

Oakland Township's *Down on the Farm* offers Old Fashioned Family Fun

Oakland Township's Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District came alive on Saturday, August 3rd when, as in days gone by, the air filled with the sounds of farm animals and traditional chores. For the third time, the Oakland Township Historical Society, Historic District Commission and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve collaborated to offer *Down on the Farm*, a family friendly event.



Photo credit John Sanderson



Photo credit John Sanderson

Local resident equestrians shared grooming techniques and horse care while Ann Marie Rogers demonstrated leading her friendly sheep in a halter. Roger Schmidt, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commissioner, displayed his peacocks, pheasant, and quail. Roger has been raising exotic pheasants for seventeen years. He also raises Pied and Black Shouldered Peacocks, Texas A & M and Japanese Quail. "The interesting thing about Japanese Quail is they migrate to South Korea from Japan to avoid the harsh winters and fly back again in the spring, which could be as far as 800 miles," Roger explained.



Photo credit John Sanderson



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Libby Dwyer, with Zorro, and Shelby Barber, with Kate, shared horse grooming techniques.



Photo credit John Sanderson



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Anthony Kowalchick, a historical society member, exhibited the artifacts he has discovered while metal detecting at abandoned farm sites. With thorough research, Anthony has created a fascinating display that includes coins, belt buckles and even a Native American arrow head, among other interesting items.



Photo credit Colleen Barkham



Photo credit John Sanderson

David Phillips and Ann Marie Rogers with sheep, Rambo and Lambie. Anthony Kowalchick shared his shadow boxes filled with artifacts found while metal detecting.



Photo credit Barbara Barber



Photo credit John Sanderson

A peacock feather for everyone! Trustee Maureen Thalmann with her granddaughter. Ray Church rode his 1939 Farmall tractor over to the farm day event.

Visitors learned about chair caning techniques and making homemade butter. Antique tools and tractors were on display while Historical Society members gave guided tours of the District's historic buildings and the Flumerfelt Barn. Children enjoyed old fashioned games like scarecrow buildings, corn cob Skee-ball, tug of war, and stilts.

Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For further information about tours and events or to rent the facility please call Barb Barber at the HDC office 248-608-6807 or email bbarber@oaklandtownship.org or visit www.oaklandtownship.org to locate the Historic District Commission page.