

Farm Couple Stages Their Own Tractor Show

"I've always wanted to have my own tractor show so I could do everything my own way," says Gerald Drennan.

That's why, in 2003, he started "Reminisce Days" on his 7-acre farmstead near Danville, Ill. The annual 3-day event is free to the public and held on the last weekend in July.

Drennan's wife Anna says that in addition to Gerald's antique tractor collection, friends bring their tractors, garden tractors, lawn mowers, antique plows, one-cylinder engines and even some antique cars. "It's just a fun thing. Anybody who has anything old that they want to show off can just bring it up and display it."

Gerald says that no one runs the engines during the show because of insurance liability issues.

Anna says visitors are welcome to bring out lawn chairs and just sit around and reminisce. "That's what it's all about," she says.

Gerald also displays and raffles off 1/16th scale wooden tractors that he makes. "Anything that's on that tractor in that year gets on that tractor," he says. Gerald also sells them for about \$50 each. "I've got orders for about 25 to 30 right now."

This year, their church group put on a little

show in the afternoon, singing country gospel.

Next year, the Drennans plan to add an ice cream parlor.

Visitors can sign the guest book. Anna says they've had visitors from England and Switzerland attend because they heard about it while in the area.

"We don't have any idea how many people come through," says Anna. "We don't charge admission or take head counts," adding that she suspects they had between 1,500 to 2,000 people attend last year's show.

Gerald, a lifelong farmer who began collecting Deere tractors at age 16, now has 50 or more of them including a 1955 Deere Model 70 Diesel, a 1959 Deere Model 820 diesel, and a 1958 Deere Model 630 all-fuel. "It's one of 18 that got out of the factory without a serial number," adding that it's the only one of them that's known to still exist.

His collection of "anything Deere" extends "wall to wall" in his basement where he still has the toys he played with as a child including a steam engine toy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Anna & Gerald Drennan, 26180 State Route 1, Danville, Ill. 61834 (ph 217 759-7253).



Gerald and Anna Drennan hold Reminisce Days the last weekend in July. It's free to the public.



Drennan shows his own antique tractors, friends' tractors, lawn tractors, antique plows, one-cylinder engines and even antique cars.



Rolling deck garden is 8 ft. long, 42 in. high and 12 in. wide. It has a small box at one end to hold gardening tools.

"Deck Garden" On Wheels

"We live in a wooded area and it's hard to raise a conventional garden because of the wildlife. So I built a raised garden on wheels for my deck," says Dick Kunkle, Stuart, Iowa.

The treated wood "deck garden" is 8 ft. long, 42 in. high and 12 in. wide. Kunkle used a lathe to shape its wheels and added a fold-up tongue at one end. "It can be used to pull the unit around or make the front wheels turn corners," he says.

The bed, with four braces inside, is 12 in. deep. A 1/2-in. wide opening on the bottom lets water drain. There's also a 6-in. wide "lip" on one side.

Kunkle raises sweet corn, radishes, and tomatoes in it. "I put flowers in the right side for my wife," he says, adding that he puts soil directly in the bed.

On the left side, he built a box that's lower than the bed and has a screen underneath to hold shovels and other gardening tools.

"This isn't for a large garden," he says. "It's just for fun."

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1937 Allis Chalmers Converted To "Runabout"

You won't find another Allis Chalmers tractor like the 1937 WC model modified by Marion Klutzke of Lafayette, Ind.

The tractor still has its original 30 hp, 200 cu. in., 4-cyl. gas engine. However, it moves along at speeds up to 40 mph thanks to the elimination of the tractor's reduction gears. He added a pre-1940 Chevy truck 4-speed transmission to provide the original slow speeds. To handle the extra speed, the front axle and wheels were replaced with the entire front end off a 1959 Buick car. The steering wheel, steering column, and turn signals are also off the car. The cab is homemade (the top was salvaged from an old Rotobaler top) and is complete with a rollbar, big

plexiglass windows, roll-up side curtains, and a big two-person seat out of a Volkswagen van.

The tractor has dual carburetors, dual exhausts, and dual breathers. The master cylinder, brake and clutch pedal are from a mid 1940's Chevy car, and the speedometer is from a 1950 Chevrolet truck. The 18-in. high flotation wheels on back are the same kind used on small Ford tractors. The tractor even has automotive sealed beam headlights.

"I call it my Runabout because I run it all over the country," says Klutzke. "Wherever I go it turns heads. Some people come up to me and ask when Allis Chalmers made this tractor. Others ask if it was designed for use

on golf courses.

"Over the years I've driven it in a lot of parades and displayed it at many shows. At first I used this tractor to rake hay, and to do other light duty jobs. I mounted a towbar on front of the tractor so I could pull it behind my pickup when traveling between farms. Later I just decided to use it for fun."

In order to make room for the car steering wheel and bench seat, the tractor's gas tank was replaced with a tapered one off a 1939 styled Allis Chalmers tractor, along with that model's more streamlined hood and radiator. During the initial transformation, he discovered the tractor would run backward after he removed the tractor's final drive reduction gears. To re-establish forward motion he rotated the differential a half turn which relocated the ring gear on the other side of the pinion shaft. "When I explain this to most people, they don't understand what I'm talk-



Dog wears a coat and hat made from suede-like cloth on the outside and cottony fleece on the inside.

"Chihuahua Duds" Prevent Cold Weather Shivvers

By C.F. Marley, Contributing Editor

Short-haired Mexican Chihuahuas can't stand up to Midwestern winters. So my daughter Maureen Tarrant of Taylorville, Ill., designed some winter clothes.

Maureen's daughters, Christie and Kelly, each bought their own Chihuahuas. Christie has a male and Kelly purchased a female, which she named Marl. Kelly hopes to breed the dog and sell the puppies.

The outfit consists of two parts - a coat for the body and a hat for the head. It's made from a suede-like cloth on the outside and cottony fleece on the inside. There's a Velcro strap along the bottom of the coat that goes under the dog's belly. The hat has two holes for the dog's ears and is secured by a Velcro strap under the chin.

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This modified Allis Chalmers goes 40 mph because Marion Klutzke took off its reduction gears and replaced the wheels with the front end off a 1959 Buick car. He added a pre-1940 Chevy truck 4-speed transmission to provide slow speeds.

ing about, but we sure enjoy the results," says Klutzke.

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