



Retired farmer Jim Juon operates a business restoring and repairing old Doodle Bug scooters. Doodle Bug Club of America members are shown here riding their scooters at a 2017 reunion.

## He Restores Doodle Bug Scooters

Jim Juon simply wanted to restore a Doodle Bug scooter from his youth when he retired, but somehow he ended up with a new business. In the past 9 years, the retired farmer has restored or sold more than 30 of the little red scooters made in the late 1940's. That's not to mention countless replacement parts he has refurbished or made himself.

"I've sold parts all over the country and even internationally," says Juon. "I shipped one restored Doodle Bug to the Netherlands."

Juon owned several Doodle Bugs when he was young, but sold them to buy a car. The Doodle Bug, with its 1 1/2 hp Briggs and Stratton motor and 10-in. wheels, was designed for low-speed use.

"They weren't stable over 30 mph, so the little engines were adequate," says Juon.

While the basic frame never changed, small improvements were made in the 5 models, known as A, B, C, D and Super D. When the company couldn't get enough Briggs and Stratton engines, they switched to 4-cycle Clintons for the Model B. All had kick starters.

The original models used a combination throttle/brake squeeze lever. When untouched, the motor went to full throttle. As the operator squeezed it, the engine throttled down, and the brake was applied. The Super Doodle Bug was the first (and last) to have separate throttle and brake controls.

Kits were available to make the Doodle Bug street legal. They included headlights and taillights and either batteries or generators to power them.

The scooters were made in Webster City, Iowa, just 13 miles from Juon's home. Manufacturing started in 1946 and stopped in 1948. The company made more than 40,000 over those 3 years, but only about 1,000 are thought to exist today.

"Demand diminished as gas and cars became more available when rationing ended after World War II," explains Juon. "I've never heard of many being used as transportation by adults. Most were used by

kids who talked their parents into buying one."

Juon says those kids, now adults, are a big part of his customer base. "There are two camps. One wants an original like they had as a kid, to display in their home or garage," says Juon. "Others want to ride a later model engine with more horsepower. Many of them will buy a 5 1/2 hp. Honda for their Doodle Bug."

Juon does partial or complete restorations, including seats, gas tanks, side panels and more. He looks for used parts he can refurbish and fabricates other parts.

"I am always looking for parts or old Doodle Bugs," he says. "They are usually found in junk piles or in a garage that has fallen down."

The side panels, he notes, were often the first parts to disappear. Along with seats and mufflers, they are the most in-demand parts. He laser cuts panels that are perfect replicas.

"Kids would take the panels off to work on the scooter and never put them back," he says. "Seats would wear away and mufflers rust off."

In addition to a wide range of parts, Juon can restore damaged crankshafts, reline brake drums and install new bushings. He sandblasts, primes and reproduces the original finish, including decals.

The cost of restoration varies depending on the shape the Doodle Bug is in. Prices for the little scooter, which originally sold for as little as \$69.95, vary from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

"Those on the high end will be accurately restored and highly detailed," says Juon.

More information is available from the Doodle Bug Club of America, which hosts annual gatherings.

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## "Goat Yoga" Brings Dollars To Small Farm

After several years of running a yoga studio in town, Stephanie Wubbena of Fordland, Mo., closed the doors of her studio and reopened on the farm. Combining her yoga teaching certification with her love of farm animals, Stephanie and her husband, Eric, opened Goats and Yoga in 2017.

For \$20 per person on Saturdays from April through November, weather permitting, students receive an hour of gentle, informal yoga instruction and lots of interaction with Stephanie's herd of Nigerian Dwarf goats.

The 7 Springs Farm goat herd are all registered with the American Goat Society, and Stephanie plans her breeding to have kids year round for her yoga classes and additional agritourism opportunities.

The goats are also milked – a few weeks after kidding Stephanie will separate the kids from the does at night and milk in the morning before turning everyone back out together.

