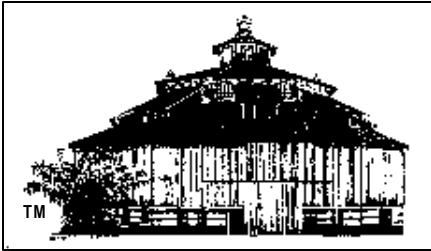


# Thumb Octagon Barn News

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.

FALL 2011

## A Super Weekend!! Fall Family Days 2011

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairman

What a super weekend! Our new weather committee this year did an excellent job. We had beautiful weather for the set-up days the week before the event and then the weekend was especially perfect. We have hired the same committee back for next year. Ha! Ha! The attendance was just over 15,000 for the two days which was only down about 400 from last year, the biggest ever. Our net profit was the biggest ever, around \$82,000 that will be a big plus in helping to fund all the projects that we have going on site.

Our **Wheat Harvesting Theme** was well received, as was the **Vintage Kitchen Theme**. The **Children's Area**

was bigger than ever and attracted many young visitors. The **Veneer Mill** was a new addition this year and folks enjoyed watching the demonstrations. Also, demonstrators and visitors appreciated the newly completed **Blacksmith Shop**. This year saw the greatest number of vendors with 229 spaces taken up.

We talked to people who had driven two or three hours one way to attend this Event and were excited about the displays and demonstrations going on. They commented that they keep coming back because each year there is something new to see. Bob talked to a couple from Columbus, Ohio that had driven up to attend our Event and to bring an antique donation to our Museum. This was exciting for our workers to hear.

We had just under 400 volunteers working through the weekend to put on this Event. All of this was a tremendous asset and a battery charger for the nucleus of members that put their time into making Fall Family Days at the Thumb Agricultural Museum happen. Thank you many times over to one and all for all the time and effort that was given to make this project a wonderful success story.

Our Themes for next year are **Potatoes** and **One Room Country Schools**. The potato theme will allow us to demonstrate old vintage farm equipment that we have not used before. The Schoolhouse Theme will give visitors a chance to look back in time to see what the classrooms were like in the early 1920's compared with what they look like today.

Our **17th Annual Fall Family Days** is scheduled, as always, the weekend after Labor Day, **Saturday, September**



Lew Martin, Decker is pictured demonstrating his blacksmithing skills during FFD just as he has in previous years. Also, demonstrating but not pictured were **Chuck (Grizz) Tousley**, Ellsworth, and **Nels Heydens**, Essexville. A blacksmith works with metal, heats it up and bends it to whatever shape is necessary. He was an essential person in the community who made and fit horseshoes. Lew has been a blacksmith for 12 years and has agreed to be Chairman of the Blacksmith Shop. Lew said, "I travel throughout the State demonstrating and it's phenomenal to be a part of what is going on at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. What's happening here is not happening at other Museums. It's really something special."



At 8:30 on Saturday morning our Opening Ceremonies began with the raising of our flag by the **Cass City VFW Post #3644** coordinated by **Kenny Hayes**. Following the flag raising, seven members of the Post did a "21 Gun Salute", then **Anita Hill** sang the National Anthem followed by **Emily Kuenzli** playing taps. A hush came over the hustle and bustle of FFD as folks stopped and some stood at attention saluting the flag and others had their hand over their heart during this ceremony. Very touching.

**8th and Sunday September 9th** with the **Fish Dinner on Friday, September 7th**. Mark your calendars and, if you could volunteer some time during the FFD activity please call **Martin Kubacki, 989-551-0526** or **Bob Hirn, 989-872-3761**. We can always use more volunteers and it's fun. It's never too soon to get involved. (FFD photos are on page 4 & 5.)

### Trademark

The Friends have officially registered our logo of the Octagon Barn that we have been using since 1993. You will notice TM now appears whenever this logo picture of the Barn is used. We are, however, using up our stationery and older souvenir items but anything new will now display the TM mark to the left of the Barn.



### Executive Committee

President

**Rose Putnam**

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

**David Jaroch**

2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org)

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

As I reflect on the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday and what I am thankful for, my thoughts immediately turn to the Thumb Octagon Barn project. This is the most energetic, enthusiastic, productive group of volunteers that I have been directly involved with and I am grateful to each and every one who volunteers. So, on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Thumb Octagon Barn, I would like to thank you one and all for all your time and efforts this past year. It's been an absolutely fabulous year. There were so many successful events with attendance and money raised, and a record Fall Family Days. We could not have done it without the support of all the volunteers. We realize that your time is the most precious of gifts to give. Again, thank you.

Each committee is busy making plans for 2012. There are many projects to be completed and any volunteer time you have will be greatly appreciated.

Security is an important issue now that we've grown and added more buildings and artifacts to the site. If you have a travel trailer, camper, or 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, we could use your help. There are times throughout the season that we need a presence on site. Along with that comes a request to help greet visitors and offer a tour if asked. Our goal is to offer the visitor a good experience so they will tell all their friends and want to return. We know this is the best form of advertising. Please contact **Dave Jaroch at 989-658-2133 or 765-409-5891** if you are interested in helping.

Enjoy Christmas Holidays and may God Bless You and Your Family.

