

Thumb Octagon Barn News



Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum

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

SPRING 2012

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

What great fun to gather Friends for a celebration of the Barn and how it brings folks together for an evening of fellowship before we begin our calendar of events for 2012. Attendees come to visit, enjoy a delicious meal prepared by McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe and then participate in our Benefit Auction. Lila reports that almost 150 attended and raised a little over \$4,000. This will be very helpful in providing funds for the on-going restoration of the original buildings and the many Rural Village building projects on the site. Also this will provide funds to assist with the maintenance and upkeep of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. Lila was very pleased with the evening and wants to thank those who helped get the Hall ready for our Annual Meeting and everyone that brought things for the auction. She would like to especially thank the servers who tended to the food table, cleaned the kitchen and left everything just as we had found it. The servers were: Andrew Devine, Bonnie Ziedler and several representatives from McDonald's Food & Family Center.

Following dinner, Rose Putnam, our President conducted a short business meeting when she honored three ladies for their dedicated service to our organization. Rose recognized Marilyn Phillips, our House Committee Chairperson, with a certificate for her many years of service restoring, cleaning and promoting the Purdy Home to the public.

Rose also presented Norma Wallace, Corresponding Secretary, with a certificate recognizing her many years of service holding office and being a member of the Executive Board and also painting, cleaning, restoring and her willingness to do almost any job. Rose especially thanked Norma for being one of the original volunteers to come forward to Save the Octagon Barn in 1994.

Next Rose presented our Treasurer for the past 18 years, Doris Schember, with a certificate recognizing her many years of dedicated service. Doris also was one of the original volunteers to the Friends of the Thumb

Octagon Barn working from the very beginning of our organization in 1994 to Save the Octagon Barn. Doris was also given the Ertl collectible replica of the Octagon Barn.

In addition Rose presented each lady with a porch planter filled with very special and unusual flowers donated by Jim & Linda Will of Will's Greenhouse in Vassar.

The next order of business was to conduct the election of officers. Rose Putnam agreed to continue as our President for another two-year term as did Gerald Auten who will continue on the Board as 2nd Vice President. Martin Kubacki who has served previously on the Board agreed to once again serve but this time as Corresponding Secretary. The slate was unanimously accepted. Joan Koch has been appointed to fill the Treasurer's position until it comes up for election in 2013.

Since 2002 the Friends have been recognizing a member who has made a noteworthy contribution over the years for the Barn Friend of the Year Award.

This is a very difficult task as we are fortunate to have so many wonderful volunteers that have supported our project for so many years. The committee, Martin Kubacki, Margaret Sergeant & Louis Wehrman, looked over the suggested candidates recommended and concluded that Katie Jackson should be identified as the 2012 Barn Friend of the Year.

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Rose Putnam is pictured presenting a certificate to Doris Schember, Gageton for her many years of service to our organization. Through the years Doris has handled thousands of dollars and kept excellent records and always balanced her books. Doris is stepping down due to health and family concerns.



Norma Wallace, Cass City is pictured receiving her certificate of recognition from President Rose Putnam for her many years of dedicated service. Norma is best known throughout the community for her ability to line up many volunteers for our various activities. Norma seems to know everyone and they would feel badly if she didn't call them to volunteer to help out.



Rose Putnam is presenting Katie Jackson, Cass City, with a plaque recognizing her outstanding contribution to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn and for being our 2012 Barn Friend of the Year.

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
David Jaroch

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Joan Koch

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Corresponding Secretary
Martin Kubacki

Past President
Bob Hirn

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

One Room Country School Chairman
Katie Jackson

Museum Committee
Douglas Monroe

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

Letter From the President

FRIENDS of the THUMB
OCTAGON BARN

Rose M. Putnam



Dear Friends,

May certainly was a busy month. We started by cleaning up the site. This now means more than just mowing, raking, pulling weeds and planting new flowers. This means we have the barn, the house, the powerhouse, the schoolhouse, the one room school museum, the grain elevator, the sugar shack, the blacksmith shop, the sawmill and the Munro building to prepare for the season. Whew! We did it with a lot of help. Thank you all so much. Everything was looking great for school tours.

