



WARREN COUNTY OLD THRESHER ASSOCIATION

The W.C.O.T.A. News

Fourth Edition

Mailing Address: 17403 Barry Glen

Spring 2024

Warrenton, MO 63383

Show Location: Agricultural Heritage Museum Grounds, 29550 Palmyra Rd., Warrenton, MO



Creek water is diverted through a series of shutes to power the Mabry Grist Mill in the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. (<https://otrwm.wordpress.com/tag/historic-mabry-grist-mill/>)

A Brief History of Grist Mills in Our Area Submitted by Alvin Brandt

It is amazing what the members of the Old Threshers Association have accomplished in obtaining all the vintage items housed in our museum, since it's founding in 1977. Yet, somehow, I'm reminded that there are no items related to Grist Mills.

Native Americans and early settlers used the mortar and pestle method of grinding grain until millstones became available in this area.

Grist Mills began appearing in Warren County by 1840, being driven by ox, horse or water power. Small, one-story buildings housed the early mills. The grain was brought in sacks, and poured into the hopper by hand, from which it then flowed down to the stones. The lower stone is stationary, while the top one, which has a hole in the center, rotates, pulling the grain down into the stones and crushing the grain between into cornmeal or flour.

When folks brought their grain to be ground, the Miller would keep a 1/8 portion as payment for his services, which he later sold to others.

Where suitable stone could be found, the millstones were made locally, however, others were imported to the area. The size of matching stones can vary. I have one that is 36" in diameter, and 10" thick.

Some mills that are know to have existed were the Schaaf/Bierbaum, and the Borgman Mills in Marthasville. Also, the Steaur and Schilling Mills in Pinckney. Kites had a watermill until it washed away after a two day rainstorm in June of 1928.

There was also a Dieckmann Mill north of Warrenton, Wehrman Water Mill near Truxton and the Hill Mill in Honey Locust community of Camp Branch Township. Conrad Yates, who immigrated from Germany, built four Grist Mills north of Warrenton. One was a water mill, 2 were horse driven, and another was an ox powered mill.

If anyone has information or photos of an old Grist Mill, please share them with the Old Threshers Association. Thanks!



Warming Up for Spring Looking Ahead to Upcoming Events

The Warren County Old Threshers Association will be having its first meeting of the new year in February, which will be the kick-off to our event planning for the year. **We want to thank everyone for your wonderful response to our 2024 Membership Invitation.** If you have not already received your new membership card, it will be in the mail soon. Remember, it's easy to be a Thresher! You can volunteer as much, or as little, as you like! We are looking for supporters with a variety of talents, there is something for you! It is only with your support that the Old Threshers can continue to be a fixture in our community, to remind us of our agricultural farm heritage and preserve it for future generations to enjoy. Upcoming events include a Tractor Cruise through the countryside, a coordinated work day, and of course, our Annual Farm Heritage Days tractor show, pulling and raffle events in August. Call today to share your talent with the club and become an active supporter for any of these events!

Our Mission:

As recorded in our Articles of Incorporation

The purpose for which the organization is established are historic and educational in nature: to provide the means whereby persons who are interested in the preservation and restoration of old farm machinery, can exchange ideas and information, and arrange for the exhibition of old autos, tractors, engines and other items relating to our American Agricultural Heritage. Also, to establish and maintain a permanent museum for the future enjoyment and preservation of articles of historic value relating to our American Agricultural Heritage.

2024 Schedule of Meetings

Every Third Tuesday, 7pm

The Warren County Old Threshers Association meets one evening per month at the Farm Heritage Museum grounds, just off State Hwy W, on Palmyra Road, near Warrenton, Missouri. Our group meets at 7pm, on the third Tuesday of each month, with the exception of our winter break (Dec./Jan.). We normally discuss items relating to upcoming thresher events and shows, projects at the museum grounds, collecting and restoring of farm equipment, and preparations for our Annual FARM HERITAGE DAYS tractor displays, pulling show, and various demonstrations and events.

WCOTA Membership From the By-Laws

One becomes a voting member upon acceptance of membership by a vote of members, and payment of dues. Non-voting junior membership is open to those under eighteen years of age, if sponsored and supervised by an adult member. **Annual Membership Dues for 2024 are only \$7.00.**

To become a member of WCOTA, contact an officer or attend our next meeting.



For more information see us on
Facebook@warrencomoldthreshers
or visit www.warrenco-mothreshers.org

June Tractor Cruise

Join us for a Scenic Ride through Warren County

You are invited to make plans to join us, once again, for our 3rd Annual Benefit Tractor Cruise through the beautiful countryside that we proudly call home. This year, we are planning for Sunday, June 9th, 2024.

