

# YBDC big changes!

## “Coop” goes “Collective, Inc.”

The new season brings major changes to our little group. The big news of course is the incorporation and change of name from Yoderville Biodiesel Coop to Yoderville Biodiesel Collective, Inc. The Board of Directors has been selected and is in place. The new board met on April 27, 2008 for it's first meeting, promptly amended and adopted the by laws for the new organization and discussed proceeding to gain non-profit status, membership, collection, and various infrastructure issues. These changes will allow the group to continue to survive, become eligible for grants funding and accept donations. With this new structure the organization can grow and gain additional resources and equipment.

By Ethan Fox YBDC Member

### Marc Franke writes

Many people are getting “whacked in the wallet” for our commutes to work! It is how most of us, consume most of our fuel. This is starting to hurt! What if you could cut the cost in half; almost overnight? Buy a new car? No. Use some amazing new fuel? No again. How then? By making one new friend. Here is the challenge, find one new friend that lives and works in the same general areas with mostly the same hours. It doesn't have to be the same exact neighborhood or workplace. Then arrange to share rides to work. Not only will each of you cut your fuel cost in half, you'll both put less miles on your tires and your vehicle. Many insurance policies rate on the annual miles traveled so you could save there too. You'll also have a built-in, back-up, commuting buddy for those mornings when the car won't start or is in the shop for repair. This won't be completely simple or

effortless. Having a good friend means being a good friend. You'll want to be prompt, dependable and flexible. Either no music or each make a list and play only the titles where you agree. No smoking, eating or drinking will respect the car interior of your new friend. You might want to avoid topics like politics and religion too. Many of us have in-laws, relatives or co-workers where we don't vote, worship or even eat alike. Still, with a little care, we enjoy years of friendly relationships that make our lives happier, more fulfilled and easier. How do you find such a friend? You can start at work. Many organizations now have car pool websites, lists or bulletin boards. If yours doesn't, you could inquire politely with your manager or personnel office. Organizations that help their members save money will improve their ability to attract and retain good people, especially in these times of high fuel prices! If that doesn't pan out, you could post your number at a local filling station(s) or convenience store. Many

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regions are now served by web sites like Craig's List for people looking for common interest. If you Google "car pool site" you will find other alternatives on the Internet. Nervous about getting into a car with a stranger? Many people would be. Treat this with the same seriousness as looking for someone to share an apartment. Expect to give and receive good character references. Perhaps a note from your local place of worship, sports group or club where you belong would be useful. If you carry a cell phone, that can give some additional measure of comfort until you really know your new friend. I was surprised to find some cities with a 30 year history of people sharing rides with complete strangers every day. Why? Having more riders in the car allows them to use the High Occupancy Vehicle express lane and cut their commute time by half or more!



Search the NPR radio site for "slugging". Be sure and watch the short video! Our governments could help. Having one web site where everyone looks for car pool opportunities would be highly useful. A secure way to exchange invitations and references with prospective car pool buddies without revealing our address, email or phone

number would help too (and would be simple on a well run web site). Our leaders speaking to businesses and organizations to encourage flexible work times would help. Imagine if a region, state or nation ran ads encouraging people to make a new friend and cut the costs of energy for everyone at the same time! Solutions to our energy problems are there if we will look for them. We landed on the moon, conquered small pox and shrank the hole in the Earth's ozone layer.



by Weimer Pursell, 1943

We can do this too. Are you willing to trade a little flexibility in exchange for a new friend and half the cost for commuting to work?

Marc Franke  
Writer and speaker  
Energy, policy and culture change  
Ely, Iowa

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## “Super Sucker” soon to begin slurping!



