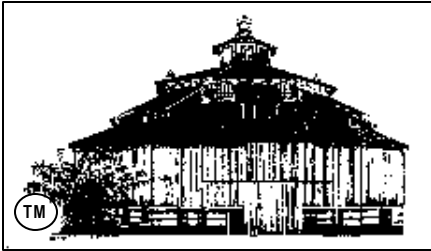


Thumb Octagon Barn News

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.

SPRING 2011

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

Our Annual Meeting provides the opportunity for the Friends to come together for an evening of fun and fellowship. We held our first Annual Meeting on March 10, 1998 at the Township Hall in Gagetown when 25 folks came together for the evening and we enjoyed punch and cookies. This year we gathered at the VFW Hall in Cass City and 141 Friends enjoyed dinner followed by our Benefit Auction.

Following the meal prepared by McDonald's Food Center of Bad Axe, our President, **Rose Putnam**, conducted a short business meeting including special recognition of several individuals for their contribution to our organization over the years. **Arnold and Reita Maxfield**, of Dade City, FL, were awarded a plaque recognizing their many years serving as caretakers on site throughout the summer months for the past ten years. Also, recognized for his dedicated commitment to the One Room Country School & Museum since the schoolhouse was donated to the barn in 2004 was **Leo "Bob"**

Gengler. He served as chairman and coordinated the fund raising project to match the \$10,000 challenge grant from **Judge John Brundage**, grandson of John Munro who was one of the Barn builders. He also worked diligently to secure donations to cover the cost of the construction of the One Room School Museum. We thank these folks for their dedicated service to the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and for being such fine examples of what it means to be an outstanding **VOLUNTEER**.

Beginning in 2002 the Friends have been recognizing a member who has made a noteworthy contribution over the years for the Barn Friend of the Year Award. The task of selecting this person is very difficult since we have so many

outstanding volunteers. The committee, **Wayne Lenton, Louis Wehrman** and **Margaret Sergeant**, looked over the suggested candidates and concluded that the person deserving of the 2011 Barn Friend of the Year was **Martin Kubacki of Uibly**.

Martin first became involved with the Barn when he brought a display to FFD in 1999 and realized that the chairman Bob Hirn, needed some help and volunteered to do whatever was needed. After some discussion he agreed to become Co-chair of the Event. Since then he has contributed so much to making the Event what it is today. He works to line up sponsors, obtains gifts for our raffle, designs and orders the plaques and buttons and handles the parking of visitors coming to the FFD. He also makes sure that all tents are in good order and properly placed. Because of his influence, he brought Congressmen Jim Barcia
(Continued on page 2.)

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
David Jaroch

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Doris Schember

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Corresponding Secretary
Norma Wallace

Past President
Bob Hirn

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

One Room Country School Chairman
Katie Jackson

House Chairperson
Marilyn Phillips

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Contributions to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible according to the IRS guidelines.

Web Site

www.thumboctagonbarn.org



Marilyn Phillips, Purdy Home Chairperson, is pictured presenting a plaque to **Arnold & Reita Maxfield** for serving as caretakers at the Barn for a decade.



Pictured are **Martin**, our 2011 Barn Friend of the Year, with his number one volunteer. From the very beginning his wife, **Luci**, who takes charge of collecting the gate fee and keeping the parking lines moving as well as preparing food for the Fish Fry has been right at his side volunteering also.



Rose Putnam, President, is pictured presenting **Bob Gengler** with a certificate recognizing his dedication to the One Room Country School project ever since the offer was made to bring the Schoolhouse to the Barn site from Sebewaing.

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



Dear Friends,

Spring has finally arrived. The site has been spruced up and looks great. Work has been underway all winter on the many items on the project list. Just like the "honey do" list at home, there are things that are not on the "fun" list, but must get done. Everyone has been pitching in.

The Annual Meeting/Dinner/Auction was very successful. In these hard economic times, we were very thankful for the record attendance and the outpouring of support. Thank you one and all whether you donated something or purchased something.