On top of goat yoga classes, Stephanie also offers farm tours for \$20 per person, bunny meditation for \$15 per person, where guests are led through a guided meditation and breathing exercises while snuggling with either an American Blue or Mini Lop rabbit, and Goat Grams for \$75, where Stephanie will bring two goat kids, a card and flowers to an individual's chosen recipient. The 7 Springs Farm goats are very healthy, well-socialized, and love attention. They have their hooves trimmed several times a month

## Apple Detectives Find Lost Varieties



David Bencoter searches for lost apple varieties previously thought extinct. "If we find a variety we want to propagate, we collect scion wood," he says.

Long lost trees are bearing fruit for apple detectives David Bencoter and E.J. Brandt. The two have dedicated hundreds of hours and many miles of travel to find lost apple varieties in eastern Washington and Idaho. The hours include searching through old newspaper clippings, seed catalogs, and meeting with descendants of early settlers, all with the goal of finding abandoned orchards.

"We go out and search old homesteads for apple trees," says Bencoter. "If we find apples we can't identify using old books and nursery catalogs, we send the apples on to the Temperate Orchard Conservancy in Oregon. They maintain an orchard of more than 5,000 varieties."

Bencoter got the bug to find lost apples when asked by an older friend to pick apples for her from her orchard. While she and her brother knew what two of the varieties were, others were a mystery.

An online search yielded no answers, but did acquaint Bencoter with the concept of lost apples, varieties that appeared to have died out. Along with names of other apple detectives, he learned about Creighton Lee Calhoun Jr.'s book "Old Southern Apples." About half of the apple varieties listed in the book were thought to be extinct.

When Bencoter later discovered that 3 or 4 of the "extinct" apples had been exhibited at his local Whitman County Fair between 1900 and 1910, he was hooked. "The fair gave a prize for each variety exhibited, and the local paper listed every variety entered and who won," says Bencoter. "I decided to go look for the lost ones."

He began searching county records and pulled out old plat books, looking for names of people who had entered the contest. Soon he was driving around each fall searching for old apple trees and trying to identify the variety. Eventually he partnered with Brandt. With the help of the Whitman County

Historical Society, the two established the nonprofit Lost Apple Project.

"The nonprofit status allows us to raise money so we can reimburse the Temperate Orchard Conservancy for their help," explains Bencoter. "In 2018 we sent them apples from around 200 trees. They identified 10 previously lost varieties."

In the 9 years since he began his search, he and Brandt have found more than 23 varieties previously thought extinct, as well as any number of rare, old varieties. The Sary Sinap found in 2018 had not been seen in years, but originated in Turkey and is considered an ancient variety. They estimate another 25 lost varieties remain to be found.

"We conduct our searches in the fall when the apples are on the tree, take samples and geolocate the tree," explains Bencoter. "Once we have identified the apple, if it is one we want to propagate, we return to the tree in February to collect scion wood."

Many of the identified varieties have found their way into Bencoter's nursery for scion wood. "We have around 30 trees in the orchard, every one with grafts from at least 5 different varieties," says Bencoter. "One 30-year old tree has grafts from more than 35 varieties."

Bencoter reports ever-increasing interest in ordering the old varieties. While they can't send trees out of state, they can send scion wood.

"We charge \$4 for the first stick and \$3 for additional pieces of scion wood," he says.

The Lost Apple Project is growing in other ways as well. Bencoter reports a sister organization has formed in southern Idaho and another in Michigan called Lost Apples Midwest.

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Bencoter's nonprofit Lost Apple Project offers scion wood for sale.



"Goat yoga" students receive an hour of informal yoga instruction and lots of interaction with Nigerian Dwarf goats.

during yoga season, and are on a routine copper bolus program. Stephanie deworms as needed and monitors her herd closely.

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and Yoga, 7 Springs Farm, 114 Saddle Club Rd., Fordland, Mo. 65652 (ph 724 777-3093; goatsandyoga@gmail.com; www.goatsandyoga.com).