The “Super Sucker” YBDC’s new collection vehicle

After a long search for a good used tank and then a vehicle to carry it, the whole thing is beginning to shape up. We found a used LP tank which turned out to have some propane left in it. So it was carefully washed and rinsed several times and finally made safe to cut into and weld. Merrill Hamilton has done the welding of a new primary shut-off on the top and input and outlet ports on the bottom. It will be plumbed with two inch pipe to reduce flow resistance. Several members spent part of a Saturday getting it hoisted onto the truck (tank weighs 560 pounds) and ready to bolt down. Once finished we will have the ability to suck used oil into the truck tank by vacuum instead of through a pump. A large screen is planned in the input line so that we will get much cleaner oil than we have in the past.

By Don Laughlin YBDC Board Member

## News on the non-profit front

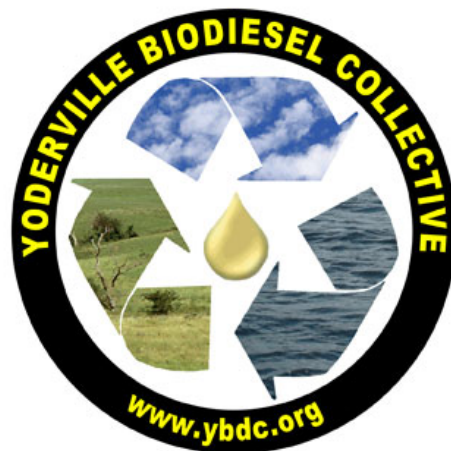
The application for non-profit status for YBDC was received by IRS last July. With their recognition letter was the

statement that we would hear from them in about sixty days. In November I began to try to get through to someone about our application. After hours of "holding"--to the credit of IRS they do play excellent music while you wait, I finally got a person who said they were just then processing applications received in June. She had no idea when they would get to the July applications. In January, 2009, Ann Ashby got through and found that they are now processing July applications. Obviously we will not be a non-profit corporation for 2008. But we have reasonable expectations for becoming one in 2009. We expect to give restaurants from which we have collected used grease a certificate, at the end of the year, stating that they have made a tax deductible contribution to a charitable organization. Please tune back in for the latest on our legal status.

By Don Laughlin YBDC Board Member.

## YBDC gets a new logo!

We have a new look to go with our new name.



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The new logo designed by Ethan Fox is largely based on the old one with a slight twist. I hope this logo will serve the collective for years to come.

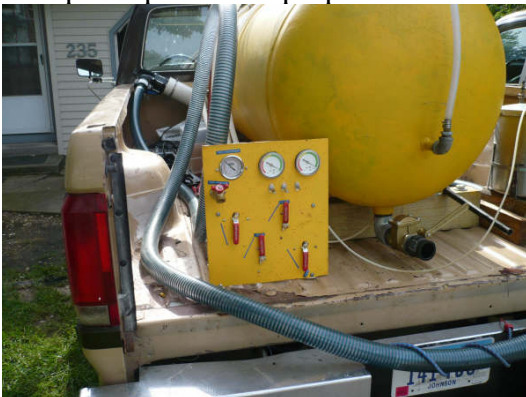
By Ethan Fox YBDC Member

## Super Sucker Update! Via email from Leo Young



Super Sucker Detail

Thought I'd drop you a line and send some pictures along of the super sucker that Don built along with assistance from Merrill with the welding. I Helped Don pick up the used propane tank and



Super Sucker Detail

brought it to I.C. where he built it. Maybe Steve sent you some pictures but I also took some when I used it to pick up some oil so I'm going to try and send

them to you. It really works well. In fact so good that we have not had to pick up a single barrel so far this winter. We do



Super Sucker Detail

have to heat some of the oil with a 1000 watt heater to get it liquid enough to pull which does take a little time but we don't have hassle of loading unloading barrels in the winter. After we pull the oil we just take the truck back to the farm and we pump it out into 250 or 350 gallon



Super Sucker Detail

totes that we have there. In the warmer weather you can suck out a 55 gal drum in about 2 Min.