The Annual School Tours were fantastic. We were blessed with wonderful weather during all three days for the first time ever, if I remember right. We hosted over 1090 students who were chaperoned by 315 adults. I was a guide for a group of kindergarten children who were most enchanting. They have such an enthusiasm and thirst for all things. As we went from station to station, I was so impressed with the organization of the tour, the exhibits and the passion of all the volunteers everywhere we went on the site. We had over 178 volunteers this year. It still truly amazes me how fortunate we are in the Thumb to have this type of commitment. Also, I have to say that I had a wonderful time and want to mention that I thoroughly enjoyed the tale of Paul Bunyan as told by our shanty boy, Dennis Anderson. Many who attended said they will be back. So, thank you, thank you.

There is a lot of information in this edition of the newsletter, so please take time to read it all. You will see that a new tour system has been developed, which should enhance the visitor's experience.

Please come back and see the progress of the blacksmith shop, the second walking bridge and the one room school museum. Enjoy your summer and be sure to tell all your friends and relatives to stop in too.

Rose

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

(continued from page 1)

and Terry Brown together to support our efforts to purchase land from the DNR. As President of the Thumb Two Cylinder Club he encouraged many of those members to support our project and promoted the idea of forming our first partnership with the Club. Martin plows our demonstration plot to get it ready for planting a crop that we use to showcase our vintage farm machinery. He uses a two-bottom plow and knows that his Dad would be so proud and pleased with the job that he does. Martin is always looking for ways to increase our volunteer register and strives to see that our numbers are ever growing. He spends many hours working on getting things taken care of that many don't even know about. His devotion to our project since 1999 has been outstanding and for all the work that Martin does both up front and behind the scenes, he's very deserving of this award.



Lowell McDonald had a grand time bidding on the homemade baked goods and must really love lemon meringue pie because he bid \$100.00 for this pie. However, he missed out on the raspberry pie made by **Lorna Gray** that **Paul Findlay** of Caro bid up to \$300. Pictured are Lowell, **Mary Ann Hirn**, the lemon meringue pie baker, and **Beth McDonald**, Lowell's wife.

Octagon Barn to be Painted

Grant Writing
Dennis Anderson, Chairman

It has been more than 10 years since the Octagon Barn has been painted. If you give close inspection you will see that it's time we do so once again. Thanks to the **Pinney Foundation** grant of **\$10,800** the Octagon Barn will receive a painting makeover this summer. We are very appreciative for

their support. We really wanted to do this project and now it's possible. The Octagon Barn is our main attraction and it is important that we do this needed maintenance. The color scheme will remain white with green trim. **Alan Ferguson**, a painting contractor from the area, came in as the low bidder.



Pictured is **Dave Osentoski**, auctioneer, taking his turn at the Auction. We were so fortunate to have both **Dave** and **Marty** handling the auction again and what a spectacular job they did. They bring so much energy and enthusiasm to an event always striving to bring the most money for the cause just as they have for so many years.

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.



Boys Day Out

The Boys, Co-chairmen

Boys Day Out has accomplished a lot. Since the beginning of the year we have put in 1440 man-hours and averaged 8 to 9 members present per day, one day we had 18 members. Some of our accomplishments are:

- ✂ Walls for the Blacksmith Shop all assembled and it is just a matter of putting them in place
- ✂ Planed lumber for the side-walls and roof of the Blacksmith Shop.
- ✂ A second walking bridge across the creek installed and 95% complete
- ✂ Railing has been made for the north loft of the Barn and half of it is installed.
- ✂ More work done on the machinery set up in the Powerhouse.
- ✂ Repair work done on the sawdust motor and sawdust pit at the sawmill.
- ✂ The sawmill crew has been doing mechanical work on the diesel engine that drives the sawmill when they do not belt it up to a tractor during Events.
- ✂ Installed a washer and dryer in the basement of the House for the Host Couples to use, instead of having to run to town each week.
- ✂ Restoration work on the McCormick Deering Grain Binder that the late **Lloyd Neumeyer** and his wife **Lori** donated in 2003 in memory of Lloyd's father **Edwin Neumeyer**. The plan is to have it ready for use during FFD for our wheat theme.

This past winter and spring **Lila Arroyo** has come out every Monday with homemade hot soup and sometimes

Annual Raffle

Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam & Doris Schember, Raffle Committee

Once again we will be holding our **ANNUAL RAFFLE** that has proven to be one of our most successful fund-raisers. **Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam & Doris Schember** are coordinating all aspects of the Raffle. The license has been requested, the prizes have been determined and the tickets will soon be printed.

