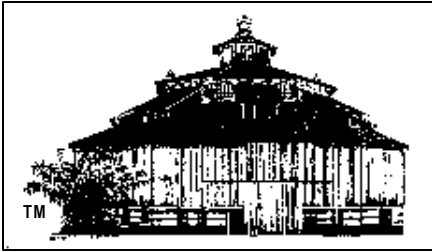


Thumb Octagon Barn News

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.

SUMMER 2011

16th Annual Fall Family Days

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairman

Our 16th Annual Fall Family Days will begin on **Friday, September 9th** at 4 p.m. with a **FISH SUPPER** served until 7 p.m. **George and Lavonne Pettinger** are organizing all of the details for the supper and happy to announce that **Greg Talaski** of Kinde will be returning to prepare and cook his famous fish. After supper, folks are invited to gather in the Barn for some old-time music provided by the **Eastern Michigan Music Makers** who encourage those interested to bring their own instruments and join in the fun. Then on **Saturday, September 10th** and **Sunday, September 11th** from 8 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. everything will be available for families to enjoy from demonstrations to delicious food. **Admission is \$4.00 per person, children under six years of age are free.**

With only a few weeks to go the pressure is on. A lot of new displays and demonstrations have been added to this year's Event. This summer we were fortunate enough to obtain a **veneer mill**. It is one of four mills in the State that we know of and originally it came from this area. Roughly thirty years ago **Harry Forshee**, who lived west of Caro, sold it to group down in the Richmond Area. It was no longer going to be used and they contacted us to buy it. It will be a nice addition to the demonstrations that go on out in the **Sawmill Area**.

We have three themes for FFD 2011. The themes are: **Wheat** with related demonstrations and exhibits, **Vintage Kitchens** including cookbooks, aprons and utensils, and **Kids' Farm Fun** that will have activities relating to our themes in the Children's Activities Tent. See pictures on this page for details.

We will have the **Blacksmith Shop** enclosed and ready to use for

demonstrations this fall as well. It will not be 100% complete, but ready for demonstrations. A grain binder donated by **Edwin and Lloyd Neumeyer** of Bay City has been worked on all winter by **Wayne Lenton** and will be ready for demonstration with this year's **Wheat Theme**. According to **Louie & Linda Wehrman** our Vendor count of 225 spaces is the highest it has ever been. We will also have a new vendor selling books he has put together about **Michigan Back Roads**.

Some of the returning activities include: the **Grain Elevator** which will have some of the donated equipment in operation running off line shafts and the **Sugar Shack** which will have the evaporator working making sorghum syrup as we have done in the past from plants that **Ray Caverly** has raised. Having the evaporator set up inside a building will add to the originality of this type of operation. Special presentations will be held in the **One Room Country School** and we'll have **Barrel Train and Wagon rides** across the

Continued on page 4.



Lila Arroyo, Vintage Kitchens Theme Chairperson, will have displays of vintage utensils, cookbooks and aprons in the Theme Tent, behind the Purdy Home. She will have demonstrations of making flour from wheat, vintage utensils and how they were used, how to make blue cornmeal muffins and **George Wilson** will be demonstrating how to make his famous tortillas. There will also be over one hundred handmade aprons on display and for sale during FFD in the theme tent.



Activities for our theme of **Wheat**, with related demonstrations, will be occurring in two locations. The Grain Elevator Building, chaired by **Louie Wehrman**, will have displays of **Wheat** and the wheat products that are locally grown and their uses. The display pictured was prepared by the Pigeon Cooperative Elevator. During FFD our **Field Demonstrations** will be harvesting a special crop of wheat that has been planted so that it will be ready for harvesting with the antique farming equipment.

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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



The Kids' Farm Fun theme will be in the Children's Activities Area chaired by **Mary Inbody & Bernadette Schwalm**. There will be displays and activities that relate to our two themes. Pictured are children playing in a tub full of grains of wheat and they are having fun measuring, pouring, straining and filling containers.

