



WELCOME BACK!

2021 marks the 127th anniversary of the Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival. Held annually since 1895, the Plowing Match has been cancelled entirely only five times.

- ◆ 1902 due to rain
- ◆ 1926 due to rain after being postponed 3 times due to heavy rains
- ◆ 1943 and 1944 due to World War II
- ◆ 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic

The Plowing Match is the reason we gather and continues to be the highlight of the weekend. Plowmen and women come from near and far, bringing their tractors and plows with them to compete across two days. There are classes for 15 and younger, a farmers open class, prizewinner class, expert plowman class and more, with everyone competing to become the Sweepstakes Winner – the one who scores the most points over the weekend. Our current reigning

Sweepstakes winner is Sandra Bullington of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

All the plowing takes place on Davis Field across the street from Plowman's Park, adjacent to the Big Rock Historical Society Museum. Stroll over or hop aboard the wagons provided by the Historical Society to view the plowing.

Plowman's Park is host to a festival of events taking place from Friday afternoon through Sunday. There is fun for the kids, adults, the whole family: in other words for everyone. Take a look at the Schedule of Events on page 2 and plan to come to the park all three days for fun as you stroll under the oaks to enjoy the Craft, Art & Vendor Show; petting zoo, Prairie State Railroad Club train rides, exhibits in the Junior & Ladies Fair buildings, horse show and much, much more. As always, this family friendly festival is free for everyone to enjoy. See you there!

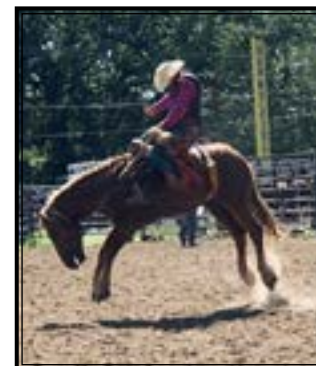


BIG ROCK BULL RIDING & BRONC MATCH



It started as a "What If" discussion in 2018 as Bob Raymond presented the concept for a fundraising event – professional bull riding at Plowman's Park. And so it began – as part of the Tuff Hedeman Break-Out Series. Big Rock Bull Riding was established in 2019 as a sold out event, sidelined in 2020 and returned in 2021, selling out in eight days. So, a next-day matinee Bronc Match was added. This year's events were held on a perfect weather weekend, greeted with cheers and enjoyed by all.

The Association extends a huge thank you to all the sponsors for underwriting the events, to Matt Noble and Next Level Productions for producing the events, to all the organizations for their partnership, to all the volunteers assisting in a multitude of duties and to everyone for attending these events in support of the Big Rock Plowing Match Association. The Board thanks Bob Raymond for thinking outside the box, for this "What If" has been a tremendous success.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Bicycle Parade (begins at fire barn)	5:15 pm
Amusement Rides "Wristband Night"	5-9 pm
Live Music-Wild Wreck	6-9:30 pm
Olde Time Baseball	7 pm

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

Western & English Horse Show	8:30 am
Drawing for Lands	9 am
Farmers Market Silent Auction (starts)	9 am
Plowing	9:30 am
5 B's BBQ Pork Chop & Chicken Dinner	11:30 am-2 pm
Children's Races (in the cattle ring)	12 pm
Junior Fair Baked Goods Auction	1 pm
Ladies Fair Baked Goods Auction	1:30 pm
Pedal Tractor Pull (in the cattle ring)	2:30 pm
Round Bale Roll-off (in the cattle ring)	4 pm
Plowing Trophy Presentation	4 pm
Live Music-Rob Post Band	5-8 pm

FUN FOR THE KIDS

- Amusement Rides-Friday ONLY. Wristbands and tickets sold on site 5-9 pm
- Petting Zoo
- Children's Races
- Pedal Tractor Pull
- Prairie State Railroad Club Train Rides
- Watermelon Eating Contest
- Prince & Princess Contest

CONCESSIONS

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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Tractor Trot 5K	8 am
Drawing for Lands	9 am
Plowing	9:30 am
Church Service	10 am
Watermelon Eating Contest	11 a.m.-1 pm
5B's Old-fashioned Roast Beef Dinner	11 a.m.-1:30 pm
Bags Tournament	1 pm-4 pm
Farmers Market Silent Auction (End)	1 pm
Cattle Show (in the cattle ring)	1 pm
Prince and Princess Contest	1:30 pm
BINGO - Big Rock Park District (pavilion)	2:30 pm
Beef Auction (in the cattle ring)	3 pm
Plowing Trophy Presentation	4 pm

FREE PARKING • FREE ADMISSION

CRAFT, ART & VENDOR SHOW

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

BEER GARDEN

Co-sponsored by Big Rock Fire Department and Plowing Match Association. Beer and wine served.

Friday	5-10 pm
Saturday	Noon-Close
Sunday	Noon-Close

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our 125th celebration year was memorable. We bid farewell to Roger Hatfield after 52 years on the Board, 33 years as President; cancelled everything on Sunday due to flooding; I was elected president and then 2020 arrived with a pandemic. COVID-19 overwhelmed our world forcing the cancellation of the Plowing Match & Festival and bull riding. We were able to have a 5-Bs drive-through fundraiser and *Treasures from the Ladies Fair* recipe book was published.

Improvements at the park progressed with painting of the office and concession building, pavilion and bandstand; hosta beds were planted around the Ladies Fair building; and the restroom building renovation continued (read about in on page 6). The return of bull riding and the introduction of a bronco event brought back a sense of normal. Coming on Friday night will be new and exciting amusement rides including a zipline and bull ride simulator.

It has been two years and so much has changed. So it is good to be back, the third weekend in September, where things are familiar, to showcase our agricultural heritage, plow in Davis Field and gather under the oaks in Plowman's Park. Be part of keeping the tradition alive by telling everyone about the Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival. I look forward to seeing you there.