Your friend and president,

*Rose*

## Boys Day Out

*The Boys, Chairmen*

Monday workday at the Barn continues to bring new help to the site. Each Monday, all year long, summer and winter, we have a workday with anywhere from 10 to 15 volunteers. We have finished the Blacksmith Shop and started the foundation for the new Cider Mill that we hope to have up and running by next September. **Richard Stacer**, Uby is spearheading the work on the north loft of the Barn and it is progressing well. We now have a walkway from the south loft to the north loft completed and most of the railing around the side of the loft above the arena is done. Now we are ready to do some cleanup work on the north loft so we can start putting up more museum displays. Some of the old machinery in the Sawmill including the wood lathe and box cutter have been repaired and belted up to the overhead line shaft for demonstration purposes.

This winter we will also be finishing the interior of the new Country School Museum building that was built this summer. Next spring we will put a new boardwalk across the front of the building. There is still a lot on the plate to obtain our "Village Goal" on site. If it weren't for all the fun and fellowship that we have on Boys Day Out, it would be work. We invite those interested in joining the Boys to contact **Bob**

## School Tours 2012 – Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2012 are scheduled for **Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> & Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup>** by appointment only. Diane and the Friends plan an exceptional, educational, experience for our young students and ask for a \$2.00 donation for each person attending School Tours. If interested in bringing a group of students or for more information contact Diane at [drapson-gabil@chartermi.net](mailto:drapson-gabil@chartermi.net) or our web site at [www.thumboctagonbarn.net](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.net).

## 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Barnyard Sale & Swap Meet

*Lila Arroyo, Chairperson*

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Barnyard Sale will be held at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum on **Memorial Day weekend Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, Friday May 25<sup>th</sup> & Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.** each day.

It seems early but Lila encourages those interested to start saving and thinking about things that they could donate to the Barn that could be used for our sale. Items should be in good saleable condition and can be anything except clothing. Lila is challenging members to bring something for the Sale to our regularly scheduled monthly Membership Meetings. You can also call Lila to arrange a pick-up or delivery to the Barn at **989-872-2658 or 989-912-0405**. We will also have vendors on site.

Hirn at 989-872-3761, Wayne Lenton at 989-658-8283 or Louis Wehrman at 989-693-6743.



The Country School Museum Building has been constructed near the One Room Country School by **Tracey Moore's TDM Construction**. Finishing the interior of the Museum Building will be one of the projects that the Boys Day Out crew will work on this winter.

## 2011 Recycling FFD Report

*Rose Putnam, Chairperson*

We worked very hard this year to encourage as much recycling as possible and compared to other years we experienced some success. Following is a list of stuff that will be recycled rather than finding its way to a landfill. Two full boxes of cardboard plus some that did not fit in the boxes, 1 box of water bottles, 1 box of plastic milk jugs and other plastic, 2 barrels of tin cans, 1 barrel of aluminum and a few glass jars.

Diane has been chairing School Tours for ten years and feels that we need to review the original goals and objectives for School Tours to be certain that we are indeed meeting those goals. If changes need to be made then we're ready to implement any suggestions as to how to improve this educational experience for our young students. These discussions will take place in early 2012.

If interested contact **Louis & Linda Wehrman at 989-693-6743** for details and to reserve a spot.

## Souvenirs

*Joan Koch, Chairperson*

During FFD, sales were brisk at the Souvenir booth with **\$4,699.50** of sales. We thank those who wear our clothing with the Barn logo and appreciate their willingness to advertise the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum from coast to coast.

We have great Holiday gifts that are readily available at 989-665-0081. Just call and leave a message to order or make arrangements to shop or pick-up a previous order. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts & hoodies in sizes from kids 2 - 4 through adult 4XXXXL all with the Barn logo on them.

# Teas at the Purdy Home

**Judy Wallace, Chairperson**

Three charming Teas were hosted at the Purdy Home this past summer. These Teas/Luncheons have become very popular and folks sign up early because we can only accommodate a very limited number of guests.

Following are the hostesses, contact numbers and the dates for our 2012 Teas in the Cora Purdy's lovely home. These teas are held on Saturdays at 12:30 p.m. and the fee is \$15.00.

☞ **June 16<sup>th</sup>** Hosted by **Back Street Quilt Shop**, Elkton

For reservations contact **Barbie** at **989-375-4620 – cell 989-375-2483**

☞ **July 21<sup>st</sup>** Hosted by **Judy Wallace**. For reservations call **989-872-2766**

☞ **August Tea** date and hostess to be determined.

The following pictures give you a glimpse of how elegant these occasions are.

## June Tea



A Garden Tea was Gail's Theme so she arranged for a horticulturist to speak following the Luncheon. **Courtney Walls**, Gagetown is a graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Horticulture and Landscape Design. Courtney at one time worked at Walt Disney World and said that it had been a wonderful experience. She shared some special tips for working with roses and perennials. She closed with this thought, "You are most connected to your Creator when working with his creations."



Pictured are guests enjoying the Tea and looking very festive in their period appropriate head wear. **Wanda Reinart**, Vassar, and **Sandy Keinath**, Reese, love to attend at least one Tea each year in Cora's elegant home providing them with the opportunity to wear a hat from their collection.

## August Tea



It takes a great team to put on one of these Teas in the Purdy Home especially the day of the event. Michele was grateful for the help that she had. Pictured are **Glenda Wilson**, Hostess **Michele Szostak** and **Rosie Quinn**. Also, helping but not pictured was **Kimberlie Nerowski**.