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

Dear Friends,

What a beautiful, warm summer we've had. The good weather has allowed for steady progress on the project list. The most awesome sight is the newly painted barn. Wow, does it look great with a fresh coat of white paint on the sides and a coat of black on the base. Hopefully you'll have time to come out to see it soon.

The construction of the one room school museum is underway. We are so very excited. The "shell" of the building will be up by Fall Family Days. The interior will be completed as fundraising continues. The blacksmith shop is progressing well. Stop to see it when you visit. We've had some expert advice to set up the interior and we can't wait to get it completed. The sugar shack has been wired with electricity and that will certainly help when inclement weather necessitates closing the windows and doors so the presentation can continue. Check out the unique lighting fixtures! Additional equipment is now up and running in the grain elevator and is a fantastic sight to see. The walking bridge is completed and ready to handle the extra foot traffic during busy times.

With the help of many volunteers, the Barnyard Sale was very successful. On July 17th, we had our *first ever* concert. Everyone had a very enjoyable day relaxing to the sounds of bluegrass music even though the day was very hot.

August and September will be very busy at the barn. A tea party is planned for August 20th. Then on September 1st, a program called "Teamwork and Timbers" will feature learning about timber framing and the construction of a replica timber frame barn. Then Fall Family Days is here. There are a lot of the favorite activities returning and some new ones scheduled. Please see all the related information in this newsletter for dates and times.

We hope to see you soon. Come and enjoy this jewel here in the Thumb. Your friend and president,

Rose

Teamwork and Timbers

A one-time opportunity is coming to the Thumb Octagon Barn on Thursday, September 1, 2011. "**Teamwork and Timbers**" is a program sponsored by the National Barn Alliance and the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. It's a one day workshop learning about community, traditions, barn vocabulary, techniques and of course teamwork. **The fun part is the assembly a quarter-sized timber framed barn replica.** Students 10 years and older or adults are encouraged to attend. The program starts at 9 a.m. with class-

room instruction, followed by a video, then lunch and on to construction. What a fun way to learn an old trade and spend some time with your child or grandchild. The cost is \$10.00 per person, which includes a box lunch. There is room for 20 participants. Please register early. The deadline is August 29th.

Call Rose Putnam Monday through Friday at 989-673-3184 or e-mail rose.putnam@chemicalbankmi.com for more information.

School Tours 2012

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

SCHOOL TOURS 2012 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 9th, Thursday, May 10th & Friday May 11th 2012 by appointment only. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 per each person attending our school tours activities.

Those interested in reserving a place for one of those days should contact Diane by phone 989-892-3105 or better yet e-mail her at drapsongabil@chartermi.net. Information is available on our web site as well, www.thumboctagonbarn.org. Also, information will be sent to all Thumb Area Schools regarding School Tours 2012 when school resumes in the Fall.

We are always looking for more **VOLUNTEERS** to help out during those three days and you can use the above information to get in touch with Diane if you can volunteer some time to help out during School Tours 2012. Early next year, this year's volunteers will be receiving a postcard reminding them of the School Tours dates for 2012 so that they can plan accordingly. Every volunteer is important and we don't want to miss anyone because they weren't contacted. Please direct any question or comments to Diane using the contact information listed above.

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Fall Family Days are coming soon. For anyone interested, Joan will be at the souvenir trailer on **Friday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday during FFD hours.**

We have all kinds of neat Christmas gifts; a glass bottle, a thermometer, a rain gauge (all with the Barn logo), plus our clothing line. Come early for best selection. We will have navy and green long sleeved T's, a plum colored V-neck T, this year we have a beautiful new pink color and ash gray for the men.

You are our greatest advertising tool, we keep our prices low so we can see you in our travels all over the state and out of Michigan too. See you at FFD at the souvenir trailer behind the garage.

