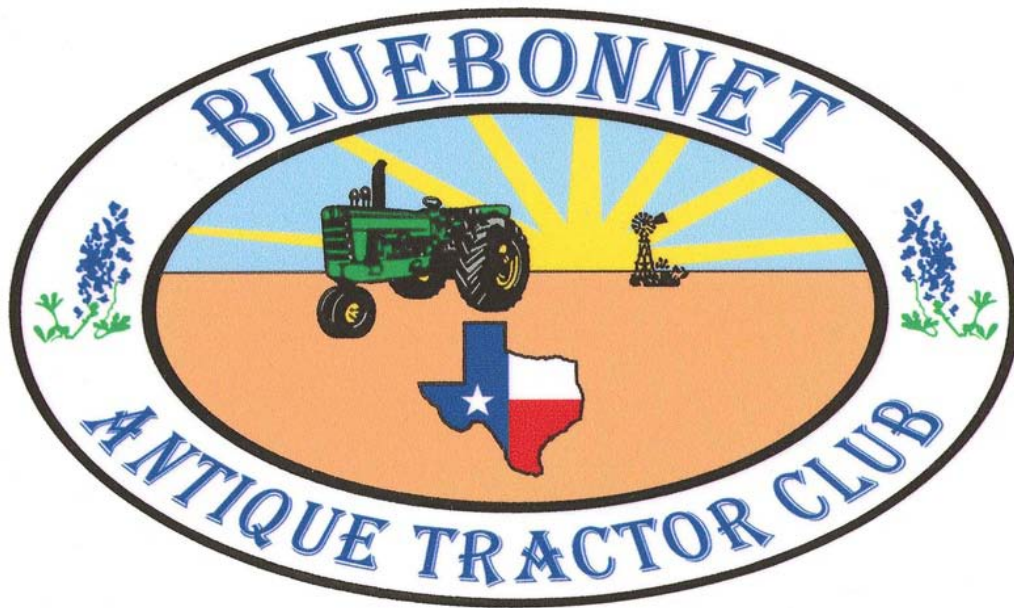


# Cast Iron Quarterly

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



*Keeping our agricultural history alive*

Well it's that time of year again where you don't dare go outside longer than 5 minutes for fear of heat stroke. Really, please be careful out there and drink lots of water. It's funny how we do most of our shows in spring and fall, then nothing. So for two of the news letters I have lots of pictures and two letters I have to really dig to get pictures. Thankfully that's not the case here.

I have lots of pictures this time and again I can't put all of them in the news letter, so I apologize if I left out a picture of your iron. It seems every year our club has more tractors and engines along with more shows. I used to envy folks up north who had to choose between 2 and 3 shows a weekend. It looks like that time might not be too far off for us.

Well, take your shoes off, pour yourself a nice cold drink and take a look at what your club has been up too.

# Canton Texas Show









# Burton Cotton Gin Festival









# Member Spotlight

## This month we feature Lonnie Fisher

I was raised on a Rice farm, in Chambers near Baytown. Farming has been a part of my life as long as I can remember.

I have worked all my life in the chemical industry and the last 16 yrs as a shift supervisor at Bayer chemical plant.

I started loving tractors when my dad bought me a new John Deere "H" electric start when I was only five years old. At the present time I have several tractors I use in the farming operation here at my home.

I raise Okra, Corn, Black berries and Sugar cane that we make into syrup in November. We also grind our own corn-meal.

At this time I have a John Deere "L" unstyled, John Deere "M", 986 Pasquali, IH Cub, IH 444, Kubota L 2900 and a ZD 321 Kubota. I also have a Farm Master antique engine, (made by Cushman).

My plans for the future are to keep cooking for our men's fellowship at Old River Baptist each 1ST Monday night. I plan to keep farming and showing my vintage iron .

