

Thumb Octagon Barn News

Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum



The Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn are area volunteers committed to the restoration and preservation of the barn complex for the community.

WINTER 2011

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

Please note that the date has been changed for our Annual meeting due to a scheduling conflict. The new date is Saturday, April 2, 2011 at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City beginning at 5 p.m. This facility lends itself so well to our needs for the evening as there is plenty of room to accommodate our crowd. Lila thinks that we can comfortably seat 140 people and hopes that we will have that number of attendees. The room also provides ample room for displaying the auction items for both the silent and traditional auction.

The evening will begin with a Social Hour at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. prepared by McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe. Following dinner there will be a short business meeting, including the election of officers, special recognition of our Barn Friend of the Year and then a look back at our accomplishments of 2010 and our plans for 2011.

After the meeting, the fun will begin with our **Benefit Auction** handled by **Dave & Marty Osentoski Auctioneers** who once again will be donating their time. The evening would not be as successful without the skills of these gentlemen who make the auction very special and lots of fun. We are asking that **those attending bring one or two auction items with them the night of the Event.** Auction items can be new or used in saleable condition and can include antiques, humorous items, baked

goods, crafts and items for everyday use. You can also bring things for the silent auction that will be going on all evening.

A **reservation form** is included with this newsletter and we hope that you will consider joining the Friends for a fun-filled evening. The deadline for returning the reservation form is **March 26th**. If you have any questions, you may contact **Lila Arroyo at 989-872-2658**. Lila thinks that it would be great fun to see how many guests wear their Octagon Barn Logo clothing. If you should need a shirt or cap, contact **Joan Koch, Souvenir chairperson at 989-665-0081**.



Marty Osentoski, auctioneer, really gets into his task of getting folks to bid and bid higher to raise as much money as possible for the Agricultural Museum. When it was discovered that there was a scheduling conflict, we had to change the date because our auction wouldn't be the same without him.

Grounds

Louie Wehrman, Chairman

Hopefully by the time we gather for our **Clean-up Day on Saturday, May 7th** the snow will be gone and the inevitable mud will have dried up. Louie always organizes this Clean-up Day to prepare for opening the Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum site for the public and our first Event, School Tours, May 11th through May 13th. We hope that the weather will cooperate but we have so many jobs that need doing under cover that we'll be able to keep very busy.

Louie suggests that you bring some materials with you that will make the task of cleaning easier. Bring rakes, brooms, cleaning supplies especially window cleaner and rags. The thirty windows that encircle the lower level of the Barn need cleaning on the inside and outside. We have stepladders on site to assist with this job. Also, it's more fun to have people working on the same window, one on the inside and one on the outside, at the same time.

We need many volunteers, so mark May 7th on your calendar since the more folks we have show up the quicker we'll get the job done. Louie reminds people to bring their own lunch if they are able to stay on into the afternoon. **Any questions, call Louie at 989-693-6743.**

Executive Committee

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Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

*Letter From the
President*
**FRIENDS of the THUMB
OCTAGON BARN**
Rose M. Putnam



Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that the year is 2011. I can remember thinking that I would be really "old" now, but I don't feel it. What I feel is excitement for the coming year.

The budget has been approved, the project list worked and reworked and committee chairs are all fired up and ready to go.

I'm pleased to announce that **Katie Jackson** has accepted the position of Schoolhouse/One Room School Museum Chair. The drawing for the new museum building is being drafted and excitement is building for this addition to our Agricultural Museum. A big thank you to **Bob Gengler** for his enthusiastic leadership and commitment to this project for many years, but he needed to step down for medical reasons.

The museum concept has come together under the leadership of **Doug Monroe**. The committee is working very diligently to get this new concept rolling. I'm sure you've noticed the two new exterior signs in front of the Barn and Purdy Home. This is the first step to introduce the self-guided tours to the public. More signs will be developed and installed before long and a brochure available to guide our visitors.

As you read along in the newsletter, you will see a request from **Dave Jaroch** for volunteers, at the site on weekends, to help with guided tours. We've all worked so hard to restore the original buildings and added new ones to create the first agricultural museum in the Thumb. You should all be so proud. Now it's time to show it off. I know that change can be hard, but with change comes good, too.

Please mark your calendar with all the activities being planned and yes, we have a few surprises in store. Our very first "concert" is planned for July 17th. Ever heard of the "Lonesome Mountain Boys"? Plan for a great time. And do you know how to can vegetables and fruit from your garden? If not, then on August 20th we have a crew of ladies who are willing to show you. More information will follow so stay tuned. Hope to see you at the Annual Meeting on April 2nd.