From Leo Young YBDC Board Member

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## Ethan Fox steps down as Secretary of the YBDC Board of Directors

The last three plus years of my involvement in the YBDC have been very fruitful for the group and me. And now I am moving to the Los Angeles area. This reality smarts a little as I have worked hard to help build up the organization. A lot has changed since I joined and a lot more will change this year, this is a very exciting time to be involved with YBDC. I can't wait to see how the process unfolds. I know that Steve and everyone else will continue to build this dream. I will miss the hours of collecting hundreds of gallons of rancid fryer oil in the hot sun, and freezing cold. I will miss cleaning up spills in parking lots all over Iowa City and Coralville. I will miss the leaking hoses and broken pumps and the filthy, filthy trailer we have used to collect oil with for the last two years, but most of all I will miss the energy that comes from creating sustainable and clean fuel, recycling cooking oil and thus reducing my carbon footprint on the world. And I will miss the members of our group. I hope to continue my involvement with YBDC by helping out with cyber commuting to help with the website and graphics as much as I can from the west coast. I only hope I can find people doing something like this in my new hometown. I want to thank everyone in the YBDC for all the hard work and determination they have paid in to make this a truly fantastic place to brew fuel. THANKS!



Who's this guy? He's always working so hard  
By Ethan Fox YBDC Member



Welcome again to the grid. The Flood of 2008 made travel around Iowa City and Coralville difficult to say the least. But we still managed to collect oil from our accounts. Leo and I did the bulk of it so far this season with Don jumping as needed (thanks Don) the spring clean up of extra collection barrels from Shakespeare's and Mercy were done during the flood and things look pretty good at those locations. The American Legion is next for clean up and removal of surplus barrels. The Barrels at Fitzpatrick's are accumulating some sludge on the bottoms and will need to be cycled out for clean barrels soon. This leaves Slims in Tiffin, there was a turn over in ownership at this location and the new owners didn't really know what the barrels were for. This introduced a minor problem with communication and prompted discussion about more formalized procedures with our oil accounts these new procedures are being worked out now and will be implemented in the near future.

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## Cold Collections!

Pictured below, are Don Laughlin and Leo Young on a 10 degree day doing oil collection. It actually was a little warmer than that but it was cold and they were just emptying the truck after collecting up 225 gal. It probably got to about 10 degrees by the time they got done.



Don & Leo moving grease in 10 degrees!

“We were trying to attack the collections when it’s at least above 20 degrees” Young said. He has a small Honda 2000 watt generator which he keeps in his truck to power the bucket heater they use when they need to liquefy the oil more. “You know how stiff Shakespeare’s gets but with heater were able to get it done”.

By Ethan Fox YBDC Board Member

## Collection Report from the YBDC President

Members, I want to thank all of you who took time out of your busy schedules to help get our job done. Many of our new members in 2008 really jumped in and made a difference. Without the assistance and participation of thoughtful

individuals our mission would be impossible. I look forward to fully engaging those willing to make the effort.

The 2008 season proved to be quite a challenge for our collective. A very wet spring and zoning issues kept us at bay until late in the season. This zoning issue prompted the change in our name from Coop, to Collective. It seems that I am not zoned to have a “coop” on my farm. I wish to thank RJ Moore and Rick Dvorak at Johnson County Zoning for their assistance in navigating the bureaucracy and obtaining our conditional use permit. His department is a credit to our state. I would also like to commend Irvin Landis for expediting the installation of our new septic system and extending a water line to the processing facility. I give a hearty raspberry to The Johnson County Public Health Department for their negative attitude through the whole process. It would seem that someone using our bathroom posed a serious threat to public health. On the other hand the complaint that they filed with the DNR for possible improper disposal of waste materials has helped us to develop a good working relationship with our local field office. The experience taught me that no matter how good your ideas and intentions, one misguided technocrat can destroy years of hard work.

The 2009 brewing season holds great promise for our collective with a long list of Renewable Energy augmentations, process improvements and teaching opportunities.

