

SOUTHWEST VINTAGE GARDEN TRACTOR COLLECTORS

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE

MAY 31, 2020

Another show season has come and gone for the Vintage Garden Tractor Collectors Club. While we didn't get to enjoy all of the usual shows that happen around Arizona, we certainly had a lot of fun at the Apache Junction show. We want thank Tim Brain and Phil Frandsen for all of the work they did to make the overall show a success. As always our club owes thanks to Paul and Bonnie Vander Hulst and the volunteers that set up the garden tractor club area. A big thank you also to all of our members who brought out their vintage garden tractors to share with everyone. It is always so much fun to see what treasures other members have!

While the turn-out of participants seemed a bit down from last year, there were still a lot of fun and interesting tractors on display. The crowd on Saturday also seemed a bit lighter than last year, but still a pretty good showing.

So on to some pictures from our Apache Junction show!



From left to right, Ty Weckerly, Paul Vander Hulst, Bonnie Vander Hulst and Don Winn hanging out enjoying the day.



A couple cruising the show on their garden tractor!



A collection of lawn mowers



Don Winn's collection of edgers



A tractor in remembrance of Kevin

Here's an interesting tractor and engine

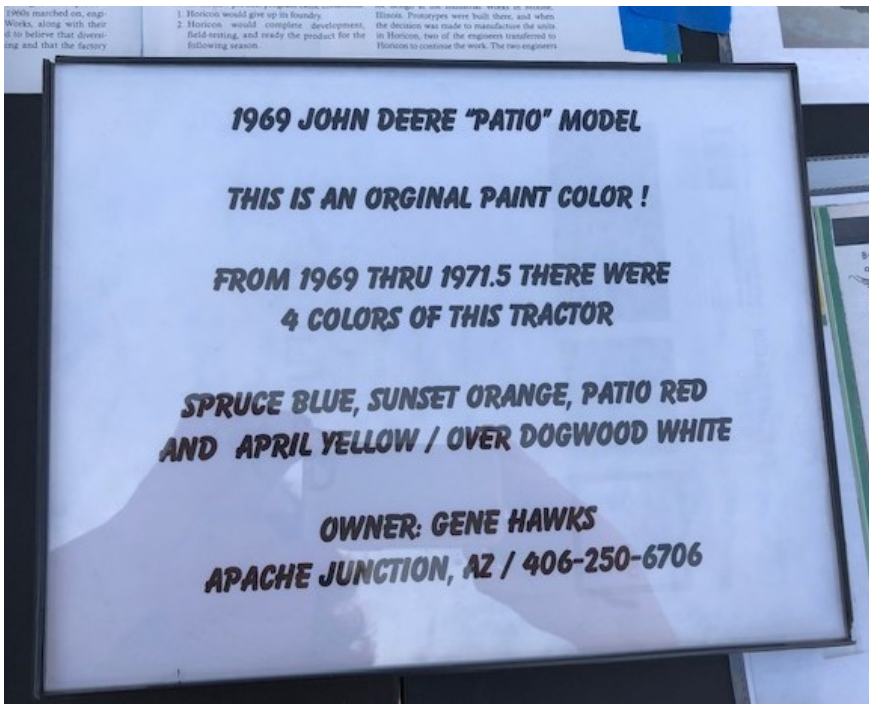




These tractors were displayed by Jim Schurz; an International and a 1985 Simplicity.



And there were lots of engines of all makes, models, shapes and sizes.



Gene Hawks brought out his beautiful patio tractors! We don't see many John Deere tractors that are any color other than green and yellow. What a treat it was to have these beauties on display!





A couple of IH garden tractors displayed by Paul and Bonnie Vander Hulst.



And more engines



Craig Campbell and his son, Calvin, at the show working on an engine. It was great to see a father passing on his knowledge of engines to his son. Calvin seemed very interested in what his dad was teaching him. They also had a garden tractor on display.



The Lance Amatulli Collection



Lance Amatulli is certainly an enthusiastic Vintage Garden Tractor collector. At the recent show in AJ, Lance brought out his fleet of restored vintage tractors for everyone to enjoy. He has clearly invested a great deal of time and effort into these old machines to make them shine, probably better than when they were new. He really enjoys sharing his love of vintage garden iron with everyone!



This Club Cadet was gifted to Lance by the Colwell Family. Their father was no longer able to restore it and they wanted it to go to someone who would restore it. It had been modified as a pulling tractor and Lance kept it as close to that as possible. It is powered with the original 12 HP Kohler engine with added dual exhaust.



This is a 1963 Wheelhorse, model 653. The model number is actually a description of the tractor.

The 6 identifies the horsepower.

The 5 identifies the electric start.

The 3 identifies the year of manufacture, thus 3 = 1963.

They were produced with a 2-piece gas tank. This engine was replaced some time later and upgraded to an 8HP. The starter, which was relocated to the right side of the engine, is also a generator to keep the battery charged.

The center piece of Lance's fleet is "The Chinaman". Lance refitted this tractor's 20 HP Briggs and Stratton horizontal engine, which blew up, with a 7 HP Chinese Diesel horizontal shaft engine. He says the torque of this diesel engine is equal to or even greater than the original engine. The Chinaman is quite a beauty!



Garden Tractor Games

We had great participation in the Garden Tractor Games that Bonnie Vander Hulst conducted for us. There were several observers as well. It was a lot of fun to test our driving skills as well as our coordination tossing a ball, spearing toilet paper rolls, driving forward and backwards through a cone course and holding an egg on a spoon.

Anticipation for the Games



Participants



Spectators



Rhonda Baker maneuvering the cones



Philip Scholl showing how it's done



Paul Vander Hulst taking on the cones



Bill Massey making quick work of the cone course



Lance Amatulli taking a shot at the hoop



Don Winn after he sailed the ball through the hoop



Bonnie Vander Hulst setting up the toilet paper game



Bill Massey



Lance Amatulli



Nathan Naranjo



Bonnie Vander Hulst



Lance Amatulli in the egg challenge



Nathan Naranjo keeping his egg close in the challenge



And just like that, the games were over for another year!

Many of our club members participated in the Parade.



Philip Scholl



Bonnie & Paul Vander Hulst



Craig Campbell & his son, Calvin Campbell



Rhonda Baker

The show at Apache Junction was a lot of fun and it was wonderful to see so many of our members out having a good time enjoying their garden tractors. Unfortunately, we did not get to enjoy all of the shows that are usually held here in Arizona due to the COVID-19 outbreak. The show sponsored by the Arizona Flywheelers in Cottonwood was cancelled due to the virus outbreak. We certainly missed their show and the camaraderie of our Northern Arizona friends and members. Northern Arizona Antique Tractor and Engine Association's (EDGE&TA branch 121) summer show, "Beat the Heat", has also been cancelled.

As I'm sure many of you have already heard other shows were and are being cancelled, namely the Tulare show that is held in April was cancelled. The Best of the West group in Central Coast CA cancelled their show. The Great Oregon Steam Up held the last weekend of July and first weekend of August has been cancelled, as well as the tractor shows at Vista California in June have also been cancelled. While it is a shame that these shows are being cancelled, we are certainly happy to see everyone taking things seriously regarding this virus.

Hopefully by the time our next season of tractor shows rolls around, things will be a little more settled and we can once again fire up our tractors and hit the show circuit. Till then please stay safe and healthy!

Here's how I've been keeping busy, restoring my Allis Chalmers 716H!



Bolting the drive shaft to the engine.



Taking the old decals off

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