and up eating two slices. No entry fee. Registration begins at 11:00 am at the stage prior to the contest.

2014 Contest Winners: Returning champion Molly From, age 10, ate one slice in 31.53 seconds; Hunter Masur, age 13, completed two slices in 1 minute 48 seconds; and returning champion Cherin Dettman finished two slices in 2 minutes 36 seconds.



## 2015 PRINCE & PRINCESS CONTEST

SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK PARK DISTRICT

All boys and girls, ages 3 through 5, living in the area are invited to enter this year's Prince & Princess Contest to be held on Sunday at 1:30 pm. Please check in at the stage by 1:00 pm.

Entry forms are available on the Park District website at [www.bigrockparks.com](http://www.bigrockparks.com) and the Plowing Match website. Contact Cindy Nehring at (630) 556-3238.

2014 Winners: Eliyaz Patsch, Prince, and Jordan Challender, Princess, were crowned in 2014. Sullivan Ruh and Ashley Leifheit placed Second and Third place went to Hunter Heis and Katarina Gengler.



## BINGO

SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK PARK DISTRICT

Come and enjoy Bingo on Sunday at 2:30 pm under the Pavilion at Plowman's Park. At least five individual games will be played and prizes will be awarded.



## CRAFT, ART & ANTIQUE SHOW

Our popular Craft, Art & Antique Show returns again this year to Plowman's Park. In this picturesque setting in the country you will find many returning, as well as new artisans, crafters and vendors. They have all been busy creating a variety of beautiful handmade, handcrafted, and unique items for you, including jewelry, soaps, wood items, quilts and photography.

Come join us on Saturday from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Please visit [www.bigrockplowingmatch.com](http://www.bigrockplowingmatch.com) for further details or contact Dawn Stegall at 630-556-4949 or email [dcsras6057@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dcsras6057@sbcglobal.net).



## PLOWMAN'S PARK HOSTS EVENTS

Throughout the year, Plowman's Park is host to many community activities. Perhaps you have enjoyed an event at this beautiful park.

- ◆ Big Rock Plowing Match
- ◆ Prairie State Railroad Club
- ◆ Community Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ Church, school and family picnics
- ◆ Scouting events
- ◆ Youth baseball games

This wooded 19-acre site is available for rental. Contact Bonnie Warchol at (630) 556-3501 to book the park for your next event.

## 5 B'S SERVING DINNER AT THE PLOWING MATCH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

The Big Rock Plowing Match Association and 5 B's Catering of Waterman invites you to dinner from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday. Plates are \$12 with a choice of 2-pork chops, half chicken or a combo plate (1 chop & ¼ chicken) served with baked beans, coleslaw and applesauce.

On Sunday from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm 5 B's will be serving an old-fashioned roast beef dinner. Dinners are \$12 per plate and include roast beef, cheesy au-gratin potatoes, buttered green beans, coleslaw and roll with butter.

# 31<sup>ST</sup> HORSE SHOW AS POPULAR AS EVER!

Plowman's Park is filled with fun events and competitions the entire weekend and the southwest corner is the place to be on Saturday morning. That is where you will find Bonnie, Wendy, Anita, Alicia and a host of others that love horses, getting ready for the 31st Annual Horse Show for "kids" of all ages. Everyone has fun cheering on the riders and their horses.

The riders compete for ribbons and cash awards in a variety of classes. There are "High Point" awards for riders based on age: 15 and under or 16 and over. All ribbon winners have the chance to win a \$100 cash prize through a drawing that matches the number on the back of their ribbon. Riders must be present at the end of the show to win.

Ms. DeLynne Erboe, a certified Illinois Horse Show judge, is from Belvidere, Illinois. The focus of our competition is for the riders to have fun while being coach on how to improve their ride. Riders are encouraged to ask questions at the end of each class.