Grant Writing

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

Thanks to the **Pinney Foundation** grant of \$10,800, the Barn has a fresh coat of paint and the four foot high foundation that encircles the Barn has been painted black and that really finishes it off beautifully. Every detail was taken care of and it looks fantastic and pretty as a picture and I'm sure many a picture will be taken of this impressive, unique structure. It is the centerpiece of the Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum and it is so important that we maintain it so that it never again looks like it did in 1992 when the Friends began working to SAVE it and restore it for the community. **Duncan Painting of Decker** owned by **Alan Ferguson** was awarded the bid for the painting job.



Painters from **Duncan Painting** are finishing off the windows on the dormers and cupola. Look closely and you will see them painting away. They look so small dwarfed by the immense size of this structure.

5th Annual Barnyard Sale

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

The weather was not on our side on Thursday at the barnyard sale. It was rainy and very cold, but garage sale folks are determined and the weather didn't stop them, so as a result this was our biggest sale day. On Friday and Saturday we had a steady stream of visitors who shopped, visited, ate and enjoyed the peace and quiet of this beautiful setting. Lila would like to thank all the folks who worked during this holiday weekend. We had many volunteers that helped before, during and after the sale. As always we can use more volunteers and especially more items for our sale. If you are able to help in either area please contact **Lila at 989-872-2658**.

A great big thank you to Lila who works very hard the weekend of the Sale as well as working all year long making herself available for folks who have things for the sale that they want to donate right now.

The pictures on this page give you a feeling of the "treasures" that folks purchased.



Pictured are chairperson, **Lila Arroyo** and Barnyard Sale shopper **Shirley Arnold** of Caro. Lila was glad to touch base with Shirley who is making aprons for FFD. Lila is in charge of the FFD theme tent featuring **Vintage Kitchens** and has been recruiting folks to make aprons that will be sold during FFD. Lila never misses an opportunity and is certainly able to multi-task.



Ashley Rockefeller, Elkton, purchased this chair. She opened the chair and folded it several times before deciding to buy. Ashley is a student at Central Michigan University and felt that this chair would be perfect for her dorm room because it was comfortable and folds up to save storage space.



Henry & Vi Sugden, Caro saw the ad telling about our Sale in the Shopper's Advantage, so they decided to come and take a look. A number of years ago the Sugdens served as caretakers on site for the Friends. They were amazed at all the new buildings and how the site has grown and changed. Henry is pictured with a screen that you put over your screen door to prevent animals from scratching the screen.



All during the Barnyard Sale our volunteers had great fun trying to figure out what a particular item was and what it was used for. Late on Saturday, **Maury Haag** of Gagetown, picked up this item and was also curious about its uses. As a member of the Huron County Historical Society he was certain that he would be able to find out what the item was used for so he bought it for \$4.00. An update - we still don't know anymore. Any thoughts?



Tommy Schmotzer & Brenda McFarland, Cass City purchased this snow or dirt blade. It was so cold that we thought a little snow could possibly happen that day. Our sale was in May and you can see how bundled up folks were.



Reba Wurster, Caro, has just moved to the area from Las Vegas. She selected this Tiffany Lamp and assorted glassware. She was having a hard time making her selections and kept going back and back again and adding special pieces to her treasures. Reba became a member and has agreed to volunteer to help out during some of our activities. We're glad that she came to Michigan from Nevada.



Lois and George Moslander, Cass City, each found some treasures. Lois bought a crewel wall hanging kit and George was delighted that he found a broiler. He already has one but was pleased because he plans on giving this one to a friend as a gift.

Shelley Armstead, Midland, purchased many items and was thrilled. Her purchases included a pitch fork, an Amish bench, a teapot and a sign that read "Life is all about how you handle plan B."



Kerosene Lanterns

In our last newsletter we requested **size 2 barn type kerosene lanterns** that will be converted to electric for use in our buildings. **Byron Arnold** is doing the conversion and has received several lanterns but would like more. He has been able to put lanterns in the Sugar Shack and would like to have them in all our buildings that are part of our Village. **Arnold** is pictured at right with one of the lanterns that he has converted to electric.



16th Annual Fall Family Days

(continued from page 1)

creek and farm animals in the Barn for the children.