Terry Sorensen, President



WINNERS OF THE 125TH PLOWING MATCH COMPETITION, 2019

SATURDAY, 9/14/2019

15 & Under Class
1st - Levi Marquardt of Hinckley, 69½ points

19 & Under Class
1st-Joe Turk of Elburn, 79½ points

Farmers Open Class
1st - Trent Pierson of Elburn, 88 points
2rd - Erich Turk of Elburn, 87 points
3rd - Jim Fraley of Cooksville, 86½ points

Prizewinner Class
1st - Sandra Bullington of Murfreesboro, TN, 91 points
2nd - Mark Nier of Kiel, WI, 84 points
3rd - Kurt Wurster of Aurora, 75 points

Expert Plowman Class
1st - Rick Wolf of Erie, 92½ points
2nd - Tie at 91½ points Jerry Thomas of Batavia and Mike Winckler of Erie
3rd - Paul Evans of Big Rock, 90½ points

Novelty Class
1st - Kris Johnson of Cortland
2nd - Gregg Mitchel of Northwood
3rd - Bruce Johnson of Rochelle

Sweepstakes Winner
Sandra Bullington of Murfreesboro, TN

SUNDAY, 9/15/2019

All Sunday events, including plowing, were cancelled due to flooding.

2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Big Rock Plowing Match and Festival was not held.



SCORECARD OF THE BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

9:00 am Sharp	Drawing for Land
9:30 am	Plowing Starts
4:00 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.
- ◆ 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.

BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH & FESTIVAL AMUSEMENT RIDES

WHY are amusement rides only on Friday night? The short answer is cost. The Association is dedicated to having the Plowing Match & Festival be family friendly with activities and events that are free or low-cost for everyone to enjoy. Underwriting the cost of the rides across the weekend has been a struggle for several years. Friday night attendance is strong, but Saturday and Sunday has been sparse with ticket sales dwindling so that we barely break even with ticket sales.

So, when Skinner Amusement let us know that 2019 would be the final time they would provide rides for us, the Board investigated a variety of options, compared costs and determined that a fresh direction was worth the risk. There were many challenges and changes related to entertainment providers, all that resulted in higher costs. How much is Friday night costing? Over \$15,000. As such for 2021, the Association is only able to underwrite Friday night. We will continue our assessment to determine what will be possible for 2022.

We encourage families to attend Friday night and return on Saturday and Sunday to explore the activities and events especially for kids, watch the plowing and browse the Junior Fair and School Exhibits. Plowman's Park is filled with family fun. See you there.



PLOWMAN'S PARK AVAILABLE FOR RENT



Plowman's Park is host to many events and activities throughout the year. This beautiful park is available to rent for family, school, church or community events. Perhaps you have enjoyed an event at the park.

- ◆ Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival
- ◆ Prairie State Railroad Club
- ◆ Hinckley Area Food Pantry-food drive
- ◆ Tuff Hedeman Break-Out Series Bull Riding
- ◆ Big Rock Bronc Match
- ◆ Big Rock Car Show
- ◆ Community Easter Egg Hunt
- ◆ Baseball games

To book your event under the oaks contact Bonnie Warchol at 630.556.3501.

This private park is owned and maintained, without any tax or public funds, by the Big Rock Plowing Match Association.

125TH FUNDRAISER UPDATE

It was 2018 when the Association reached out to the community for additional funding to build for the future with the renovation and maintenance of Plowman's Park. The community responded with over \$22,000 in funding. Since 2019, these monies have enabled the Association to complete the following:

- ◆ Renovated restroom building to be ADA compliant
- ◆ Resurfaced the floor, improved lighting and added fans in the Ladies Fair building
- ◆ Cleaned and maintained the exhaust fan and grill in the kitchen
- ◆ Upgraded the sound system
- ◆ Paid off the loan on the utility tractor

We continue to maintain, renovate and enhance. Our priority is to complete items on our list from 2018:

- ◆ Upgrade electric service to 200 amp to upgrade kitchen and add lighting throughout the park
- ◆ Improve cooking equipment in kitchen
- ◆ Blacktop all gravel roads/surfaces within the park
- ◆ Upgrade lights at Kenny Field

Your generous contributions and in-kind support is making a world of difference at Plowman's Park. Thank you.

DAVIS LEGACY TO PLOWING MATCH

"When Harley Davis married Marvel Evans, two families dating back to the early history of the township who had a great interest in the Plowing Match were joined. Harley loved his community and demonstrated this by spending many hours working in various community groups." *He served on the Association Board as a Director, Secretary (1958-63) and President 1975-1976.

Harley's parents, Dwight and Anna Davis, bought land in 1957 with the idea that it could be used for the plowing competition as this field was convenient to the park. The Davis Field land was first used as home to the plowing match competition in 1961.

Both Marvel and Harley were involved with the Ladies Fair.



"Harley took pride in being an auctioneer at the Ladies Fair Bake Sale for many years. "His smile and wave for everyone are part of what the heritage of the Plowing Match is all about."

The Sweepstakes Winner was established in 1978 as a Ladies Fair special award for the winner of the most ribbons in all classes. The Davis' donated funding for a silver serving piece to be awarded to the recipient. In 1991 the award was renamed the Harley Davis Memorial. Beginning in 2010 a crystal vase has been awarded. This memorial is funded through an endowment.

Marvel contributed her favorite recipes for the annual Ladies Fair Special Recipe in 2000 with Pecan Pie Surprise Bars and 2009 with Special K Bars. These recipes are included in the *Treasures from the Ladies Fair* recipe book.

Marvel continued the Davis family tradition of supporting the Big Rock Plowing Match with a formal provision in her Trust that the "farmland in Section 21, consisting of 49 acres, more or less, shall be used such that at least 25 acres are made available for the Big Rock Plowing Match each year for so long as the match continues to run." July 20, 2020 marked the passing of Marvel Davis.

The Association Board is extremely grateful to the Davis Family for their many years of support and the use of Davis Field. The legacy of the Davis Family to the Big Rock Plowing Match is sincerely appreciated.

