

# Thumb Octagon Barn News



## Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum

Our mission is to maintain a volunteer group of Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn involved in the restoration and preservation of the Barn Complex as an educational tool preserving our rural and agricultural history for the benefit of our visitors.

SUMMER 2012

## 17th Fall Family Days 2012

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

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

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

It hardly seems possible that this will be our 17<sup>th</sup> Fall Family Days. Why it was just yesterday when we had our first FFD. It was a one-day event and there was pouring rain almost the entire day but three hundred brave folks came for a visit. Almost everything that we had planned was moved into the Barn but because the roof had not yet been completely repaired it was raining just as hard in the Barn. The main attraction ended up being whose vehicle would be the next to get stuck in the parking area as it had become a muddy mess. Car after car had to be pulled out. However, all in all we thought it a successful Event and began planning for our Second Annual Fall Family Day.

Now here we are busily planning for our two-day Seventeenth Annual Fall Family Days and expect around fifteen thousand visitors. In fact the Event is just around the corner. All the Committee Chairmen and "women" have done an excellent job of getting everything set up for their special role for FFD and have put a lot of work into preparation for the upcoming Event. There are almost fifty different folks that have volunteered to be Chairmen for their particular area from demonstrations to the delicious food that will be available. For all the work that has gone into the planning and organization, we surely hope and pray that the weather will be great the weekend after Labor Day. Put in a good word for the Friends.

FFD will begin on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. with our FISH DINNER served until 7 p.m. The cost for the Dinner is \$9.00 for adults and \$3.50 for youngsters 6 - 12 with those under 6 free. George and Lavonne Pettinger, Snover, MI are coordinating all arrangements for the Dinner in the Munro Building. We are fortunate that Greg Talaski, Kinde, MI will be returning to prepare his

delicious fish. Following the Dinner, folks are invited to go to the Barn where the Eastern Michigan Music Makers, organized by Arlen Bannick, will be sharing some good old-time music. They invite those that would like to bring their instruments and join in the fun.

Then on Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> & Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., it will be time for our 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days to be open to the Public. Admission is \$4.00 per person and children under six years of age are free.

Plans for the two Themes for this year, the POTATO INDUSTRY and the ONE ROOM COUNTRY SCHOOLS, are progressing very nicely. The potato plot was planted this spring and maintained through the summer by the Walther Family who raise potatoes all over the State as well as down south. We will be harvesting the potatoes with old potato equipment as well as having a variety of equipment used today on display.

Visitors during FFD will have an opportunity to see some antique potato harvesting equipment and hopefully see some of the equipment used today. Pictured is a horse drawn walk behind potato digger, initially made in

1892 by the David Bradley Mfg. Company out of Chicago, IL. It has a set of double wheels in front to make it easier to steer. It had a wheel under the grate behind to plow and help keep it moving in a straight line and add some vibration to the grate above as the potatoes were lifted and rolled to the ground. Dick & Thelma Eskelson, Vassar donated this digger to our Museum.



Each year Martin Kubacki, FFD co-chairman, makes all the arrangements for our annual commemorative plaque and button. This year's button features the One Room Country School and a group of students that performed a Patriotic presentation in the Schoolhouse during FFD. Buttons will be sold at the Registration Table in front of the Barn and at the Souvenir Table.

The One Room School Theme is ready to go as well. There will be presentations in the Schoolhouse each day by students from around the area. They will be dressed in period appropriate attire, representing the 1920's and 30's. We were hoping to have the School Museum Building done for this Event, but there has been too much on our plate and it will not be completely finished. It will be open for visitors to tour, but not ready to display all the donated items from around the area.

The Eastern Music Makers will be providing good old fashioned music throughout the Event just as they have from the very first FFD. They will begin on Friday evening from 6:30 to 9 p.m. with a Music Jam Session in the Barn. On Saturday and Sunday the musicians will gather in the area in front of the barn from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. and play music and encourage folks to sing along. Then on Saturday evening from 7:30 p.m. until 9:30 p.m. the group will once again gather in the Barn for an old fashioned Barn Dance.