Their will be some new **Ladies Workshops** this year chaired by **Linda Bailey**. Besides the **Pressed Flowers** and **Cornhusk Dolls**, Linda is bringing some new Workshops including **Fabric Stenciling**, **Cheese Making** and **Patchwork Borders for picture frames**. A schedule of classes will be posted at the **garage**, where the workshops are held, as well as on the map and schedule of activities.

We will once again be preparing all the delicious, **homemade tasty treats on site** for visitors' pleasure. These food items are: fresh squeezed **apple cider**, deep fried **donuts** made throughout the day, many batches of homemade **ice cream** churned every hour, hog kettle **popcorn**, homemade **bean soup**, **chicken strips** and **hand made fries**, **cotton candy** and of course the very popular **Farmer's Breakfast**, still \$6.00, prepared each morning by the **Auten Family** and friends. There will also be a food concession in the **Munro Building** with a wide variety of food items. Of course, we will have cold beverages available for sale at several locations on the grounds.

The **Eastern Michigan Music Makers** will be providing good old fashion music throughout the event just as they have for the past sixteen years. They will begin on **Friday** evening at **6:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.** with a **Music Jam Session** in the Barn and folks are encouraged to bring their instruments and join in the fun. On both Saturday and Sunday they will gather under the black walnut trees in front of the Barn for a **continuous concert from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m.** On **Saturday** evening from **7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.** the Music Makers will be playing **Old Time Music in the Barn**. You might even want to dance. On **Sunday morning at 10:00 A.M.** there will be a **Gospel Sing** in the area in front of the Barn set up for the daily concerts. The **Scottish American Society of Michigan** will be returning and will be playing in a tent outside the Munro Building on Saturday only.

All in all, the Event is coming together and there should be something of interest to everyone. We are looking forward to seeing you the **weekend after Labor Day, Sept. 10 & 11**. Our final planning meeting will take place on **August 23, 2011** in the Munro Bldg. when we check and double check all of the assignments and get a progress report.

One Room Country School & Museum

Katie Jackson, Chairperson



The Schoolhouse and Museum will be open to visitors during FFD for conversations and demonstrations. **At 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Saturday students from Cass City and on Sunday and students from Caro** will be performing patriotic songs and recitations similar to programs performed by students years ago in a Country School setting. Then the students, who will be dressed in period attire, will participate in the Fashion Show where they will again perform the patriotic songs that they performed in the Schoolhouse. The School can comfortably accommodate only a small number of guests so this will afford the opportunity to hear the songs that the students performed in the Schoolhouse.

Once again there will be an old fashioned **Lemonade Stand** in front of the Schoolhouse where visitors can get a cold, refreshing drink for fifty cents. Students will be mixing, serving and collecting the money for the lemonade.

We are pleased to report that the **One Room Country School Museum Building** is under construction and will be ready for next year's FFD. We are still accepting donations designated for this project that will help with the finishing touches.

WANTED – Donations of vintage clothing for school-age children and adults that can be used for Schoolhouse presentations. Contact Katie at 989-872-3109.



Each FFD Martin Kubacki takes the responsibility of designing the Sponsor Plaque and commemorative button. This year Martin chose a picture of a gentleman standing in a wheat field with a shock of wheat and a fork to highlight our Wheat Theme for our button. The picture is of **Howard Fenner (1873-1972)**, grandfather of **Howard Gehrls & Louie Wehrman**. Fenner farmed in Gilford Township of Tuscola County where the farm has been in the family for 130 years. The picture was taken in 1950 and speculation is that Howard was demonstrating how grain was harvested years ago.

Many folks have been collecting these buttons since our first FFD. We have had one thousand buttons made and they will be available for purchase at the registration table in front of the Barn and the Souvenir table.

PLEASE NOTE: NO PETS allowed on the Show Grounds. Please be advised that pets will NOT be allowed on the show grounds due to insurance and health department regulations.