We had another very successful three days of school tours. We hosted nearly 1,000 school age children and many adult chaperones. The weather was a little chilly, drizzly and sunny. Kind of typical for Michigan! Under the leadership of Diane Rapson Gabil, our volunteers offered a very memorable experience for one and all. There were many compliments of the new system of rotation. As for myself, when I acted as guide for a parochial school group, we had a fantastic time. We stopped at nearly every station and were very impressed by all that we learned. The only disappointment was waiting for a baby chick to chip his way out of the egg. We had to go back just before the students had to leave, to check on the chick. He still was not out! I'm sure most of the children and their families will be back in the fall due to all the efforts of the dedicated volunteers. Again, thank you.

Then we swung right into the Barnyard sale. A very dedicated, but small, group of volunteers spent days with the set up and then a super group of volunteers spent the Memorial holiday weekend giving of their time.

Thank you, Lila Arroyo and crew. There is more to come in 2012. Stop by this summer to see all the new additions.

Your friend and president,

Rose

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

(continued from page 1)

As so often happens, the Friends have a need and someone comes forward to fill that need and before they know it they are becoming more involved than they planned. **Katie Jackson** first became involved when we realized that we had stacks of newspaper clippings that needed to be organized and displayed in an appropriate manner. Once organized, Katie has maintained our scrapbooks and has them on display at our Events as she did at the Annual Meeting.

When the One Room Country School was moved to the site, again Katie stepped forward and became the Head Marm and recruited other teacher friends to teach during School Tours and Fall Family Days. Katie also was instrumental in organizing patriotic student presentations, similar to early day performances in a One-Room Country School, during FFD. These have been very well received and this year Katie has arranged for three performances each day during FFD at the Country School. She thought that folks might be thirsty during FFD and would like to buy a refreshing glass of lemonade from an old-fashioned lemonade stand. She had a stand built and this has grown and has been very well received by our visitors during FFD.

Katie chaired a group of volunteers that were documenting the historical developments at the Octagon Barn. Because of her leadership and organizational abilities, after two years of research and writing, a sixty page history book, *The Story of the Mud Lake Estate* was completed.

Katie was very involved in the construction of the One Room Country School Museum Building. She was instrumental in bringing an original outhouse from another Country School site years ago to the Barn site.

Those suggesting her name for consideration as Barn Friend of the Year used the following phrases to describe Katie: volunteer extraordinaire, prime time player, strong leader and a team player and definitely a true Friend of the Barn. Katie graciously gave remarks

of appreciation for being recognized and acknowledged **Bob Gengler**, previous One Room Country School Chairperson, for his enthusiastic efforts and organizational abilities for the One-Room Country School and Museum through the years.

Previous recipients of the Barn Friend of the Year are: 2011-**Martin Kubacki**, 2010-**Louis Wehrman**, 2009-**Wayne Lenton**, 2008-**Jerry Auten**, 2007-**Diane Rapson Gabil**, 2006-**Norma Wallace & Ray Caverly**, 2005-**Joan Koch & Doug Monroe**, 2004-**Doris Schember & Bob Hirn**, 2003-**Rose Putnam** and 2002-**Margaret Sergeant**.

Now it was time for our Auction to begin with both Silent Auction items and our Traditional Auction handled by **Dave & Marty Osentoski** of Osentoski Auctioneering, who donated their time. They work very hard to bring the greatest dollar amounts for the Benefit Auction and most importantly to have fun. The homemade baked goods are big sellers as are the homemade craft items. The wall hanging created by **Shelly Corsini**, Bad Axe of Ruby, the pot bellied pig born in the Octagon Barn during FFD in 2002 and featured in our Winter Newsletter, brought \$130.00 at our Benefit Auction.



Paul Findlay, Caro is all smiles as his bid of \$195.00 won him this homemade pie. His wife Phyllis was unable to attend but wanted Paul to bring her a piece of homemade lemon meringue pie and he did. **Luci Kubacki**, Uby made several pies and the bids were exceptional and yes Paul's wife, Phyllis, did have a piece when he brought the pie home. Phyllis thought that Luci used real lemons in the pie. How delicious!

Grounds

Louis Wehrman,
Chairman

Louie had set Saturday, May 5th as our Clean-up Day at the Barn. He suggested that each chairman be responsible for his or her respective area and get it in tip-top condition ready for the public. He was delighted that volunteers were here, there and everywhere and much was getting accomplished. He also knew that we indeed would be ready to open the site to the public and also be ready for students at School Tours in the coming week. The following pictures show just a few of the workers that were on site on May 5th.