Tickets will be sent to **MEMBERS ONLY** in the next few weeks. We appreciate your assistance selling our raffle tickets but you always have the option to return them if you do not care to participate. Once you make that request Doris, who mails the tickets, honors that request each year. If you would like additional tickets or didn't receive any, contact **Doris Schember at 989-665-2500**.

Our Raffle prizes are:

- ✂ \$300.00 – Donated by *FOTOB
- ✂ Vintage Handmade Quilt - Donated by Marcia Hammerbacher & Alzina Stratton (value \$200.00 + quilting fee)
- ✂ John Deere Pedal Tractor - Donated by Tri-County Equipment (\$170.00)
- ✂ \$150.00 - Donated by *FOTOB
- ✂ Handmade Afghan - Donated by Gwen Poole
- ✂ International (Model 1066) Pedal Tractor - Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment (\$168.00)
- ✂ Handmade Quilt - Made and donated by Judy Hudson
- ✂ Sears BBQ Grill-Donated by *FOTOB
- ✂ \$75.00 - Donated by *FOTOB

even dessert for lunch. This has been greatly appreciated by the Boys.

Plans for this summer are to erect the Blacksmith Shop and have it ready for Fall Family Days in September. We have work to do on making exterior trim for the Country School Museum Building that has been contracted out to be built this summer as well. All in all, a lot has been accomplished so far and if it wasn't for all the "fun and fellowship" we have, "Boys Day Out" would be a lot of work.



On April 4th there was a great crew working at the Barn as there is every Monday all year long. On this particular Monday the following were working. Pictured are front row, Tony Grifka, Ubly, George Wilson, Gagetown, Lee Sowden, Owendale, Jack Hill, Marlette & Bill Hollingsworth, Merrill. In the back row are Martin Kubacki, Ubly, David Jaroch, Ubly, Louis Wehrman, Reese, Richard Stacer, Ubly, Howard Gehrls, Reese, Ron Hoffman, Bad Axe, Bob Hirn, Cass City & Wayne Lenton, Ubly. Part of the usual crew but not pictured are Byron Arnold, Unionville, Karl DeSimpelare, Unionville, Jerry Auten, Cass City, Ed Nicholson, Fairgrove, Ray Caverly, Gagetown & Ron Coltson, Marlette.

- ✂ Parka-Donated by Brentwood Graphics (\$65.00)
 - ✂ Handmade Afghan - Made and donated by Diane Hoag
 - ✂ \$50.00-Donated by *FOTOB
- *Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn*

Pictured at left is the Vintage Handmade quilt that features squares that were purchased by **Marcia Hammerbacher** at an estate sale. They were hand-stitched and made between 1930 -1935. Marcia stitched them together and **Alzina Stratton** put on the backing and finished the trim.



One Room Country School & Museum

Katie Jackson, Chairperson



During FFD Katie is hoping to once again have groups of students that would prepare and present a Patriotic Program in the One Room Country School similar to programs that were a major part of the Country Schools in the past. Last year we had a group from Cass City Schools and a Church group from Caro. The programs were 20-25 minutes and featured a description of the one room school, patriotic songs and recitations. If interested please contact Katie Jackson at 989-872-3109 or email jacksonk@speednetllc.com for more information.

School Tours 2011

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson



What a success School Tours 2011 were! Great weather, wonderful students and outstanding volunteers. We were blessed with great weather all three days. It sprinkled a bit during the nighttime hours - just enough to settle the dust. There were 1,100 youngsters ranging in age from 4 to 14 accompanied by 315 chaperons. Two thirds of the students attend Private or Parochial Schools while the remaining third came from Public Schools certainly a sign of the times when Public School funding does not allow for anything but the basics. We are truly blessed that we had 178 wonderful volunteers over the three-day event. Diane so appreciates all of the many volunteers who do a wide variety of tasks all very important to the success of School Tours.

Like any Event there are always a few little things that need some attention and rethinking. On May 23rd Diane had a wrap-up session that for her is a listening time to hear from all areas as to what went right and what needs to be considered for next year's School Tours. Diane is an excellent listener and

always wants to make the Event even better. She felt that on a scale of 1 to 10 that she would give a 9 plus to School Tours 2011. Most agreed!