**Gail McCreedy** Gagetown, hostess for the June Tea is pictured with her Mother, **Nancy Bradway**, Cass City, who assisted Gail in preparing, serving and cleaning up. Also, pictured is **Courtney Walls** from Gagetown who Gail had invited to speak to the group.

## July Tea



Judy had wonderful help for her Tea and everyone knew exactly what to do and when to do it so Judy could be among the guests sharing the apron collection. The servers and the hostess for this Tea paused for a moment for a picture and are from the left: **Christine Anthony**, Ubly, **Judy Wallace**, Cass City, **Janet Muntz**, Cass City, **Chris Allen**, Cass City & **Marilyn Phillips**, Gagetown.



Standing on the side porch of the Purdy Home is **Glenda Wilson**, wife of **George Wilson**, grandson of James & Cora Purdy the original owners of the Mud Lake Estate. Glenda is holding several of the miniature mannequins wearing aprons that her sister in law, **Edna Eastham**, had made for a Church function and were perfect for Judy's Apron Theme. Don't know who the lady standing next to Glenda is. She wasn't talking.



While folks were enjoying the delicious food, Hostess **Judy Wallace** walked from table to table sharing stories and showing folks "Aprons of the Past" that she had on loan from the **Vassar Historical Society**. These aprons brought back many memories for those in attendance and Judy did an excellent job talking about their special features.



**Donna Lowe** is a member of the **Olde Tyme Herb Society** which meets once a month to learn about Herbs. Donna, who is also a member of the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, knew about the Teas and arranged for the whole group to come to the Purdy Home for the July Tea. Donna is admiring the aprons on the miniature mannequins that were on each table as the Theme was "Aprons of the Past."



Michele's Theme for her Tea was "Early Country Kitchens" so following the Tea Michele shared some of her vintage kitchen items that she had on display. One of the items was a wooden butter mold. Butter was pressed into the mold that had some marks carved on it for identification or decorative purposes. The mold could be any shape and usually held a pound of butter.



Pictured are **Rocky & Linda Pudlik** from Farmington Hills who heard about our Teas from a friend in Owendale. Linda has been hosting Teas for the Cultural Arts Dept. for the city of Farmington Hills on a monthly basis for many years. Linda is always looking for new ideas and a Tea in the Purdy Home sounded charming so they reserved a spot and drove up. They were very impressed with the Tea and complimented Michele on her efforts and loved the setting.



When the Teas were announced in the February newsletter, **Margaret Sergeant** received a call from her sister, a long time supporter of the Barn project. She said, "I think those Teas would be something that I would like to attend." After discussing which Tea they could both attend, **Margaret** called the August hostess, **Michele Szostak** and reserved a place for her sister and herself. They enjoyed the Tea and especially being together. Pictured are **Margaret Sergeant** and her sister, **Mary Ellen Schley** from Dearborn Heights.

## Some Thoughts about FFD

We had over 15,000 visitors and just under 400 volunteers during FFD. Some of them are pictured on page 4 and 5 with their comments and thoughts about their experiences at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.



Since this is the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Civil War, a group of re-enactors set up camp by the Country School. One of the soldiers was **Len McInerney**, Essexville wearing an 8<sup>th</sup> Alabama Company 1 from the Emerald Guard Irish Co. uniform. Len said, "By the end of the war the uniform you wore was whatever you could find on the battle field." Since the Civil War started in 1861 and continued through 1865, the group would like to return for the next few years. Len said, "We had a great deal of interest in our display and visitors enjoyed the history that was shared."



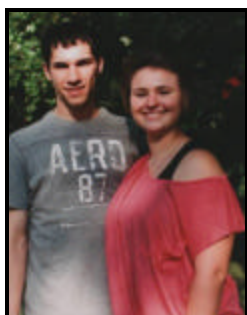
New volunteers, **Patty Baker**, Fairgrove, & **Nancy Braun**, Cass City are pictured working in the Theme Tent making blue corn muffins. Nancy said, "This is our first time working and it's been fun because we have become good friends. We'll do it again next year, see you then." Nancy owns **Plain & Fancy Decorating** in Cass City and with Pittsburg Paint offered special pricing for the paint used to give the Barn a fresh new look.



**Shelley Corsini** is pictured spinning on the porch of the Purdy Home during FFD just as she has for many years. She said, "FFD is so educational for the whole family. It's a privilege for people to be able to come and see what's going on and learn about everything - how our generations in the past lived and had to work so hard." Her husband Bill hasn't been to FFD for a couple of years and was amazed at the changes. He was extremely impressed with the powerhouse and the grain elevator and how the volunteers explained everything in detail about how they functioned. He said, "This is getting as big as the Huron County Fair."



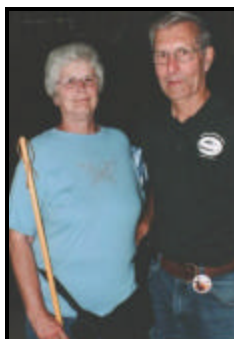
**Lila Arroyo**, chairperson of the Vintage Kitchen theme tent is pictured with the over 175 hand-made aprons that were on sale during FFD. Lila thanks the following ladies for making these aprons. They are: **Betty Armstead, Shirley Arnold, Lila Arroyo, Lorna Gray, Barb Hutchinson, Karen Lenton, Watrousville United Methodist Church Ladies and Martha VanDenBoshe**. Many were sold during FFD but Lila still has some available. If interested you can call her at 989-872-2658. Lila said, "I was overwhelmed by all those who came forward to make aprons and very impressed with the fact that you can ask for help and help is given."



