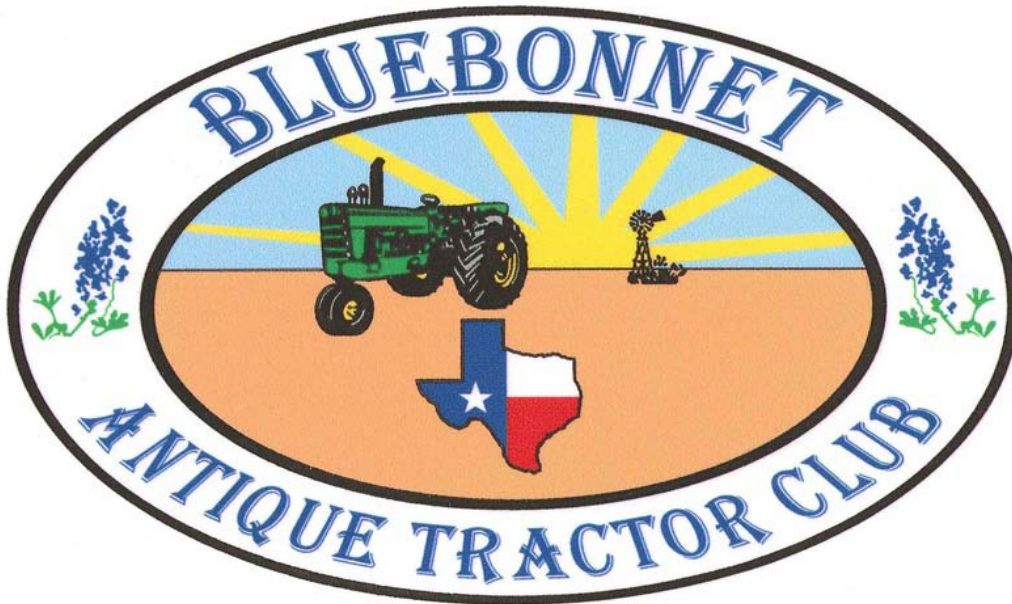


Cast Iron Quarterly

Bluebonnet Antique Tractor Club, Branch 171 of EDGETA
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<http://www.bbatc.org>



Keeping our agricultural history alive!

Happy New Year!

How many of you wondered what it would be like to make it to 2012? Well with the new year comes new opportunities to acquire and show our new/old iron.

Every year since the club started we have been adding shows and members. I see a time in the future when we have our own show grounds and our own show, not just an addition to someone else's show. A time when people will donate tractors, engines and farm equipment to the club and we will have club projects. This will require many more committed members and a bigger bank account. Until then we will keep adding members and shows.

Pittsburg Texas

I was driving through Pittsburg Texas last year and snapped these pictures at Efurds Orchard. I'll let you come to your own conclusions of the "Fountain tractors".



Member Spotlight

David Peltier

Being #8 of 9 children and my Dad was #8 of 9 children, people can tell I am from a farming family. My Grandfather and his family moved from Concordia, Kansas to Citrus Grove, Texas, which is close to Collegeport. They left the corn fields and cold winters to farm rice around 1918-1920. On their way to Danbury, my Grandfather and his four older sons made stops in Midfield, Bay City and East Columbia. In 1923 they made it 3 miles east of Danbury and bought 2200 acres of land. While my Dad went to Business School in Houston, my uncles farmed rice and raised hundreds of heads of cattle.

Dad farmed alone after Business School until 1946. This is when he turned his 180 acres into a 160 acre freshwater reservoir (5 lakes and a canal system). He leased the lakes for members to hunt and fish. During this same year he bought a 16" used Cincinnati lathe and started a Machine shop and lawn mower manufacturing business. Dad repaired farmers equipment, auger wagons, plows, disc, land planes, land rollers, etc. Back in those years some combines had tracks instead of rubber tires. Dad had a 50 ton hydraulic press in the shop along with a roller system. Two of his friends also were in the dragline business. Dad started my work life when I was 8 to 10 years old (1958-1960). My brother Mike (1 1/2 years older), and I had the job of taking the pads off the rails before they were rolled into the shop to get the pins and bushings replaced. When not in school, we either worked around the shop or at the reservoirs--mowing, building and repairing duck blinds, transferring water pumped out of Austin Bayou, trapping nutria and draining and seining the lakes to clean out the trash fish. We also had fun hunting and fishing.

In 1961, my four cousins took over the Uncles farming operation and they built their first set of 10 rice bins. At 11 years old I was one of the kids inside the bins putting the washers and nuts on the bolts as they were stuck thru the seams. Also in 1961, Hurricane Carla hit and our house was flooded with 5' of water. The shop had 7' of water. The work began with cleanup and rebuild.

From 1961 to 1969, I worked for the same 4 cousins as they farmed 800 acres of the 2200 acres on a 3 year rotation. 1965 was a very bad year for profit, because there was none. Between the rain and wind, the rice on a 400 acre field was laying flat on the ground. In 1968, my cousins owned three 403 I.H. combines, one Case 300 tractor, three Case "LA" tractors on steel, two 930 Case Comfort Kings on propane and one on diesel, and one J.D. 5010. The Case "LA" on steel was the first tractor I learned to drive in 1965. I was too small to hand crank it, so one of my cousins would crank it for me.