Five "just for fun" classes are scheduled right in the middle of the show to provide a break from the competitive classes. One such class is the "Open Calcutta", a judged English or Western pleasure class, where the audience participates. With the Show Judge outside of the arena, the riders are introduced to the audience and the bidding begins. The high bidder then "owns" the rider and horse for this class and takes a reward if their rider places. The money collected is split among the winners: 50% to first, 35% to second and 15% to third. Ribbons are presented to the riders placing first through sixth. The 31st Annual Horse Show bill provides all the details.

As you walk around the Park, stop by the southwest corner and join in the fun. You may even win a few bucks! See you bright and early on Saturday, the show begins at 8:30 am.

## Classes

1. Open Halter-English & Western
2. Open Showmanship-English & Western
3. Western Horsemanship (15 and Under)
4. Western Horsemanship (16 and Over)
5. Open Western Horsemanship
6. Western Pleasure (15 and Under)
7. Western Pleasure (16 and Over)
8. Open Western Pleasure
9. Lead Line\*

## Just For Fun

10. Musical Cones
11. Open Command Class
12. Egg and Spoon Race
13. Bribe Your Horse
14. Ride-A-Buck (bareback)

## Classes

15. Open Bareback Equitation
16. Walk Trot\*
17. Open Calcutta (\$\$\$) Pleasure Class
18. English Pleasure (15 and Under)
19. English Pleasure (16 and Over)
20. Open English Pleasure
21. English Equitation (15 and Under)
22. English Equitation (16 and Over)
23. Open English Equitation
24. Grooms Class\*
25. Non-Blue Ribbon Winner Performance Class

Classes: \$5 per event

\* Walk Trot, Lead Line, and Grooms Classes—Participants in these events are not eligible for any other performance class. Lead Line riders are not eligible for Walk Trot Class (16).

## General Guidelines

- ◆ All contestants must wear proper attire except in classes: 10-11-12-13-14-15-24. 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 (3 entries per class minimum).
- ◆ The Show Committee has the right to refuse check or issue tabs. A \$40 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 high point winners.
- ◆ All ribbon winners are eligible to win a \$100 cash prize. Drawing at end of show, winner must be present. No stand-ins please.

High Point Awards: age 15 and Under  
1-2-3-5-6-8-15-17-18-20-21-23-25

High Point Awards: age 16 and Over  
1-2-4-5-7-8-15-17-19-20-22-23-25

Judge: Ms. DeLynne Erboe, Belvidere, Illinois.

Ample trailer parking available.

Lunch break at approximately 12:30 pm.

Need more information? Contact Bonnie at (630) 556-3501 or email [brw1964@gmail.com](mailto:brw1964@gmail.com).



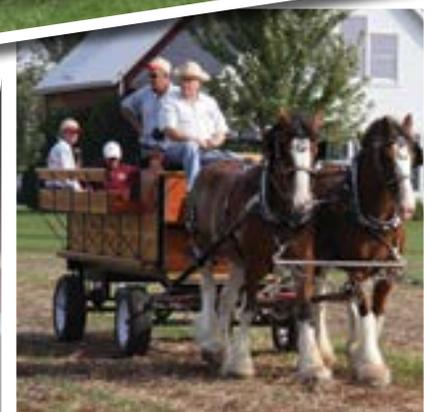
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# THE JUNIOR FAIR GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHOWCASE THEIR TALENTS

Every year we hear comments from adults: “I never would have thought of that”, “what talent”, “amazing”, “what a great photo”, “look at this, how pretty”, “how creative”, “wish I could taste those”, “I couldn’t do that”. These statements barely begin to describe the scope of talent and imagination that is exhibited in the Junior Fair Building. Make sure you stop by and take a look at what our area children have shaped, painted, drawn, built, baked, decorated, created or colored. You will be glad you took the time for a visit.

The Junior Fair welcomes young people from all communities to enter—from Big Rock and beyond. Last year we had entries from 18 different communities plus several other states.