**From 1980 Plowing Match newspaper.*

PLOWMAN'S PARK...AND ANOTHER TREE CAME DOWN



The majestic, towering oaks and hickory trees are a defining feature of Plowman's Park. Bur oak trees are predominant among the swamp white oak, shag-bark hickory and a hickory cross of shag-bark with bitternut. The oldest trees are probably 150 years old, with most in the 95 plus year range. At one point there were over 160 trees on the 19-acres. Unfortunately, the number of trees are dwindling primarily due to storm damage, with drought, cold/wet springs, polar vortex and other natural causes taking a toll.

A tree assessment in 2020 identified trees in danger and/or in need of pruning/maintenance, as well as areas where trees could be planted. The Association is developing a tree replacement and maintenance plan. There will be opportunities to have a tree planted in honor of or in memory of a loved one or friend, as well as adopting a tree. To implement the plan, we will be seeking monetary donations to ensure a canopy of trees will be enjoyed for many more generations. Watch for details on our website, in the Big Rock Crier, and on Facebook.

PLOWING MATCH MERCHANDISE


Get your Plowing Match caps, shirts, sweatshirts and more at Plowman's Park. New this year are short-sleeve t-shirts that are royal blue with a white logo, available in both v-neck and crew-neck. There are also short-sleeve and long-sleeve t-shirts, caps, wine glasses, and items from previous events. Drop-by the Information Booth for details.



RESTROOM BUILDING RENOVATION

The Big Rock Lion's Club continued their renovation to make the restroom building ADA compliant. To date, beginning in 2019, new epoxy-finish floors have been installed, as well as new toilets. Achievements so far this year include cutting the concrete block to accommodate the installation of new wider entrance doors and stall partitions with grab bars and appropriate hardware. With this work completed, the restroom building is ADA compliant. Motion-activated lighting, both exterior and interior, and large-capacity toilet paper dispensers, have been the most recent improvements. Upcoming renovation projects include new vanities and replacement windows.

The Lions Club and Plowing Match Association are extremely grateful to everyone who has assisted with the improvement and renovation of the restroom building. The updating has really brightened the restrooms and made such a difference for everyone. The Lions Club appreciates all your support throughout the year.

The Big Rock Lions Club is proud to be actively involved in the community providing assistance where needed. We assisted at the 2019 & 2020 Bull Riding and Car Show events, and are in the process of restroom renovation at Plowman's Park. You will find us at the Plowing Match & Festival fundraising for future projects. We will be selling tickets for our Cash or Gun raffle. Tickets are \$20 or 2 for \$30. Only 300 tickets will be sold and the winner will be announced on Sunday.

Another fundraiser is "Cow Chip Bingo". If you are not familiar with the game, the rules are easy. Purchase a square from one of the Lions Club Members in advance or at Plowman's Park on Saturday or Sunday and the cow does the rest. The squares cost either \$2 or \$5, depending on the signup sheet you select. If you want to witness the cow "in action" she will be located just outside the cattle arena on the east side of Plowman's Park.

If you can contribute some of your valuable time to the community, the Club is always looking for new members. Meetings are held monthly on the first Thursday at 7 pm at the Big Rock Township hall. More information available at the Lions Club booth near the cattle arena or contact Jack Bartoszek, President at jbartoszek@ameritech.net



TAKE A SEAT!

Throughout the park, under the oaks and by the Junior and Ladies Fair buildings, you may take a seat on one of several memorial benches. These gift benches have been received over the years, beginning with a pair in memory of Dean Granart, Past President of the B.R.P.M. and Don (Toot) Lee, Leader of the Premiers Band. More recently one in Loving Memory of Harold "Sonny" Alfredson and another in In Memory of Leon and Lois Shaw. The Association thanks the families for these memorial gifts.

There's also a new bench outside the Ladies Fair building. This natural-edge bench was created from a locally harvested Big Rock cherry tree and an oak tree from Plowman's Park. The trees, at the end of their life, were saved from being burned, then cut into planks at a local saw mill and repurposed into a rustic bench to be enjoyed for many generations. This creative gift was handcrafted by two retired Big Rock guys, Ralph Stegall and Kris Melvin. Thank you.



TRADITIONAL OLD-FASHIONED DINNERS

The tradition of serving delicious old-fashioned dinners continues with 5 B's Catering of Waterman serving up everyone's favorite chicken, pork chops or roast beef at the Plowing Match.

Saturday's menu offers plates at \$14 with a choice of two pork chops, half chicken or a combo plate (1 chop and ¼ chicken) served with baked beans, coleslaw and applesauce. Plates with one pork chop or ¼ chicken are \$12. Dinner will be served from 11:30 am to 2 pm.

A roast beef dinner will be served from 11 am to 1:30 pm on Sunday. Dinners are \$14 per plate and include roast beef, au-gratin potatoes, buttered green beans and coleslaw.

Sheri Sorensen, Dinner Coordinator, needs volunteers to assist for 2-3 hours each day with ticket sales, serving and set-up/break-down. Contact Sheri at 630.556.3495 if you are able to volunteer.

36TH ANNUAL HORSE SHOW—SATURDAY

STARTS PROMPTLY AT 8:30 AM

After 32 years of coordinating the Horse Show, my husband Ray and I have turned the reins over to Donna Masur Hieser. Her grandparents, Jim and Lois Rogers, started the horse show in 1984.

I would like to thank:

- ◆ All the sponsors for their support all these years
- ◆ All the volunteers who have helped for many years and been in the hot sun from 8 am till dark, often long after everyone else had left the park
 - Ray Warchol for 32 years of announcing
 - Anita Novicki, our daughter, for handling registration all 32 years, even when pregnant
 - Pam Harvey for serving as our Ring Steward
 - Shelley Mroz for assisting Ray at the announcers' stand
 - Wendy Emma for her help the last few years
 - Karen Sander, our judge from Union, Illinois, did an

excellent job with the riders in 2019, will be returning again this year

As always, the show will be competitive and most of all FUN! Check out the 2021 show bill below. For more information about the show or an event, please contact Donna at 630.802.4629 or at donnahieser@yahoo.com.