The cruise will be similar to last year, utilizing the same staging area, but with a slightly altered route through the neighboring towns. We will, most likely, stop for a lunch break at the Katy Trail and enjoy some togetherness and tractor stories, along with some games and raffles. We will be collecting info, and finalizing details at our March meeting. We encourage you to set aside the date on your calendars, and then watch for further details and a Tractor Cruise flyer to become available. If you have questions, suggestions or ideas, or would like to donate or help with this year's tractor cruise event, please contact one of our officers at the numbers listed above. Thank you all for your participation.



For Information Regarding WCOTA, Please Contact:

Vice President - Charlie Hoelscher

choelscher@centurylink.net

636-359-0821

Treasurer - Lori Hargis

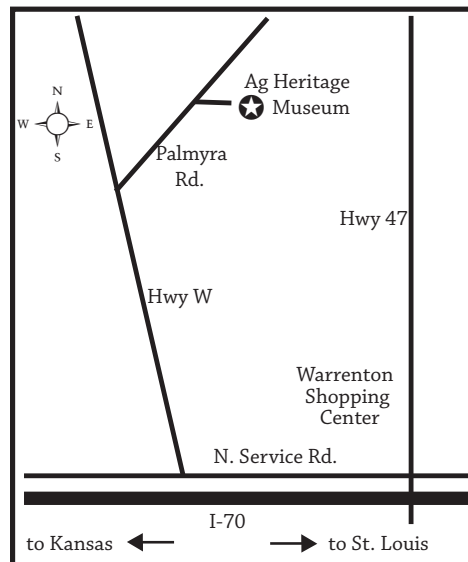
636-456-1255 / 636-395-3407

Secretary - Madelyn Dothage

636-359-1507

Museum Directions:

Take I-70 To Warrenton exit 193
(Hwy 47 North) ,
Go West on the North Service Rd
(past shopping center) ,
Turn Right on Hwy W, then,
Turn Right on Palmyra Rd,
The Agricultural Heritage Museum
is directly on the Right.



WCOTA's Annual "Farm Heritage Days" to Take Place in August In the Planning Stages

The Warren County Old Thresher Association will be hosting our 47th Annual "Farm Heritage Days" Tractor Show, Raffles and Tractor Pulling events on the second full weekend of August. This year, the dates of the show are Friday, August 9, Saturday, August 10, and Sunday, August 11, 2024.



"Farm Heritage Days" is the once a year opportunity for WCOTA to open it's doors and let the sun shine in on our museum and the wealth of history contained within for our community to enjoy. It is our time to shed some light on the ways of the past by demonstrating those most important skills and trades of the family farm, which include, but are certainly not limited to; corn shelling, grain threshing, straw baling, saw milling, 2 cylinder steam power, blacksmithing, bee keeping, wood working, not to mention child rearing, and infinite mechanical wisdom for sure! So, tell your friends and neighbors, and make plans now to come out and



enjoy a fun filled weekend of farm demonstrations, live music, craft vendors, raffles, food and fun.

Be sure to check out the field of tractors on display early on Saturday. You'll want to vote for your favorite entry in the Best of Show Contest to be awarded that afternoon.

Get ready for some kids games and the pedal pulls along with other activities for the kids! Listen for the Noon Whistle escaping from the top of the steam engine. Join us in the Parade of Power around the grounds. This year, WCOTA will be showcasing Allis Chalmers as our feature tractor for our show, along with Galloway small engines.

The excitement continues on Sunday, as we traditionally have our Antique Tractor pull around noon. Later, folks can participate in the watermelon eating contest, and get their final tickets for the raffle drawings, which happen at the close of our show on Sunday.

Watch for more information regarding this year's show, our upcoming show flyer, or, feel free to call our organization for more information.



WCOTA Scholarship Annual Educational Assistance

For the past several years, the Warren County Old Threshers Association has been proud to be able to assist college or tech school-bound graduates from Warren County in furthering their education. With the help of supporters, sponsors, and members, WCOTA has been able to raise and set aside funds in order to offer a \$500 scholarship to agriculturally minded youth in our community. Applications for this award become available each year through local high schools, FFA and 4H organizations during the month of February, and are due back to the Old Threshers organization usually by March or April. Eligibility requirements for this scholarship include active participation in a county FFA or 4H group, or membership in the Warren County Old Threshers Association, US citizenship, high school graduate, and enrollment in an accredited college, university or technical school. Applicants must complete the application questionnaire, submit a letter of personal reference, and compose an essay to illustrate why the mission of WCOTA is so important and relates to the applicant's own life experiences.