Another cousin was a fertilizer dealer, my brother and I loaded bags of fertilizer before

and after school and on weekends. Another cousin had a crop dusting service, our job was to empty bags of fertilizer into the load truck which dumped it into the plane or we would flag the field so the pilot could fly a straight line and cover the field evenly. He started with a Piper cub (capacity of 300#) , then he bought an Ag-Cat bi-wing with 600 horsepower and a capacity of 1800LBS. This cousin farmed with a Case 1030.

In the middle 70's, I bought a 1946 Ford 2N, this was my first tractor. I owned the 2N for 28 years, then sold it to a friend. In 2004 I switched from rice field tractors to row crop tractors. My first row crop tractor was a 1952 Farmall Super "C", SN 135400, with a sickle mower, middle busters, cultivators, planter and fertilizer parts, a one row New Idea Cornpicker and a 2" tool bar. I bought this tractor from the son of the original owner, who's mother had her 98th birthday last year. I have the original sales receipt and manuals received from Aaberg Farm Equipment.

In 2008, I bought my second 1952 Farmall Super "C", SN 135401, from a friend in Danbury. His dad was a brother to the other Super "C" owner. The 2 original owners were August and Ed Zgarba. That is why my tractors are named August and Ed. With Ed, I got a sickle mower, middle busters, cultivators, planter and fertilizer parts, 2 sets of row disc and a 2" toolbar. I was really surprised when I found out the tractors came off the assembly line one after the other in 1952.

In 2008, my brother Mike and I bought a 1981 J.D. 2040 from my uncle Ed Novotny. With this tractor came a front end loader, box blade, post hole auger, 2 1 row planters, J.D. 6' shredder and a 20' Bill's trailer. This is our "work" tractor.

in 2009 my sister Diane Oswald passed away, then in 2011 her husband Ken passed away. Ken owned a 1957 I.H. McCormik Deering Cub with a 4" Woods belly mower, planter , fertilizer parts and cultivators. This tractor I would like to restore to showroom ready in honor of my sister and brother-in-law. When I get too old to show this tractor I intend to give it back to my niece or nephew if their children would like to have their Grandfather's tractor. I think this is how we can keep the love of old tractors alive. Besides tractors, I have many old rusty items, tools, garden planters, cultivators, push reel mower, single cylinder Maytag engine, 2 electric pecan crackers, and many other items you would have to see to believe.

I have been married to my wife Pam, for over 42 years and have a son, Jason, who is 41 years old. I have worked for TRI-Construction Company in Freeport since July 12, 1971. My plans are to retire in the next 10 to 15 years. I started out as and Iron worker, but I did not like high elevations. Next I learned to operate J.D. dozers, J.D. backhoes, J.D. 690 trackhoe, 15 ton Galion cherry pickers, a 560 Insley trackhoe and a 70 ton P & H conventional crane. Later I went into the piping field. I have been a pipe, concrete and steel supervisor for over 30 years and enjoy my job. My wife and I have lived just outside of the Danbury city limits on 4 acres for the past 38 years. The house and barn was built by her Father, who was a rice farmer also.

See you at the Tractor Shows,
David Peltier



Out and About Shallowater Texas

While visiting In laws I stopped and took these pictures in the very small community of Shallowater Tx. If your into real farm equipment, you'll love these.









Tech Section

Magnetos

It was discovered a long time by people who are dead now, that if you move a wire through a magnetic field it will generate a current. This practice later became the nemesis of all antique engine and tractor owners, that being the little understood and often cursed, magneto. There are two basic types of magnetos, that being the low tension and the high tension. For the tractor owner we are mostly concerned with the high tension, although there are a few older tractors that use a low tension magneto.

So, what is the difference between a low tension and a high tension magneto you ask. It has to do with the voltage used by either system. Neither system is interchangeable, but many a stationary engine has been changed over to a high tension system from a low tension system.

Here are the parts both systems have in common. Both have magnets, coil, and points. What high tension has that low tension doesn't have are, high tension sparkplug wire, condenser, secondary coil winding, and, sparkplug. Are you scratching your head yet?

OK, let's talk low tension. The low tension magneto is basically just a low voltage generator. It puts out from 3 to 18 volts. It will not throw a spark. It has no points or condenser inside the magneto. Instead the points are located in the cylinder. The points are operated from an external mechanism. When the points open in a low tension system, they arc and this is what ignites the charge in the cylinder.

The most popular stationary engine that uses low tension magnetos are John Deere model E. Others include early Fairbanks Morse, Stovers, IHC, and many others. Basically, if you don't see a sparkplug it is probably a low tension system.