Marvin Wilcox returned to the site to do the foundation work for the Museum Building. Marv and his crew had previously rebuilt the Powerhouse and did some cement work in the Munro and Sawmill Buildings. Pictured, working on the four foot high concrete block foundation of the 34 foot by 28 foot Country School Museum, are from the left: **Rod Deering**, Deckerville, **Marvin Wilcox**, Clifford, Marv's son, **Matthew Wilcox**, Imlay City and **Henry Cheney**, North Branch.

Raffle Tickets

Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam & Doris Schember, Raffle Committee

Many have returned their raffle ticket stubs and money but some are still out. Please remember that the stubs and money collected or unsold tickets should be returned by **August 15th but can be returned up until the drawing during FFD**. The drawing for prize winners will take place on **Sunday, September 11th just before the 3 p.m. parade**. If you choose not to participate, the tickets **must still be returned according to the rules of the Michigan State Lottery Commission**. Please mail all returns to: Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, P. O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735.



President **Rose Putnam**, a member of the Raffle Committee, is holding the beautiful hand-made afghans that were made and donated to the Friends for our raffle during Fall Family Days. The afghan on the left was made by **Diane Hoag** of Caro and the afghan on the right was made by **Gwen Poole** of Essesville. They are beautiful and oh so soft. you'd be thrilled to win one of these. Good Luck!

FALL FAMILY DAYS SPONSORS 2011

The following businesses and individuals are sponsors who provide the financial backing and/or goods to cover the cost of putting on Fall Family Days. We thank each and every one who became a FFD sponsor and encourage all to show their appreciation by patronizing those businesses that support our project.

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Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors to recognize their contribution. Sponsors below the bronze level receive a certificate recognizing their donation. **Richard Stacer** cuts the wood for the plaque from the original siding of the barn and **Martin Kubacki** affixes the commemorative plate to the wooden base.

Please note - Plaques are being hand delivered locally. For those Sponsors who are out of the immediate area and plan on attending FFD, would you please stop by the Registration Table on the NW side of the Barn and pick up your Sponsor Plaque. Those unable to attend will receive their plaque by mail.

Letter to the Members of the Friends of the Barn

Hi Friends of the Barn,

The 2011 Fall Family Day Show is nearing and every one is getting very busy for the preparation of this Show. Once again we are looking for more volunteers. We need you as a member to step forward to help us out in many ways. For example here are some of the areas we need help in:

- Set up the week before the Show
- Collecting money at the gate—Friday, Saturday & Sunday.
- Parking cars – Friday, Saturday & Sunday.
- Help with Sawmill demonstration.
- Help with Threshing & Corn Demonstration
- Fish Fry help on Friday and Friday night.
- Food Area – Collecting money, serving & preparation.
- Traffic control, Friday, Saturday & Sunday.
- Traffic Flaggers.
- Tractor shuttle drivers– Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

- Help with talking with visitors in the Purdy Home.
- Assist in the Black Smith Shop.
- Assist in the Grain Elevator.
- Clean up – Friday night after Fish Fry & after the Show on Monday.

These are just some of the areas where help is needed. Helping at FFD's is a fun way to become involved. You'll meet lots of great people and help in the effort to promote one of the Thumb's Show Places.

**Please call: Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526
or Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761.**

Martin Kubacki, FFD Co-chairman

Just a note. During the Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert on July 17, **Janet Higgins**, Sandusky, who has helped during FFD for years, wanted folks to know that we really, really need many more folks to help with the clean-up after the Fish Dinner. Janet will be there and we hope she'll have many more helpers.

Concert in the Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

Our very first Concert in the Barn was a big success in spite of the 90 plus degree weather. Folks gathered in the arena of the Barn with the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** situated at the east entrance to the Barn. We had planned on a hundred fifty plus and were delighted that we had over 200 folks show up for the concert.

Richard Wrobleski, of the Group, was the main contact for this concert and was most helpful in assisting with all aspects of this

endeavor. He did a fabulous job of getting the word out to the community and the fact that the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** are well known in the area was a big help. Richard also was responsible for getting sponsor funds to assist with the cost of the Event through **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**.