The dates have already been determined for **School Tours 2012**. They will be **Wednesday, May 9th, Thursday, May 10th**

and Friday May 11th. So mark your calendars for those dates and it's never too early to begin thinking about putting a request in for weather just like we had this year. Questions and comments may be directed to Diane Rapson Gabil at 989-892-3105 or drapsongabil@charter.net



Diane Rapson Gabil, chairperson for School Tours is very grateful to all the volunteers who help out during the Event. She presented each volunteer with a rain gauge with the Octagon Barn logo and website information on it as a thank you gift. We thank Diane for doing a fantastic job organizing every detail for this Event.



Each day before the students arrived, **Dave Jaroch** took the volunteers for a wagon ride around the grounds to show them where all the different areas were located. This was very helpful and informative.

Following are pictures of students and their responses, in their own words, to what they had learned while visiting the Barn. It is very interesting to LEARN what they remembered as they experienced the activities planned at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. Parental consent was given to include each child's picture in our newsletter.

What I Learned While Visiting the Octagon Barn



Livia from Oakland Township, said, "Bees make honey. They make homes. We watched two eggs were trying to hatch. A little circle trying to hatch. We saw cows and got to pet them. No I mean horses. We got to see horses' teeth. They were big. The guy opened its mouth with a carrot." (Livia smiled like the horse!)



Chase from Owendale said, "He never knew that some of the stuff belonged to Mr. Purdy because he lived here long ago. He owned the Octagon Barn. Shape of it is octagon and many barns ain't shaped like that."



Sierra from Deford said, "Learned that girls always had to wear dresses. In the wintertime it was cold. My Dad told me about the paddle - didn't believe him. When I saw it, I believed him."



Skyeler from Auburn said, "Learned that Paul Bunyan was born in Maine. He was a lumberjack. His mitten is Michigan. He was 36 axe handles long."



Reece from Auburn said, "Didn't know that put cloth with onions in a crockpot. Smelled weird. Put it on your chest, when woke up you were better."

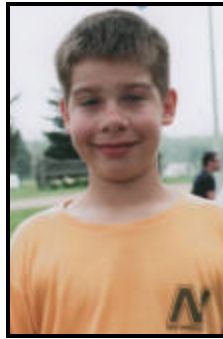
What I Learned While Visiting the Octagon Barn



James from Elkton said, "Say the pledge first and sing when first go into school."



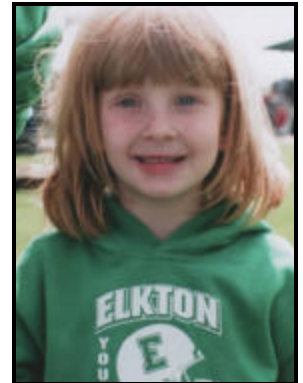
McKenzie M. from Elkton said, "Before went into school, rang the bell so knew that it was time to go to school."



Levi from Armada said, "Some of the stuff on display was used by the Purdys on the farm."



Kayla from Bay City said, "Didn't know that flour was made out of corn. Going to make corn muffins at our school. He gave us the flour."



McKenzie K. from Elkton said, "One chick was wiggling a little bit. Little pieces came off. Could see a little bit of yellow arm."



Elizabeth from Owendale said, "Learned about the one man axe. If use it that way could cut your leg. Not easy to build things. Very hard!"



Emily from Washington said, "The Purdys were the first people to have electricity to power their house. They made it."



Timothy from Avoca said, "Learned about STOP sign has eight sides same as the Barn."

Brenda Engler, (right) Kindergarten Teacher from Ubyly, said, "So far. So Good. Having a great day. Learned at every stop. Learned that you use peanut butter for hiccups. Did you know that?"



The Sounds of Bluegrass at the Thumb Octagon Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

The **Lonesome Mountain Boys** bluegrass band will make a visit to the Thumb Octagon Barn on **Sunday, July 17, 2011**. The performance will be held from **2:00 until 4:15 p.m.** The entire Museum site will be open from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. so visitors may have the opportunity to enjoy the site as well as the music.

The Lonesome Mountain Boys are not strangers to the Thumb area. Over the past 10 years they have played at farmers' markets in Bad Axe and Sebawaing, Bay Port Fist Festival, Bad Axe Hatchet Days, Harbor Beach Cabin Fever, the Michigan Sugar Festival in Sebawaing and church events. For seven years the band played in Sebawaing at band member **Richard Wrobleski's** birthday parties with the public invited. Besides Sebawaing resident Wrobleski, other band members include **Ron Smolka** and **Bill Bragalla** of Livonia who organized the group over 25 years ago. **Gerald Clarke** of Livonia, **Mark Kemner** of Eastpointe and **David Prince** of Clawson round out the band.

