



DEKALB Alumni News

January, 2016

Held on September 16 and 17, 2015

37th Annual Meeting...Was Great!

On September 16, 2015, the DEKALB Alumni Association held its 37th annual meeting at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau in Sycamore, Illinois. The day started with

registration for the morning meeting. Coffee was served before the meeting. Meanwhile, **Al Ratfield** and **Doris Riippi** set up the items to be auctioned.



Keith Kauffmann, president



DEKALB memorabilia assembled for Alumni's annual auction

The annual meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by **Keith Kauffmann**, president. The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read and accepted. The main topic of this year's gathering was the selection of new board members. Before nominations were accepted, however, **an amendment to the by-laws** was proposed to reduce the number of members on the Board of Directors.

The amendment passed by a unanimous vote of members present.

Amendment to the by-laws

The existing by-laws stated: "At each annual meeting three directors will be elected to serve three (3) year terms. The term of office of the Board of Directors will rotate on a three-year basis."

The proposed amendment would change the by-law to say: "At each annual meeting two directors will be elected to serve three (3) year terms. The term of office of the Board of Directors will rotate on a three-year basis." The board for 2016 will have eight members, and over the next two years will drop to six.

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37th Annual Meeting

The next order of business was to nominate two new members to the board, since the terms of **Liz Canova**, **Joann Kunkel** and **Dan Rozzen** expired in 2015. They were thanked for their years of service. **Delmer Gross** and **Dan Rozzen** were nominated to serve three year terms on the board. The nominations were immediately closed and Delmer and Dan were elected to the board. The annual meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.



All were invited to attend the dedication by DAAHA of the Winged Ear historic marker at 1:00 p.m. The plaque was unveiled at the corner of East Lincoln Highway and First Street in DeKalb. After speeches by members of DAAHA, DeKalb Park District, Mayor **John Rey**, State Representative **Bob Prichard** and others, **Al Ratfield** and **Em Wells** unveiled the plaque. Since that time, the plaque has been moved to its permanent location at the corner of East Lincoln Highway and Fourth Street in DeKalb.



Our evening entertainment was "Jazz in Progress". Playing tunes from the fifties and sixties. Everyone enjoyed the great music from the past.



A program featuring DEKALB Poultry Research was led by **Rita Anderson** and **Dan Rozzen**. A video presentation by **Jack Nelson** on the history of the Poultry Division, originally done at DAAHA in April, 2010, was shown. Rita and Dan then presented a slide show of poultry personnel and locations. Rita explained who and what was occurring in the photos.

The silent auction ended at 5:15 p.m. and the winners paid for and picked up their items after dinner.

Dinner was served by members of the alumni board and some volunteers. It was catered by Headons, included chicken, beef and pork, with a green bean casserole, potato and dessert.



Early the next day, the traveling group boarded a bus to go to the John Deere Historical Site in Grand Detour, IL. The bus ride was about an hour and the viewing of the site was about an hour and a half. There was a short explanation about the site and what has been discovered there. Next, our group was divided in half and were then given guided tours of the Historical Site



which includes the original home of John Deere, a blacksmith shop and surrounding grounds. A very lovely fall day was immensely enjoyed by all.

Leaving Grand Detour, members took the bus for a short ride to White Pines State Park for lunch and entertainment. The alumni were delighted with White Pines Inn's wonderful buffet lunch. The matinee performance of "Everybody Loves Somebody 2015," a Dean Martin tribute show at the inn completed the planned excursion. The bus arrived back at the Farm Bureau around 4:00 p.m. A long but congenial, relaxing day was had by all.

Please plan to come to this year's reunion, September 13 and 14, 2016, at the DEKALB County Farm Bureau. Fall gathering information will be sent out in July.

Lifetime Memberships Awarded



Al Ratfield & Bob Donaldson

received "Life Time Achievement" awards. Em Wells thanked Al and Bob for their many years of service to the DEKALB Alumni Association and gave them their individual plaques.

Al Ratfield, Emerson Wells, and Bob Donaldson (l to r)

2015 Silent Auction Successful

Thanks to the generosity of our members, we had a fairly successful silent auction raising \$537. Funds raised at the auction will help your board keep the cost down when planning future alumni outings. Since 2002 when the Silent Auctions were started, we have raised \$11,921.

Items donated were very similar to previous years, but they continue to be of much interest. It's fun to listen as Alumni walk around the tables remembering the items. We can't count the number of times we hear, "Oh, I remember those" or "I have one of those".



Again, thank you to all who donated DEKALB items, thank you for bidding, and congratulations to all successful bidders.

Some of our members are now in the process of downsizing their homes, and we continually hear, "My kids just don't want this 'stuff'" So, during the upcoming year as you go through drawers and cupboards and find those "old DEKALB items," and your kids don't want them, please remember your DEKALB Alumni Association. We would love to make them available at the 2016 silent auction. The auction area is a place where our members congregate for visiting, reminiscing and just waiting to get that last bid in before the auction closes.

Remember, if it's got a **DEKALB Winged Ear** or a **DEKALB Chix** or a **DEKALB Pig** on it, **WE WANT IT!**

Your auction committee: Al Ratfield, Alice Ratfield and Doris Riippi

Alumni Members Enjoy The Fun!