(Continued on page 4)

## Letter From the President

FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN  
**Rose M. Putnam**

### Dear Friends,

Working on this project always amazes me. I know you probably get tired of hearing from me about our wonderful volunteers, but this is truly the glue that holds our efforts together. At our last meeting, I was so proud to see the Cass City 3 bottom walking plow restored. I was told that **Martin Kubacki** had over 150 hours into the restoration. What a labor of love! Then word was out that **Jerry Auten** spent over 200 hours getting the engine, that he had for some time, running to operate the sawmill. As we entered the Munro Building, we saw first hand the International gas engine that was donated by **Doug Yackle** from Bad Axe, MI brought to life by our volunteers. **Byron Arnold** was so proud of cleaning the engine to show that it was green. I learned something new, a green IH? I also heard that all **Paul Deo** has to do is stroke the engine and it starts. Wow! Thank you one and all!

In May, I was invited to attend the first gathering of representatives of the eight museums in Tuscola County. The Caro Roadhouse Historical Commission was looking to network and gain information to improve their efforts to attract more visitors. We all shared our stories and I was impressed with all that I learned. There is so much history that has been saved and available so near. One question that came up from the group was "How do you get all those volunteers to help at the barn?" I had to say that we are very fortunate that our volunteers love to come out and help and we have a wide variety of options to offer. There are so many historical groups that are aging and finding it hard to recruit the younger generation. **After some discussion, a plan came together to offer an open house at all museums countywide on the weekend of October 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>.** (More information is on page 8 of this newsletter.) Our neighbors in Huron and Sanilac counties have been doing this successfully for several years now. Please mark your calendars. It would be a great time to tour our County and see the color in the fall. Your support is needed.

I can't help but be proud of all those who give of their time and talent. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I will never stop being grateful. I look forward to seeing you all at Fall Family Days.

Your friend and president,  
*Rose*



## Lonesome Mountain Boys Pack Barn

*David Jaroch, Chairman*

Richard Wrobleski from Sebawaing and the rest of the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** presented a well choreographed, expertly executed, concert to a packed house July 17<sup>th</sup>. The Blues were brought alive through a lively combination of music and stories.

Concert attendees commented that the show was "better than last year" and last year was great. Along with the concert the audience was treated to cookies and drinks at intermission along with open access to the grounds.

Plans are already underway for next year. Thank you, each and everyone, for helping to make this an event to look forward to each year.



The **Lonesome Mountain Boys** were positioned in the arena of the Barn with the quaint backdrop of the barn siding of the arena walls that had been recently and gently power washed by **Richard Stacer**, Ubly, MI. The siding looked like new! **David Jaroch**, Chairman of the Event, is pictured introducing the Lonesome Mountain Boys to the audience.

## The Purdy Home

*Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson*

The House Committee is excited because in September the Purdy Home is going to get a new roof and that will be a big improvement. Also, the bathtubs and two sinks are scheduled to be re-enameled and that will be a noticeable improvement.

The Committee is planning on decorating the Home for the Holidays and then hosting an Open House on Dec. 15 & 16. Hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and punch will be served. We can plan this as we have heat in the Purdy Home and this will be a nice addition to our schedule of Events. Cora Purdy, original owner of the Mud Lake Estate, always decorated the Home for the holidays and wrote in her diaries about putting boughs of evergreens with red velvet ribbons on the window sills and opening the parlor doors where the tree was decorated. Through the years the group of house volunteers have always wanted to decorate the Purdy Home for the Holidays and now its going to happen.

The Committee is putting out a request for volunteers to join **Cora's Cleaning Crew**. We need to clean in the Spring for School Tours, do some shining up for the Teas and then again for Fall Family Days. Just as any home needs cleaning throughout the year so does the beautifully restored Purdy Home. Right now we need some help getting the Purdy Home ready for FFD. We truly do need more helpers in the house and if you could help out please contact **Marilyn at 989-977-0025 or 989-665-0210**. Marilyn says, "Please give me a call if you can be a regular or a person for one day or a few hours, just yell and you will be appreciated." Thanks, Marilyn K. Phillips, Chairperson for the Purdy Home.

## VG's Community Share Points

*Mary Ann Hirn, Chairperson*

Once again we have to send a great big thank you to all the VG's Share Point Program shoppers as we have just received a check for **\$98.07**. This gives us a total of **\$1,295.49** received from VG's since Mary Ann Hirn began collecting the share point number from the receipts turned in to her. This dollar amount is quite amazing since the Barn receives 1% from the slips that are returned first to Mary Ann and then VG's. Remember, it is important that you register 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. Then cut that part off and return it to **Mary Ann Hirn, 6622 Kelly Rd., Cass City, MI 48726**.