**Lindsay Jamieson**, Cass City was a first time vendor and was very impressed with the organization of the entire FFD especially the vendors. Lindsay said, "I felt very comfortable leaving my tote with my wares over night and knew that they would be safe. I haven't been to the Octagon Barn in a couple of years but from then to now, I see it has grown a lot. I'll be back next year." **Keven Dorland**, Cass City helped Lindsay and said, "I used to come for FFD with the National Honor Society and ride the shuttle wagons sharing some of the history with visitors. It's nice to see people from different places and new faces every year."



**Athanas Manyama**, Vassar is a professor at Baker College in Architectural, Mechanical & Structural Engineering and was attending FFD for a second time. He said, "I brought some friends and wanted them to see the new things. We are not disappointed. Also, I have some things from my Barn that I am restoring that I would like to donate." Athanas is pictured with **Louie Wehrman**, on the left, who is familiar with the barn and the possible items he wanted to donate. One was a grain leg distributor. The grain leg takes the grain up and dumps it into the distributor that directs the grain to whatever bin they want it to go into. The distributor was too large for our Grain Elevator Building so Athanas' wife is going to make it into a chandelier for their Barn. He did however donate two electric motors and a hay car to our Museum.



**Tom & Pat Young**, Upper Sandusky, OH (right) were caretakers on site several years ago. They said, "It's a wonderful feeling to see all our friends and know that all are well." Tom said, "The Grain Elevator Building is tremendous with all the working belts and pulleys. Everything is first class. The guys are doing a tremendous job."



Pictured are **Jim & Char McLaren**, Beaverton, **Max & Marcy Kafenhuf**, Coleman & **Dave & Pat Cooper**, Harrison. The group ate breakfast and then wanted to see the Barn and learn about the history of the family and the special features of the Barn. Marcy said, "We came last year and were so impressed with the entire FFD experience that we decided to fill our van with friends so they too could see what had made such a positive impression on us."

### Annual Meeting/Dinner & Benefit Auction Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

Our 2012 Annual Meeting will be held on **Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at the VFW Hall in Cass City**. The evening will begin with a social hour from 5 p.m. with dinner served at 5:45 p.m. There will be a short Meeting followed by our Auction. Folks are encouraged to begin looking for that special something that you would like to donate for the Auction and bring it with you on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

A reservation form will be included with our Winter Newsletter that will be mailed in late February. Any questions regarding the Annual Meeting should be directed to **Lila at 989-872-2658**.



Three generations came to visit the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum from the Sandusky area. Pictured are **Missy McGovern** holding **Sean McGovern**, Grandparents, **Ralph & Linda Schrader**, **Kayla Norton** holding **Drew McGovern** and standing is **Jack Norton**. They loved their visit. Grandpa even bought a broom and Kim Norton said, "Wonderful, wholesome family experience."



**Bill & Judy Millar** from Gladwin came over after Church and an unexpected Church meeting arriving around three o'clock on Sunday afternoon. They were quite frustrated that they had so little time but did see the Barn and learn about it and also a quick tour of the Purdy Home. They said, "This is fantastic! We'll come next year and bring the whole family." They became members and we'll look forward to their return visit at FFD 2012.



**Craig Downing**, Gagetown & **Shelley Quandt**, Yale, shared the following. Craig said, "Come for breakfast every year. That's what brought us here." **Jerry Auten** who takes care of the Farmer's Breakfast said, "The breakfast used 296 dozen eggs, 250lbs. pancake mix, 400 lbs. sausage, 600 lbs. of potatoes, 200 lbs. of onions and 125 lbs. of ham, so many others also came for the Breakfast." Shelley said, "I love the wisdom and knowledge of the volunteers."



**Bruce Ogilvie**, Lapeer, heard about FFD at a Lion's Club Meeting. A member told me, "You should go to this. They have a nice festival and you'd like it." Also, the fellow had a shirt on with the Octagon Barn Logo on it. So his sister, **Elizabeth Knapton**, Berkley, and his Mother **Katharine Ogilvie** drove up for FFD. Elizabeth said, "Now that we found how nice it is, we'll be back!" Notice that Bruce bought a hand made broom from **Henry Tschetter**, the **Broom Man**.



**Robert & Jacquelyn Duncan**, Denfield, Ontario, Canada enjoy their Fall visits and look forward each year to coming back. Jacquelyn said, "The property has certainly had some fantastic changes since we first visited and the "Friends" are to be congratulated for their fine efforts. It is amazing what a lot of volunteers can do." The Duncans are pictured standing by the radio that they donated to the Purdy Home. Jacquie said, "The antique radio was purchased in 1932 by my parents when they were married. We would listen to "old tyme" music during the day and always had to listen to Canada's Foster Hewitt announce the NHL games every Saturday night."

## More Thoughts



**Fred & Chris Kalis**, Bad Axe, brought Chris' Dad, **Art Nitz** to FFD. Art is proudly wearing his display of buttons that he has collected since the very first FFD in 1996. When asked how he liked FFD, Art said, "Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful," imitating Lawrence Welk. Art used to bring his 1950 Oliver 77 for our Parade. Fred said, "It is so much fun to see Art relive his years of experiences at the Barn. This Museum is perpetuating our culture for future generation, lest they forget. Build the future on the past."