The Junior Fair Coordinators have a lot to be grateful for:

- ◆ Our new and improved Premium Sheet continues to bring us new participants.
- ◆ Rich Harvest Farms of Sugar Grove is again generously sponsoring all of our Section II ~ Regular Classes.
- ◆ The Rayman Family of Big Rock continues to support the Junior Fair by purchasing all of the award ribbons.
- ◆ The Brian Hanacek Family of Big Rock is sponsoring a different art class in Category A ~ Special Entry this year.

We are grateful for all who support this wonderful event for our young people.

This year the Junior Fair has three special entries to showcase:

- ◆ Special Craft Entry is Make a Shoe Box Parade Float. Do you like to watch Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade or the Rose Bowl Parade? Now is your chance to create your own float. Using a shoe box no larger than 10” wide by 14” long fill it with dolls, mini animals, action figures, flowers, tractors, cars, trucks or whatever you can dream up. There are some great ideas “online” if you are stumped. Looking forward to the Junior Fair shoe box parade.
- ◆ Special Baking Entry is a Honey Bun Cake. If you like sugary & gooey sweet rolls try this recipe right now. Bake up a 9” x 13” pan for your family and see what their taste buds say.
- ◆ Special Art Entry is Draw Your Favorite Cartoon Character. Everyone has a favorite and we would like you to share yours on an 8 1/2” x 11” piece of paper. Please mount your completed artwork on a colored piece of paper to show it off. Can’t wait to see what you come up with!

As you look at this year’s premium sheet, take a few minutes to recall the drawings and crafts that you have done at school, at scout meetings, at camp, at vacation Bible school, for the Sandwich, Kendall County or Kane County fairs or “just for fun” during the summer. Your entry does not need to be made just for the Junior Fair – it just needs to fit the requirements of the category it is entered in. Entries are accepted from 2 pm until 7 pm on Friday September 19th at the Junior Fair Building.

2015 Junior Fair Premium Sheets are available on our website ~ [www.bigrockplowingmatch.com](http://www.bigrockplowingmatch.com), at the Big Rock Post Office or by calling Sandy at 630-556-3171.

Questions? Please call Donita at 630-556-9000, Sandy at 630-556-3171, JoAnn at 630-556-4849 or Deb at 815-286-7247. We look forward to seeing you at the Junior Fair!

## 2014 SPECIAL PREMIUM WINNERS

- ◆ Most blue ribbons 12-14 year olds: Katrina Nilles
- ◆ Most blue ribbons 9-11 year olds: Jordan Sprecher
- ◆ Most blue ribbons 6 -8 year olds: Anna Herrmann
- ◆ Most blue ribbons 3-5 year olds: (tie) Scarlet Culver, Zach Juneau, Eliana Martz
- ◆ Most points all categories: tie, Jordan Sprecher
- ◆ Most Entries: 1st place: Jordan Sprecher; second place: (tie) Lila Dzikowicz, Ashley Leifheit

### SPECIAL PREMIUM—ART BEST POSTER ABOUT BIG ROCK

- ◆ 6-8 years old: 1st, Summer Culver
- ◆ 9-11 year olds: 1st, Lily Geltz, 2nd, Betse Hauser; 3rd, Justin Hauser

### SPECIAL PREMIUM—BAKING XTRA—SPECIAL CELEBRATION CAKE

- ◆ First Place: Katrina Nilles
- ◆ Second Place: Anna Herrmann

### SPECIAL PREMIUM—CRAFT PAINT A COLORFUL UMBRELLA

- ◆ 3-5 years old: 1st, Ian Geltz; 2nd, Ashley Leifheit; 3rd, Travis Herrmann
- ◆ 6-8 years old: 1st, Mia Geltz; 2nd, Anna Herrmann
- ◆ 9-11 years old: 1st, Devin Werner; 2nd, Lily Geltz; 3rd, Jordan Sprecher
- ◆ 12-14 years old: 1st, Katrina Nilles

# LADIES FAIR 2015

The Ladies Fair is open to all amateurs—men, women and children—and provides an opportunity to showcase your talent in six different sections across 18 categories with 135 classes. We invite everyone to browse the Premium List and consider entering two to three baked goods, your favorite candy, a few pints of canned vegetables or fruit, and several handicrafts. Look through your completed projects for items to enter. Although entries that have won a ribbon may not be entered again, articles/items entered prior to 2013 are eligible. We encourage you to participate in this community tradition and fill the Ladies Fair building with mouth-watering treats and beautiful handicrafts.