Louise Buehrly was very busy during Clean-Up Day at the Barn. First she used her blower to clean areas in the Barn and then she worked to polish the thirty windows that encircle the lower level of the Barn.



Lila Arroyo has mopped the workers lavatory in the Munro Building and is now doing the floor in the kitchen. She handled this equipment like she had done a lot of mopping in the past.



Rose Putnam, our President, always works on the south mow cleaning up the dirt and debris that accumulates over the Winter months. She comes prepared to dust, wash, blow and sweep or whatever is needed to spruce up the area. She works for hours and is determined that it will shine when she is finished working and it does.

Fall Family Days 2012

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

Time is flying buy and September is just around the corner. Fall Family Days is always the weekend after Labor Day and the **17th Annual FFD Event will be held on September 8th and 9th.** We have already had our second Fall Family Days meeting on the 22nd of May and were able to get updates from the various committees and solve a few problems. The two Themes for this year **Potatoes** and the **One Room Country School** are coming together. The **Walther Potato Farmers of Cass City** came to the site during School Tours under the leadership of **Guthry Laurie** and planted the potato crop. Because FFD is during the potato harvest time, we are not sure whether they will be able to bring in their harvest equipment for display. It would be great for visitors to see the equipment used today compared to 50-70 years ago.

The **One Room School Theme** is coming together as well. **Katie Jackson** has arranged for three Patriotic Presentations each day put on by students in period attire. The game plan is to have the new **One Room School Museum** completed as well to show off all

the memorabilia that dates back to that era.

The vendor spaces are 98% rented out already and according to **Louie & Linda Wehrman** folks can still call to reserve a spot. Once the spots are filled they will be put on a waiting list, because in the past some vendors have cancelled out. Call the Wehrmans at **989-693-6743** to reserve a spot or with questions. The demo plot is planted and the Sawmill along with the Veneer Mill is getting some new work done for this year's Event. The food volunteers are all ready to go, so it looks like things are under control. **Speaking of volunteers, as always we can use help to put on this Event, so if you are interested in helping out for a couple of hours please let us know.** Contact **Bob Hirn 989-872-3761** or **Martin Kubacki 989-658-8450** to volunteer or with questions.

The next planning meeting is scheduled for **July 24th at 7 p.m. in the Munro Building.** Please join us and help prepare for this Event. We always welcome new thoughts and ideas.



Last year a group of Caro students performed a Patriotic Program in the One Room Country School during FFD. Following their presentation the students posed for a great picture in their period appropriate attire while sitting on the railing of the walkway of the School House. This year **Katie Jackson**, One Room Country School Chairperson, already has three groups each day scheduled to perform.



One of our themes for FFD is Potatoes and we could not have imagined what an exciting theme this would be. **Walther Potato Farms of Cass City** has become a wonderful partner helping to make this theme informational and educational. **Ray & Carol Caverly & Joan Koch** are coordinating all of the involvement with Walthers for our Events. Pictured is the huge equipment that Walther workers are using to plant the south field with potatoes that should hopefully be ready for harvest during FFD.

Annual Raffle

Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam
& Doris Schember, Raffle Committee

Once again we will be holding our **Annual Raffle** that has proven to be quite the fund raiser. The committee has everything under control. The license has been filed, the prizes have been determined and the tickets are being printed.

Tickets will be sent to **Members Only** in the next few weeks. We appreciate your assistance selling our tickets but you always have the option to return them if you do not care to participate. Once you make that request, Doris, who mails the tickets, honors that request each year. If you would like additional tickets or didn't receive any, call 989-665-0081.

Our 2012 Raffle Prizes are:

?**Queen Size Quilt** - donated by Ruth Ann Brown.

?**\$300.00** Donated by the *FOTOB

?**Model "M" International Pedal Tractor**

Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment of Bad Axe/Pigeon

?**\$150.00** Donated by the *FOTOB

?**Handmade Afghan** - donated by Gwen Poole

?**John Deere Pedal Tractor** - Donated by Tri-County Equipment, Sandusky

?**Sears BBQ Grill** - Donated by *FOTOB

?**\$100.00 - Menard's Gift Certificate** - Donated by Green Acres Farm of Akron

?**\$75.00** - Donated by *FOTOB

?**\$50.00** - Gift certificate donated by Tractor Supply of Bad Axe

?**Handmade Afghan** - Donated by Diane Eisele

?**\$50.00** - Donated by *FOTOB

*FOTOB stands for Friends of the Octagon Barn



The crew working up the field for planting of the potato crop are from the left: **Kevin Storm, Brice Stine**, our Committee Chairs, **Ray & Carol Caverly, Kyle Hartwick** and our contact person at Walther Potato Farms, **Guthry Laurie**.