**Sarah Louise Kearns'** parents have been coming from Jeddo, MI to FFD for several years. They told Sarah about all the wonderful things to see and do, so Sarah drove up from Mt. Clemens on Sunday. She said, "I loved the Barn and Purdy Home and found the history very interesting. I wish I lived closer so I could be more involved but I'll volunteer to distribute your flyers in Macomb County. Also, I bought one raffle ticket and couldn't believe it when my name was announced and I had won \$75.00." Sarah is pictured holding the check that represents her winning raffle ticket.

## 2012 Tour Guides Needed

*David Jaroch, Chairman*

Looking ahead to the 2012 touring season, we are asking for members to step forward to be a tour guide on Sundays. It would be wonderful if you could volunteer for one Sunday in June, July and August to be at the Barn to meet and greet visitors to the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and share the story of the Barn.

The Friends will provide training and have printed materials to assist with the narrative to be shared. Also, our book "The History of the Mud Lake Estate" is very informative. Your help is needed to help us continue our goal to introduce the past to the present.

We are also looking for folks who have RV's and might be able to bring their unit to the Barn and stay for a week or month and serve as hosts while on the site. If you would like more information, please call me, **David Jaroch** at **765-409-5891** or **989-658-2133**.

### Many Thanks for these Special Donations for FFD

*The businesses and individuals listed below made special donations for FFD that enabled us to save considerably on our expenses.*

- Mark & Diane Battel & Richard & Loraine Enos** donated homemade pure maple syrup used for the Farmer's Breakfast.
- Cass City Oil & Gas** filled many propane tanks of varying sizes at no charge that were used for the preparation of food. **Bill Chippi** also provided a limousine style golf cart that seated six.
- Cooperative Elevator, Pigeon**, donated 330 pounds of beans used for the bean soup.
- Country Fresh, Bruce Hartman**, donated 288 quarts of half & half used to make the homemade ice cream.
- DJ's Portable Toilets** donated some items totaling \$250.00.
- Erla's Food Center, Cass City**, offered special pricing on products purchased at their store.
- Hampton Potato Growers**, Essexville, donated 2400 lbs. of potatoes used for the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast & French Fries to go with the Chicken Strips.
- Leipprandt's Orchard** donated 10 gallons of apple cider valued at \$59.50.
- McDonald's Family & Food Center, Bad Axe**, offered special pricing on purchased products.
- Michigan Milk Producers Association, (MMPA)** through **Dave Wittkop**, one of their employees, donated two 55lb. boxes of cube butter used for the Fish Fry and the Farmer's Breakfast. The **Clifford-Mayville/Deford Local** of the MMPA donated an oven mitt and butter dish for a drawing each FFD day. **Keith & Jane Wood**, Kingston made the arrangements.
- Michigan Sugar** donated 50 lbs. of brown sugar and 265 lbs. of white sugar to be used for the homemade ice cream, donuts and cotton candy.
- Northstar Bank, Huron & Tuscola Counties**, donated 150 lbs. of popcorn, popcorn bags & several quarts of seasoning.
- Melvin Schlabach** gave special pricing on 200 lbs. of homegrown onions used for the Farmer's Breakfast.

# Teamwork and Timbers

Rose Putnam, Coordinator

On September 1, 2011, 15 participants came together at the Thumb Octagon Barn for a one-of-a-kind learning opportunity to work together to assemble a timber framed model. They learned how neighbors depended on each other to accomplish what they could not do alone in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries when communities came together for a barn raising. To prepare for this exercise, **Wayne Dillon** shared some vocabulary related to timber framing. He also showed a black & white video of a 1929 timber framed barn raising when 150 to 200 people worked together and usually finished in one day. **Bob Hirn** led a discussion of early lumbering in Michigan and demonstrated some of the hand tools used to make barn timbers out of logs before sawmills were common.

Then it was time to begin building. So team leaders, **Karl DeSimpelare**, **Doug Monroe** and **Richard Stacer** organized their teams and construction of an 8' x 12' x 9' barn replica began. It took a lot of teamwork and two hours to finish the project. The builders were quite excited when the project was completed.

The design and construction of this ¼ scale 19<sup>th</sup> century timber framed model has been funded by a grant from the Amesby-Russ Mawby Fund of the Battle Creek Community Foundation. The National Barn Alliance owns the model. It was on loan to the Michigan Barn Preservation Network for 2011 and was a big part of their educational programming.



The young barn builders quickly learned that it really does take teamwork to successfully build a barn.



Pictured is **Diane Rapson Gabil** learning more about the framed poem from the poet, **Lloyd Hallead**. Lloyd was very proud of his poem and since it poignantly takes one back to what life was like on a farm around the early 1900's, we have enclosed a copy of Lloyd's poem with your newsletter.

## In Memoriam

**Lloyd G. Hallead**, Marlette, was born on August 3, 1924 and passed away quite suddenly on September 25, 2011. Years ago, Lloyd was involved with the St. Clair County Farm Museum in Goodalls, MI and was frustrated because he saw all the donated antique equipment just sitting with no one organizing and repairing the items. He heard about the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and the Friends and what we were attempting to do with our Museum and all the donated equipment. He began attending meetings and joined the early beginnings of the "Boys Day Out" crew.