The Special Handicraft, introduced in 2014, offers a different opportunity each year for you to express your creativity. This year we invite you to decorate a glass jar—browse Pinterest for ideas and let your creativity soar. We thank Premier Entertainment D.J. Services for sponsorship of this class, which offers a \$15 premium for first place and \$10 for second.



2014 Harley Davis Memorial Award winner Donita Bartoszek

Premiums and prize money for the various categories and Special Awards are provided by individuals and businesses, as well as the Big Rock Plowing Match Association. All the support is most appreciated. We welcome several new donors that are sponsoring entire categories: Hill's Country Store–Kaneville sponsoring Candy; Schollmeyer Landscaping, Inc. sponsoring Canned Goods; Dr. Michael Scalley-Hinckley Family Chiropractic & Massage sponsoring Handicrafts; Darrin Lee Family sponsoring Embroidery; and a Friend of the Ladies Fair sponsoring Crocheting. Contact Denise if you'd like to be a sponsor.

Gail Geltz is a four-time recipient of the Harley Davis Memorial Award for winning the most blue ribbons in all classes in 2005, 2008, 2009, and 2011. This year's Special Recipe, a Pineapple Upside Down Cake, is a Geltz family recipe that has been passed through the generations. Over the past 40 years this cake has become a summer tradition in John & Gail's home—she has even baked it on the grill—and they are delighted to share this favorite recipe. Follow the recipe for your chance at a first place blue ribbon (\$30) or a second place red ribbon (\$20).

## GOOD TO KNOW

- ◆ Premium List: Print it from the Plowing Match website or request it by sending your contact information, listing Ladies Fair in the subject line to: bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com
- ◆ Entries: Friday, September 18 from 2:00 to 7:00 pm. Tips for check-in are on Premium List. Entering more than 20 items? Pre-register with Denise by calling 630-556-4771.
- ◆ Judging Criteria: Quilts, handiwork and flowers will be judged on quality of workmanship, as well as beauty of the entry. Baked goods and candy will be judged on five factors: appearance, texture, taste, moisture and presentation. Appearance and presentation will take into account the packaging requirement of items being in a large ziplock bag or container with a domed top.
- ◆ Premiums: First place earns \$10 and second place is awarded \$5. Special Awards, Special Recipe and Special Handicraft have individual premiums.
- ◆ Hours: View the exhibits in the Ladies Fair building on Saturday from 9 am to 12:30 pm and 3:30-5:00 pm. Closed during the Auction. Sunday from after Church Service to 2:30 pm.
- ◆ Committee: Gina Dunlap at (630) 556-3082, Cheryl Lee at (630) 988-2522, Karen Yoder at 630-556-3620 or A. Denise Farrugia at (630) 556-4771.

## LADIES FAIR 2014 SPECIAL AWARDS WINNERS

- ◆ Harley Davis Memorial: Most ribbons in all classes—Donita Bartoszek
- ◆ Big Rock Lions Club: Man with most blue ribbons—Wray McKenzie
- ◆ Big Rock Plowing Match Association: Most entries in all baking classes—1st, Donita Bartoszek; 2nd, Harriet Pihera
- ◆ Needham Shop: Most blue ribbons in quilts—Susie Shaddle
- ◆ The La Kone Company: Most blue ribbons in Section I—Cakes—Gail Geltz
- ◆ The La Kone Company: Most blue ribbons in Section I—Breads, Bars & Pies—Christine Shilling
- ◆ Healy Chapel: Most blue ribbons in Section II—Cookies & Candy—Donita Bartoszek
- ◆ Gladys Butcher Memorial: Most blue ribbons in Canned Goods—Patricia Price
- ◆ Harry Schoger & Sons, Inc.: Most blue ribbons in Flowers—Mary Lambert
- ◆ Dairy Joy: Most blue ribbons in Handicraft—Susie Shaddle
- ◆ Executive Affiliates, Inc.: Most blue ribbons in Section V—Embroidery & Sewing—Mary Gunier
- ◆ Executive Affiliates, Inc.: Most blue ribbons in Section V—Hand Knitting & Crocheting—Mary Gunier
- ◆ Resource Bank: Most blue ribbons in Photography—Karen Levandowski