**DEKALB Alumni Association
Board of Directors
2015 - 2016**

- Keith Kauffmann, President**
815-732-4559 Term ends in 2016
- Dan Rozzen, Vice President**
815-756-6502 Term ends in 2018
- Dave Gores, Secretary, Membership Chair**
815-895-0044 Term ends in 2016
- Doris Riippi, Treasurer, Volunteer Chair**
815-756-5247
- Rita Anderson, Director**
815-758-1513 Term ends in 2017
- Delmer Gross, Director**
815-756-8068 Term ends in 2018
- Harry Leffler, Director**
815-751-0980 Term ends in 2016
- Tom Plote, Director**
815-901-3478 Term ends in 2017
- Daryl Rolland, Director**
815-757-0462 Term ends in 2017



**Mark Your
Calendars
for 2016** The dates for next year's annual
meeting have been set for
September 13 and 14, 2016.

**Turn the page for more...
News from Monsanto and DAAHA**



*January 2016 Article: DEKALB Brand Update Rebecca Waller, DEKALB® Brand Manager
For publishing in the **DEKALB Alumni Association** newsletter*

DEKALB® Hometown Pride

By: *Rebecca Waller, DEKALB® Brand Manager*

The DEKALB® brand was honored to be recognized in our birthplace city of DeKalb, Illinois, in September by the DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association (DAAHA) and DEKALB Alumni Association. As one of the many significant agriculture innovations to develop from DeKalb, we were thrilled to have our internationally-recognized symbol commemorated with an Illinois state historical marker at Memorial Park. The famous “winged ear” logo of DEKALB corn first made its debut in 1935 with the slogan, “DeKalb Quality Hybrids Will Be Your Mortgage Lifter.” The same holds true today, as we continue to focus on the farmer and helping to improve efficiencies. It has never been more important to produce more yield with less, and DEKALB corn is a global innovator of advanced technologies to propel higher yields. While the brand’s commitment to farmers has remained the same, over the years, the iconic symbol has undergone many design enhancements from the original concept, which is now documented downtown on the historical marker.

Currently, the DEKALB brand is preparing to share the impressive results of the 2015 National Corn Growers Association National Corn Yield Contest, recognizing DEKALB winners through ag media and local newspapers. We plan to celebrate their hard work at the 2016 Commodity Classic in New Orleans. We also look forward to announcing the 2017 Next Class of products and providing helpful planting tips to farmers through ag publications and radio, featuring yield contest winners, as well as field team members.

We sincerely thank everyone for their continued brand loyalty, and we especially thank the farmers and our seed dealers for their partnership. Here’s to a prosperous 2016 crop year.

For more information on the DEKALB brand and recent 2015 yield results, visit AsgrowDEKALB.com

Always read and follow IRM, where applicable, grain marketing and all other stewardship requirements and pesticide label directions. Individual results may vary, and performance may vary from location to location and from year to year. This result may not be an indicator of results you may obtain as local growing, soil and weather conditions may vary. Growers should evaluate data from multiple locations and years whenever possible. DEKALB® is a registered trademark of Monsanto Technology LLC. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. ©2016 Monsanto Company.

For more information on the DEKALB brand and recent 2014 yield results, visit www.aganytime.com.



DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association

DAAHA Activities

www.daaha.org

DAAHA Update

This year-end holiday season provides a good vantage point from which to look back on some highlights from 2015 and ahead to opportunities in front of us.

SUCCESSFUL INITIATIVES — 2015 saw a wide range of successful and mission-focused initiatives by DAAHA. The goal: to engage an ever-growing audience about northern Illinois' remarkable legacy of agricultural innovation. To reach the general public, five new banners highlighting the impact of area ag innovators were placed on rotating display in area banks. In August, DAAHA co-sponsored with the Glidden Association the second annual DeKalb County Barn Tour that drew upwards of 400 people. Two new State historical markers were dedicated, honoring the labor-saving innovation of the Marsh Harvester and the marketing innovation of the Winged Ear logo. The Winged Ear marker dedication generated considerable local, regional and even national media interest.



EDUCATIONAL — On the educational/youth engagement front, thanks to generous funding from Monsanto and Case-New Holland, two Ag Innovation Challenge scholarships were awarded to winners of the district FFA speech contest. Additional generous grants from the Roberts Family Foundation and Enbridge Energy, enabled DAAHA to partner with NIU Communications professor Jeffery Choun to update and soon release "Barbed Wire Pioneers", a documentary video for classroom use and the general public.



TURNING POINT — In some ways, 2015 has marked a turning point for DeKalb Area Agricultural Heritage Association. Now five years out from its founding, DAAHA is evolving. A large part of our initial focus has been the important task of cataloging and archiving the large collection of DEKALB Ag artifacts, documents, photos and films/videos inherited at our founding. Our staff and volunteers have done a tremendous job in the archiving work, and these professionally-cataloged materials provide a valuable reference for telling the exciting stories of DEKALB Ag's many innovations. Going forward however, our focus will increasingly be on developing effective ways to engage our various audiences, particularly youth, outside our gallery walls. Our aim is to leverage the stories of past and current innovators to inspire a next generation of ag innovators.

LOOKING AHEAD — Looking ahead to 2016, DAAHA anticipates further growth in these initiatives, and new ones. For example, additional banners and display venues, and more state historic markers are in various stages of development. With a recent grant from the Roberts Family Foundation, two new youth engagement events are being planned: "i3" (Inspiration, ImAGination, Innovation) in January and an ag career day next fall. We hope you'll plan to attend DAAHA's annual luncheon meeting Monday January 25 starting at 11:30 AM at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau to learn more. Thanks for your continued vital support, through your membership and through your contributions to DAAHA's annual operating fund, which makes all of this possible.



DEKALB Alumni Association

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Where It All Started

Kernels of Wisdom — Volume 18

by Sue Breese

The old Daily Chronicle building in DeKalb, which is where we got our start, still stands today. On a cold evening January 5, 1912, Henry Gurler organized a meeting with the idea of hiring a “crop doctor” on the second floor of the building in the Elk’s Club room. From this meeting the DeKalb County Soil Improvement Association was born, later becoming the Farm Bureau and DEKALB Ag (Monsanto).