We soon discovered that we had been given a gift as Lloyd was so knowledgeable about so many things relating to our Museum. He could tell us all about a piece of equipment and how it functioned and if it wasn't running, he'd fix it. Not only did he work with the things we had been given but he donated a number of pieces to our Museum. Some of these pieces are: portable air compressor, an early 1900's F. E. Meyer Water Pump, John Deere H tractor, buzz saw, United Brand feed mill for grinding feed, grain blower used in our Elevator Building and many more. He also arranged for a 19<sup>th</sup> century, state of the art, stump puller to be loaned to the Friends for display purposes, so

it was set up on the northeast side of the Barn where it still stands.

Lloyd also volunteered during School Tours and FFD and took great delight in watching the children use his restored F. E. Meyer water pump. Because it got a workout during these activities, Lloyd was often called on for an emergency fix it. He placed this pump on a portable platform that would securely hold the pump for ease of movement and he also built a recycling system to keep the pump going by re-using the same water over and over.

In 1986 Lloyd wrote a poem titled "Reflections of an Old Farmer" that highlighted his memories of early farming. In 2007 Lloyd shared this poem with us and **Dennis Anderson** arranged to have an autographed copy framed and then auctioned off at our Annual Meeting. **Diane Rapson Gabil** was the highest bidder and treasures this piece and prominently displays it in her home.

We will miss Lloyd and all the sincerity that he and his wife of 22 years, Millie, brought to our organization.

### The following donations have been received in memory of Lloyd G. Hallead.

Peter & D. Jean, Bauer, Marlette, MI  
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gageton, MI  
Max & Diane Foster, Marlette, MI  
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI  
Pat Hester, Cass City, MI  
Sandy Hester, Chicago, IL  
Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI

Arnie & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL  
Larry Mazur, Washington, MI  
Duane & Pat Michaels, Fort Gratiot, MI  
Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gageton, MI  
Mick & Sue Plummer, Marlette, MI  
Rose & William Putnam, Cass City, MI  
Harold & Ann Raven, Marlette, MI

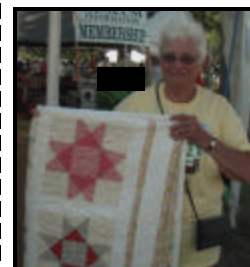
Don & Marilyn Ross, Marlette, MI  
Doris & Earl Schember, Gageton, MI  
Kerry Seers, Marlette, MI  
Margaret Sergeant, Gageton, MI  
Mary Lou Smith, Saginaw, MI

## Annual Raffle

Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam  
& Doris Schember

Our raffle was once again a big success and raised **\$3,876.01** that will provide the needed funds to complete our many construction projects. Following are the prizes and the lucky winners.

- ✂ \$300 cash prize won by **Steve Gracey**, Ubyly, MI
- ✂ Vintage Handmade quilt made by **Marcia Hammerbacker & Alzina Stratton**, won by **Dorothy Bills**, Cass City, MI
- ✂ John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment** won by **Jen Wymore**, Mayville, MI
- ✂ \$150 cash prize won by **Mary MacNeil**, Kawkawlin, MI
- ✂ Handmade afghan donated by **Gwen Poole** won by **Brenda Richardson**, Snover, MI
- ✂ International (Model 1066) Pedal Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment** won by **Betty Robinson**, Jacksonville Beach, FL.
- ✂ Handmade quilt made and donated by **Judy Hudson** won by **Phil Nichols**, Decker, MI
- ✂ Sears BBQ Grill donated by the Friends won by **Katen Roedel**, Saginaw, MI
- ✂ \$75 cash prize won by **Sarah Louise Kearns**, Mt. Clemens, MI
- ✂ Parka donated by **Brentwood Graphics** won by **Dr. Alfonso Ferreira**, Caro, MI
- ✂ Handmade afghan donated by **Diana Hoag** won by **David Wilder**, Cass City, MI
- ✂ \$50 cash prize won by **Lloyd Asmus**, Caro, MI



**Dorothy Bills**, Cass City, is proudly holding the vintage quilt that she has just won at the raffle drawing. This quilt was made of squares that **Marcia Hammerbacher** purchased at an estate sale. They were hand stitched between 1930 - 1935. Marcia stitched the squares together and **Alzina Stratton** put on the backing and finished the trim.

## WANTED

### Kerosene Lanterns

**Byron Arnold** has been working to convert size 2 type kerosene lanterns to electric lanterns. He hopes to have lanterns in all of the buildings that make up our village and therefore is requesting help locating these lanterns. Contact Byron at **989-674-8658** if you have a lantern or two to donate.

# The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

As one of the original buildings on site, the Purdy Home continues to be a major attraction. This beautifully restored home is a

## Ruby

During FFD 2002 we had an unexpected arrival in the early hours of Sunday morning, September 8<sup>th</sup>. **Bill and Kitty Sampson**, Maplewood Petting Zoo of Kinde, brought their animals for a display on the North side of the Barn. **Petunia, a pot-bellied pig**, was part of the display and surprised everyone by giving birth to six babies. The Barn adopted one of the babies (Ruby) and **Shelley Corsini**, Bad Axe, coordinated a program with a local school to have Ruby visit a classroom and the students wrote stories about the experience.

Shelley also decorated Ruby's area in the Barn and each year she celebrated Ruby's birthday with a poster where visitors could sign a large birthday card for Ruby. Unfortunately, Ruby's stall was empty during FFD 2011 as Ruby had died of natural causes earlier this year. We were touched by the number of children that inquired about Ruby. We assured them that Ruby had lived for 8 1/2 years, longer than most pot-bellied pigs.