**JUNIOR & LADIES FAIR  
BAKED GOODS AUCTION  
SATURDAY**



Prize-winning baked goods will be auctioned to the highest bidder on Saturday afternoon starting at 1:00 pm with Junior Fair items, followed by the Ladies Fair items at 1:30 pm. These blue and red ribbon winners are the best of the best from both the Junior Fair and Ladies Fair. Parents, grandparents, and other supporters will have the chance to bid on their favorite baker's winning entry and take home amazing sweet treats.

- ◆ More than 75 different categories of baked goods will be auctioned to the highest bidder.
- ◆ These mouth-watering delicious treats include everything from caramel pecan rolls to German chocolate cake.
- ◆ Homemade breads, muffins, pies, cobbler, cakes, cookies, cupcakes and candies winning first or second place during the Junior or Ladies Fair competition await a place on your table.

This event is a definite crowd pleaser and is a perfect opportunity to make new acquaintances, revisit old friends and support the Plowing Match Association.

All you need is a bidder's number available that day at the bandstand (12:30-1:00 pm) or you can get one now by contacting Denise at (630) 556-4771 or via email at [bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com](mailto:bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com)

**BIG ROCK TOWNSHIP IS PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
121<sup>ST</sup> BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH**

With our very best wishes for a successful weekend.

Your Big Rock Township Officials

- Sandra Carr, Supervisor
- Kenneth Rojek, Trustee
- Robert Schoger, Trustee
- Bradley Scott, Trustee
- Paul Wedeen, Trustee
- Cara Rausch, Clerk
- Rebecca Byington, Assessor
- Rick Rausch, Road Commissioner



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## BIG ROCK LIONS CLUB



The Lions Club of Big Rock is proud to be an active part of the community, raising money to serve those in need. Throughout the year, the Lions Club is involved with projects that assist individuals, our schools and the community. The community's generous support of Lions Club fundraisers enables the Lions to accomplish their projects.

The Plowing Match serves as the only major community event that provides an opportunity for the Lions to raise money to serve others. "Cow Chip Bingo", an annual fundraiser, involves the purchase of a square for \$2 or \$5 and the cow does the rest. Squares may be purchased from Bill Fischer at [fischerwp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fischerwp@sbcglobal.net) or any Lions Club member in advance, as well as at the Plowing Match. Witness the cow "in action" outside the cattle arena on the east side of Plowman's Park.

In addition to Cow Chip Bingo, Club members will be selling raffle tickets for cash prizes of up to \$500 during the Plowing Match. A limited number of tickets are available for \$5 each, 3 for \$10 or 7 for \$20 at the Lions Club booth.

New members are welcome to join us in serving the community. Contact President Bill Kline at [bfkline@aol.com](mailto:bfkline@aol.com) or call him at 630-567-3119. Meetings are held the first Thursday of each month at the Big Rock Township hall at 7:30 pm.

For more information, stop by the Lions Club booth at Plowman's Park during the Plowing Match.