People attending the event on July 17 will hear a program of bluegrass, old-time and gospel music made famous by folks like Bill Monroe, the Stanley Brothers, the Carter Family, Flatt and Scruggs. There will be a healthy dose of down home humor and fun, all in a friendly, family fashion. The band has recorded three albums on CD, the latest being all gospel.

There will be two 50 minute sets of music with an intermission, at which time finger foods and soft drinks will be served. A nominal donation (suggested \$5.00) per person will be collected to cover expenses and mainly to support the future projects at the Barn.

Promoters of the event say, "Come early, enjoy the sites and plan on a great, relaxing time."

Tour Guide Training

David Jaroch, Chairman

Eighteen hardy souls braved the blustery weather Sunday, May 15th to share their knowledge of being a tour guide for the barn. Several tour changes have been implemented this year to more effectively and efficiently offer the best possible experience for the visiting public along with our on-site caretakers and volunteer tour guides. Many questions were raised and a few answered during the "in the garage" hot dog picnic.

Some thoughts that emerged as a result of the training session were:

- ☞ First question to ask our visitors is what they expect from the visit. Then the guide can customize the tour.
- ☞ Some form of fencing similar to what has been installed in the Powerhouse should be placed in the Sugar Shack and Grain Elevator.
- ☞ The Sawmill and Munro Buildings will be accessible only with a Tour Guide.
- ☞ Need to have a notification system to let caretakers and tour guides know that a visitor has entered the premises.

The goal is to have volunteer tour guides available on Sundays in June, July and August. Please let **David Jaroch, 765-409-5891** know if you wish to help as a tour guide this year. We will try to pair a new guide with an experienced guide at first. **We hope all of our guests will be able to experience the peace and tranquility of a day at the Thumb Octagon Barn and come back often.**

Fall Family Days 2011

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

Work is moving forward in preparing for the **16th Annual Fall Family Days Event**. So far we have received a little over \$14,500 in sponsorships, which is slightly ahead of last year. This money goes to help cover the cost of putting on this Event that has been a little over \$30,000 in past years. Our reason for asking for Sponsorships is to help cover the cost if we should get a rain out greatly effecting our income thus necessitating use of general fund dollars to cover the cost of putting on the Event. FFD is our biggest fund-raiser of the year and essential to providing the needed funds to continue our development of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.

Preparation for this year's themes **Wheat, Vintage Kitchens and Utensils** and **Kids Farm Fun** is well underway. The wheat field is just now being planted as we want to harvest the crop in

early September in hopes that it will be standing upright and not overly ripe. During School Tours, the FFD Theme Chairmen had a chance to get a preview of what will be of interest to our young visitors during FFD when the Children's Theme is **Kids' Farm Fun**. We will be incorporating activities of interest to children as they relate to our other two themes, **Wheat** with related demonstrations and exhibits and **Vintage Kitchens** including cookbooks, aprons and utensils.

If you have any questions about the upcoming Event, call Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-658-8450. As always, we are looking for volunteer help. If you are willing to donate a few hours of your time please let us know.

Grounds

Louis Wehrman, Chairman

Louie could not have been happier as he saw teams of volunteers come on site and move to their area and begin cleaning and organizing in preparation for opening to the public and School Tours. Everyone accomplished so much that indeed things will be ready for the arrival of visitors and our young students.

Pictured at right are some of our volunteers working on Saturday, May 7, 2011.



Byron Arnold & Karl DeSimpelare from Unionville are busily working in the Pow-erhouse cleaning and rearranging things for the arrival of our students. They have installed railings to assure the safety of the children as they view the process that Mr. Purdy used to generate electricity for his farmstead.



Louise Buehrly of Cass City is using a blower to bring down the many cobwebs that accumulated over the winter and needed to be removed.



Doug Monroe, Gagetown, is moving one of our barrel trains out from the Barn where it had been stored for the winter. The barrel trains are used during FFD and their removal made it easier for the ladies to clean the 180 individual panes of glass in the 30 windows on the lower level that encircle the Barn.