## VG's Community Share Points

Mary Ann Hirn, Chairperson

Thanks to all the VG shoppers for saving their cash register receipts that include the number of share points for their purchases, we have just received another check for \$115.03. Through the years, Mary Ann has collected and reported the number of share points so that all together we have received a total of **\$1,197.42**. That is amazing since the Thumb Octagon Barn receives 1% from slips that are returned to VG's. Remember, it is a must that you have registered so that you have a card or key chain tag that you show the cashier before checking out. The share points will appear at the bottom of your register receipt. Cut this off and return it to **Mary Ann Hirn, 6622 Kelly Rd., Cass City, MI 48726**.

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

treasure and every room has a story to tell. During FFD there was a steady stream of visitors taking in all the artifacts, Purdy pieces and special features.

One group of visitors included several generations of the **Temrowski Family** who had owned the Mud Lake Estate in the 1940's. **LeeRoy** lived here when he was a young man and is now 83. It was wonderful to learn a little about his life after living here. He became a lawyer and had five sons and all were Eagle Scouts. Two of the boys are also

lawyers. The Temrowski Family has a reunion in Macomb County each summer and plans on including a visit to the Farm on the schedule. **Lee Temrowski**, son of LeeRoy said, "I wish my grandparents and parents had never sold the Farm. It's truly magnificent and so beautifully restored. Maybe this is why I'm attracted to museums and antiques." We'll look forward to their visit when we can learn more about the Temrowski's years at the Mud Lake Estate.

### MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

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

- Doris Hendrick, Decker, MI donated a 1914 Camp Custer Pillow cover & WWII Army cap, coat, pants and leggings.
- Mary Gedro, Caro, MI donated a Westinghouse electric roaster and stand.
- Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI donated a 1955 Carom board with net pockets & 1930 Carom board with canvas pockets.
- Bud Inbody, Snover, MI donated a 1940's rubber toy Auburn Fire Department Truck & a rubber toy tractor made by Barr Rubber Products, Sandusky, OH.
- Shirley Giacomelli, Caro, MI donated three 1900-1912 school books.
- Eileen Partlo, Bay City, MI donated a 1910-1920 horsehair blanket with floral material on back.
- Pat Bezenek, Ubyly, MI donated a picture of homes and surroundings.
- Alex Paladi, Deford, MI donated cast iron corn pans.
- Martin Osentoski, Cass City, MI donated a breaker plow.
- LeRoy & Virginia Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI donated a Kalamazoo Tank & Silo Co. Silo Filler
- Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI donated an early 1950's Nutrine Candy Co. Tin from Chicago, IL
- Ron & Loris Coltson, Marlette, MI donated a 24 volt, wall mount Battery Charger.
- Bryce Hagen & Sons, Ubyly, MI donated 110/220 volt electric motor.
- Tom McCubbin, Fenton, MI donated a stump puller.
- Trinity Episcopal Church of Bay City, Father Mike Herman, donated a hand water pump.
- Athanas & Sandra Manyama, Vassar, MI donated a Hudson Mfg. Co. Hay Carrier, 2 HP single phase electric motor & 3 HP single phase electric motor.
- Mark Hirn, New Baltimore, MI donated four children's chairs.
- Bert Willis, Bay City, MI donated a porcelain surface mount light switch.
- Tom & Martha VanDenBosshe, Clay, MI donated a 12 volt gas powered battery charger, a 6 volt gas powered battery charger and a steam whistle.
- Tom & Cindy Mellendorf, Gageton, MI donated a General Mills Tru Heat iron.
- John Maitrott, Cass City, MI donated an adult female mannequin & girl child mannequin.
- Dwaine & Marilyn Phillips, Gageton, MI donated vases, chemise/ladies underpinnings from the Civil War Era, receipt books, table clothes, dresser scarves, shoe forms, booklet with 49 cent parcel post labels, ladies garters on original card and other items for the Purdy Home.
- Albert & Shirley Arnold, Caro, MI donated Civil War ladies boots, black cape, mourning dress, petticoats, pantaloons, underpinnings & a bonnet.
- Tony Kanyak, Caseville, MI donated 2 walk behind, side beet lifters, walk behind adjustable cultivator, walk behind potato digger, New Idea easy way hay loader, Oliver 99 walking plow, wheel barrow type seeder & Anchor Brand folding bench laundry wringer.
- Jerry & Penny Meredith, Snover, MI donated a trip hammer.
- Dolores Tuckey, Cass City, MI donated in memory of J. D. Tuckey a Cass City Post Office sorting table/bins.
- Bill Bezemek, Ubyly, MI donated a framed picture of the Octagon Barn.
- Gerald Loeffler, Gageton, MI donated 4 burlap bags, 1 gal. gas can, two 3 gal. gas cans & a post drill.
- Clark Alcock, Lambertville, MI donated a glass creamer & a two tine hay fork.
- Meinard Guza, Bad Axe, MI donated a wood tine fork.
- Harold Cuthbertson, m Temperance, MI donated a brace, garden bulb planter, manure scraper & Anchor Brand folding bench wringer.
- Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI donated a Thumb Electric yardstick.
- Bob & Jacquie Duncan, Denfield, Ontario, Canada donated a matching settee & chair, a coffee table & 1920's/30's floor model radio.
- Arnold & Keith Schuman, Bad Axe, MI donated a hay carrier, 2 tine hay fork, bean picker, open truck door rollers, pull type sleigh & sliding barn door track.
- Carol McNally, Browntown, MI donated a small wood tool box and many items for the house including an ornate old basket, sewing style rocking chair, pint size crock with wire closure, fruit bowl with matching candlesticks, a non-electric deep fryer, tobacco holder, table model lighter, child's duck push toy & a cobalt blue ash tray.
- Ernest Messing, Cass City, MI donated a fodder chopper used to chop corn stalks up for silage.
- B & J Moore Properties, Cass City, MI donated 55 pieces of metal ceiling tile used many years ago in commercial buildings.
- Jim Young, Caro, MI donated a pair of metal pulleys that were used in a block and tackle.
- Michigan Sugar Co. of Caro, MI donated 30' of line shaft including 14 pulleys and 6 shaft brackets.
- Cap Caverly, Kingston, MI donated a grape grinder that can be used in the Cider Mill we are starting to build.

