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 a 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 Autzen Museum grounds.

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.

Contributions to 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

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.

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

Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org
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 M. Putnam

---

**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 classroom 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 plaid colored V-neck T, this year we have a beautiful 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.
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.

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?

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.”

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 19th 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.

Please be advised that pets will NOT be 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.

President Rose Putnam, a member of the Raffle Committee, is holding the beautiful handmade 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 Essexville. 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.

Gold Sponsors
($250 & up)
Barthlink Service, Cass City, MI
Bay Port State Bank, Bay Port, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Sally J. Brauer, Troy, MI
Cass City Oil & Gas Co., Cass City, MI
Dr. & Mrs. William Corsini, Bad Axe, MI
Country Fresh, LLC Flint, MI
Pat Curtis Chevrolet, Cadillac, Caro, and
Curly Chrysler Dodge Jeep, Deck, Cass City, MI
Dj’s Portable Toilets & Rentals, Owendale, MI
Gleaner’s Caro Arbor #108, Caro, MI
Hampton Potato Farm, Essexville, MI
Harris & Company, Dave Weiler & Family, Cass City, MI
Pat Hester, Cass City, MI
J. W. Hunt OTC Inc., Bad Axe, MI
Independent Bank, East Michigan
Fred & Barbara Joles, Fife Lake, MI in memory
Harris & Company, Dave Weiler & Family, Cass City, MI
Hartline’s Show Places.

Silver Sponsors
($150 to $249)
ACE Hardware of Bad Axe, MI
Atwater Farms, Inc., Ubly, MI
AVC.nl.net, Pigeon, MI
Bad Axe Tire Service, Inc., Bad Axe, MI
Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI
Chemical Bank & Trust Co. – Thumb Region
Sand Finkbeiner, Caro, MI
Greg & Christine Guza, Cass City, MI

Bronze Sponsors
($50 - $149)
Alway Skip Market, Gagetown, MI
Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Fligger, Ubly, MI
Lila M. Arroyo, Cass City, MI
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI
Jerry & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI
Raymond & Norma Baur, Unionville, MI
Laurence G. Beatenhead, Unionville, MI
Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI
Cromco Printing Co., Bad Axe, MI
Coach Light Pharmacy, Cass City, MI
Ron & Loris Colston, Marlette, MI
Janet Coor, Reese, MI
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Sharon L. Cummins, Gagetown, MI
Di Service, Inc., Cass City, MI
Marlin DeShano, Caseville, MI
Karl & Mm DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI
Mary M. Downing, Gagetown, MI
Dan & Marlene Erda, Cass City, MI
Erda’s Food Center, Cass City, MI
Fritz’s Family Restaurant, Fred Diedrich,
Richville, MI
Dane & Polly Frost, Sandusky, MI
Diane Rapson Gabel, Essexville, MI
Gagetown & Unionville Funeral Chapels, Unionville, MI
Alan Heiles, Saginaw, MI
Ken Heyl, Leesburg, FL
HealthQuest of Bad Axe, Bad Axe, MI
Terry & JoAnne Herban, Frankfort, MI
Robert Hildibrecht Construction Inc., Ruth, MI
Dr. Susan Hoppe & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI
Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI
Douglas R. Jackson, MD, Midland, MI
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI
Pat & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI
Kerr Tours, LLC, Tim Bann & Paul Keast,
Reese, MI
Kick-N-Back Bar & Grill, JoAnn Zenelli,
Gagetown, MI
Jack & Betty Laurie, Gagetown, MI
James E. Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI
Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Attica, MI
Ken Martin Electric Inc., Cass City, MI
McDonald’s Food & Family Center, Bad Axe, MI
McDonald’s Restaurant, Cass City, MI
Harvey McIntyre, Ubly, MI
Dwayne & Patricia Mead, Clifford, MI
Narayan Physical Therapy & Medical Equipment, Bad Axe, MI
Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI
Frank O’Donnell & Helen Weber, Ferndale, MI
Chuck & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI
Peabody Plus, Cass City, MI
Anton & Marilyn Peters, Cass City, MI
Mike & Druella Pisarek, Cass City, MI
Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI
Plain & Fancy Decorating, Nancy Braun,
Cass City, MI
Jim & Barbara Phill, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Pro-Build, Caro, MI
Ena Rejniak, St. Clair Shores, MI
Amanda L. Roggenbuck, Cass City, MI
Doris & Earl Schember, Gagetown, MI
Gerald & Jane Shember, Goodells, MI
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Beartown Grhs, MI
Mrs. Marjorie Helen Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Scottish American Society of Michigan,
Royal Oak, MI
Don & Jan Severance, Palm Harbor, FL
Shenando on the Hill, Gagetown, MI
Star Vision Center, Caro, MI
Mike Sterker, Fort Collins, CO
Bob & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI
David Sting Farm, Unionville, MI
Superior 1, Inc. Marv Klein, Cass City, MI
Kenneth F. Tisue, DDS, Caro, MI
Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Elton, MI
Thumb Insurance Group, Cass City, MI
Total Corn, LLC, Cass City, MI
Henry Tschetter (Brooms), Rockford, MI
Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI
Uby Motor Service, Ubly, MI
Valley Collision, Ubly, MI
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI
Walmart Stores, Inc. Caro, MI
Marvin & Alice Weese, Kawakin, MI
Barbara L. Wilson, Fort Collins, CO
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI
Richard & Vera Wrobieski, Sebewaing, MI

Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors to recognize their contribution. Sponsors below the bronze level receive a certificate recognizing their donations.

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 walls 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.

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 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 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.

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 McCreedy, 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 - $10.00 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.

---

**MUSEUM DONATIONS**

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

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

- Joe & John Welter, Croswell, 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 Strietter 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 Schweger 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 ¾ “ 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 pally,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 Kundinger 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 Raetlage, 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 Skuczas, 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.

**Newsletter**

Database and labels.............David Eichler
Editing................................Bob Hirn
Design Layout....................Lois Moslander
Newsletter Coordinator.........Margaret Sergeant
Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
PO BOX 145
GAGETOWN MI 48735

989-665-0081

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
2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

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

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.

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 Gabl 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 Tschihart given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI.
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 Anniversary given by
Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Nicol, Cass City, MI, Mr. Jim
Ewald, Elton, MI, Mrs. Fay Ballagh, Cass City, MI, Mr. Dennis Powell,
Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Powell, Cass City, MI, Mrs. Josie Wolschlagler,
Ubly, MI, Mrs. Janice Winter, Cass City, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rockefeller,
Owendale, MI & Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bethel, Belmont, MI.

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

Raymond & Norma Baur, Unionville, MI
Laurence Beateshead, Unionville, MI
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Bruce & Marjorie Coleman, Rochester Hills, MI
Rusku & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI
Richard Elliott, Garden City, MI
Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI
Steve & Cherie Holodnick, Ann Arbor, MI
Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI

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.

Ivernina 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 Tehirs and all had
on one of Grandpa’s caps.

We’re on the Web!

http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org

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

Raymond & Norma Baur, Unionville, MI
Laurence Beateshead, Unionville, MI
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Bruce & Marjorie Coleman, Rochester Hills, MI
Rusku & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI
Richard Elliott, Garden City, MI
Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI
Steve & Cherie Holodnick, Ann Arbor, MI
Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI

Tom Muto, Midland, MI
Phil & Kathy Nichols, Deckerville, MI
Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI
Ted Reetz, Saginaw, MI
Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Robert Rumon, Caro, MI
Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Rebecca Scovill, Lansing, MI
Dan Toner, Cass City, MI
Joe & Pat Vandenbush, Shelby Twp., MI
Patricia Wearmouth, Cass City, MI
Lucile Wehrman, Caro, MI