Rose

Fifth Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

The 5th Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet will be held on **Memorial Day Weekend, Thursday, May 26th, Friday, May 27th & Saturday, May 28th from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Octagon Barn site.** We will have collectible farm & barn items, period & modern household items, vintage farm machinery and implements, antiques and garage sale items as well as Octagon Barn souvenirs for sale.

We encourage folks to think of the Barn as they do their spring-cleaning or hear of estate sales or moving sales and would like to donate items that are left over. No clothing, please! Things can be delivered to the Barn on our clean-up day, May 7th or by calling Lila Arroyo at **989-872-2658 or 989-912-0405.**

We will have vendors selling antiques, crafts and flea market and swap meet items. The cost for a spot is \$20.00 for all three days. (Bring your own tables.) Call **Louie or Linda**

Wehrman at 989-693-6743 to reserve a space or for information. There will be a food concession in the Munro Building. We will have **coffee and donuts each day starting at 8 a.m. Lunch will be available each day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.** and will feature sloppy joes, soup, hot dogs, French fries, nachos & cheese and ice cream.

Like all of our events we can always use volunteers to help out during the three days - to set up for the sale, price sale items and serve as a cashier. We also need folks to help out in the kitchen area preparing, taking orders and serving the food. Please call Lila if you can volunteer some time to help out at 989-872-2658.

All proceeds go to restoration and maintenance of the Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum. **There are absolutely NO PETS allowed on the site for safety & sanitation reasons.**

Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert

David Jaroch, Chairman

Set aside **Sunday, July 17 at 2:00 p.m. for the Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert.** This is a new event that offers you an opportunity to visit the Barn on a relaxing Sunday afternoon and enjoy a musical event.

The Lonesome Mountain Boys will be playing two sets of traditional music. At intermission finger foods and soft drinks will be served. All you have to do now is mark your calendar for July 17th at 2:00 p.m. A nominal donation will be collected to cover expenses and raise funds for the barn. If you would like to help organize the event or make finger foods for intermission, please contact **David Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133.** We hope to see you at the first Thumb Octagon Barn summer barn concert.



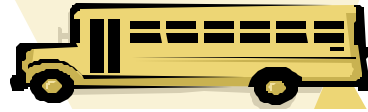
The Lonesome Mountain Boys are pictured with their instruments.

MEMBERSHIP

Newsletters that have a membership form with **RENEWAL** written in **RED** are either past due or will be due before our next newsletter. If **FINAL NOTICE** is stamped on the form this means that this will be your **LAST REMINDER** to renew your membership before being **removed** from our mailing list. The levels of membership are: **Associate Membership** - \$5.00 and brings you our quarterly newsletter. **General Membership** - \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family, which along with receipt of the newsletter gives you the right and opportunity to hold office. A membership form can be obtained from our website at thumboctagonbarn.org. Also, when you receive notice that your membership needs to be renewed, please feel free to renew for more than one year and know that our records will reflect your wishes. It is important that you indicate how the money included is to be distributed. **Important notice** - If you have a new address or a seasonal change of address, it is important that you let us know as bulk mail is NOT forwarded.

School Tours 2011

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson



The 16th annual School Tours 2011 are scheduled for **Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday, May 12th & Friday, May 13th 2011** during the school day by appointment only. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 for each person attending School Tours 2011.

Those interested in reserving a place should contact Diane at **989-892-3105** or email her at HYPERLINK mailto: drapsongabil@chartermi.net. Information is also available on our website at HYPERLINK <http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>.

So far we have about 250 students signed up for this educational experience but are able to accommodate many more students in grades Pre-K to 8th grade. Students will be exposed to, depending on their age, many interactive demonstrations depicting rural life in the early 1900's. Themes for School Tours 2011 are **Wheat, Vintage Kitchen and Kids' Farm Fun**. This is a wonderful, educational field trip for students and is conveniently located just outside of Gagetown, in the Thumb of Michigan.

We are always looking for more **VOLUNTEERS** to help out during these three days. You can use the above information to get in touch with Diane if you could volunteer for any time, any day.

School Tours 2011 Committee Meetings are scheduled at **Rawson Memorial Library, Cass City**, from **12:30 to 2:30 p.m.** on **Wednesdays, February 23rd, March 23rd, April 20th and May 4th**. Please join us to help educate tomorrow's leaders!



Boys Day Out

The Boys, Co-chairmen

Most Mondays you can find a crew working at the Barn complex volunteering their time and talent to complete a number of projects. They work regardless of the temperature and move to the garage for the noon meal. The garage has been restored including insulation so that it can be heated to provide some comfort for the men as they have lunch. They love it when the ladies make some treats for them and get especially excited when **Lila Arroyo** shows up with some homemade soup or chili. After lunch it's back to work on the projects for this year.