Classes

1. Open Halter – English & Western
2. Open Pony Halter (14.2" & under) English & Western
3. Open Showmanship – English & Western
4. Western Horsemanship (15 and Under)
5. Western Horsemanship (16 and Over)
6. Open Western Horsemanship
7. Western Pleasure (15 and Under)
8. Western Pleasure (16 and Over)
9. Open Western Pleasure
10. Lead Line**
11. Walk Trot**
12. English Pleasure (15 and Under)
13. English Pleasure (16 and Over)
14. Open English Pleasure
15. English Equitation (15 and Under)
16. English Equitation (16 and Over)
17. Open English Equitation
18. Open Calcutta (\$\$\$) Pleasure Class

Audience bids to own the horse and rider. All monies bid are pooled and distributed to winning "owners" based on placement of top three horses. First place, 50%, second place, 35%, third place, 15%. Riders receive trophies and ribbons.

19. Non-Blue Ribbon Winner Performance Class

Just for Fun

20. Musical Cones
21. Open Command Class
22. Egg and Spoon Race
23. Bribe Your Horse
24. Ride-A-Buck (bareback)

Classes

Classes: \$5 per event

General Guidelines

- ◆ All contestants must wear proper attire except in classes: 10-20-21-22-23-24. 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. You must be present. No Stand-ins please.

High Point Awards: age 15 and Under
1-2-3-4-6-7-9-12-14-15-17-18-19

High Point Awards: age 16 and Over
1-2-3-5-6-8-9-13-14-16-17-18-19

Judge: Karen Sander, Union

Ample trailer parking available.
Lunch break at approximately 12:30 pm

Need more information? Contact Donna at 630.802.4629 or email donnahieser@yahoo.com

***Walk Trot, Lead Line and Grooms Class – Participants in these events are not eligible for any other performance class. Lead Line riders are not eligible for Walk Trot Class (11).*

Open Sundays
2 – 4 pm



Big Rock Historical Society
48w445 Hinckley Road, P.O. Box 206
Big Rock, IL 60511

Congratulations to the Big Rock Plowing Match on making another year of History. Stop by to see past Plowing Match items in the Museum

The Big Rock Park District Board:

Gene Nehring • Bonnie Warchol •
Bill Yoder • Cindy Nehring •
Steve Holub

Salutes 127 years of the
Big Rock Plowing Match



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LADIES FAIR

Make this THE year to enter your baked goods, handmade and handcrafted items. Everyone, men, women and children, are eligible to submit entries for display and judging. There are no entry fees or exhibitor deadline before the event. Our premiums/prizes range from \$5 to \$30 with ribbons and over \$2,500 in prize money provided by our very generous sponsors, businesses and the Big Rock Plowing Match Association. This year we are introducing entry labels that entrants can print to attach to their entries. Take a look at the Premium List – by winning the most ribbons in all classes you may be the recipient of the Harley Davis Memorial award.

And the questions are... *Why* isn't there a class for this or that on the Premium List? *How* can a new/different category or class get added? Each year the Committee reviews the Premium List to determine under-performing classes. Then individual classes are changed/introduced based on comments and suggestions received from participants. Prize money, provided by sponsors, enables the Ladies Fair to offer six sections, nineteen categories and over 140 classes. Categories and classes are added when a sponsor is secured to provide the prize money. In 2019, two new categories, each with four classes were added. Contact Denise to talk about new categories or classes you would like to sponsor.

Our Special Recipe this year honors the Thomas family with Margaret J. Hansen's Red Chocolate Cake with white velvet frosting. Craig remembers this cake as his favorite, especially for the frosting "the thicker the better". On the Association Board since 1978, Craig Thomas coordinates the plowing competition with Bill Brickert. We invite you to gather up the ingredients, follow the recipe and enter – first place receives \$30, second place \$20 and third place \$10. This cake is sure to become a family favorite.



Harriet Pibera—2019 award recipient



Treasures from the Ladies Fair features all the special recipes from both the Ladies and Junior Fair through 2019, as well as over 150 additional recipes for cakes and cupcakes; breads and muffins; pies and crisps, cookies and bars; candy; gluten-free; and canned fruit and vegetable. Copies will be available for sale at \$15 each in the Ladies Fair building on Saturday and Sunday.

In 2019 we extended our best wishes and sincere gratitude to Cheryl Lee for seven years of service. Her contributions were numerous in streamlining processes, coordinating volunteers and judges and sharing her warm and welcoming smile with everyone. Amy Motchnik joined us in 2019 and helped with the production of our recipe book before she left for Kentucky. All the best to both as they embark on new adventures. This year we welcome Megan Williams to the Ladies Fair Committee. Megan has been a volunteer for many years and a prize winning entrant in baking and handicrafts. She enjoys crafting, settling into her new home and looks forward to serving the community where she grew up.

Get the latest news about the Ladies Fair via Facebook: like both the Plowing Match

AND the Ladies Fair sites. Stay in touch with us via email at bigrockladiesfair@gmail.com

The 2019 Ladies Fair showcased the work of 68 who entered 483 items. Twenty-six entrants were from Big Rock with the remaining 42 entrants from 21 Illinois communities plus Michigan, Minnesota and Tennessee. Nine men competed. There were 23 who entered for the first time. We invite everyone to enter the Ladies Fair at the 127th Big Rock Plowing Match & Festival.



JUNIOR & LADIES FAIR BAKED GOODS & QUILT AUCTION—SATURDAY

The wait is over! Prize-winning baked goods, quilts and paintings will be auctioned to the highest bidder on Saturday afternoon starting at 1 pm with Junior Fair items followed by the Ladies Fair items at 1:30 pm and the quilts at 2 pm. Put this auction at the top of your list. The blue & red ribbon winners are the best from both the Junior and Ladies Fairs. James Dresen returns as our Auctioneer.