Now on to high tension magnetos. Basically there are two types of high tension magnetos. The older type has stationary magnets and a shuttle wound armature that spins in the magnetic field. The points and condenser also rotate with the armature. This type is harder to work on. The main problem that occurs with these are bad bushings, weak magnets, points, condenser, high tension brush broken, and shorted windings. About the only thing that can be repaired on these by the amateur is cleaning the points or replacing them, (if you can find them), and replacing bushings. If doing this does not restore a nice hot spark, then you will need to send your mag off to a reputable rebuilder for repairs.

The second type mag has a stationary coil and a spinning magnet. This type is by far the best as far as serviceability is concerned.

At this point there is a part of many mags I need to talk about. That being the impulse. Many high tension mags do not produce enough voltage at hand cranking speed, so they are equipped with an impulse coupling. This does two things. First it uses a spring that winds up on cranking, that at a certain point releases the spring which spins the armature at a faster speed to create a spark. This has the added advantage of retarding the timing which is a good thing when hand cranking an engine.

If your high tension mag won't spark, the first thing to do is clean or replace the points. Nine out of ten times this will fix the magneto. You should be able to get a spark to jump at least a 1/4 " gap.

Space doesn't allow me to go into other aspects of Magneto's like isolating mags, and the ever popular and ever finicky Wico EK. Maybe in a future article we can cover some of those.

Brazoria Show

Other than a lot of wind, this was a nice show to start the season off with.









PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well folks, here we are in a brand new year which appears so far to be bringing in a well anticipated and much appreciated early spring. I'm not quite sure yet, even at my somewhat older age, why so many of us like to twist wrenches on old tractors & implements, trucks and cars, etc., but one thing I know for sure is that we all like to perform that function in comfortable weather, and unless we have huge indoor heated places to do that (which the majority of us don't), none of us like to work in cold and wet environments. I'm not fussing though about the rain we've needed so badly statewide and we probably need even more, but I believe all will agree that the warmer temperatures in springtime are certainly more enjoyable to work in, so let's all enjoy this warmth, get out there and *"git 'ur done"*!

Speaking of tractor events, particularly of interest to our newer members who haven't participated in such, there are quite few coming up at various places between now and summer, so be sure to check out the calendar on our www.bbatc.com website. Additionally, I try my best to send out e-mail reminders well in advance of events so that members have time to make their plans. On a separate note (and hopefully to your likening), I have promised myself to keep these quarterly newsletter messages as short and simple as I can, and to stay off my soapbox altogether, unless of course a particular preaching is called for. I will however mention safety items from time to time in hopes of preventing accidents, particularly any such that could result with life and fire safety issues. To date, our Branch (171) of the EDGETA has not experienced a single incident requiring a claim to be filed with our liability insurance carrier, and I know that all of you want to keep it that way, so please continue to always operate in a safe manner and watch others to see that they do the same. Regarding our membership, I'm happy to report that with new members who have just recently joined, the roster still has over one hundred names, even though I'm aware that some fellows have chosen not to return this year for varying reasons. When completed very soon, rosters will be available via e-mail for your own printing, and printed versions will be available for all at our March meeting, and at the events Candy and I attend.

Last and most important for this quarterly report is that we still have a number of members who have not yet sent in their **annual \$20 dues**, a matter that is required in order for EDGETA to provide our club with the annual liability insurance policy. Additionally, members must show their yellow EDGETA cards displaying the new 2013 date stickers in order to participate at any sanctioned events, which include most all of those held in Texas and nearby states. The **mailing address** to send your dues to is: **Candy Steed, 3505 Longherridge Dr., Pearland, TX 77581**. We will have the new stickers, and the '13 EDGETA buttons available for all at the first BATC meeting for the year, which will be on Thursday evening, March 22 beginning at 6:30 pm at SPRING CREEK BBQ restaurant, 9005 West Broadway (west FM 518) in Pearland.

That's all folks,

Larry

What's for sale

For Sale: 2007 P J bumper pull low boy trailer w/2 5/16" ball. The trailer can be equipped with a pintle hitch. 20' + 2' dove tail GVWR 14000, empty trailer 3,200 lbs, carrying capacity 10,800 lbs. Two new front axle tires. Comes with a spare, a small tool box, and flip up ramps. Wooden bed floor treated every year with water seal. Trailer is located in the Woodlands, Texas. Asking \$3800. For more information contact jyoars@comcast.net .



Early Ford N tractor for sale. Tractor starts right up, runs very smooth, and has been converted to 12 volts. Just out of the shop, it has a new battery, new wiring, new carburetor, new starter and all new tune-up items. Tractor is located in Pearland off of FM 518 (E. Broadway) and Dixie Farm Rd. at 1933 Timbercreek in the Woodcreek subdivision. Asking \$2500 .

Please contact Skip Goodman @ 281 682-7868 for further information.



Up coming shows

Fri. & Sat., Apr. 20 & 21 - GATMC Semi-Annual Antique Valley Spring Show at 101 E. Main St., in Grandview, TX

***Memories of YesterYear* annual tractor show at the Rusk County Youth Expo on FM 13, 1 mile west of Henderson, TX off of Loop 571**

Sat., Apr. 21 - annual Cotton Gin Festival in Burton, TX (parade, tractor pull & show)

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Hope to see you at one of the up coming shows!