## Teas in the Purdy Home

Four Teas have been held in the Purdy Home this year. They have been well received by our guests and many are already signed up for next year. The Teas will be highlighted in our Fall newsletter with pictures and details. Special thanks to our hostesses, **barbie** of the Backstreet Quilt Shop, Elkton, MI, **Judy Wallace**, Cass City, MI and **Marilyn Phillips**, Gagetown, MI.

# 6th Annual Barnyard Sale

Lila Arroyo, Chairperson

A steady stream of shoppers came from neighboring towns while others came from some distance to look for treasures. Melanie Hartwick of Cass City said, "Love buying and finding old things. Never know what you are going to find." Several traveled over a hundred miles and were delighted with the experience. They had learned of the sale through a variety of sources. One visitor commented, "The internet and website don't do justice to the Barn. You have to stand in the arena and look up. It's a work of art!"

The trip to the Thumb Agricultural Museum was very memorable for one gentleman. He had been a Product Development Engineer with the Ford Motor Company and had designed the emblem in the center of the hubcap. He was amazed when he found a set of hubcaps for sale with the very design that he created. He bought only one and said that was all he needed. He beamed as he went off with his special treasure and memories of days gone by.

Lila would like to thank all the volunteers that worked during the holiday weekend. Some worked for all three days and Lila was pleased with that commitment as well as those who helped in any capacity. **A big thanks goes to Lila who worked all year preparing for the Barnyard Sale.** She was available at all times to receive items that folks were donating for the Sale. **Bartnik Services**, Cass City, provided a cargo trailer to store donated goods as they were received. This was a big help and Lila could hardly believe that it was almost filled by Sale time. **Thank you again Lila for your effort on behalf of the Barn to make the Sale successful.** *The pictures on this page give you a glimpse of some of the items purchased and thoughts of our visitors.*



**Deb McNaughton**, Kingston, MI bought a baseball bat and said that she was going to get folks up and playing baseball. Deb said, "I come every year for FFD, but this is my first Barnyard Sale."



**Gabby Gentner** Lake Orion, MI was drawn to one, and only one, item that was for sale. That item was a cowboy hat that many had looked at but no sale. When Gabby tried it on, it was a done deal. She was tickled with her purchase.



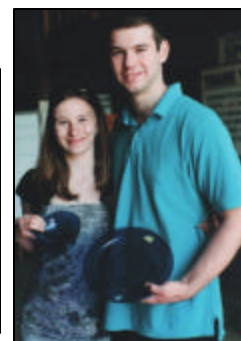
**Sandra Stroope**, Columbiaville, MI had her eye on this antique desk and when she saw another customer also show interest she decided that it was time to buy. This was a charming piece of furniture and Sandra knew it was something special when she saw it.



**Larry & Donna Pavlichek**, Sebewaing just drove by on their way to the Cemetery and decided to stop in and take a look. Before they knew it they had an armload of goodies. Donna has been to the Barn previously when she brought grandkids to FFD. She commented that she "Loves the Barn."



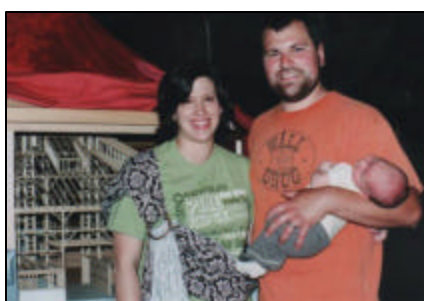
**Judy Barrett**, and **Linda Pudlik**, both of Farmington Hills, MI were enjoying their day in the country and purchased a couple of things. Linda had attended a Tea in the Purdy Home last year and decided to become a member. She read about the Barnyard Sale in the newsletter and made the following remarkable comment, "I'd rather be here than in New York. I love the small town feel."



**Melissa Keezer and Jeff Hartman**, Birch Run, MI purchased a set of blue dishes and were very pleased that they had this lovely set of dishes and for such a reasonable price. Melissa had visited the Octagon Barn years ago, during School Tours, when she was a USA student.



**Kim Toner**, Cass City was doing a little house cleaning and discovered that she had a whole lot of stuff that she no longer needed. She saw the signs for our Barnyard Sale and brought a truckload of stuff to donate to our sale. She dropped off one load and went back for another. **Ron & Arloia Lutz**, Sebewaing, MI also brought a car full of exceptional items for the Sale that were quickly sold.