- ◆ Over 75 different categories of baked goods and quilts will be auctioned to the highest bidder.
 - These mouthwatering delicious treats include everything from apple slices to this year's Special Recipe Margaret J. Hansen's Red Chocolate Cake with white velvet frosting from Craig Thomas.
 - Homemade breads, muffins, pies, cobbler, cakes, cookies, cupcakes and candies await a place on your table.



- ◆ The special quilt will feature quilters' interpretation of the Horse Show in a mini 24" square quilt.
- ◆ A bonus item this year is a set of paintings of the Town Hall and the Gazebo by Cynthia A. Ray. Thank you to Sandy Carr for the paintings.



The 2019 Quilt Challenge showcased the Ladies Fair. Congratulations to our first place quilter, Wilma Shimkus for her creative interpretation and to our winning bidder.



Wilma Shimkus (right) poses with her award-winning quilt

The auction is a fundraiser for the Association with all proceeds supporting the Plowing Match events, as well as maintaining the buildings and grounds. The auction is a win/win, buyers go home with a tax deduction and the Association receives funds to support their work.

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





Big Rock Plowing Match
 PLOWMAN
 125th Anniversary
 2019

POINT BOARD

Built by Terry Sorensen

ESPECIALLY FOR KIDS

PEDAL TRACTOR PULL

SATURDAY

Are you ready to take the challenge to pull the sled the farthest? Our brand-new pedal tractor and sled awaits you. Registration begins at 2 pm in the Cattle Ring with the competition beginning at 2:30 pm.

Children are divided into five weight classes: up to 40 lbs.; 41-50 lbs.; 51-60 lbs.; 61-70 lbs.; and 71-80 lbs. Each child, astride a pedal tractor, pedals to pull a weighted sled as far as possible. Tips from previous winners: Always look ahead. Go as fast as you can. When it starts getting hard, pedal harder. The faster you get going, the farther you'll go. The winner is declared based on the longest measured distance of the pulled sled. The winner in each class receives a trophy and all receive a Participation ribbon.



Sponsored by the Big Rock Plowing Match Association with great appreciation to our President Terry Sorensen for building the pedal tractor and sled.



CHILDREN'S RACES

SATURDAY

A few surprises are planned for this year's old-fashioned races. These free races showcase the fun children enjoyed in days gone by. Preschool children and students from kindergarten through eighth grade are invited to participate at noon in the Cattle Ring.

- ◆ Races for preschool children include Run to Mom/Dad, Bunny Hop and Penny Race.
- ◆ Students Kindergarten and 1st grade will compete in a Crab Walk, Balloon and Penny Race.
- ◆ 2nd and 3rd grade student races include Crab Walk, Balloon Race and 3-Legged Race with ties provided.
- ◆ 4th, 5th and 6th grade students compete in Egg, Balloon and Three-legged Races with ties provided.
- ◆ 7th and 8th grade student races include Egg, 3-Legged Races with ties provide and Balloon Relay.

Prizes include ice cream tickets and cash. Support for this event is provided by the Big Rock Lions Club.



PETTING ZOO

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK PARK DISTRICT AND BIG ROCK PLOWING MATCH ASSOCIATION

Experience the community petting zoo on Saturday from 10 am-5 pm and Sunday from 11 am-4 pm. Farm animals, provided by local farmers, will be available for visitors to interact, hands-on with the animals. FFA and 4-H members will be manning this fun and educational exhibit.

JUNIOR FAIR/ SCHOOL EXHIBIT

The Junior Fair/School Exhibit building showcases hundreds of entries from young people across our communities. "Children's Work" has been a part of the Big Rock Plowing Match since 1897. The tradition continues in 2021 with 70+ Junior Fair classes available to enter for those ages 3 to 14. Each year three art, craft, and baking "special entry" classes are highlighted. This year entrants can paint a fall themed picture (art), create a fall wreath (craft) and/or make pumpkin brownies (baking).

Placement awards are given for each class in addition to special awards for the person(s) with the most entries and blue ribbons across all classes. These awards are made possible by the generosity of our sponsors. We thank them for their on-going support!

Baking entries placing first and second are sold at auction on Saturday. Consider participating for a chance to win some delicious treats to take home to enjoy!

Please review this year's premium sheet; we are sure you will find a class or two to enter. Contact a Junior Fair Coordinator with questions:

- ◆ Donita Bartoszek 630.556.9000
- ◆ Sarah Magro 630.335.6205
- ◆ Mary Rogerson 630.330.0114

The Junior Fair /School Exhibit building also features classroom artwork by the Hinckley-Big Rock Elementary School students. Be sure to stop by to admire their work!



AMUSEMENT RIDES



Four Seasons Amusements will be providing the rides on Friday night from 5-9 pm. There are rides for everyone from the youngest to adults: Berry Go Round; Red Baron Airplane Ride; Pirate's Revenge Swing Ride; Inflatable double slide; Ballistic Chair Swing; Dual

Zipline Challenge; and the All American Bull Simulator ride. Signed waivers are required for the zipline and bull simulator-details on our website.

Wristbands will be available for \$15 at the park Friday via cash or check payable to "Big Rock Plowing Match Association". Individual ride tickets will also be available for \$1 each and will be cash only at the ticket booth. Cost per ride is two tickets, except for the zip line and bull simulator which are 4 tickets each.



Kick-off the weekend festival starting on Friday night with the amusement rides. Return on Saturday and Sunday for more kids' events, displays in the Junior Fair/School Exhibit building, contests, train rides and more.



SPONSORED BY THE BIG ROCK PARK DISTRICT

2021 PRINCE AND PRINCESS CONTEST

Boys and girls three, four and five years old, living in Big Rock and the surrounding communities, are invited to enter. Children will be judged on poise, appearance and smiles. It has been two years since a Prince and Princess were crowned, so join in the pageantry on Sunday at 1:30 pm at the stage. Entrants should check in at the stage by 1 pm.