There were many Friends on site volunteering to do the many tasks needed to make this activity a success. **Dave Jaroch**, chairman, said, "Thank you one and all."



The arena of the Barn made for a perfect setting for the concert where guests were comfortably seated. The east entrance was transformed into a stage area where the performers were on a raised, carpeted stage. A big thank you to **Richard Stacer** who went into action when it was discovered that the existing stage had deteriorated and was unsafe for use. He built a new stage and covered the platform with carpeting that was an added bonus that the performers appreciated. The lighting was not quite as good as hoped for, so the plan is to purchase new lighting for future Concerts with the profit from this, our very first, Concert.



During intermission, guests could help themselves to the large selection of treats that volunteers had prepared for the occasion, as well as cool drinks. **Marilyn Peters** was in charge of this area and she had almost forty different folks bring snacks and goodies for those attending.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The Purdy Home continues to be a major attraction for visitors. Indeed it has been beautifully restored and is especially appreciated by guests of the Teas that are held in the Home. It is an elegant setting and we know that Cora Purdy would be quite excited about these occasions, as she loved to entertain. Three teas were held this year and plans are to continue them next year. Check the website for dates and times. The 2011 Teas will be covered in our fall newsletter.

Dale Churchill has arranged for half round eave trough, like the original, to be installed on the Purdy Home. They are galvanized just as they were years ago. Hopefully having the eave trough will help with the moisture build-up in the basement, as the rain will be directed away from the foundation.

Alex Paladi of Deford has restored a 1915 black mantle Ingraham clock donated by the late **Yvonne Salisbury** from Lake Orion, MI. It is now in working order and chimes on the half-hour and hour. However,

the clock is missing the decorative handle on the right side of the clock. He's hopeful that someone just might have this piece on an old clock that they would be willing to donate. Alex has successfully restored other pieces for the Friends including the Purdy Melodeon and the 110 year-old Estey reed organ. He will be in the House during FFD and will be glad to share with visitors more about these wonderful vintage items that have been donated and now restored.

The House committee is working to prepare the Purdy Home for visitors during FFD. The house will be open during the Event hours for a walk through. There will be no formal tours but committee members will be positioned throughout the Home to answer questions. Be sure to make this one of your stops during FFD as it is truly worth the time to see this beautifully restored 1920's Home appropriately furnished including some pieces that belonged to James & Cora Purdy, the original owners of the Home.

Teas at the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

The Teas at the Purdy Home will be covered in our Fall newsletter with pictures and details. They have been well attended and received by our guests. Special thanks to our hostesses, **Gail McCredy, Judy Wallace and Michele Szostak**.

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.

Doris Schember will be available at the Souvenir location to take care of members renewing their membership and will gladly welcome new members.

Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

Doug Monroe, Museum Committee Chairman

The Museum Committee encourages visitors to the Barn during FFD to learn more about the **Munro Brothers, John & George**. James Purdy had the dream of building an "air castle" but the Munro Brothers made it become a reality. You will also be able to see the actual tools used by **John Munro** during the building of the Purdy Home and the Octagon Barn. We thank **Bob Hirn** for carefully touching up the tools, labeling them and then

securing them. The display is in the Northwest corner of the Barn in the Welcome Center area.

After FFD, the committee will direct its attention to security for the buildings on our Site. We will be assessing smoke/fire detectors and surveillance cameras. We have had three presentations and we will determine which one we will be adopting or if we need additional information.



Judge John Brundage, Marshall, MI recently visited the Barn and brought ten tools from his Grandfather's toolbox. His grandfather is **John Munro**, one of the brothers who built the House and Barn. When he delivered the tools to the Friends, **George Wilson**, grandson of the **James and Cora Purdy** just happened to be working at the Barn. Pictured are George Wilson on the left and Judge Brundage on the right holding some of the tools. George quickly joked and said to Judge Brundage "My Grandfather hired your Grandfather to build this very unique Barn all those years ago. Probably cost a lot of money even then."