One of the projects is to have a **Blacksmith Shop** built and operational by FFD. This will be a 24 ft. x 24 ft. building with a 10 ft. x 24 ft. roof projecting out over the front entrance. They plan to have a permanent masonry forge eventually, but for the time being we will have portable forges for demonstration.

Another project that the Boys are working on is to put a railing in place on the north loft of the Barn as well as a walkway from the south loft to the north loft on the east end of the Barn. This will provide additional space for our Agricultural Museum displays that have been so appreciated by visitors on the South mow. Another crew has been working in the new Grain Elevator Building adding grain storage bins and hooking up the legs to the bins. Time has also been spent cutting logs for dimensional lumber and planing boards for the roof and side walls of the Blacksmith Shop.

The Boys have already put in over 400 hours of volunteer labor and the Friends are grateful to this crew for their continued dedication to our project. They always have room for more folks and encourage those interested to contact **Bob Hirn, 989-872-3761, Wayne Lenton, 989-658-8283** or **Louis Wehrman, 989-693-6743**.

Tour Guide Opportunity - Introducing the Past to the Present

David Jaroch, Chairman

New for 2011 will be Octagon Barn Volunteers assisting as tour guides on Sundays. The Barn Committee would like you to volunteer three Sundays this summer to assist our on site caretakers with tours. Ideally a four-person team of volunteers would commit to one Sunday in June, July and August to lead the 11:30 a.m., 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. tours. Four teams will be needed to fill each month.

Bob Hirn, Rose Putnam and others are willing to lead a training session to help you get started. There are also handouts and our book "The

History of the Mud Lake Estate" that are great resources. If you would like more information, please call **David Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133**. Better yet select your own team of four and select your weekend 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th and call David with your selected weekend.

A list of alternate volunteers will also be compiled. Your help is needed to continue our goal to introduce the past to the present. Please call now for more information, to volunteer, or to register your own group and weekend.



Pictured is the vignette of a Blacksmith Shop created by **Bob Hirn & Doug Monroe** that is on display on the South mow of the Barn where it has been enjoyed by visitors to our Museum. Now it will be wonderful to have an operational blacksmith shop in our Village for visitors to observe during our Events.



Some of the boys are pictured in the arena of the Barn constructing the walls of the Blacksmith Shop. When the weather breaks, they will be able to move these sections to the designated location next to the Sugar Shack where the foundation was already installed this past Fall. Pictured are **Jack Hill, Richard Stacer & Bob Hirn** building a section.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Cora's Cleaning Crew will be going into action during the scheduled clean-up day at the Thumb Octagon Barn on **May 7th at 9:00 a.m.** We need volunteers for that day and throughout year. There are always small tasks to do just as in any home and the need to do some housekeeping before and after our events. Volunteers can contact **Marilyn Phillips at 989-977-0025** or email her at marilyn.p@att.net.

Marilyn reports that the beautifully restored Purdy Home will have some enhancements completed this year. Plans are to install some vintage electrical push button switches with brass

switch plates. The committee plans on repairing the transom windows in each bedroom so that they function properly. They also plan on installing the hardware on the six French doors off the parlor, sitting room and dining room entrances. Some of these items have just become available and we are happy that they will help to finish off these rooms. The committee has someone lined up to install eave trough on the house and we are pleased that we will have appropriate, to the Era, round galvanized metal. They also plan on organizing the rooms in the basement by themes.



One of our themes for FFD is Vintage Kitchens, cookbooks and utensils. Pictured are some vintage kitchen treasures that are on display in Cora's Kitchen.

Attention VG'S Community Share Points Savers

Mary Ann Hirn, Chairperson

According to Mary Ann, VG's has come up with a new program for obtaining **Community Share Points**. The next time you are shopping at VG's you must ask them for a form to fill out to receive share points, otherwise in the future your cash register tape will not have **share points** listed at the end of the tape. With this new program it will be a Win Win situation. When you sign up you will be given a wallet card and key chain card. When you go through the check out line you need to have your card scanned. This will entitle you to the weekly Sale Prices. Without the card you will pay the full price. When you look at their weekly ad there are green logos on various sale items that say "with yes" around a grocery cart, then there will usually be a statement under the price that reads "save at least \$.70 / lb." If you are a cardholder you will get the sale price otherwise you will pay \$.70 more for the item. Over time you

will accumulate personal points that you can use to get free goods. Having registered and scanned your card going through the check out you will now get the **Share Points printed at the bottom of your cash register receipt like always**. As in the past, to participate just cut off the bottom portion of the cash register receipt indicating the number of **share points**, which will be about 3 inches long, and send them to **Mary Ann Hirn, 6622 Kelly Rd., Cass City, MI 48726**.