Entry forms are available on the Park District website www.bigrockparks.com and the Plowing Match website, www.bigrockplowingmatch.com. Deadline for entry forms is September 9. Contact Cindy Nehring at 630.556.3238.



BINGO

FACT: The number 6 is the most frequently called winning BINGO number, proving it to be the luckiest number out of 90. Will your BINGO card have a number 6? Find out on Sunday at 2:30 pm under the Pavilion. There will be four or more individual games played, prizes will be awarded and it is free to play.

WATERMELON EATING CONTEST

It has been a very hot summer and two years since a watermelon champion reigned. So who will have the fastest time in 2021 and earn cash for eating watermelon? There are three groups: ages 7-11 eating one slice, awarded \$10; ages 12-15 eating two slices, awarded \$20; and \$30 for ages 16 and older eating two slices. Sunday is the day. No entry fee. Registration begins at 11 am at the stage prior to the contest.



PETTING ZOO

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

Experience the community petting zoo on Saturday from 10 am-5 pm and Sunday from 11 am-4 pm. Farm animals, provided by local farmers, will be available for visitors to interact, hands-on with the animals. FFA and 4-H members will be manning this fun and educational exhibit.

CRAFT, ART & VENDOR SHOW

SATURDAY & SUNDAY (CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN)

The Craft, Art & Vendor Show, a long-standing part of the Plowing Match & Festival, returns again this year to our beautiful Plowman's Park. Wander through wonderful displays tucked amongst the mature, shady oaks to enjoy all our vendors have to offer. You will find a nice selection from returning favorites, as well as new artisans, crafters and vendors. Consider this a must-see to purchase gifts for birthdays, holidays or simply to add a great piece to your own personal collection or home décor. In addition, be sure to look for and support the various businesses and non-profit groups in attendance. The tent canopies are located throughout the park, between the Junior and Ladies Fair buildings and along the gravel pathways.

Show times are Saturday 10 am-5 pm and Sunday 11 am-4 pm.

If you would like to join us and add your unique handmade art, craft, vendor or business items and products, information and applications are available on our website, www.bigrockplowingmatch.com.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2019 RIBBON WINNERS

Artisan, Crafter Category

- ◆ 1st—Jeanne Jackson, handmade one of a kind necklaces, bracelets & earrings
- ◆ 2nd—Nick Eckmayer, handmade ceramics/pottery
- ◆ 3rd—Sharon McGinnis, handmade wreaths

Vendor, Other Category

- ◆ 1st—Debbie Nelsen, Trades of Hope; artisan created jewelry, scarves, bags, home decor
- ◆ 2nd—Amanda Tuftee, Paparazzi Accessories; jewelry
- ◆ 3rd—Bob Coffey, Windy City Mustard; gourmet mustard, spice blends & rubs, olive oil, balsamic vinegar

Drawing Winners

- ◆ 1st—\$50, Debbie Nelsen, Trades of Hope; artisan created jewelry, scarves, bags, home decor
- ◆ 2nd—\$10, Jackie Bodnar, Homemade by Jackie; table runners, aprons
- ◆ 3rd— 5, Amanda Tuftee, Paparazzi Accessories; jewelry



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ROUND BALE ROLL-OFF

SATURDAY

This fun competition has brought a lot of laughs and entertainment since 1994. This old-fashioned competition tests the strength and skill of three team members competing against time to roll a round bale of straw across the ring. Of course, there is a hitch! Two people roll the bale and the other teammate dares to stay on top of the bale as it rolls. If the person on top falls off, the bale must stop and that person must get back on top before they can start rolling the bale again. The team with the best time wins.



So, if you are at least 13 years old, show up at the Cattle Ring to roll the straw. There are two divisions: ages 13-18 and ages 19 plus. No cleats or spikes allowed. Registration begins at 3:30 PM with the contest beginning at 4:00 PM. Registration fee is \$15 per team.

First place winning teams in each division take home \$150 and \$75 for teams taking second place. Lots of great prizes from local businesses will also be awarded: Indian Oaks Golf Course, Pizza Hut of Plano, Classic Cinema of Sandwich, Hill's Country Store, Jewel Foods, Napa Auto Parts, Sugar Grove Family Fun Center and others. Thank you to all our sponsors. This year, Coordinator Lynne Paver welcomes Sandy Madden and Emily Herrmann as they transition into the role as coordinators



BAGS TOURNAMENT

SUNDAY (2019 CANCELLED DUE TO RAIN)

We are thrilled to bring back the Big Rock Plowing Match Bags Tournament after the great success of 2018 only to be flooded out in 2019 and then Covid in 2020. So gather up your friends and join us on Sunday from 1:00-4:00 pm. Open to adults, 21 and older, this tournament with great cash prize winnings is sure to bring return and new players, so register early to guarantee your spot. Here's the game plan.



- ◆ Blind draw for partners at 1:00 pm.
- ◆ Double elimination tourney.
- ◆ Entry fee is \$20 per person.
- ◆ Register ASAP for available spots.
- ◆ Application form at www.bigrockplowingmatch.com.
- ◆ Find us on the north side of the park.
- ◆ Registration for spots, if available, will open before tournament

Prize winnings

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



Our sincere gratitude to the tournament co-sponsors: Dairy Joy and Pessina Tree Service. Contact Steve Ruh at 630.461.9879 or steve@ruh farms.com with questions.

CATTLE SHOW

It's been TWO YEARS since we've had a cattle show at the Plowing Match and our local 4-H kids are more than ready to show off their projects! They have worked very hard for 9-10 months raising, caring for, feeding and training their prized steers and heifers to compete and be sold at auction.

Join us as at 1 pm on Sunday for the show in the cattle ring. Judging is based on form, market readiness and cover. Awards are presented for junior/senior showmanship and by breed: Angus, Hereford, Shorthorn and Crossbred. Winners in each of the breed classes then compete for overall Grand and Reserve Champions. Along with trophies and bragging rights, the 'champion chairs' are waiting for new owners (after they receive the new '2021' date).