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

The following donations have been made to our Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter.

Joe & John Welter, Crosswell, MI donated fourteen items for the Blacksmith Shop including, cold cutter hammer head, homemade forge with table and hood, two pincers, curved lip and straight lipped tongs and a forge shovel.

Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI donated a wheat poster in excellent condition for the Grain Elevator.

Glen & Maxine Strieter Moore, Unionville, MI donated a kerosene can, cast iron griddle and a bread pan with lid.

Lawrence Holik Family donated a picture of the Wright School on Schwegler Rd. and a Wright Schoolhouse door head stone for the School Museum.

Judge John M. Brundage, Marshall, MI donated a collection of tools that belonged to his Grandfather, John Munro one of the builders of the Purdy Home and Barn. The tools donated are a 3/4" brace with auger bit, 3 inch no handle chisel, curve claw wood handle hammer, draw knife, 30" aluminum level, cutter type mattock, wood fore plane, folding 6' ruler, 5 pt. cross cut hand saw and a framing square. The tools are on display in the Welcome Center located in the northwest section of the Barn.

Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI donated two rope hay pulleys, a Myers O. K. rope hay pully, 100 lb. burlap bean bag, wood cheese box and a Hanson hanging 20 lb. scale.

Maury Haag donated a wood axle with solid wheels and a section of wooden water pipe that was the original water line used in Gagetown.

The Kunding Brothers donated, in memory of Arnold Neuman, a wagon rack lift for the Grain Elevator Building that is currently being stored in the Sawmill Bldg.

Frank Rastigue, Harrison Township, donated a pedestal vise for the Blacksmith Shop.

Margo Donahue, Pigeon, MI donated a 3' cant Hook, a wood level, platform scales, a corn sheller and meat cleaver.

Shirley Skuczias, Merrill, MI donated horse work harnesses.



Boys Day Out

The Boys, Co-chairmen

The Boys have been working every Monday on projects here, there and everywhere on the Site. They are working with an increased intensity as FFD approaches. They have a work list of must do items before the event and a list of tasks they hope to complete. You will be amazed at all the changes and improvements that have taken place thanks to their efforts. We'll have more about their effort in our Fall Newsletter, pictures too. But, if possible, it is great to see their work first hand. So come during FFD and you'll be impressed.



The wagon rack lift was dismantled and removed from the **Kunding Farm** on Rescue Rd, north and west of Gagetown, and brought to the Barn on a flat bed trailer. It was moved for storage in the Sawmill Building awaiting the decision on how and where to display it so it can be used and demonstrated. The equipment lifts the wagon rack off the running gear up to the mow or upper level where the contents (bundles) can be pitched into the loft for storage. The wheel is in excellent condition and we are most appreciative of this donation. Working on this project from dismantling to storage at the Barn site were from the left **Louie Wehrman**, Reese, **Bob Hirn**, Cass City, **Bill Hollingsworth**, Merrill, **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe and in the tractor **Wayne Lenton**, Uby. **Mae Hoffman** went along with the Boys and took wonderful pictures of the process from start to finish. She put them in an album for display purposes.



Sisters, **Jeanette & Jackie Goniwiecha** of Harbor Beach heard that we were looking for a corncrib to put in place where it originally was on the north side of the Octagon Barn. The sisters come to FFD every year and wanted to donate their corncrib, that had been built by their father, to the Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum. The corncrib was secured in its new location during the Barnyard Sale.

Newsletter

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

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Up Coming Events

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.