Alex Paladi is pictured in front of the organ donated to the Barn in 2002 from the estate of **Hazel Spero** of Unionville. The organ is probably over a hundred years old according to her daughter **Laura Gotham** of Marquette. Her Mother visited the site in 1999 at age 95. She died in 2001 and would be so pleased that the organ has found a new home and is being enjoyed by the many visitors to the Purdy Home.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Cora's Cleaning Crew was busy getting everything in order for School Tours when students visited. Volunteers were placed throughout the house to talk with students where they learned about some of the special features of the house. The committee was delighted to have **Alex Paladi**, who years ago restored the Purdy Family Melodeon, talking with students in the Sitting Room where an organ that was donated in 2002 from the estate of **Hazel Spero** of Unionville was on display. When someone touring had some musical experience he let them play the organ that had been donated to the barn some years ago. What a delightful experience for all.

However, like any home The Purdy Home needs cleaning at least once a week and especially before the scheduled Teas. If you would like to become a member of **Cora's Cleaning Crew**, call Marilyn at 989-977-0025 or email her at marilyn.p@att.net.

Canning Class

Lila Arroyo & Mae Hoffman, Co-Chairpersons

If you would like to learn how to can or make jam, then you will want to attend a **Canning Class** at the Thumb Octagon Barn in the Munro Building on **Saturday, August 20th at 10:00 a.m.**

There will be room for 14 students. The class will be co-hosted by Lila Arroyo & Mae Hoffman. Contact the ladies to reserve your spot or with questions, **Lila Arroyo 989-872-2658 or Mae at 989-269-7043**. There will 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. Reservations by Aug. 1.

Wanted - Barn Type Kerosene Lanterns - Size 2

These Lanterns will be converted to electric and used in buildings on the barn site.

For more information contact Byron Arnold, 989-674-8658

Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

Doug Monroe, Museum Committee Chairman

The Museum Committee has been looking into security for our Agricultural Museum. We have had three representatives give us an assessment of our needs and an estimate of the cost of their systems to provide smoke/fire detectors as well as surveillance cameras. A decision will be made in the near future.

A brochure for visitors as they tour the Barn Site has been prepared to provide a

guide with information about the History of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.

Plans are to add a section to our informational Welcome Center at the northwest entrance of the Barn telling the story of the Builders of the Purdy Home and the Octagon Barn. Mr. Purdy had the dream of building his air castle and **John**

& George Munro made it happen. Recently, **Judge John Brundage** from Marshall, grandson of John Munro, visited the Barn and brought a collection of his grandfather's wood-working tools that were used in the construction of the Barn. These tools will be a part of the display recognizing the building skills of the Munro Brothers.

New Guidelines for Tours of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

David Jaroch, Chairman

This year the Barn is offering two types of tours, a Self-Guided Tour and a Guided Tour by the Host Couples or Barn Volunteers. For Self-Guided Tours we are asking for a \$2.00 donation per person. Visitors will be able to walk around the grounds and view the buildings on site. They will receive a brochure that provides information about each building, however they will not have access to the buildings.

The Guided Tours will include everything mentioned above, but will also allow access to the interior of the buildings. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation per person and the Guided Tours will take between an hour and an hour and a half. We plan to have shuttles available for the guided tours so visitors will not have to walk around the grounds. The Guided Tours are scheduled for 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 and 4:00 p.m.

Members of the Thumb Octagon Barn are invited to tour the Barn from May through October at no charge because of their membership. However, guests are asked to donate the designated amount for the tour of their choice and children under six years of age are free.

Upon your arrival, we ask that you park north of the powerhouse in front of the Visitor Parking sign and enter the Barn. There you will be greeted by either the on site caretaker or a Barn volunteer tour guide. The Welcome Center display will give you a brief introduction to the Barn and the handy brochures will provide additional information. Feel free to sign the guest book at this time or wait until after the tour.

Your tour begins in the Barn. Enjoy its structure and understand the vision that led to the building of the Octagon Barn. Ask as many questions as you wish. We look forward to having you enjoy the Barn as much as we do.

The next stop is the Powerhouse that was designed to produce electrical power by burning dried peat bricks. The fully restored powerhouse will take you back to the time when electricity was a luxury not a necessity.

Then you can move on over to the beautifully restored home of the James Purdy family. The eight bedroom, three bathroom home is decorated appropriately to the era and contains many items owned by the Purdy family.