VG's assists community organizations by donating 1% of all purchases made at any of their 15 stores located in southeastern Michigan. We have raised almost one thousand dollars so far from those who shop at VG's and save these share point receipts. **Thank you to all who participate and please sign up and keep collecting those cash register receipts including share points.**



Teas in the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

The Purdys would be so pleased that their beautiful home hosts Teas during the summer months. **Judy Wallace** has agreed to coordinate everything related to the Teas. She has arranged three Teas and all are on **Saturdays at 12:30 p.m.** The fee is **\$15.00 per person**. For information regarding the Teas call Judy Wallace at 989-872-2677 or check out our website: www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

The schedule, hostesses and themes are as follows:

☞ **June 11th - Garden Tea Luncheon.**
hosted by **Gail McCreedy**.

For reservations call Gail at **989-665-0127**.

☞ **July 30th**, hostess **Judy Wallace** has chosen **Aprons** as her theme. For reservations call Judy at **989-872-2677**.

☞ **August 20th** hosted by **Michele Szostak** featuring **Early Country Kitchens**.

↓ WANTED ↓

The house committee is looking for a carpenter who would be interested in custom-making the four storm doors for the Purdy Home. We have a design that is similar to the original doors. Anyone interested can contact **Dale Churchill at 989-872-4429**.

Ivernia Schwartz lives very close to the Thumb Octagon Barn and feels that this very unique Barn is an important part of the history of the Thumb, agriculture and rural living. Recently she planned a tour of the site for some of her grandchildren and photographed and recorded everything being shared. She then spent hours putting together a scrapbook with all the pictures and information that she felt her grandchildren should know about this treasure just down the road from their grandparents home. Pictured looking at the scrapbook are front row **Logan Richmond, Kimberlee Ridge, Brittany Richmond and Lindsay Ridge** and in the back row are **Ivernia & Frank Schwartz**.

Summer Host Couples/Caretakers

David Jaroch, Chairman

Caretakers are an important part of our barn family. They are responsible for greeting our guests throughout the season. Each day they open the gates, offer tours and assume general oversight of the grounds. Our goal is to have 4 caretakers on site all summer.

We have two full RV hookups for the scheduled caretakers. In the event we have additional caretakers, we have water and electricity hookups. As a Friend of the Thumb Octagon Barn, we encourage you to consider being a caretaker this season. We need to set the calendar before the season starts in May. Training will be offered to help you get started and help will be available for Sunday tours. If you or someone you know would like to serve as a 2011 caretaker, please contact **David Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133.**

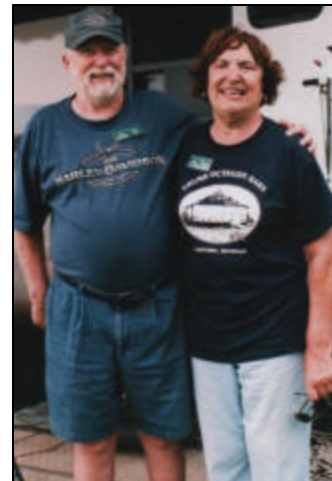
A special thank you to our 2010 host couples. Because of them we were able to have a presence on site from May through October.



Bob & Patsy Gilman, Ocala, FL, were a first time Host Couple. Patsy, always with a smile on her face, guided visitors around. Bob always volunteered to help work on the grounds besides giving visitor tours. He took it upon himself to weed-whack the sides of the ditch bank to the water level. It looked great for the rest of the season.



Duane & Gail Osbourn of New Baltimore, MI, spent the month of June with us. They were returning for a second year as Host Couple. Gail was a big help to Louise Buehrly who hosted the first social gathering for couples at the Purdy Home. Duane was always there to meet and greet the visitors and help on the grounds.



Bill & Barb Fabeck, Lady Lake, FL, were first time visitors to the Barn serving as Host Couple. They travel with their little dog Sally who seemed to enjoy her stay at the Barn.



In April **Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL,** arrived and unexpectedly stayed until almost November due to a fall by Reita. She's doing fine and the Maxfields plan on returning this year. Arnie and Reita are pictured in the EZ-Go golf cart that they donated to the Barn for ease in getting around the site. It's a long way from the Sawmill Building to the Schoolhouse.