The contribution by Don Laughlin of a fancy 1988 Ford F-250 fitted with a really nifty “super sucker” grease collection rig has proved to be a

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quantum leap in efficiency and safety. We are now ready to increase collections, production and to provide an excellent example of what can be accomplished by ordinary folks. I hope to increase our capacity to offer educational events and conduct community outreach.

A new day dawns on our country with the election of Barak Obama. I believe that we will find our government somewhat more receptive to the concept of local resource development and I intend to utilize this opportunity to further our goals and aspirations. Collaboratively yours,

By Steve Fugate YBDC President

## YBDC Memberships for 2009

We are looking forward to an exciting year and are hoping to have your involvement with YBDC. As you will see we have added a new level of membership for non-fuel using members. Please take a look below and choose what level you are interested in, circle your choice on the attached invoice, please include your address/phone/email, print and mail to Don Laughlin 827. Church street, Iowa City, 52245. Unable to pay the full amount, let us know your intentions and we will work with you.

**Friend of YBDC** \$25/yr, event discount, electronic newsletter.

**Corporate Friend of YBDC** \$200/yr, mention in promotional materials, event discounts.

**General YBDC Membership** \$50/yr,

(non-fuel members)

Benefits: Community involvement  
Environmental rewards  
Networking opportunities  
Attend workshops at no cost  
Educational seminars  
Recognition on website  
Newsletter Privilege to serve on board

**Eco YBDC Membership** \$100/yr,  
Benefits same as above, PLUS Discounts on Yoderville purchases for working members. There are ample opportunities to participate, help out wherever skill set leads. Work 5-10 hours and receive a 10% discount. Work 11-15 hours and receive a 20% discount. Work 16-20 hours and receive a 30% discount. Work over 20 hours and receive a 40 % discount Up to 30 gallons of fuel per month Voting rights

**Hog YBDC Membership** \$200/yr,  
Benefits Same as above, PLUS Up to 60 gallons of fuel per month The fuel usage is based on availability; it is not averaged out over 12 months. Your discount will apply based on hours worked for the previous month It is the responsibility of the members to record their hours worked to receive their discount.

**Sustaining Membership** \$500 one time, admiration and negotiable discounts.

**Lifetime Membership** \$1500 one time, up to 70gal/mo.

These new membership guidelines will increase dues and member fuel prices, while also providing increased funds for the coop operations. These funds will

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pay for concrete and equipment to help get us started this spring.

By Ethan Fox YBDC Member

## YBDC wants to hear from you!

We welcome questions and feedback from people in the community; this helps us determine our impact. Please feel free to contact us via our website at: [www.ybdc.org](http://www.ybdc.org) and click on the contact link. Or email [steve@ybdc.org](mailto:steve@ybdc.org) your input will be carefully considered.

## Grease Contributing Establishments

These establishments support YBDC with valuable oil donations. We couldn't do it without their generosity and altruistic community spirit. We can offer little in compensation to these local businesses; however we can encourage you the reader of this newsletter to support these establishments that support their community! So please do so, and the YBDC thanks you for your patronage of these fine establishments.

## Featured Establishment

### ■ Riverside Casino and Golf Resort



3184 Highway 22  
Riverside, Iowa 52327

phone: 319.648.1234

Toll Free Reservations: 1-877-677-3456

[info@riversidecasinoandresort.com](mailto:info@riversidecasinoandresort.com)

<http://www.riversidecasinoandresort.com/index.php>

Exciting gaming in our Vegas-inspired casino, a world-class golf course designed by Rees Jones, one of a kind shopping opportunities, luxurious hotel rooms, top-notch live entertainment, a relaxing spa, first class culinary delights at our five restaurants, and more.

■ American Legion ■ Atlas Bo James  
■ Blue Bird Café ■ Champagnes /  
West Branch ■ Chatham Oaks  
■ Donnelly's ■ Hamburg Inn #2  
■ Hawk Wok ■ Mercy Hospital  
■ Motley Cow ■ Murphy's /  
Riverside ■ Oasis ■ Riverside Casino  
■ Shakespeare's ■ Summit ■ Verdes

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