Thanks,  
Lonnie



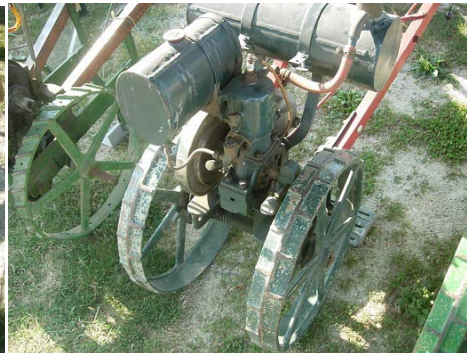
## Tech Section

This month we talk about a small segment of the tractor community that do not seem to get as much respect as the "Big Boys". That being garden tractors and walk behind tractors. Now before you dismiss these as toys and not for a serious collector, some garden tractors and walk behind tractors can fetch over \$4,000. I saw just the other day an Economy tractor listed for \$1,300. I have also seen a few of the walk behind tractors fetch upwards of \$3,000.

Garden tractors and walk behind tractors have a few good points you may not have considered. They are small, so you can store more in a given space. You can get more on your trailer, or use a smaller trailer. You can get into collecting with less capital. Many of them use inexpensive engines such as Briggs and Stratton, Wisconsin, Clinton, Lason, and Kohler. Parts for these engines are usually not too hard to find.

They are perfect to get that young one interested in tractors. They are simple enough that with parental guidance a child eight or older could restore one. A child age five can drive one with adult supervision. This would be the perfect project to build some one on one time with that young child before they get into ugly Japanese cars that are lowered and have a fart can muffler.

There are several web sites that can help you with any questions you may have. One of those being, <http://www.smokstak.com/forum/forumdisplay.php?f=28>. There are even tractor pulls and racing for garden tractors. Some of the guys in the club have already acquired a few nice tractors. Here are just a few pictures to get you to consider collecting Garden and walk behind tractors.







## Galveston Co. Parade









# Danbury Texas









# Huntsville









# Mystery Tractor

The first member who is not a computer user and can identify this tractor, will get next years dues paid. Yes you read right. If you're a non computer person and know what the brand is, and the first to call (409) 925 8029 (after 6) and ask for Vernon with the correct answer will get your club dues paid for next year.



## President's Corner

*My Addiction To Tractors - (Or why I love green, red, gray, yellow, blue, orange and you name it painted vintage farm equipment).....*



A number of visitor's to our home ask me from time to time why I collect old farm tractors and implements, and some ask, "why not just one brand of one color?"

From memory of when I was just a small boy, my family would visit as often as possible my grandparents, particularly my dad's parents as they lived away from Houston on a large farm in Kennard, Houston County, Texas where my dad and his siblings were all born and raised. My mother's mom and stepdad parents lived in town, her dad and stepmother lived in Pettibone community, near Cameron, and yes, we'd also visit her side of the family as well.

Papa, (my granddad in Kennard), had an old Farmall F series iron wheeled, hand cranked tractor that sat out under a shed on the side of a barn (Papa preferred to use a pair of mules behind a walking plow and from what I remember my dad saying, he rarely ever had even seated himself on that tractor), and each time we'd go up to visit, I'd spend an entire day sitting on and driving (in my mind) that old Farmall. That was my first taste of a real farm tractor and as time went on, my taste developed as we'd also visit my dad's sister (my Aunt Eula James) in Groveton, Trinity County, Texas.

Groveton, being the county seat, was of course much bigger than Kennard was, (my dad had to live with his sister and finish high school there as the Kennard school went only through the 7th grade), and at the time, had two auto dealerships, a Ford and a Chevy distributor, and also two farm tractor dealerships, one also a Ford outlet, and a John Deere dealership. Collins & Padgett Ford Tractor was located across the street from the courthouse square and we passed it each time we'd head toward my aunt and uncle's home out on the Apple Springs to Lufkin Hwy., and of course, I'd see all those pretty red and gray 8N Fords (later on the NAA's, etc.) and implements lined up along the street side; (once I nearly fell out the window of our old '47 Chevy business coupe trying to get a closer look at the little beauties). While there over the weekends, my cousin and I would sometimes take his dad's old Chevy pick-up into town to get the mail and as the post office backed up to the JD dealership, Cates Tractor & Implements, I'd always have to walk around the corner to gaze at the mammoth sized (to me at the time) row crop tractors and a few crawlers as well.....start'n to see the picture now?