One Room Country School & Museum

Katie Jackson, Chairperson

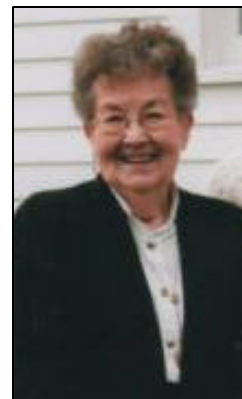
During Fall Family Days 2010, elementary students from Cass City and Caro schools presented two **Patriotic Programs** each day in the One Room Country School House. These were 20-25 minutes in length with a description of the one room school, patriotic songs and recitations. They proved to be very successful being enjoyed by parents, guests and the children themselves. This year at FFD in September of 2011, we would like to have **four programs each day with students from around the Thumb.** These could be school or church groups with a range of ages from K-8 as would be typical of the one room school. Because our space is limited a group of no more than 10 children would be needed. Any one interested in participating in this please contact **Katie Jackson, 989-872-3109** or jacksonk@speednetllc.com for more information.

The committee is very excited because construction of the **One Room Country School Museum Building,** which will be funded by donations designated for this project, will begin this spring. This building will house all the items that

have been donated from One Room Country Schools of the Thumb. The building will be 34 ft. x 28 ft. with an old style false front. The boardwalk in front of the building will be a continuation of the boardwalk at the One Room Country School.



Cass City students are pictured in front of the Barn after their formal presentation in the Schoolhouse during FFD 2010. They wore clothing appropriate for the period and this added to their over-all performance. We greatly appreciated their contribution to FFD and hope to have additional presentations this year.



Newly appointed One Room Country School Chairperson, Katie Jackson, is pictured in front of the schoolhouse. Katie schedules all of the volunteers for School Tours and Fall Family Days.

Sixteenth Fall Family Days

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairmen

With the 2010 Fall Family Days Event just a few months ago, we are already working on the upcoming 2011 Event. It will take place the **weekend after Labor Day, as usual, September 10 and 11**, with the **fish dinner starting a 4:00 p.m. on Friday the 9th**. The Themes for this year are **Wheat**, with related demonstrations and exhibits, and **Vintage Kitchens** including cookbooks, aprons and utensils. New this year will be an effort to organize **Kids' Farm Fun**, which will zero in on having information, that children can relate to, from the two main themes.

The net profit from our 2010 FFD Event earned us over **\$77,000**. The money is already earmarked for projects this year that will hopefully be completed and on display during FFD 2011 in September. See Boys Day Out article on p. 3 and Country School Museum article on p. 5 of this newsletter for the specific details of these projects.

We again want to thank the many folks that come forward to volunteer during FFD but we always have room for and need many more. If it weren't for our volunteers, we would not be as successful as we have been through the years. If you would like to get involved we would welcome you and please tell us of your special interests and we'll try to find the perfect spot for you. You can call **Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-658-8450**.

Throughout the years, our **FFD Sponsors** have been essential to the Event. They provide the needed funds to assure that, should the weather be inclement, we will have enough to cover the cost of putting on FFD. This was

especially called to our attention this past year as we had rain late on Saturday which affected our attendance but folks made up for it on a beautiful, historic attendance day on Sunday. It hardly seems possible that the time has come to make this request once again but we need your commitment by May 1st so that we can include sponsor information in our advertising and flyers. Therefore, we are including a **2011 FFD Sponsor Form** with this newsletter. If you have been a sponsor in the past, we would appreciate your continued support and of course we always welcome new businesses and individuals to consider becoming a Fall Family Days Sponsor.

Our kick-off **MEETING** for this year will be on **Tuesday March 22 at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall in Gagetown**. Hope to see you there.

Raffle Prizes

In our last newsletter we mentioned that **Mildred Spiekerman**, who has made an afghan for the FFD raffle for over ten years, was no longer able to do this and would some volunteer help fill this void for us. **Gwen Poole** of Essexville came forward and has indeed made an afghan for our 2011 raffle. Amazingly enough, following in Mildred's shoes, Gwen already has an afghan started for our 2012 raffle. Also, **Judy Hudson** of Decker has donated a cotton quilt with lots of red and green tractors on it for our raffle. We'll have more information about our raffle in our Spring newsletter.



One of our themes for FFD 2011 is wheat and related demonstrations. Pictured is **Jerry Auten** with one of the bundles harvested from our food plot back in 2001. Before combines, a grain binder was used. Farmers had to cut the grain, bundle it and take it to a stationary threshing machine. As part of our theme for this year we will be demonstrating this process during FFD 2011.