The Beef Auction follows at approximately 3 pm leading off with the sale of the Grand Champion. If you are seeking top quality freezer beef or want to help a local 4-H member continue to be able to show cattle, please consider bidding at the auction.



We'd like to thank our buyers from the last two auctions in 2017 and 2018 and hope to see them again this year along with new buyers!

- ◆ CHS Ag Company
- ◆ Lenny Bryson, Auctioneer
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation
- ◆ Jeff & Tammy Engel
- ◆ Don Frost-Wyffels Seed
- ◆ O'Donnell Excavating & Trucking
- ◆ Old Second Bank
- ◆ Prestegaard Auctioneering
- ◆ Don Willrett-Pioneer Seed
- ◆ Show and Auction Coordinators: Wray & Patti McKenzie and Tina Wackerlin.

For local 4-H information contact the Youth Development Program Coordinator at the University of Illinois Extension-Kane County at 630.584.6166.



TRACTOR TROT

SUNDAY 8 AM START

Experience the quaintness of Big Rock and feel its crisp country air as you run, walk or trot in this year's event. Coordinated by the Big Rock Fire Department since 2018, runners of all ages and abilities are invited to participate on Sunday. It all begins outside the entrance to Plowman's Park. Arrive early, especially if you will be registering on site that morning, as the run begins at 8 am. Registration fee is \$20. Registrations received by September 4 will include an event t-shirt. Find the form at www.bigrockplowingmatch.com.



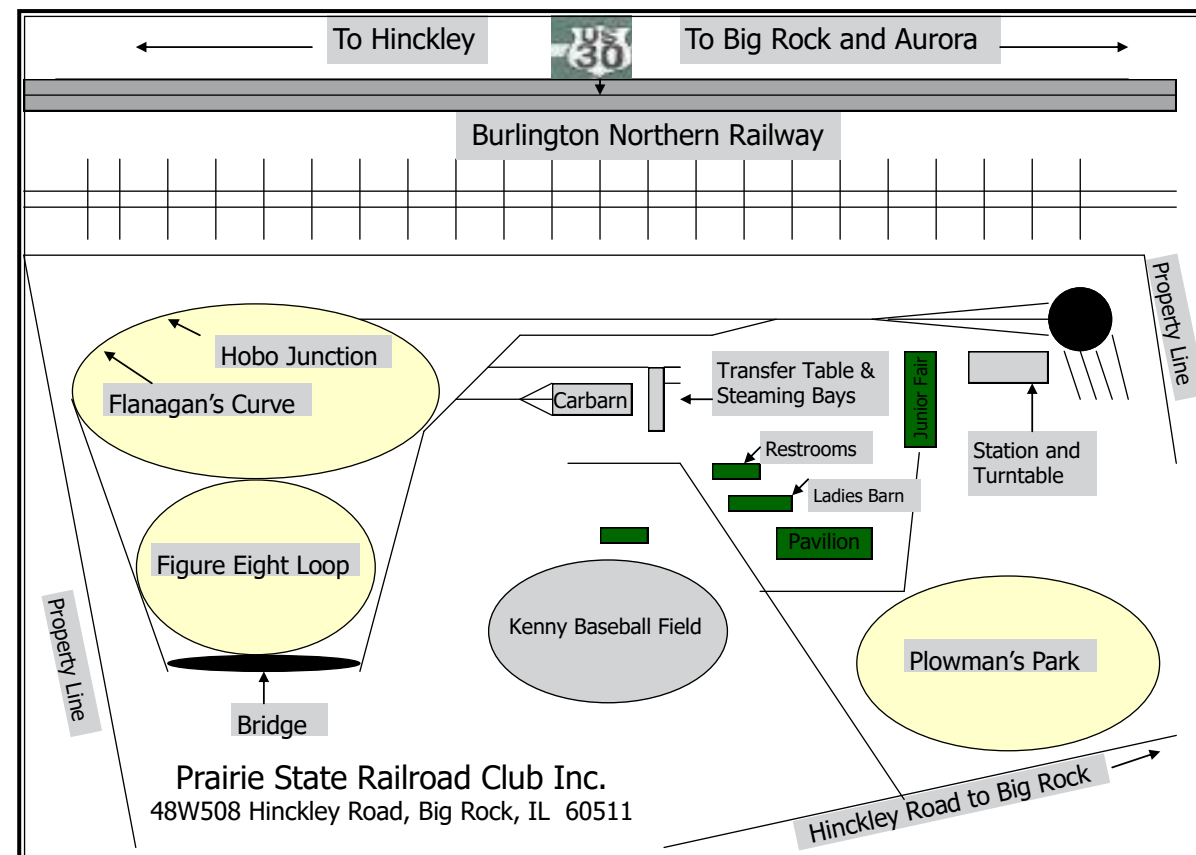
PRAIRIE STATE RAILROAD CLUB

NOT YOUR AVERAGE MODEL RAILROAD

All Aboard! Hop-on at the station by the Junior Fair/School Exhibits building for a mile-long train ride around Plowman's Park. The Prairie State Railroad Club has provided rides on their large-scale ride-on trains since 1991 and the trains will be running on Saturday and Sunday.

The north-west section of Plowman's Park is home to the club where they operate a variety of locomotives from steam, diesel, electric and other types of equipment. Club members enjoy sharing their passion and enthusiasm for ride-on trains and invite you to sit back, relax and enjoy the sights and sounds of live steam railroading.

New members are welcome. Kids as young as 7 years may join when sponsored by an adult member. Membership meetings are generally held monthly at 2:30 pm on the fourth Sunday in Big Rock. If you would like to learn more about the club, please contact a club officer via their website at prairiestaterr.com and also visit them on Facebook.