An excellent account of the Barn can be found in the book *The Thumb Octagon Barn, The Story of the "Mud Lake Estate" Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow* available at the Barn for \$10.00.

The Friends thank you for your continued support of the Barn and hope you can visit often as either a visitor or as a volunteer for any of the many yearly events.



There is now an informational sign in front of the powerhouse telling the story of Mr. Purdy's plan to generate electricity for the surrounding communities and his farmstead as there was no commercial electricity available in the rural areas.



Jerry Booms of Ubyly is working on the 31 GP John Deere Tractor donated by **Charles & Edward Leik** originally from Portland, MI. He is installing a rebuilt carburetor .

Newsletter

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

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

The following donations have been made since our last newsletter.

Pauline Hulburt, Cass City, donated the book Rural Education and the Consolidated School.
Don, Donna & Bud Wildman, Cass City donated in memory of Martha Wildman a picture of the Octagon Barn painted in 1992.
Jean Maitrott, Cass City donated a ruler/thermometer.
Rick Mohr, Cass City donated a wire/recorder radio.
Carol Jamison, Caro donated a push type one row planter.
Bill Hollingsworth, Merrill, MI donated 4" clay 90 degree elbow & 4" clay tile w/ribs on the outside.
Terry & Ruth Dressler, Sebewaing donated a porcelain cast iron "slop sink" still in the original crate.

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

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Gagetown, MI
Permit No. 3

989-665-0081

Up Coming Events

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, 8:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.
May 9, 10, 11	2012 School Tours

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

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)

5th Annual Barnyard Sale

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

This activity will be covered in our Summer Newsletter as the event will have already happened before you receive this newsletter.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Donation in memory of Charles Edler given by Owendale Class of 1953.
Donation for the Blacksmith/Welding Shop given by Barbara L. Wilson, Fort Collins, CO in memory of her husband James Purdy Wilson.
Donation in memory of Eva Sheufelt given by Doris & Earl Schember, Gagetown, MI
Donation in memory of Frank Schwartz, special friend and neighbor for many years, given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown & Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores
Donation in memory of Tom Wolschlagler given by Evelyn Schaad, Filion, MI
Donation for the One Room Country School Museum given by Janet L. Retford, Owendale, MI, Ruby Boyse, Birch Run, MI & Marilyn Peters. Cass City, MI.
Donation in memory of Everett Karl given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown & Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores.
Donation in memory of Durward "Butch" Miller given by Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI.
Donation in memory of James Purdy Wilson given by Pat Colman, Blackfoot, ID.
DJ's Portable Toilet Rental donated the use of one sink during school tours. (\$70.00 value)
Donation in memory of Larry Carpenter given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI
The family of Karen Hollingsworth would like to thank all the Friends for their loving support throughout her illness and sudden passing.

Teas in the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

There will be three Teas/Luncheons hosted in the Purdy Home on Saturdays throughout the summer months at 12:30 p.m. The fee is \$15.00 per person.

For information regarding the Teas call Judy Wallace at 989-872-2766

or check our website: www.thumboctagonbarn.org

The schedule, hostesses and themes are as follows:

☞ **June 11th** - Garden Tea Hosted by Gail McCreedy
For reservations call Gail at 989-665-0127

☞ **July 30th** - Tea featuring "Aprons of the Past"
Hosted by Judy Wallace
For reservations call Judy at 989-872-2766

This tea is SOLD OUT

☞ **August 20** - Tea featuring Early Country Kitchens
Hosted by Michele Szostak
For reservations call Michele at 989-672-0052

RESERVATIONS FULL but taking a waiting list.

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through May 23, 2011.*

Jacqueline Bennett, Standish, MI
Mike Colburn, Caro, MI
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI
Robert O. Ethier & Eleanor McDonald
Ethier, Milledgeville, GA
Bonnie Gaeth, Owendale, MI

Cheryl Hambricht, Vicksburg, MI
David & Marie Jaroch, Ubly, MI
Mrs. Rita Kaake, Gagetown, MI
William Kaake, Woodsboro, TX
Paul MacCallum, Owendale, MI
Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI

Glen & Maxine Moore, Unionville, MI
Chuck & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI
Marie B. Reifel, Detroit, MI
Betty R. Robinson, Jacksonville Beach, FL
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
Lee Sowden, Owendale, MI