Wedding Coordinator

Carolyn Sorenson, Chairperson

Because of the many requests for scheduling a wedding at the Octagon Barn site, we now have a Wedding Coordinator. Weddings only may be held at the Site, **NO RECEPTIONS.** If interested or with questions contact Carolyn at 989-912-0449.

School Tours 2012

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

How do you prepare for one thousand student visitors, two hundred twenty five chaperones and one hundred fifty volunteers? It takes a lot of preparation and the process begins in early Winter with monthly meetings to make sure that every detail is taken care of. Diane notes that this was the greatest number of volunteers to participate in School Tours and wishes to thank every single one of them. The Event would never be as successful without the many volunteers that are involved over the three-day period. A very special thanks to **Norma Wallace** who contacts just about everyone that she knows to serve as a tour guide.

Diane notes that evaluations that have been returned are very positive and teachers LOVED being able to select the stations that they wanted to visit. They also greatly appreciated the tour guides and how they so effectively took them to the various stations. Early on, Diane was frustrated when there were

some problems with the website and for three weeks information was not getting to her. Finally the problem was identified and corrected. However, Diane notes that School Tours 2012 was very rewarding because of the changes that were made such as identifying stations as Presentation/Demonstrations, the size of the groups and having educators sign up for what they wanted their students to see and do. It should be noted that for the most part, technology rather than the U.S. mail handled communication regarding School Tours with the educators.

Diane thanks all those who participated in School Tours 2012. She would welcome any comments or suggestions on how to make School Tours 2013 even better for all involved. Contact Diane at drapsongabil@chartermi.net. **School Tours 2013 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 8th, Thursday May 9th and Friday May 10th.**

A Glimpse of what happens before the students even arrive.
The pictures on page 4 & 5 show all the planning and preparation that it takes to be ready for School Tours. All the workers are VOLUNTEERS and most were on site preparing the site and then spent three days presenting or assisting during School Tours. Diane presented each volunteer with a letter opener with the Octagon Barn logo on it.



Once the teachers return their requests of the stations that they want to visit, **Doug Monroe**, Gagetown works out a schedule to direct visiting groups to a specific area. This is an amazing task and Doug works very hard to keep groups moving and not overlapping at the presentations. Pictured are Doug and Chairperson, **Diane Rapson Gabil**, Essexville, putting the finishing touches on the schedule.



Because our theme for this year is potatoes, Walther Potato Farms presented each student with a bag of Better Made potato chips. Our contact person, **Guthry Laurie** is bringing large plastic bags to **Joan Koch**, Gagetown so that she can give each teacher a large bag containing the number of small bags of chips needed for their class. What a nice thing to do!



Dan Orton of Holloway Fire Protection, Inc. was helping us to be ready for School Tours by checking all of the fire extinguishers on site and identifying areas where he felt others were needed.



Bob Hirn, Cass City and **Diane Rapson Gabil**, Essexville are making one final check of the location of tents and number of bales of straw or benches to be placed in each area. We used 146 bales of straw to provide seating for the students at the various stations.



Bob Duncan, Deerfield, Ontario, Canada volunteered to help with the set up and is pictured adding string to the weed whacker that he used to put the finishing touches to the grounds. He spent almost the entire day working at this job and the grounds looked beautiful.



The vintage milk wagon, restored by **Jim Ware**, Cass City, is being moved from the Munro Building to outside the Barn so that it will be part of the Dairy Display just inside the Barn. It is very interesting for folks to see how milk was delivered years ago as compared to super market shopping today. This wagon was donated by **Charles & Edward Liek** of Great Falls, VA and restored in 2008.



Linda Wehrman, Reese is busy cleaning the Grain Elevator Building in preparation for students to learn about the process of using the equipment on display to demonstrate how grains are prepared so that they can be used in the foods we eat.