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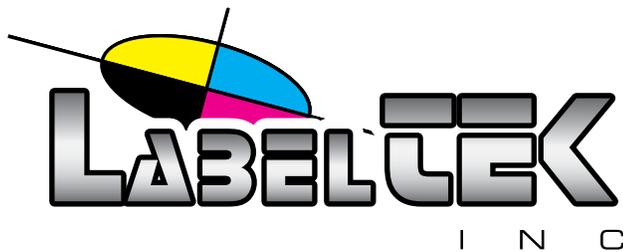
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All donations are greatly appreciated and will lead to the continued success of the Plowing Match and the work of the Association.  
—Thank you so much. Big Rock Plowing Match Association

Sponsors as of August 24, 2015. If you notice any omissions or inaccuracies, please bring them to our attention by contacting Denise at 630-556-4771 or bigrockplowingmatch@gmail.com



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## VEGETABLE AND GRAIN SHOW



Show off your prized vegetables, grains and fruits at this year's show. There are 45 different classes across three categories. Category A is open to everyone and Categories B and C are age specific. Gather up your carrots, apples, onions, squash or corn, as well as other vegetables, grains and fruits; select the best; and bring your entries to the tent next to the Ladies Fair building between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm on Friday.

Winners will receive ribbons and cash prizes. Most classes award first, second and third place with cash prizes ranging from \$2 to \$4.50. The Ivan & Betty Davis Memorial awards three prizes for the largest pumpkin with first place receiving \$25, second place \$15 and \$10 for third place.

Special Awards are presented to the participant winning the most ribbons in Section I, II and III, as well as an award for the participant with the most ribbons overall. All entries must be grown by the exhibitor.

The Vegetable and Grain Show Premium sheet lists all the categories and is on the Big Rock Plowing Match website. This event is organized by Cindy and Dale Dean. Questions? The Deans can be reached at 630-556-3791.

### **FARMERS MARKET SILENT AUCTION BEGINS 9:00 am Saturday ENDS 1:00 pm Sunday**

Prize winning entries will be sold by silent auction at the Vegetable & Grain Show tent. Stop by the tent frequently to place your bids. Winning bids will be determined at 1:00 pm Sunday and must be paid and picked up by 2:00 pm. All proceeds go to the Big Rock Plowing Match Association.

## THANK YOU FROM THE BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH BOARD

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 Plowing Match and Plowman's Park.

- ◆ George Alexander and his Clydesdale horses for providing an elevated view for people to enjoy the plowing competition.
- ◆ Allegra in Aurora for printing the Premium Lists, posters and sponsor banners.
- ◆ Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for promotion of the Plowing Match.
- ◆ Bickford Electric for tending to all our electrical needs.
- ◆ Big Rock Boy Scout Troop 19 for helping with garbage pickup throughout the weekend.
- ◆ Big Rock Car Show Committee for cleaning up the park, kitchen, and restrooms.
- ◆ Big Rock Historical Society for allowing parking on their property and providing rides between the plowing competition and Plowmen's Park.
- ◆ Big Rock Park District for maintaining our baseball field, Kenny Field.
- ◆ Nathan Carr for the design and maintenance of the Plowing Match website.
- ◆ Cub Scouts of Three Fires Council for picking up all the paper scraps and refuse that others have left behind. They truly do us a "good turn" during their week-long day camp.
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation for equipment assistance in maintaining Plowman's Park.
- ◆ Hinckley Big Rock Middle School 8th grade students for clean-up help on the Monday after Plowing Match weekend.
- ◆ KZ Photography for taking photos of the events at the Plowing Match.
- ◆ Label Tek for printing and underwriting the cost of the 2015 Big Rock Plowing Match Times.
- ◆ Lyrka Lawler for the graphic and layout design of the Big Rock Plowing Match Times.
- ◆ Mike Long for allowing parking on his property.
- ◆ Sandy Marshall for creating the prize money tally cards for the Junior & Ladies Fair, as well as the Vegetable & Grain Show.
- ◆ Sue Moss for maintaining the buildings at Plowman's Park.
- ◆ Prairie State Railroad Club for being our resident eyes and informing us when things are just not right.
- ◆ Sign FX for printing and updating Plowing Match signs.

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.

# BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH BOARD

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