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

989-665-0081

Non-Profit Org.  
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Permit No. 3

## We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>  
Aaron Davis, Web Manager

**BENEFACTORS:** *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through November 16, 2011.*

Raymond J. Abraham, Lenox, MI  
Roger & Norma Acker, Birch Run, MI  
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI  
Winnifred Bauman, Royal Oak, MI  
Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI  
Brenda J. Besant, Burton, MI  
Sue Bliss, Olivet, MI  
Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI  
Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbiaville, MI  
Dale & Louise Buehry, Cass City, MI  
Donna Burke, Perrysburg, OH  
Donald J. & Betty E. Carlyon, Bay City, MI  
Rich & Lori Cori, Colorado Springs, CO  
Arthur & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI  
Maris & Judy Fravel, Port Austin, MI  
Sherril French, Reese, MI

Ann/Walter Hagen, Bay City, MI  
George & Arlene Harding, Pinckney, MI  
Nile L. & Ruth E. Hayden, Sand Lake, MI  
Douglas & Juanita Hakala, Boulder, CO  
Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI  
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI  
Russell & Doris Holmes, Troy, MI  
Flemming & Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI  
Rich & Rita Jeric, Sand Point, MI  
Fran Kanaby, Bad Axe, MI  
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI  
Harold/Lynn Koenig, Farmington Hills, MI  
John Kochans, Hesperia, MI  
Stanley & Rita Knopf, Marlette, MI  
Ron & Jean Krzak, Kingman, AZ  
Bob & Diana Leipprandt, Williamston, MI

## FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings are held at the Gagetown Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

## 2012 Up Coming Events

April 14	<b>Annual Meeting Dinner and Auction</b> , VFW Hall Cass City
May 9, 10 & 11	<b>School Tours</b> by reservation only.
May 24, 25 & 26	<b>6th Annual Barnyard Sale &amp; Swap Meet</b>
June 16	<b>Tea in the Purdy Home</b> by reservation only
July 21	<b>Tea in the Purdy Home</b> by reservation only
August	<b>Tea in the Purdy Home</b> Date to be determined.
Sept. 7	<b>Fish Dinner</b> in the Munro Building
Sept. 8 & 9	<b>17th Annual Fall Family Days</b>

## SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

VG's Food & Pharmacy donated \$115.03 from their Community Share Points Program.  
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown donated to the Friends Munro Building kitchen a professional Funnel Cake deep fryer that they used at their Eagle Dancer Restaurant.  
A donation of \$486. was made in memory of Earl Deer given by Jane Deer and Family. Jane wrote, "Earl loved going to the Barn Events."  
Joan M. Doyen from Lansing donated for the School Museum in memory of Genevieve Freiburger who taught in Parisville, Gagetown, Unionville and Cass City.  
Keny Hazard, The Villages, FL and his new bride Laura are once again our first 2012 Fall Family Days Sponsor.  
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, donated in honor of Jim & Maddy Skaggs, Cass City.  
Ed Tresco, Clio made his usual \$200. FFD donation to be used wherever needed the most.  
Jeannette McDonald, Owendale, and children donated in memory of Roy McDonald, the last of the McDonald Boys.  
Independent Bank donated \$106.50 from Casual Days Friday.  
Katie Jackson, Cass City, donated for the Country School Museum.  
Donation in memory of Clayton Turner for the School Museum given by the Dickenson cousins, Helen VanSickle, Louise Payne, Lloyd Dickinson & Pauline Paslick.  
Paul Krauseneck, Frankenmuth, MI donated electrical equipment, including breaker boxes, breakers, electrical boxes and wire we used on site.

## Site Donation Box in the Barn

*Ray & Carol Caverly*

Since we are a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, we depend on donations to provide the needed funds to complete all of our projects. We have a donation box located in the west area of the Barn in the Visitor Information Center. **Ray & Carol Caverly**, faithfully check this box daily, keep track of the amount received and deposit it in our account. They report that the dollar amounts received each month were as follows: May - \$126.00, June - \$865.10, July \$1,344.00, August \$1,566.50, September - \$944.01 and October - \$609.58 giving us a total for the year of **\$5,445.19**. This is the largest amount that we have ever received in our donation box. We thank our host couples who do such a fine job of sharing information with visitors about the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and always point out our donation box. Thank you Caverlys for taking care of this task all summer long.

## 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.