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Sugar Grove Corn Boil celebrates long-storied history

By KANE COUNTY

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SUGAR GROVE — With an origin dating back to 1967, the Sugar Grove Corn Boil comes roaring back for its 50th year.

This year's event will be held July 27 through July 30, with different features each day.



What started in 1967 as a four-hour event by the Young Adult Club — the group eventually changed it's name to the Sugar Grove Community Group — in back of the Sugar Grove Community House has become a much larger event. In 2000, the Sugar Grove Corn Boil was extended to a two-day event with help from the Sugar Grove Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the village of Sugar Grove; in 2004, it was extended again into a three-day event, and now a four-day event.



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Originally, a steam engine boiled the corn. Although that method is no longer in use, the event’s heavy-duty use of the corn remains. As of 2004, the event goes through at least 12,000 ears per year. And with selling that much corn, it’s worth noting that profits go to benefit a variety of local community groups. In 2016, 18 charities received donations as a result of the festivities, according to a news release.



As the size of the event changed, the venue of the event has also changed. In 1985, Ted McCannon and volunteers were able to build Volunteer Pavilion in Volunteer Park. This also resulted from the community working together, as donated materials were used. Up to 30 volunteers labored creating the building’s features, including garage, kitchen and fire place. The finishing touch on the building was two bicentennial coins that were placed into the floor.

Fifty years produces a lot of boiled corn and even more memories. This year, the Sugar Grove Community Group would like to help the community share those memories. Photos, videos and stories can be submitted online at sugargrovecornboil.org or on Facebook at “Sugar Grove Corn Boil;” via telephone at 630-449-7999; or sent by mail at P.O. Box 225, Sugar Grove, IL 60554.

This year from July 28 to July 30 four different nonprofit organizations — the Kaneland Special Needs PTA, Casey’s Safe Haven, Horsepower Therapeutic Riding and Girl Scout Troop No. 1827 — will host Corn Boil Bingo in Volunteer Park. Bingo cards will be \$1 each. Pots are split 50/50.

Come out to attend the Sugar Grove Corn Boil, where attendees can find truth in the event's motto — "Where friends and family come together to have fun." See www.sugargrovecornboil.org for more.

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