**Josh & Christy (Mills) Wood** stopped by to mainly visit and look for familiar faces from years ago. In the late 1990's, Christy volunteered to chair our Children's Activities during School Tours. Christy and her family live in Cedar Springs, MI where Josh is the Youth Pastor at a camp in Grand Rapids. They are pictured standing in front of the replica of the Barn built to scale by the **Huron Area Technical Center** supervised by Christy's Dad, **Gary Mills**.



Pictured are two ladies who knew a good deal when they saw it. **Cathy Kryska** of Sterling Heights, MI and **Annette Kryska** of Chesterfield, MI spotted the rather large stack of burlap sacks and had all sorts of ideas as to how they could use them. They bought the whole stack.



**Walther Potato Farms** had some seed potatoes left after planting the demonstration area and made them available for us to sell. **Dale Will**, (right) of Caro, MI purchased several bags of potatoes and planned to go right home and plant them. Hope they are doing as well as our plot that Walther's has been maintaining throughout the summer months and will be harvested by those interested during FFD using some of the old equipment.

# 17th FFD 2012

(continued from page 1)

On Sunday morning at 10 a.m. there will be a Gospel Sing in the area in front of the Barn.

Louie and Linda Wehrman report that the Vendor spaces have been sold out again this year but encourage those interested to still register so you will be on a waiting list as we always have cancellations. The Wehrmans can be contacted at 989-948-3480 with questions or to register.

Many volunteers have agreed to take responsibility for a particular area to plan for, order supplies and recruit others to assist them for FFD. Some of the features and demonstrations that will be offered are: Maple Farms Petting Zoo Farm Animals in the Barn, Barn History Talk, Barn Museum Area on the North & South Loft, Purdy Home Tours, Blacksmith Shop, Children's Activity Area and Barrel Train Rides, Field Harvesting Demonstrations, Grain Elevator, Powerhouse with Steam Engine, 32 Volt Delco System, Shingle Mill and Forge, Stationary Hay Press, Steam Engines, Threshing Demonstrations, Wagon Wheel Rug Weaving, Broom Making, Veneer Mill, Memory Lane Workshops, Sawmill and Sawmill Museum, One Room Country School and Museum, Sugar Shack, Bay City Shovel and Horse Drawn Wagon Rides. We will however not be able to have the Cider Mill Press operating, as we are unable to obtain apples locally due to a poor growing season.

Once again we will also be serving our delicious food prepared on site. There will be: Bean Soup, Chicken and Fries, Cotton Candy, Donuts, Homemade Ice Cream, Fresh Lemonade, Hog Kettle Popcorn and a Food Concession on the grounds. As they have for many FFD, the **Auten Family & Friends** will be preparing a **Country Style Breakfast** on Saturday 8 a.m. until 10 a.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. until 11 a.m. The cost is \$6.00.

## Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Joan will be at her usual location behind the garage with her trailer filled with newly stocked merchandise for folks to buy on **Friday, September, 7<sup>th</sup> from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.** She will also be open Saturday and Sunday during FFD hours. Several new items will be for sale. There will be a small lapel pin in the shape of the Barn in limited quantities and a letter opener with the Barn logo on it. Joan always emphasizes that our customers are our greatest advertising tool as folks wear our logo bearing shirts and caps all around Michigan and beyond.

Linda Bailey has scheduled **Memory Lane Workshops** in the Garage each day and the schedule is as follows:

9 - 10 a.m. **Aaron Davis** will be sharing Rope Making Techniques

10:30 - 11:30 a.m. **Teresa Scollon** will be sharing stories from her book "Forgotten Memories".

*Linda Bailey will lead these two afternoon workshops.*

12 - 1 p.m. Make & Take Corn Husk Dolls

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Potato Prints on fabric & paper

A couple of special attractions that are also occurring can be found on your schedule and map. On Friday, **WSGW** will be broadcasting live with the **Terry Henne Farm Show** and Sat. the **Listen to the Misses Show**. In the tent behind the Purdy Home, **Stazha Hartsell, Goats and Soaps, Co.** will be making and selling scented soap at 10 a.m. & 1 & 4 p.m. along with **Lila Arroyo** who will be selling aprons. **Kevin Gracey** will have his Lionel Train Display back again, we're told bigger than ever. Across the ditch, a group of re-enactors from the **U.S. Marine Guard** will be setting up camp and sharing a bit of history with folks. **Theresa Schmitsch** will be milking goats and making butter. **The Scottish American Society** will be playing their bagpipes wearing Scottish attire in a tent outside the Munro Building. **Edie Fyre** will make butter using a Maytag Washing Machine. Music will fill the Purdy Home with dulcimer players and **Alex Paladi** will be playing the Purdy Family Melodeon.