Grant Writing

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

Dennis has found a winning strategy when seeking grants for the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum & Village. He relates our story with that of Ray Kinsella who was searching for his dream and the command to build a baseball diamond in his cornfield. Author Terrance Mann tells Ray, "If you build it they will come. They will come for reasons they can't even fathom." This set Dennis to thinking and writing the following thoughts.

Is the Octagon Barn our field of dreams? Why do folks continue to volunteer and why do visitors continue to arrive in record setting numbers? The Barn has been saved but still volunteers show up on a regular basis to lend a hand on the current project. Is it to be neighborly? Remember when you knew all your neighbors and you went to their home to have a visit and then it was their turn to visit you at your house. Do you remember when someone in the neighborhood needed help and all the neighbors showed up to lend a hand? Neighbors helped neighbors build barns, take in crops, butcher beef or hogs, care for the sick and even round up the cows that got out. Certainly when the day is done there is a super-sized sense of accomplishment.

In the beginning this was how the Octagon Barn was saved from destruction, neighbors coming together with a common task before them. Soon they became known as the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn and they are as active now as they were in the

beginning. Over 400 volunteers come together to make School Tours and Fall Family Days a success.

Why do visitors come to the Octagon Barn? Do we connect with the past by visiting the past? Oh yes! I think so! Remember the days when we were children and the stories told by our parents and grandparents about how things were in their day. Yes the work was hard, they did without, and they walked a mile in knee deep snow to attend school. Remember the stories of the great depression. It had to have been tough; we are still talking about it in my family.

Why do you come to the Octagon Barn? Is it to insure the future? Many of us were not here when the Barn was saved. We appreciate the work of those before us but we can only pick up the dream and go forward from this point. One soon develops an appreciation for the past and there are lessons learned from the past. We idolize how one lived, worked and survived as a family. The closeness of everyone and everything draws one back. It is a part of us and won't be forgotten.

I think we come to the Octagon Barn for all of these reasons and there are probably a few more. We are the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. We are true neighbors, and by connecting with the past, we provide hope for the future. The people, the sounds, the smells and the work: I take it all in ...It feels good. The Octagon Barn is our field of dreams. All is well!

Hands-on Canning Class

Lila Arroyo & Mae Hoffman, Co-Chairpersons

Ever wanted to learn how to can or make jam? Then you may want to attend a **Canning Class** at the Agricultural Museum in the **Munro Building on Saturday, August 20th at 10 a.m.**

The Ladies feel that they can accommodate 14 students. The class will be co-hosted by **Lila Arroyo and Mae Hoffman**. Contact the ladies to reserve your spot or with questions, Lila at 989-872-2658 or Mae Hoffman at 989-269-7043. There will be a nominal fee depending on needed materials. This will be a hands-on class and everyone will take home a quart of canned vegetables and a jar of jam.

WANTED

Lila Arroyo, who will be in charge of the **Vintage Kitchens theme tent**, is looking for volunteers to make aprons. She has material, but folks can also use their own fabric and can make aprons for children, tea aprons, cover-all aprons or any apron of their choosing. These aprons will be sold during FFD. **Contact Lila at 989-872-2658** with questions or to volunteer to help with this project.

Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum

Doug Monroe, Museum Committee Chairman

The Thumb Agricultural Museum is now officially listed as a Museum in the State of Michigan and as such we are in the process of restructuring our method of operation. Up to this point all the ideas and planning were done by the Committee Chairs and Executive Board. Now that we are promoting the museum concept for our Village, the Board felt it was time to have a Museum Committee. The committee is made up of eight volunteers who have taken an active part in promoting this idea. After a number of meetings, the Museum Committee has set the following goals to aid in this reorganization: (1) develop a schedule of daily site tours, (2) design current narrative to provide a teaching manual for those conducting the tours, (3) create a brochure for visitors that choose to take a self-guided tour, (4) provide and standardize exterior and interior signage, (5) develop museum layout and above all (6) make the visitor's experience worthwhile.

Also, a major part of the discussion centered around security for our

treasures that have been donated for the various buildings on the site. Committee members are seeking information from all of the building chairmen to identify what they feel is needed to assure the security of the structure and memorabilia.

The plan for this year is to provide two types of tours: a **self guided** tour with a brochure consisting of a map of the grounds and building information for a \$2.00 donation per person. Second, an hour to an hour and half **guided** tour of our museum buildings with the ability to enter each of them so visitors get a total appreciation of what life was like during the 1920's and 30's. We are asking for a donation of \$5.00 per person over 6 years of age for this experience. The schedule for these guided tours will be 9:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The way this Museum concept is growing there will obviously be more changes down the road. We hope this will organize the site and make people's visits worthwhile.