Mark Battel, Cass City is making sure that everything is ready in the Sugar Shack to demonstrate how maple sap is harvested and evaporated to make maple syrup that could be used on your pancakes.

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

School Tours 2012 (continued)



At this station, **Dennis Anderson**, Cass City, is sharing information about the lumber industry and of course of Paul Bunyan with the students. He tailors his talk depending on the age of the students. He really gets into his topic and very dramatically tells about Paul and Babe his Blue Ox. He is pictured putting up some pictures of Paul so that the students will know what this character they are hearing tales about, looked like.



Mary Inbody Snover & Bernatte Schwalm, Uibly are checking to make sure that everything is in order in the Children's Activity station. The students love washing clothes with the old fashioned washboard and then hanging them on the clothesline with wooden clothespins to dry.



Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City is completing the display in the area where the Nurse will give a presentation about old remedies for simple illnesses. Mary Ann is putting the finishing touches on the display comparing a nurse's uniform from years ago to what would be seen worn by nurses today.



Jim Ware, Cass City is installing a water pump by the One Room Country School so that young visitors will be able to see how water was brought into the School before we had running water in our homes. Needless to say all loved pumping and wanted the job of bringing the bucket of water into the classroom. Believe it or not but, in the past, the bucket was available for all to use to get a drink of water using the same ladle.



Carol Caverly, & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown are locating posts and roping off the areas where visitors are not to go. One of these areas would be around the beautifully restored milk wagon. Since this is a museum piece we would not want students to feel that they could climb up on the wagon.



Ron Hoffman, Bad Axe is busy putting out trash barrels around the site especially in the picnic area. Ron, by the way was the person who suggested Potatoes as the crop theme for FFD 2012. What a good idea he had.



Craig Haag, Elkton brings his Haflinger draft horse for School Tours each year and Rusty is a big hit because he loves people and thrills them with a big smile. It takes a lot of work to bring all the animals to the Barn and get them settled in for the three-day stay. Craig is getting fresh water for Rusty and the other animals.



Bud Inbody Snover is getting the dairy display all cleaned up. You'd be amazed at how much sand and grit gets into the Barn during the winter months. He of course wanted to be sure that his cow Earlene made by the late Earl Schadd is all ready for milking. He was delighted that the milk wagon was going to be right outside the door from his station and would offer the opportunity for discussion of how differently milk is distributed today.

↙ *The letter below was presented when a class arrived at the Barn.* ↘

Karen Lenton, Uibly, is cleaning and organizing the kitchen in the Munro Building so everything will be ready for serving lunches the week of School Tours. The kitchen volunteers prepare over a hundred lunches each day and deliver them to the presenters at their stations. This is greatly appreciated as sometimes you have very few breaks in the schedule.



Dear Friends of the Octagon Barn,

Thank you for allowing us to come and visit today. We have never seen a barn with eight sides before! Thank you for taking time out of your busy lives to offer this hands on experience to us. We are very excited to learn and explore today. We cannot wait to see all of the animals and learn about things from the past. It is going to be so exciting to see how things used to be done before we had the technology that we do today.

Thank you again,
Mrs. Flanagan's First Grade Class
Carsonville, Port Sanilac Elementary

Martin Kubacki, Uibly is pictured with our wagonload of tents and he knows exactly what tent is to go where. He has all the various tents and parts color-coded so that he can keep all the parts together and then distribute them around the site. Very clever and makes for a smooth operation. Martin was delighted to have the assistance of the Trustees from Caro accompanied by Rod Bertsch, Tuscola County.



The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The Purdy Home was all cleaned up and ready for our young visitors during School Tours. The chaperones loved seeing this beautifully restored Home and the volunteer guides shared information that would appeal to our young visitors. The guides were **Norma Baur** of Unionville, **Alex Paladi** of Deford, and **Marilyn Phillips**, Chairperson from Gagetown. Also, the Home was filled with the soothing sounds of the Dulcimer being expertly played in the Parlor of the Home by **Joyce Anderson**, Cass City and others.

Cora's Home will soon be showcased when the elegant home will be the site of our Teas/Luncheons during the summer months. All of the 2012 Teas are **SOLD OUT**. These occasions have become so popular that as soon as the dates are set and posted in our newsletter or on our website, www.thumboctagonbarn.org they are quickly filled. We would encourage calling immediately with your reservation when the 2013 schedule is available.