Each day of FFD there will be a **Fashion Show in front of the Barn at 2:30 p.m. followed by the Grand Parade of tractors at 3 p.m. On Sunday the winning raffle tickets will be drawn right before the parade.**

Shirley Jones is pictured using the history book **The Story of the "Mud Lake Estate"** as she conducts a tour of the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Shirley used this book to familiarize herself with the facts and stories that tell the story of our site. This book will be for sale at the Souvenir trailer.

**Shirley and her husband Xen Jones** are from Brawley, California and were one of our host couples for the month of July.



This year, we have access to ten acres of DNR land adjacent to the south border of our land. We will be using it for parking trailers and cars if needed. This will open up the south area of our site for more displays.

There is something for everyone and we look forward to all of you visiting this Annual Event the weekend after Labor Day, September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. **Our final planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 28, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Munro Building** when we check-in with the Chairpersons to make sure everything is all set. If you have any questions you can call **Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761** or **Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526** for answers or to volunteer.



The row upon row of potatoes planted by the Walther Potato Farm have been growing very well with the special care and attention of the Farmers of Walther's. They'll be ready to be harvested and the diggers will experience the excitement of seeing all those potatoes that have been growing under the ground.

**PLEASE NOTE - NO PETS allowed on the Show Grounds during this Event due to liability and health department regulations. Please leave your pets at home where they will be cool and comfortable and not presenting a problem for the Friends.**

## Raffle Tickets

Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam & Doris Schember, Raffle Committee

Raffle tickets have been mailed to members only, honoring those that have requested that tickets not be sent. Many have returned their raffle ticket stubs and money and we thank you for participating in this fund raiser. The rules of the Michigan State Lottery require that **ALL** tickets must be accounted for so that if you choose not to participate we still need to have the tickets returned. Please mail all returns to Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, P.O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735.

The drawing for prize winners will take place on Sunday, Sept. 9, just before the 3 p.m. parade. Again thank you for participating.

## 2012 Fall Family Days Sponsors

The following businesses and individuals are sponsors who provide the financial backing and/or goods to cover the cost of putting on Fall Family Days. We thank each and everyone who became a FFD sponsor and encourage all to show their appreciation by patronizing those businesses that support our project. We were very grateful that we received the greatest number of donations ever since FFD began September 14, 1996. Thank you.

### Gold Sponsors

(\$250 & up)

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(\$150 to \$249)

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Atwater Farms, Inc., Ubyly, MI  
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(\$50 - \$149)

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Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Elkton, MI  
Thumb Insurance Group, Cass City, MI  
Kenneth F. Tiseo, DDS, Caro, MI  
Henry Tschetter Brooms, Rockford, MI  
Valley Collision, Ubyly, MI  
VIP Salon, Cass City, MI  
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI  
Wal-Mart - Caro, Caro, MI

Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI  
Gary Wark, Fairgrove, MI  
Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI  
Barbara L. Wilson, Cass City, MI  
George & Glenda Wilson, Gageton, MI  
Richard & Vera Wroblewski, Sebewaing, MI

### Certificate Sponsors

(\$10 - \$49)

Raymond J. Abraham, Lenox, MI  
Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI  
Anne L. Cenci, O.P., Saginaw, MI  
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI  
Susan J. Gremel, Sebewaing, MI  
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI  
Tom & Denise Patrick, Lapeer, MI

Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver and Bronze sponsors and sponsors below the Bronze level receive a certificate to recognize their contribution. **Richard Stacer** cut the wood for the plaques from the original siding of the Barn and **Martin Kubacki** affixed the commemorative plate to the wooden base.

**Please note:** Plaques are being hand delivered locally. For those sponsors who are out of the immediate area and plan on attending FFD, please stop by the registration table on the NW side of the Barn and pick up your Sponsor Plaque. Those unable to attend FFD will receive their plaque by mail.