Another one of my dad's sisters and her husband (a farmer, cattle rancher and logging contractor) lived way back in the woods near Kennard in what was called (and still is today) Arbor Community. When we'd go visit them, my uncle had the neatest little farm tractor, a pretty red Farmall Cub to maintain a garden with, and of course, he'd let me sit on it and play; (things are now getting better as you can see).

As I got older, I began staying my summers at my aunt's and uncle's homes, half in Groveton and half in Arbor. Groveton was neat as I could ride my cousins bike to town on Saturdays and stop to play on the Ford tractors,



and end up playing on the JD's, never once even getting hollered at for doing such. Additionally, while sitting in front of my aunt and uncle's combination gas station/feed and grocery store and barber shop shelling peas or whatever, I'd always get to see the contract highway mowing crews on their big JD row crop tractors with the side mounted sickle mowers as they mowed the ditches along the highway, and then bring in their sickle bars to the repair garage next door to be sharpened overnight by the owner.

Arbor however was much neater as by the time I began staying there, my uncle had bought a new Ferguson TO-30 tractor and he insisted that by the time I left that year, I'd know how to safely operate that fine gray piece of iron. I continued my summers in the country up through age 15, and by that time, my uncle in Arbor had me skidding pine logs out of the woods and rolling them up on log trailers with the Ferguson, a job I dearly loved, but of course one that I wasn't compensated for since I was staying and eating under their roof! And did I mention that a family living a mile or so down the old sand road had two N Fords (a 9N and an 8N) they used to farm cotton with. And another nearby family used all Farmall row crop tractors to do the same thing with; (they had a very pretty young daughter named Marianne that I had a real crush on).

By the following summer, I'd turned 16 and my dad figured it was time I get a job that paid out real money, so I lucked out and got such a job out on the Gulf Fwy. at a golf driving range. Guess what.....yep, the owner had a Ferguson TO-30 that I drove daily picking up golf balls off the range and then also mowing grass around the place.....think I wasn't in tractor heaven, youbetcha! Luckily, I got that job again the following summer and by that time in life, I'd become quite a proficient tractor operator.

At age 18 and the end of my schooling for awhile, I got a job with the (then) Texas Highway Department over on N. Greenwood, the maintenance section that took care of state highways from Loop 610 to the Brazoria and Galveston County lines, etc., and guess what.....yep, due to my experience with tractors and such, I was given a spot with the mowing crew and was assigned to a big yellow (all highway equipment back then, except for the supervisor's black Ford sedans with the little pick-up bed inserted into the trunk were all painted yellow) International Harvester 500 or 600 series wide front axle tractor with a belly mower on it.

Well folks, I could go on and on about how I'd get my dad (at a younger age of course) to take me over on Navigation Blvd. on Saturdays, when he was off work, to either the IHC and/or JD dealerships to buy some neat model tractors, but I think you get the picture by now of why I love 'em all, regardless of the color they're painted!

**Larry**



## Space City Cruisers, (League City)







## El Campo

Terry Michnimer won "Best of Show Equipment".





# What's for Sale

## For Sale

A cute little trailer. This is great for fairs and shows. Tons of fun for the kids. The wheels are offset so that the trailer hops up and down when moving down the road. Hydraulic jacks are used to allow faster road transport. Everything on this one is new including new tires. All for just \$1,000. Contact:

Clyde Brandon @ 409-925-3030

there is no email available on the ad.



## For Sale

John Deere M in excellent condition. \$3,500 firm. This one runs so smooth it will almost rock you to sleep. If interested in this beauty, call Lonnie Fisher at 281-383-2052.