Dale Churchill, House Committee member, sought bids for solving the problem of the severe dampness in the basement of the Purdy Home. The **All Ways Dry Co.** of Sandusky, MI was contracted to do the job and Dale said that they were a very good company to work with as they did everything they said they would and on time. Hopefully the treatment will solve the problem. Now Dale is getting bids for replacing the roof on the Purdy Home as it is in need of replacement once again. In January of 1996 the roof was in very poor condition and it was determined that this was a top priority issue. **Arnie Steger** of Almont a builder who was working in the area at the time, agreed to supply the labor to replace the roof if the Friends would supply the materials. So a new roof with beautiful green shingles was installed in 1996 but now is in need again. Dale would like to see this work done as soon as possible but bids are coming in slowly.



Pictured in the Purdy Home during School Tours are **Marilyn Phillips**, House chairperson, **Alex Paladi**, expert restorer of vintage organs and **Norma Baur** volunteer, who loves sharing information especially about how different kitchens are today compared to years ago. They are pictured in the kitchen looking at a vintage cast iron muffin mold that Alex donated. When the muffins are baked they come out looking like an ear of corn.

Boys Day Out

The Boys, Co-chairmen

Monday continues to be Boys Day Out and through the spring we have accomplished many more projects. So far, since the first of the year, we have put in 1,595 man-hours. We work hard but have a lot of fun too and are pleased with our results. There's excellent fellowship and that makes it seem less like work and The Boys welcome new projects.

The School Museum has been wired and insulated by the volunteers. We had **Tom's Drywall** come in and do the dry walling, now we are ready to do the trim work and tile the ceiling. Once that is done we will have it painted and The Boys will put down the oak flooring.

On the outside, we will soon be starting to put a porch roof on the front of the Museum Building, which was a last minute decision. Once that is done we will have the painter come and paint the exterior. Then we can put the boardwalk along the front of the Museum Building that will connect with the walkway in front of the Schoolhouse. This will be ready for FFD in September.

Both lofts over the east and west doors of the Barn have new floors, so we can place some items up there for display. On the east alleyway going out the east door the sheathing on the wall has been replaced. Some of the old sheathing that was removed will be used to patch the wall in the arena of the Barn.

Work has been done in the Grain Elevator to get more machinery up and running for display purposes. A lot of work has been done in the Blacksmith Shop to get things ready for demonstrations in September. We are in the process of removing the stone that was put down to walk on and replacing it with clay, which will be a lot easier for the guys doing the demonstrations to get around. A new hand pump was installed next to the One Room School to give the kids an idea of what life was like before there was running water.



Bob and Mary Ann Hirn are cleaning up the interior of the Country School Museum in preparation for School Tours where a Nurse will be presenting home remedies that were used in years gone by. You can see the dry walling work and the electrical outlets that the Boys have installed.

Summer Concert at the Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

Music in the Barn is back again with a presentation of bluegrass, old-time and gospel music. The **Lonesome Mountain Boys** are again supporting the Barn with a **Benefit Concert on Sunday, July 15, 2012 starting at 2:00 p.m.**

The Lonesome Mountain Boys were formed in 1986 in Livonia. Today the band members are: **Ron Smolka, Bill Brasgalla and Gerald Clarke** of Livonia, **Mark Kemner** of Eastpointe and **Richard Wroblewski** of Sebawaing. Their shows feature the traditional side of bluegrass and old-time music. Gospel songs are always included along with down-home humor, suitable for the whole family.

Your generous donations at the gate are gratefully appreciated. Twenty percent of your donation will go to the Band, while eighty percent will be given to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn to support the ongoing needs and projects at the museum complex. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is supporting this benefit by providing additional matching funds. We are thankful for their participation and support.

We encourage you to stroll the grounds before and after the concert to experience what life was like during the early 1920's. Imagine what role music played in those days for folks caught up in a much simpler less-connected lifestyle.

The Band members look forward to this opportunity to once again share their music in the beautiful Thumb Octagon Barn. Your presence is welcomed and we hope you leave with a song in your heart and joy in your soul. So enjoy the sights and sounds and know that we appreciate your presence and participation on **Sunday, July 15th at 2:00 p.m.**



The Lonesome Mountain Boys are pictured with their instruments and they are ready and anxious to perform in the arena of the Octagon Barn. It is very special to fill the Barn with bluegrass and old time music.