## Wanted

Once again we are in need of help during FFD especially in the following areas:

**Gate admission collectors  
call Luci Kubacki at 989-658-8450**

**Parking & tractor drivers  
call Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526**

**We also need help in the kitchen all three days, cleaning up after the Fish Fry & the refreshment area each day.**

**We need help setting up the week before the Event. If you can give us a few hours of your time we would surely appreciate it. Contact Martin at 989-551-0526 or Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761.**

**Thank you,  
Martin Kubacki**

## Boys (& Gals) Day Out Crew

*The Boys, Co-Chairmen*

The crew continues to grow and it is so exciting to have new folks join the group. On any Monday there might be at least twenty or more folks working on one thing or another. At this point, folks are working to ready things for FFD and realize that some

things just won't be completed. It's not from lack of trying but there are just so many hours in the day. Some of the projects that are being worked on can be seen in the accompanying pictures.



**Bill Hollingsworth**, Merrill, MI & **Betty Armstead**, Zephyrhills, FL are working to clean up a showcase that they used in the Garage where they have arranged a Souvenir Store for visitors. Bill also installed the lighting for the display of John Munro's tools.



A group of Boys is working on the One Room Country School Museum Building completing the porch area. They are hopeful that they will be able to get the walkway completed so visitors can easily get from the One Room Country School to the Museum. Working on the porch are from the left and around are **David Hoffman**, Augusta, GA, **Byron Arnold**, Unionville, MI, **Norm Parker**, Cass City, MI, **Bob Hirn**, Cass City, MI and **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe, MI.



The tree lines behind the Barn are being used to display some of the larger antique equipment but the grass and weeds had grown up in and around the equipment. A group of Monday volunteers went to work cutting grass and pulling out the weeds. Lila Arroyo got the group going when she planted some flowers in some interesting odds and ends that served as planters at the end of the tree line and they looked beautiful. Soon the Boys saw the need to clean up the entire line. Pictured working on this project are from the left, **David Jaroch**, Ubly, MI, **Terry Keinath**, Reese, MI, **Jack Hill**, Marlette, MI and **Richard Stacer**, Ubly, MI. Also involved with the clean-up but not pictured were: **Lila Arroyo**, Cass City, MI, **Marilyn DeSimpelare**, and her granddaughter **Kensi**, Unionville, MI and **George Wilson**, Gagetown, MI. It looks great and is a big improvement.



**Jerry Auten**, Cass City, MI saw that **Lila Arroyo**, Cass City, MI needed some help so that she could water all of the flowers that she planted on the site. He put together a large holding tank on a platform wagon that she could move around the grounds watering all of the flowers. She pulls the wagon with our riding lawn-mower and was pleased that it made it so much easier to water especially with the hot, dry summer that we have had. The flowers look bright and cheerful and Lila especially thanks Jerry for putting together this clever watering system. Lila is pictured getting ready to water the flowers by the One Room Country School.

## One Room Country School and Museum

*Katie Jackson, Chairperson*

One of our themes for 2012 is the Country School and it is going to be very busy with patriotic performances, tours and poetry readings. Students will be performing patriotic songs and recitations on Saturday and Sunday. Katie plans on involving the Civil War Re-enactors' group as part of their presentation once again. **Don Greenleaf**, Cass City, will be accompanying the Cass City groups on Saturday. Space for these performances is limited so Katie suggests that you check the schedule and get there well ahead of time to secure a place in the One Room Country School. The schedule is:

**Cass City group** will be performing on **Saturday at 10:30 and 12:30**  
**Cass City Home School Group** will perform on **Saturday at 11:30 and 1:30**  
**Caro group** will perform on **Sunday at 11:00 and 1:00.**

**Also, in the Schoolhouse, at 2:15 p.m. on Saturday and 2 p.m. on Sunday, Teresa Scollon will be sharing Children's Poetry with those interested.**

Again this year, an **old fashioned lemonade stand** will be available for thirsty visitors in front of the One Room Schoolhouse. A cold, refreshing glass of lemonade will cost fifty cents. Students will do the mixing, serving and collection of the money at the lemonade stand.

Our hopes to have the One Room Country School Museum ready for visitors during FFD will not be realized. The building will be open for folks to see but the Museum displays will NOT be arranged until a later date. However, the temporary small Museum Building will be open to visitors. Stop in and check things out.

### Newsletter

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

## 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 and the total matches the amount of your check. **Doris Schember** will be available at the Souvenir location to take care of members renewing their membership and will gladly welcome new members.

**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.

# Museum Committee

*Doug Monroe, Chairman*

The Museum Committee continues to work towards creating a Museum atmosphere throughout the site. Many changes have been made that you will be able to observe when you visit during FFD. Look for these additions and changes that the Committee has proposed: the bridge connecting the south and north loft, displays on the north loft, the clean and refreshed walls of the arena, the beginning of a grain display on the southwest corner of the loft, signs in front of buildings, the refreshed kiosk and visitor guidelines information posted.

