

Amazing Illustrated History Of North American Apples

Dan Bussey might know more about apples than anyone else in the world. His amazing "Illustrated History of Apples in the United States and Canada" contains details on 16,350 different varieties, including their origins and histories, as well as 1,400 life-size watercolors that were made more than 100 years ago. But even the current 6-volume set doesn't contain everything he knows about apples.

"We didn't have room for an additional 3,800 watercolor images of old varieties," says Bussey. "I've since collected descriptions for another 1,000 or more apple varieties."

Bussey plans to do an update that breaks out apple varieties by region of origination. The 3,742-page, 7-volume set is impressive, but he thinks regional breakouts will be more interesting to people living in those regions.

"We plan to include more detailed histories as we learn them with names and dates."

"People with stories and information on apple varieties have contacted me to share what they know," says Bussey.

Bussey grew up in a house in the middle of an old apple orchard and later developed his own apple orchard with close to 200 varieties.

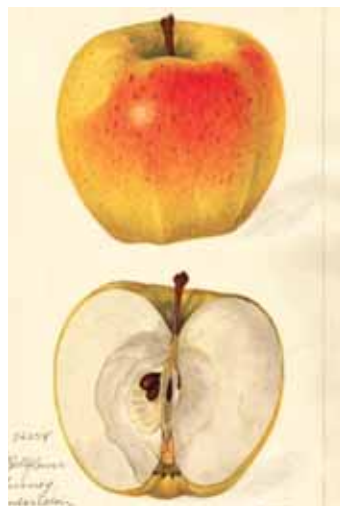
After he sold the orchard, a cider company began working with the new owners and developed a cider using Garfield and Minkler apples. Both varieties originated in the Midwest in the 1800's and likely were used for cider then.

More recently, Bussey served as orchard manager and apple historian at Seed Savers Exchange, Decorah, Iowa. Currently he is involved in a project to identify old orchards on a 3,000-acre site of a WWII ammunition plant. His goal is to graft an orchard of apple varieties he locates as a memorial to farm families who lost their land to the plant.

Bussey has simple guidelines he follows for finding old trees and identifying their variety. "Go out in the spring when apple trees are in bloom and look for the white and pink blossoms," says Bussey. "Identify the location, and then return in the fall to look for the apples."



Dan Bussey's "Illustrated History of Apples in the U.S. and Canada" is a 7-volume set that contains details on thousands of different varieties, along with beautiful life-size watercolors.



The 7-volume set has been sold primarily to agricultural libraries. Originally priced at \$320, the set is now available for \$220.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Jak Kaw Press, P.O. Box 218, Mt. Horeb, Wis. 53572 (ph 844 567-5888; www.jakkawpress.com); or Daniel Bussey, 545 S. St., Ridgeway, Iowa 52165 (ph 608 289-2098; ciderdan@gmail.com).



Although the Marsh Tacky horse breed is still endangered, about 423 documented animals are alive today, twice as many as in 2004.

Marsh Tacky Horse Breed Still Rare But Thriving

The rare and endangered Marsh Tacky horse breed continues to thrive in the swampy regions of South Carolina and Georgia, thanks to diligent efforts of dedicated individuals and the Carolina Marsh Tacky Association. The Association was established in 2007 and says that even though the breed is still endangered, about 423 documented animals are alive today, double the number from 2004. Individual owners and at least 3 breeders continue to nurture the breed.

Jeanette Beranger of the American Livestock Breed Conservancy has researched and documented Tackies for 30 years. She says they're sturdy, well-balanced animals that are easy to train and make wonderful companions. They possess a unique gait called the "Swamp Fox Trot" that allows them to be worked or ridden all day without tiring the horse or rider. Standing about 13.5 to 15 hands tall, Tackies are used for hunting, herding and pleasure riding. Their colors are consistent with other Spanish breeds including dun, bay, blue roan, dun roan, red roan, sorrel, chestnut, black and grulla.

Beranger says Marsh Tackies were used by troops during the American Revolution. The

horses provided Revolutionaries an inherent advantage over larger British horses because they were adapted to the rough and swampy Coastal terrain. Tackies are today recognized as honorable members of several chapters of Daughters of the American Revolution.

The onset of WWII saw Tackies and their armed mounts patrolling beaches of the Southern coasts, watching for German U-boats and potential enemy landings.

Tackies have been passed down by their owners through family generations and many of today's documented horses continue that heritage. They're enjoyed for hunting, pleasure riding and even special Tacky beach racing derbies, which for years were popular on Hilton Head Island. Beranger says that more than 4 centuries after arriving on the American continent, the future of Marsh Tackies continues bright because of diligent and thoughtful owners, a strong breed association and support from The Livestock Conservancy.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Carolina Marsh Tacky Association, P.O. Box 1447, Hollywood, S. Car. 29449 (www.marsh tacky.info; marsh tacky@gmail.com).

Tractor Restoration Hobby Began At Age 10

"My nephew Derek helped me restore a 1955 model IH W-400 Wheatland when he was 10 years old, the age when most kids are into sports and video games. So I guess I'm responsible for his 'affliction,'" laughs Illinois farmer Matt Frey.

That initial experience sparked a 20-year string of IH tractor restorations, a hobby that's brought 7 old Farmalls back to like-new condition.

"There's something very fulfilling about taking a rusty tractor apart bolt by bolt, part by part, cleaning it all up, getting the engine to run and doing a complete restoration," Derek Frey says. "Those I've done have taken 4 to 6 months each, and they've all been front-to-back bare chassis restorations," he adds. Derek still owns the W-400 that he and Uncle Matt worked on, and his other tractors include a 560 Wheatland and a 1971 IH Hi-Clearance 966. Other projects have included a 720 Deere, a 730 Deere diesel and a few lawn tractors.

"When I bought the 966 from Abilene

Machine it was a rusted heap with several missing parts," says Derek. "Originally it was used by a sugar cane farmer in Louisiana." Over the next 6 months he tore down the engine, put in new pistons, sleeves and injectors, and rebuilt the starter and clutch. "The transmission was okay so when the engine was back together and running it drove just fine," Derek says.

Derek purchased new wiring, gauges, a seat and muffler. New steering tires on the front and authentic rice tires on the rear along with a sparkling new paint job and decals rounded out his project.

"The 966 is a rare tractor for the Midwest, so it attracts a lot of attention around central Illinois," says Derek. "My next project is going to be a 706 or 806 diesel, a tractor that was on a lot of farms around here in the 60's and 70's."

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Derek Frey, Pochantas, Ill. (ph 618 781-1368; derekfrey@live.com).



Derek Frey and his restored IH Hi-Clearance 966 at a local show. "There's a lot of work in a restoration like this, but the finished tractor is well worth it," he says.



Easy Access To 43 Years Of FARM SHOW!

We've rescanned all the back issues of FARM SHOW. They're all available at our website and on our DVD-Rom, along with a comprehensive database of the more than 35,000 "made it myself" ideas we've featured over the past 43 years. Go to www.farmshow.com and check them out!