Wanted

The Boys Day Out Group needs single phase electric motors 1/2 horse or larger for use in the Grain Elevator. Contact Louis Wehrman, 989-693-6743, if you have a motor to donate.

Museum Committee

Doug Monroe, Chairman

Listed below are some of the highlights of the tasks that the Museum Committee has accomplished.

- ✂ A security system has been approved and will soon be installed in the Barn & House.
- ✂ Two more informational signs have been placed on site in front of the Garage and One Room Country School.
- ✂ The bridge connecting the south mow to the north mow has been completed. Plans are being made to re-organize the south mow and develop the north mow museum area.
- ✂ The kiosk at the west entrance to the Barn has been updated and now has a section devoted to the builders of the Barn and House.
- ✂ The tools that John Munro used in the construction of the Barn and House donated to the Barn by **Judge John Brundage** are on display secured behind Plexiglas.



The kiosk is divided into four sections that tell the story of the *Mud Lake Estate*. The first section is all about James & Cora Purdy the original owners of the site, the second section shows the original buildings before we began working to restore them and the results of that effort. The third section depicts the 1920's Rural Village and all the buildings that have been constructed or are under construction. The fourth section is a tribute to the brothers, **John & George Munro** who were the builders that Mr. Purdy hired to first build the Purdy Home and then to build the Octagon Barn or "Air castle" as Mr. Purdy referred to it. Right next to the section about the Munro Brothers is the display of John Munro's woodworking tools used in the construction of the House and Barn. Those that worked on this project are: **Bob Hirn, David Jaroch, Doug & Ardis Monroe, Margaret Sergeant, Lee Sowden and Richard Stacer.**

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation form so that we will have it in our records and can acknowledge your gift in our newsletter.

The following donations have been made to our Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter. Clarence & Maralene Phillips, Marlette, MI donated a Letz Mfg. Co Burr Mill. Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI, donated a hand crank, corn fodder chopper. Gene Ducker, Otter Lake, MI donated old steel wagon wheels. Dale & Louise Buehrly, Cass City, MI donated a Rosenthal husker shredder and a John Deere corn sheller. Jean Maitrott, Cass City, MI donated several 12" wood rulers for the Schoolhouse. Each ruler had writing on them. For example, Luxury Bread, Twin Pines Farm Dairy, Wm. T. Dunn Grocery & Meats and Wonder Bread. Lila Arroyo, Cass City donated for the School House a 1930's Carom Board with canvas pockets, a 1950's Carom Board with net pockets and a 1930's porcelain wash pan. Bud & Mary Inbody, Snover, MI donated a 1950's yellow, rubber toy tractor. Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI donated a framed picture of The Children's Hour. Bob Grandmaison, Linwood, MI donated a leg type vice for the Blacksmith Shop. Doris Hendrick, Decker, MI donated a WWI pillow with a Camp Custer cover and a WWII Army uniform including cap, pants and jacket. Mary Gedro, Caro, MI donated a Westinghouse, electric roaster oven and stand. Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI donated eight dolls including a 20" baby doll, a composition Boudoir doll, a mourning doll, a 12" boy doll, several small dolls, a hand fan, a wood hat form, a straight razor with a bone handle and a pair of shoe stretchers. Jim & Pat Beier, Caro, MI donated many items for the Purdy Home including a vintage flour sifter, vintage cast iron frying pans, American Family brand kitchen scales, a press back style chair with a cane seat, a cabbage slaw grater, a vintage Eastlake Victorian love seat and the following tools: coping saw, vintage hand drill, vintage ratchet type screw driver and a flexible handle square. Donna Dodge, Frankenmuth donated eight pieces of Hall tulip pattern dishes that match the set of dishes being collected for the Purdy Kitchen.



The restored garage now has a sign telling the story of this very ornate building that has been brought back to its original condition. The committee has now completed five signs four in front of the original buildings and the Country School House and will now work on developing signs for the Rural Village Buildings.

Grant Writing

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

Denny wrote a grant for the Country School Museum and the need for funds to complete the Country School Museum. The Tuscola County Community Foundation has made a \$3,000 donation for this construction project. Dennis has applied for other grants and we'll keep you informed on the results.

Barnyard Sale

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

We will cover the Barnyard Sale in the Summer Newsletter complete with pictures and comments about the Event.