VEGETABLE & GRAIN SHOW

The Vegetable & Grain Show is a great opportunity to show off your gardening skills. Bring us your prized vegetables, fruits and grains on Friday from 2-7 pm to the west end of the Ladies Fair building with your entry form. With three sections to choose from there is a place for everyone to enter. Ribbons and cash prizes will be awarded. Remember there are special awards for winners who have the most blue ribbons in each section.

Come visit and see how things look this year. While you are visiting remember to place your bids at the silent auction and check back often to keep your bids the highest on the items you want. Silent Auction begins at 9 am on Saturday and will conclude Sunday at 1 pm. More details at the display area. Find the entry form and premium list at www.bigrockplowingmatch.com.

A big Thank You to Donna Kimpan and Nan Long for organizing the show since 2019. We are seeking two coordinators for the 2022 Vegetable & Grain Show. If interested contact Denise at 630.556.4771.



2019 Winners

- ◆ Yellow Dent Corn-Travis Herrmann
- ◆ Tomato 1/2 Bushel-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-5 Garden Vegetables-Dennis Johnson
- ◆ Display-3 Cucumbers-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-3 Zucchini-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-2 Acorn Squash-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-3 Butternut Squash-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-1 Watermelon-John Long
- ◆ Display-3 Peppers-Alexa Hill
- ◆ Display-3 miniature pumpkins-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Display-3 Indian Corn-Gerald Hubbard
- ◆ Unusual Fruit or Vegetable-Lynne Paver

Ages 18 and Younger

- ◆ Tomato 10 each-Judah Culver
- ◆ Unusual Fruit or Vegetables-Judah Culver
- ◆ Display 10 Apples-Michael Grassel
- ◆ Largest Squash-Judah Culver

Ages 12 and Younger

- ◆ Unusual Fruit or Vegetable-Judah Culver
- ◆ Display 5 Garden Vegetables-Judah Culver
- ◆ Decorated Potato-Andrew Herrmann
- ◆ Largest Sunflower-Travis Herrmann
- ◆ Largest Squash-Judah Culver

Special Award

- ◆ Largest Pumpkin-Dana Nehring

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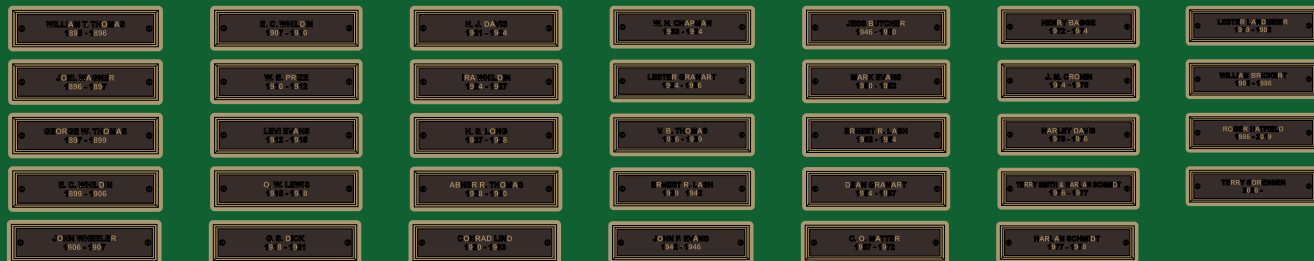
SPECIAL THANKS

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 and Plowman's Park.

- ◆ Allegra Naperville for printing the Premium Lists and sponsor banners.
- ◆ Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for promotion of the Plowing Match & Festival.
- ◆ 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 Historical Society for use of the land for the plowing, allowing parking on their property and providing rides between the plowing competition and Plowman's Park.
- ◆ Big Rock Lions Club for the restroom building renovation.
- ◆ Big Rock Park District for maintaining our baseball field—Kenny Field—and sponsoring the Olde Time Baseball game, Bingo, Watermelon Eating Contest and the Prince & Princess Contest.
- ◆ Cyril W. Matter for his gift of the plaque commemorating Association Presidents from 1895 to the present.
- ◆ DeKane Equipment Corporation for equipment assistance in maintaining Plowman's Park.
- ◆ Hinckley Big Rock Middle School 8th grade students for cleanup help on the Monday after Plowing Match weekend.
- ◆ J & L Stables, Jeff & Donna Heiser, for the use of their tractor at Plowman's Park throughout the year.
- ◆ Greg Klotz for harvesting and preparing Davis Field for the plowing competition.
- ◆ KZ Photography for taking photos of the events at the Plowing Match.
- ◆ LabelTek for printing and underwriting the cost of the 2021 Bull Riding and Bronc Match tickets and posters, Plowing Match posters and Plowing Match Times.
- ◆ Lyrka Lawler for the graphic and layout design of the 2021 poster, Plowing Match Times, and her role as webmaster for the Plowing Match website.
- ◆ 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 for over 50 years.
- ◆ O'Donnell Excavating and Trucking for their continued support.
- ◆ Bob & Sharon Schoger for their continued support.
- ◆ Terry Sorensen for building a pedal tractor and sled for the Children's Pedal Tractor Pull.
- ◆ Prairie State Railroad Club for offering rides to train enthusiasts during the Plowing Match & Festival.
- ◆ Sign FX for printing and updating Plowing Match signs.
- ◆ WSPY for promoting the Plowing Match & Festival on the air and on their website.
- ◆ 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.



ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS
THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE



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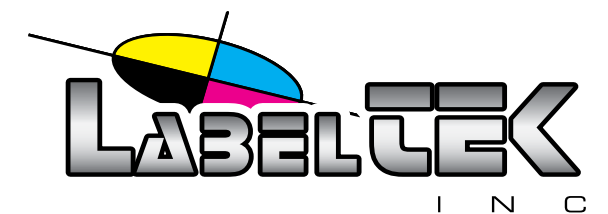
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All donations are greatly appreciated and will lead to the continued success of the Plowing Match and the work of the Association. Thank you so much.

Sponsors as of August 23, 2021. 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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