Pictured is of the 1929 Dodge that at the time was on loan from the Charles & Edward Leik Brothers originally from Portland, MI. It was serviced at the Tuscola Technology Center and returned to the barn site. The vehicle is in beautiful condition and now looks right at home in the beautifully restored garage. In November the Leik Brothers donated the car to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. It had been in their Family since 1956 when they found it at a gas station in Howell, MI not too far from their home place. Over the years the Leik Brothers have been very supportive of our Agricultural Museum and have donated many items. These include a 1923 5 HP Economy single cylinder gas engine, a horse drawn wood wheel farm wagon, a horse drawn Milk Delivery wagon, a 1931 John Deere GP Tractor, Ox Yoke, 2 wire stretchers, a two tine harpoon hay fork, an old kitchen stove and now the 1929 Dodge two door sedan. We thank the Brothers for this donation and the many other items that they have donated through the years to the Thumb Agricultural Museum. If it weren't for folks like them our project would not be where it is today.

Newsletter

Database and labels.....David Eichler
 Editing.....Bob Him
 Design Layout.....Lois Moslander
 Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

The following donations have been made since our last newsletter.

- Cliff & Bell Atwater, Bay City, MI donated a dress and a 48 star American Flag.
- Lex & Ardis Tetreau, Cass City, MI donated ten magazines.
- Ron Colton, Marlette, MI donated a feed grinder for the Grain Elevator.
- Wayne & Karen Lenton, Uby, MI donated a counter/display case for the Grain Elevator.
- Frank & Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI donated a loop metal handle bale hook, a wood handle bale hook, one box of surge inflations, a Neverleak brand milking pail, a surge milking pail, a double pointed pick, a 26" wood jointer plane, a sausage stuffer, a steel pan seat, with bracket, for a cultivator and a 2 gallon vacuum milking system tank.
- Scott Bergstreser, Toledo, OH donated a countertop version Clipper fanning mill.
- Harold S. Frye, Mayville, MI donated asbestos siding cutter, lawn fertilizer spreader, 16" Reel type lawn mower, eleven 4" clay tile and assorted porcelain electrical items.
- Lou & Deb Fehner, Bad Axe, MI donated two 42" wood clamp, two 6 ft. wood clamp and a bag cart with scale.
- Franklin & Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI donated 3 grain binder canvases and 2 Roman Cleanser jugs.
- Melvin Gay, Saginaw, MI donated a No. 70 food chopper, wooden handle food chopper, wooden handle ice pick, pliers, needle nose pliers and a hand well pump with 20 foot pipe & foot valve.
- Dave Klama, Ruth, MI donated a bookkeeping register for the grain elevator.
- Terry & Ruth Dressler, Sebawaing, MI donated a horse drawn V wood harrow.
- Terry & Connie Spencer, Fairgrove, MI donated two F. E. Myers & Bro. Hay Carrier and a wagon running gear.
- Dunk's Garage, Harvey or Doug McIntyre, Uby, MI donated a variety of alternator booklets, several regulators, a Dwell volt & amp tester and a valve seat reaming kit.
- Jean Maitrott, Cass City, MI donated a dust mop cleaning bucket, Caro Poultry Plant chicken catcher, two McGuffy Readers, framed picture of Children on Stilts, Script alphabet wall poster, Octagon Brand bar of soap, pair of stilts, Damman Hardware yardstick and an Emmett W. Herdell Hardware yardstick.
- Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI donated an Elkton Lumber & Tile Yard yardstick.
- Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI donated a brass centrifuge grain sample splitter and a rotary dial wall telephone for the Grain Elevator.
- D/S Services, Inc, Jeff & Darlene Parsell, Cass City, MI donated a bean polisher.
- Duaine & Marilyn Phillips, Gagetown, MI donated a wool horse blanket.
- Dick & Lorraine Enos, Cass City, MI donated a white bedspread, 18 horseshoes, hay carrier track, sliding door track, sliding door hangers, plow/cultivator handles, horse harness, whipple tree, #60 flat chain, 10" strap hinges and wood shipping crate for harness from 1918.
- Betty Armstead, Zephyrhills, FL donated 25 old children's books with copyright dates from 1871 to 1963. A couple of titles you will recognize are "Winter Days in the Big Woods" by Laura Ingalls Wilder from 1932 and "Little Men" by Louisa M. (Mae) Alcott from 1871. Betty collected these books for years and sent them to us from Florida.
- Paul Krauseneck, Frankenmuth, MI, donated several 200 amp breaker panels and a variety of electrical supplies including boxes, breakers and wire.

**Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
PO BOX 145
GAGETOWN MI 48735**

Non-Profit Org.
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Up Coming Events

April 2	Annual Meeting Dinner & Auction at the VFW Hall, Cass City
May 7	Clean up Day at the Barn
May 11, 12 & 13	School Tours 2011 by appointment only
May 26, 27 & 28	5th Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet
June 11	Tea in the Purdy Home, 12:30 by reservation only
July 17	Concert at the Barn - Lonesome Mountain Boys
July 30	Tea in the Purdy Home , 12:30 by reservation only
August 20	Canning Class - Munro Bldg. 10 a.m. by reservation only
August 20	Tea in the Purdy Home , 12:30 by reservation only
September 9	Fish Dinner at 4 p.m. in the Munro Building
September 10 & 11	16th Annual Fall Family Days

Additional information about all of these events and reservation deadlines can be found throughout the newsletter or can be obtained from our web site at www.thumboctagonbarn.org

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site.

Donation in memory of Allan V. McDonald given by his sister-in-law, Jeannette M. McDonald Owendale, MI

Donation in memory of Anna Mae Grotkowski given by Gary & Deb Hansen, Saint Louis, MI
Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI had brochures printed for the One Room Country School and donated \$275.80 to cover the cost for the brochures.

Gleaner's Caro Arbor #106 donated \$250.00, a gold sponsorship, for Fall Family Days 2011.

Dorothea Quick, Midland, MI, a retired Cass City teacher, donated \$500.00 for the One Room Country School Museum.

Contribution in the name of Pat Hester given by her son & daughter-in-law, Brad & Beth Kitchin, Mesa, AZ

Harold & Lynn and Joel & Yvonne Koenig, Farmington Hills, MI donated as a Christmas present to their parents Alice Koenig, West Branch, MI and Walter & Phyllis Bothwell of Farmington Hills, MI

M/M Robert & Susan Darmofal, Toledo, OH donated in memory of Vincent Darmofal, brother of Stella Pizarek whose family owned and farmed the Octagon Barn Farm.

Donation in memory of George Schnell, Riley, MI, long time special friend and former neighbor, given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI & Ena Reintjes St. Clair Shores, MI

Donation in memory of Ellen Faye Toner for the One Room Country School Museum given by her husband, Dan Toner of Cass City.

Donations in memory of Karen Hollingsworth, long-time supporter of the Barn especially during FFD when she worked tirelessly in the kitchen, were given by: Rose M. Putnam, Cass City, MI, Evelyn & Andy Robinson, Lapeer, MI, Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubyly, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI, Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI, Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Bill Hollingsworth, Merrill, MI, Sandra Martin, Merrill, MI, Raymond & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI, Michael & Carolyn Allen, Merrill, MI, Shirley Skuczias, Merrill, MI, Dale & Louise Buehry, Cass City, MI, Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI and Marilyn & Duaine Phillips, Gagetown, MI.

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings are held at the Gagetown Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. June, July & August meetings are held on site in the Munro Bldg.

We're on the Web!
[http://
www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org)

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through February 11, 2011.*

Bernard Billingsley, Sanford, MI
Walter & Phyllis Bothwell, Farmington Hills, MI
Ray Christie, Freeland, MI
Lou & Deb Fehner, Bad Axe, MI
John Forshee, Caro, MI
Tom & Liz Fritz, Gagetown, MI
Alexander & Esther Gorashko, Vassar, MI
Neal J. Hentschl, Harbor Beach, MI
Robert & Noreetta Humpert, Fairgrove, MI
Randy Kursinsky, Midland, MI
Marvin & Liz Lambert, Kingston, MI
Doug Legue, Bay City, MI
Donna T. Lowe, Bay City, MI

Charles L. Mackay, Sr., Oceanport, NJ
Lesley Markle, Mattawan, MI
Don & Carla McKimmy, Bad Axe, MI
Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI
Jim & Betty Parker, Saginaw, MI
Jim & Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Dick & Sue Ransford, Caro, MI
Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI
Richard & Mary Stavenhagen, Geneva, IL
Tom & Lila Thompson, Caro, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI
Ken Watson, Gladwin, MI
Tom & Pat Young, Upper Sandusky, OH



Karen Hollingsworth, who passed away last fall, is shown here at FFD 2010. She has fulfilled her kitchen duties and is enjoying a cup of homemade ice cream. We will miss her always smiling face, cheerful sense of humor and her famous kumquat pie.