2012 Calendar Year

May 9, 10, 11 2012 School Tours (by appointment only)
May 24, 25 & 26 6th Annual Barnyard Sale

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 Leslie (Boss) and Mildred Munro given by James R. Munro, Gladwin, MI.
- Donation in memory of Georgia (Munro) Brauer given by Sally Brauer, Troy, MI
- Donation in memory of Nova Jean Miller given by Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI
- Jim Osentoski of Ubly donated gravel & stone used in our driveways valued at \$828.25. Osentoski Farm Equipment provided a discount on merchandise.
- A grant to cover the cost of painting the Octagon Barn was awarded by the Pinney Foundation.
- Trinity Episcopal Church's, St. Elizabeth's Guild, donated following a tour of the Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum.
- Diane Rapson Gabil donated \$491.20 to cover the cost of commemorative rain gauges presented to each volunteer during School Tours 2011.
- Michael Prich of Pigeon donated bales of straw used during School Tours valued at \$125.00.
- Marvin Wilcox, Clifford, MI donated \$200.00 in labor costs used during the construction of the foundation for the One Room Country School Museum Building.
- Donation in memory of Marvin Tschirhart given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly.
- Donation in memory of Richard Scharich given by Barb Scharich, Burton, MI
- Barb said, "Richard always enjoyed the Festival and came every year."
- Donation following the July Tea given by the Ladies of the Olde Thyme Herb Society, Bay City, MI
- Donation in honor of Mark & Diane Battel's 40th Wedding Anniversaries given by Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Nicol, Cass City, MI, Mr. Jim Ewald, Elkton, MI, Mrs. Fay Ballagh, Cass City, MI, Mr. Dennis Powell, Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Powell, Cass City, MI, Mrs. Josie Wolschlager, Ubly, MI, Mrs. Janice Winter, Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rockefeller, Owendale, MI & Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bethel, Belmont, MI.
- Donations in memory of Frank Schwartz, who farmed for 47 years in Gagetown and received the "Outstanding Soil Conversation Farmer of the Year in 1994", given by Brother-in-law Dan Toner, Cass City, MI, Cooperataive Elevator Co., Pigeon, MI, Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI, Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI, Sharon Cummins, Gagetown, MI, Gary & Cheryl Halifax, Harbor Beach, MI, William & Nancy Burrows, Gagetown, MI, Steve & Jennifer Steely, Cass City, MI, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI, Don & Ann Koch, Sebewaing, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kruse, Cass City, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI, Wanda Lenda, East Pointe, MI, Anna J. Lenda, Caro, MI, Eunice Richmond, Bay Port, MI, Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI, Dean Toner, Vassar, MI, Jon & Char Fahrner, Cass City, MI, Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI, Doris & Earl Sember, Gagetown, MI & Willa Vargas, Bellevue, NE.

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.
No Sept. meeting in 2011.

We're on the Web!

[http://
www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org)

Tractor Supply Company (TSC)

Tractor Supply Company is preparing their National Fall/Winter advertising literature and selected the Thumb of Michigan for their on site shoot. They chose a number of sites including several local farms and the Thumb Octagon Barn and Agricultural Museum. They used local folks for their modeling sequences.



Using the Purdy Home as a back drop, from the left are: **Jessica Flowers**, TSC Marketing Dept. from Brentwood, TN, the TSC photographer **Greg Latza** from Sioux Falls, SD and the photo subject wearing Tractor Supply clothing is **Jon Findlay** from Caro, MI. They spent the entire day at the Barn and their advertising will be on display throughout the country in Tractor Sup-



Ivernia Schwartz, wife of the late Frank Schwartz, arranged a visit and tour of the Thumb Octagon Barn & Agricultural Museum for five of her seven grandchildren. They arrived for the tour with Octagon Barn T-shirts and all had on one of Grandpa's caps.

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 15, 2011.*

Raymond & Norma Baur, Unionville, MI	Tom Muto, Midland, MI
Laurence Beatenhead, Unionville, MI	Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI	Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI	Ted Reetz, Ssaginaw, MI
Bruce & Marjorie Coleman, Rochester Hills, MI	Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI	Robert Rumon, Caro, MI
Richard Elliott, Garden City, MI	Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI	Rebecca Scovill, Lansing, MI
Steve & Cherie Holodnick, Ann Arbor, MI	Dan Toner, Cass City, MI
Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI	Joe & Pat Vandenberg, Shelby Twp., MI
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI	Patricia Wearmouth, Cass City, MI
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI	Lucile Wehrman, Caro, MI