## 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 the Thumb Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter.

Gerald & Donna Auten donated a Case gasoline engine, Model L, 251 Cubic Inches that Jerry spent hours getting operational. (See accompanying picture below.)

Minute Man Metalworks, Inc. Bad Axe, MI donated the steel and labor to make the moldboard bottoms for the Cass City 3-bottom Walking Gang Plow made at the foundry in Cass City in the early 1900's valued at \$200.00. This plow was donated in 2006 by Lois Sugden, Cass City, MI in memory of her husband, Richard Sugden.

Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI donated a Massey Ferguson Backhoe & Loader Tractor.

Howard Gehrls, Reese, MI donated a glass, one gallon butter churn.

Donna Hodge, Frankenmuth, MI donated a Hall casserole dish, three Hall nesting bowls, Hall tulip pattern dinner plates and platter.

Valley Gear & Machine, Inc., Bad Axe, MI donated \$300.00 to make the gear for the veneer mill.

Thomas & Anne Dawson, Clinton Twp., MI donated a living room chair and ottoman and an electric silver coffeepot.

Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI donated a Farm & Livestock record book and a Farmers 1949 John Deere pocket ledger for the Grain Elevator.

Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI donated a Michigan Navy Beans bag and a crock with a metal cover for the Grain Elevator.

Kim Depner, Caseville, MI donated a calf feed pail.

The family of John L. Wooster from Weale, MI, donated in his memory an impressive collection of logging tools from Huron County to the Sawmill Museum. (See included picture and article)

## School Tours 2013

*Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson*

**SCHOOL TOURS 2013 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>** by appointment only. Those interested in reserving a place for this exceptional, educational experience for students from Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade should contact Diane at [drapsongabil@chartermi.net](mailto:drapsongabil@chartermi.net). Information is also available on our web site at [www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org).

One of the reasons that School Tours are so successful is the many volunteers who help out in so many different ways. If interested in volunteering let Diane know and remember to mark your calendars for May 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2013 when School Tours will be held at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.



**Judge John Brundage**, grandson of John Munro one of the builders of the Barn, visited the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum recently and saw for the first time the tribute to the Munro Brothers in the kiosk.

He was delighted when he saw the display of his grandfather's tools used in the construction of the Barn and house, and said, "This is beyond my wildest dreams of what I expected." Pictured are **John Brundage**, Marshall, MI and **Bob Hirn**, Cass City who put together the display of John Munro's tools right next to the pictures and information about John & George Munro, builders of the Purdy Home and Octagon Barn.

**Dennis Anderson**, Cass City, MI is pictured with some of the tools donated by the family of **John L. Wooster** from Weale, MI to the Sawmill Museum. The collection of logging tools that Mr. Wooster, an avid collector for a number of years, had assembled are from Huron County.

The collection includes many of the popular crosscut saws and double bitted axes of the era and several unique, seldom found hand tools that were used during this time period in lumber camps. Included in the collection is a large logging tong used to move large logs. We are putting the large log tongs into use in the Sawmill next to the Museum. Several wrenches and small hand tools will be displayed on a separate storyboard in the Museum to be shared with visitors during School Tours and FFD. In total there were 52 items donated to the Museum from the Wooster family.

We thank the Wooster family for sharing John's collection with the visitors to our little Museum. We have a passion for the lumbering era and an even greater passion for sharing the history with our visitors. Please stop for a visit!

**Jerry Auten**, (left) Cass City, MI, is pictured putting the finishing touches on the Case Model L 251 cubic inch gasoline engine that he spent 200 hours getting operational. The engine was taken off a Combine and sat for fourteen years just waiting to be repaired and needed. When an engine was needed for the sawmill, Jerry went to work and after many hours of labor it was installed at the sawmill and is providing the power to cut logs.

## NOTICE

If you are driving to the Octagon Barn and need to use a GPS, the address of the barn is 6948 Richie Rd, Gagetown, MI. Please do not send mail to this address. Our mailing address is PO Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735.



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

**989-665-0081**

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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 Gagetown Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. The Oct. meeting will be in the Munro Bldg. No meeting in Sept.

### SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Charles L. Pilgrim, Sterling, IL donated in honor of his wife Joyce who passed away in February. "She loved Barns so I'm purchasing all of the raffle tickets and giving a little extra. P.S. I like barns also." Joyce had been a member since 1997.  
Donald & Jan Severance, Palm Harbor, FL donated for the Country School Museum.  
Willa Vargas, Bellevue, NE donated in memory of her brother-in-law Frank Schwartz.  
Doug Monroe & Harlan Rabideau, Gagetown donated in memory of Bill Winchester.  
A donation was given by Ken & Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI in support of their love of the Barn.  
A check for \$98.07 was donated as part of VG's Share Point program.  
Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubyly, MI donated in memory of Ida Sageman.  
Donation to cover the cost of letter openers presented to 2012 School Tours volunteers given by Chairperson, Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI  
Donations in memory of Jim Skaggs, husband of Madelyn Skaggs, one of the original restorers of the Purdy Home. Jim's woodworking skills were used to replicate the missing crown moldings in the parlor. Donations were given by: Dr. & Mrs. William Corsini, Bad Axe, MI, Pat Hester, Cass City, MI and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI  
Hydro Aluminum, North Liberty, IN donated the bleacher seats for the new bleachers valued at \$500.00.  
Dann & Jenn Kubacki, Canton, MI donated ten sets of florescent light fixtures and bulbs valued at \$150.00.  
Duane & Marilyn Phillips, Gagetown donated in memory of Donald J. Kelly.  
Keny & Laura Hazard, The Villages, FL are once again our first 2013 Fall Family Days Sponsor.  
Ed Tresco, Clio, MI donated \$200.00 for the Grain Elevator and Blacksmith Shop.  
David Jaroch and Richard Stacer, Ubyly, MI donated a four - person golf cart.  
Bud & Mary Inbody, Snover donated \$250.00 towards the bill for the pipe to carry water across the ditch to the Village Buildings.

### 2012 Up Coming Events

September 7 Fish Dinner at 4 p.m. Munro Building  
September 8 & 9 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days  
September 14 Tea in the Purdy House, Limited Availability call 872-2766  
October 13 & 14 Open House at County-wide Museums  
Dec. 15-16, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Holiday Open House in Purdy Home

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

### Open House at the Countywide Museums

If you are looking for an opportunity to enjoy the Fall Colors in October, please take a tour of the historical museums in the Thumb. **On Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> all the museums will be open from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.** Light refreshments will be served. The museums open for touring are:

- ☞ Thumb Octagon Barn featuring the "One Room Country School"
- ☞ Cass City Historical Society "Bits & Bytes" at Rawson Memorial Library
- ☞ Caro Roadhouse will display "Weddings through the Ages"
- ☞ Kingston Depot will feature "Old Farm Equipment & Machinery"
- ☞ Mayville Museum "Vintage Military Uniforms"
- ☞ Millington Historical Museum "Old Toys"
- ☞ Vassar Museum "Hollywood Visits Vassar"
- ☞ Watrousville-Caro Area Museum "Quilts"

*Flyers containing more information and the location of each museum will be available at the Octagon Barn during FFD.*

**BENEFACTORS:** *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through Aug. 11, 2012.*

Raymond E. & Norma J. Baur, Unionville, MI  
Laurence Beatenhead, Unionville, MI  
Mr. Paul J. Beres, Lenox, MI  
Charles & Mary Beyette, Cass City, MI  
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI  
Dale & Patricia Churchill, Deford, MI  
Mary J. Braur, Clawson, MI  
Charles Busch, Clare, MI  
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Coleman, Rochester Hills, MI  
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI

Robert Dennis, Davison, MI  
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelar, Unionville, MI  
Sherril French, Reese, MI  
Thomas & Elizabeth Fritz, Gagetown, MI  
Gay Hollin, Bay Port, MI  
Brian Kitchen, Flint, MI  
Johnnie Leathers, Centerville, TN  
Robert O. & Eleanor McDonald Ethier, E. Lansing, MI  
Charles MacKay, Oceanport, NJ

Gordon & Delores Merchant, Ocqueoc, MI  
Dave & Jan Mirku, Oakland, MI  
James R. & Carlene M. Munro, Gladwin, MI  
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI  
Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI  
Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI  
Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore  
John & Beverly Perry, Cass City, MI  
Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI  
Thomas & Karen Reinke, Saginaw, MI

Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI  
Shirley Skuczcas, Merrill, MI  
Mary Ann Tenczer, Gagetown, MI  
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI  
Lucile Wehrman, Caro, MI  
Rose A. Wunderlich, Farwell, MI  
Beverly L. Zelis, Cottonwood, CA