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 thumboctagon-barn.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 and the total matches the amount of your check.

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.

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

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We're on the Web!

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

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

2012 Up Coming Events

June 16	Quilters' Tea & Luncheon
July 15	Concert in the Barn - Lonesome Mountain Boys
July 18	Private Tea in the Purdy Home
July 21	Tea in the Purdy Home, 12:30
August 18	Tea in the Purdy Home, 12:30
September 7	Fish Dinner at 4 p.m. Munro Building
September 8 & 9	17 th Annual Fall Family Days

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

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Donna Johnson, TDJ Farms, Boone, IA visited the Octagon Barn site several years ago and really enjoyed it. She wrote, "Please use this \$500.00 donation wherever it is needed."

Donation in memory of James P. Wilson given by his wife, Barbara L. Wilson, Cass City.

Donation in memory of Earl Schadd, given by Evelyn Schadd, his wife from Filion.

Donation in memory of his late Father, Earl Schadd given by Mr. & Mrs. Don Schadd.

Donation of twelve collectible tea cups & saucers donated to the Purdy Home for use during the Teas given by Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI

Donation in memory of Chloris "Fritz" Pomeroy, Sr. given by Lila M. Arroyo, Cass City.

Donation in memory of Helen Schave given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion.

Jim & Linda Will of Will's Greenhouse, Vassar donated three porch planters for gifts to our three ladies being honored at our Annual Meeting.

Donations were given in memory of Dale Buehrly, husband of Louise. Dale was a long time member and supporter of the Barn and worked during School Tours and FFD at the Sugar Shack and was always cheerful. The following donations were received from: Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubyl, Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Battel Cass City, Raymond & Norma Baur, Unionville and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown.

Donation in memory of George Hiller given by Jane Deer of Port Hope.

Weber Steel of Vassar donated steel for the Blacksmith Shop.

Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown donated a Plexiglas box that could be used for one of our Museum displays, possibly Cora's diaries. Doug also donated Velcro tape and adhesive used for the new Welcome Center display in the Barn.

Family & Farm Supply Center of Cass City donated 50 pounds of corn used during School Tours.

BENEFACTORS:

The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through May 31, 2012.

Paul Begick, Bay City, MI
Ruby Boyse, Birch Run, MI
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Brauer, Wilmington, NC
Jim & Jan Collin, Burtchville, MI
Clarence & Leona Depcinski, Bad Axe, MI
Don & Hannah Donigan, Commerce, MI
Tony & Diane Eisele, Vassar, MI
Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI
Sen. Mike Green, Mayville, MI
Catherine & Brian Grogan, Clarkston, MI
Marie Hobart & William Kadish, Worcester, MA
Tim & Debbie Kubacki, Sebawaing, MI
Charles & Louise Mackay, Oceanport, NJ

Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI
Ken Martin, Cass City, MI
Don & Carla McKimmy, Bad Axe, MI
Glen & Maxine Moore, Unionville, MI
Jill Ogryski, Ubyl, MI
Chuck & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI
Donald R. Ramaut, Harbor Beach, MI
Marion Rutkowski, Ubyl, MI
Susan Scott, Saginaw, MI
Mike Sterker, Fort Collins, CO
Richard & Esther Walsh, Gagetown, MI
James & Susan Wallace, Midland, MI

Johnnie & Louise Leathers of Centerville, Tennessee saw the request in our Spring 2011 newsletter for size 2 type kerosene lanterns that could be converted to electric for use in our Village Buildings. So the Leathers packed up seven lanterns including 4 Dietz brand, two Paul's brand and one tall red globe lantern and donated them to the Friends. Pictured is **Byron Arnold**, Unionville, with two of the lanterns that he has converted to electric and is very pleased with the result. We thank the Leathers for seeing our need and responding with their generous donation.



Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Don't forget to visit us at FFD. We'll be behind the garage with newly stocked inventory. Joan will be open on Friday, Sept. 7 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. for members and vendors to purchase their shirts and caps before FFD starts.

Joan Koch, Souvenir Chairperson, is pictured at right with her granddaughter **Kaylee** getting everything ready in the Souvenir Trailer for School Tours. On Thursday of School Tours, Joan couldn't believe it when over a thousand dollars in souvenirs were sold in one hour. Helping her with the sales were **Dee Garety**, Cass City, and **Doris Schember**, Gagetown.

