



# The Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association, Inc.



October 31, 2009 Newsletter

Written and Edited by the Board of Directors

PO Box 15, Afton, NY 13730 - Phone/Fax 607-639-1525

[www.theaftonfair.com](http://www.theaftonfair.com)

**121st Afton Fair: July 7 - 11, 2010**

## **Afton Driving Park Annual Meeting**

*By Regina Birdsall*

The annual meeting for The Afton Driving Park and Agricultural Association, Inc. will be held on November 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM in the Susquehanna Room of the Afton Community Center. The Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to invite all stockholders to attend the meeting to get updates about 2009, ask questions and talk about the upcoming year. You should receive the meeting notification with ballot in the mail soon if you haven't already.

We had a very successful year in 2009. We had to be cautious with our expenditures, while still providing an event with something for everyone to enjoy. We feel we met that challenge.

We had a very successful Firemen's Parade, Youth Dairy Show, the biggest Open Horse Show we have hosted to date, a Poultry Show and displays of other small animals. We had our Floral Hall competition and displays under the grandstand as well as a historical display about harness racing. We also had two nights of fireworks.

Entertainment at the 88BC/Afton Sertoma Stage included bands such as Panhandle, Route 66, Familiar Noise and Deuces Wild, as well as the award winning Southerntiersmen Barbershop Chorus and Quartets. The Old Time Band, which performs in the park in Bainbridge during the summer also performed. The highlight for the entertainment stage was Skyline featuring Cassidy Lynn, who was scheduled from 8:00 PM to Midnight for Saturday night. The band started early, played late and had to stop a few times because of rain. Regardless, they continued on and put on a great show.

Board member Rhonda Barriger and her husband Bill put on the best Demolition Derby the Afton Fair has seen in years. We are pleased that they agreed to run this event and that they will be back again next year to put on another great show. Other grandstand events included racing by Afton Motor Speedway, JD Winslow Equestrian Entertainment, tractor pulls, our annual Harness Racing event and the Firemen's Parade.

Our Midway provider, Main Events Amusements, returned for a second year and provided a partial sponsorship of one night of our fireworks displays, as well as generously providing coupons

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## **2010 Floral Hall**

### **Cookbook**

*By Regina Birdsall*

There is still time to submit your recipes for the 2010 Afton Fair Floral Hall Cookbook. The process is easy. You can submit your recipes by mail, email or online.

#### **Mail submission:**

Send your recipe to:  
Afton Fair Floral Hall  
P.O. Box 15  
Afton, NY 13730

Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

#### **Email submission:**

Send your recipe to:  
[floralhall@theaftonfair.com](mailto:floralhall@theaftonfair.com)  
Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

#### **Internet submission:**

Go to: [www.typensave.com](http://www.typensave.com)  
and use the login:  
*floralhallafton* and the  
password: *recipe*

There are currently more than 25 recipes that will be published in the cookbook. Please remember to include the number you would like to reserve for yourself when you submit your recipe.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call 607-639-1525 and leave a message for Melanie Mueller, the Floral Hall Superintendent.

**Become a sponsor of our newsletter and have your business or name listed here. Please contact us at 607-639-1525 or email us at [adp@theaftonfair.com](mailto:adp@theaftonfair.com) for more information.**

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**Afton Driving Park Annual Meeting (continued)**

By Regina Birdsall

for free rides for radio giveaways. They have been great to us and we hope to continue working with them for years to come.

Although the Afton Fair is our big event of the year, with many hours of planning, discussions, phone calls and manual labor, the Afton Driving Park is much more than that. There are other events held at the driving park throughout the year. Our horse show ring is used on a regular basis by area 4-H groups in training sessions and shows. The commercial buildings were used for some Tack Sales, and are available for other events. The Catskill Garden Tractor Pullers held four exciting pulling events at the driving park this year. One during the fair, and three others throughout the summer. We look forward to having them return next year for more pulling events.

Racing returned in 2009. The Afton Motor Speedway got off to a slow start, with maintenance issues from a few years of non-use that needed to be resolved and uncooperative weather. We hope the weather is more cooperative next year and the "summer that wasn't" is nothing more than a dim memory.

We made some real progress in the upkeep of the buildings at the driving park this year. Repairs to horse barns were made, replacing windows and making many other repairs to horse stalls and basic structure. We also replaced the roof on the main fair office at the front gate, which was in dire need of repairs. This was done by board members and volunteers so other than materials and time there was no other cost. A huge project was the renovation of the old sub shop under the grandstand, which received a new concrete floor, new walls and upgraded electric.

With all that in mind, we face a challenging year in 2010. We have launched an extensive program to bring in new sponsors and will be extending our marketing efforts with the goal of increasing our attendance in mind. In addition to a paid advertising plan, we will be taking advantage of free advertising through Internet directories and events calendars, the creation of flyers and other self-produced marketing materials, as well as promotional items.

We are always in need of volunteers to help out, and every bit counts. We need people to help us distribute our fair schedules, posters and flyers. They can be distributed at work site break rooms, your favorite restaurant or the coffee shop you visit for your morning coffee. Other ways to help include volunteering to help in the office during the fair, helping with maintenance efforts and volunteering to be a chairperson for a Floral Hall Department or other agricultural events and displays. All help is greatly appreciated.

We hope to see a lot of stockholders at the meeting. Please come and ask questions, give suggestions, visit the board of directors and get involved. Coffee and snacks will be available.

If you have questions about the annual meeting, the driving park or the Afton Fair, please call us at 607-639-1525, stop by during office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM or send us an email at [adp@theaftonfair.com](mailto:adp@theaftonfair.com).

**Board of Directors**

**Executive Team**

President: Dennis Fletcher  
Vice President: Steve Willes  
Secretary: John Niles  
Treasurer: Renee Webb

**Directors**

Alvin (Sonny) Barrett  
Rhonda Barriger (*Vendors*)  
Regina Birdsall (*Webmaster*)  
Paul Faigle (*Dairy Show*)  
Jeanette Grover  
Barb Niles (*Children's Activity Center*)  
Peg Squire (*Horse Show*)  
Frank Tingley (*Harness Racing*)

**Entertainment Committee:**

Rhonda Barriger, Barb Niles and Peg Squire

**Marketing Committee:**

Rhonda Barriger, Regina Birdsall, Peg Squire and Renee Webb

**Grounds Maintenance:**

Sonny Barrett, Dennis Fletcher, Barb Niles, John Niles and Steve Willes

**Newsletter Design and**

**Production:**

Regina Birdsall

**Harness Racing:**

Georgia Baker and Frank & Lia Tingley

**Floral Hall Superintendent:**

Melanie Mueller

**Office Hours:**

Mon, Wed & Fri: 9:00AM - noon  
Phone/Fax 607-639-1525  
website: [www.theaftonfair.com](http://www.theaftonfair.com)  
Email: [adp@theaftonfair.com](mailto:adp@theaftonfair.com)

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