## For Sale:

### Ford 941 with brush hog and a straight blade. \$2500

Factory wide front tractor, runs good, good tires and hydraulics, better than average sheet metal. Great tractor for restoration, was a factory diesel but the engine has been replaced with the gas engine. Will include a 5 ft. brush hog (works but needs some deck work) and blade.

The tractor did originally have power steering but does not at this time, it does steer relatively easy compared to some other tractors. It has a charging system issue as the previous owner changed the generator out for an alternator but did not wire the regulator. There is a small oil leak from the steering sector shaft. The hydraulics work good as well as the PTO, engine starts easy and does not smoke. The bush hog deck has a crack on the gearbox mounting plate and needs to be welded or a stiffener added to it. Let me know if you have any other questions or if you'd like see. Will consider trades for 60's Ford muscle cars or crew cab 7.3 diesel 4x4.

Respond to Trey or call me @ 281-415-4292. Thanks

## For Sale:

John Deere (B) The engine is locked up but, the tractor may be of interest to someone. This would make a good parts tractor. Located in Channelview, Texas. \$500.00 Contact Mike Lotze: 287-452-9803, 713-594-2770, or email [MikeL@intraservicesinc.com](mailto:MikeL@intraservicesinc.com)



## For Sale

Good tractor w/implements. 1964 International Industrial model, new tires, runs great. Will sell as a package w / disk, bush hog, plow, and box blade \$4,500. Tractor alone \$3,500. If interested contact BATC member Paul Shelley at 832-731-0947 or by email [chief@clearlakesjores-tx.gov](mailto:chief@clearlakesjores-tx.gov) .





### **For Sale:**

1960's model International Harvester utility tractor. Starts and runs well, tires are decent and the 3 point lift works as it should. The tin (hood & grill) are missing. \$1,500.00 gets it as is. If interested call Paul Shelley @ 832-731-0947.



### **For Sale:**

**Converted boat trailer. It is galvanized and painted. It has 2 new springs and a new 2" ball hitch. The trailer measures 9' 10" X 58" with 2" treated boards. Tires are in good shape. If interested contact Joe - [milljoe2@live.com](mailto:milljoe2@live.com)**



### **Items We Really Want:**

Looking for a New Idea corn picker/snapper. Unit must be in running condition and able to pick corn. If you know anyone desiring to sell one of these units please contact John Yoars at [jyoars@comcast.net](mailto:jyoars@comcast.net) .





### For Sale:



John Deere mower \$1,000.00

Restorable corn picker \$900.00

1927 Chevrolet car \$3,800.00

If interested contact Ritchie Enriquez at [lonestar2546@yahoo.com](mailto:lonestar2546@yahoo.com)

### For Sale:

2 hp Cushman stationary engine, asking \$800.00. Engine is in very good condition. Contact: Lonnie at (281)-383-2052 or [l-jfisher@verizon.net](mailto:l-jfisher@verizon.net)



## For Sale:

**1929 Fordson**, built in Cork, Ireland. It does have a lot of the features, unique to 1929 Irish Fordsons, although it has some features that reportedly were only offered on later production, some even after production was shifted from Cork to England. It was in running condition when I bought it, but it requires cranking by hand and I have decided to downsize. The tractor is not painted in the original color scheme and is missing the original air cleaner although an air cleaner off of another make tractor is provided. The original fenders are also missing, but only a tractor fanatic who knew the difference would know that it even was factory equipped with rear fenders. I do have the original tool kit and owners manual and a few other parts and manuals to go with it. It is an ideal parade tractor as it was fitted with the optional French and Hecht wheels mounting pneumatic tires, so it is not on steel. There were fewer than 10,000 Fordsons built in 1929, so it is one of the rarest year models. I am asking \$2,000.00 firm, which probably is less than I have invested in it.

It can be seen at my location in Katy, conveniently located near I-10.

Cell phone: 832-659-5881. Email address: [modeltwoods@yahoo.com](mailto:modeltwoods@yahoo.com) Terry



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