

# 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.*

FALL 2012

## A Great Success

### The 17th Fall Family Days 2012

*Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen*

What another great year! Our **Friday Fish Dinner** was a huge success with 1,062 dinners served. We were so lucky that the skies didn't open up until shortly after the Dinner hours were over. A soaking rain lasted most of the night. But slowly the skies cleared Saturday morning and then Sunday was perfect. So the crowds began coming from the Thumb, around Michigan and beyond giving us an overall attendance count for the weekend of 15,000 just about the same as last year. Many visitors came early so that they could enjoy the **Farmer's Breakfast** prepared by the Auten Family when they served 1,654 meals. There were a lot of positive comments about the demonstrations presented in all of the various locations on site as well as the presentations in the One Room Country School and the food being prepared on the grounds and oh, so much more.

Our Potato theme was very well received thanks to the Walther family who planted the crop in the Spring and maintained it throughout the summer. During the Event, Walthers harvested the crop using their very large equipment but visitors could also see the old-fashioned equipment used to harvest a potato crop. Once the crop was dug up and on the surface, visitors could participate in the harvest and then purchase a ten pound bag of potatoes for one dollar. This entire activity was so successful that Walthers has volunteered to plant another demonstration plot next year.

The One Room Country School theme found retired educators dressed in authentic, period clothing. Several times each day local school groups performed a patriotic program which included songs, poems and stories providing visitors with a glimpse of what it was like to attend classes in a real Country School. These presentations were very well received by visitors.

The bills are not totally in yet, but our financial totals bring us very close to what was raised last year. This will be a great asset in furthering our projects on site in the coming year.

The theme for Fall Family Days 2013 is **Soy Beans and Related Products**. This is the first time for this Theme and we are already working on

getting ideas formulated for demonstrations and displays relating to Soy Beans. We encourage anyone with suggestions and ideas for presentations or displays relating to this Theme to share them with our Co-Chairs, Bob and Martin.

Recently, we had a call from Canfield, Ontario Canada concerning bringing a bus tour to our Event next year. It was overwhelming to hear *(continued on page 4)*



Pictured is **Don Greenleaf**, Cass City dressed in period appropriate attire for his participation in the One Room Country School presentations. Don accompanies the Cass City school group performances of patriotic songs. Doesn't he look dapper in his double-breasted suit and bow tie.



On Friday Morning a team of **Walther Potato Farms** employees came to the Barn to do a couple of runs with the large potato harvesting equipment. The first harvester digs up four rows and lays the potatoes on the ground. Then the second harvester picks up eight rows that have been put into wind rows. This equipment grades out rocks separating out dirt and eventually the potatoes are moved into a semi truck. You should have heard the oohs and aahs as the potatoes were dug up. Most were amazed at the size of some of the potatoes since we had such a dry summer. Walthers had planted russets at the Barn but they plant "round whites" on the 8,000 acres they farm that are used for potato chips. The Walther crew that harvested the potato crop were: **Guthry Laurie, Kevin Storm, Brant Slough, Chris Vatter & Scott Vatter**. All but Brant are from Cass City, A great big thank you to Walther Farms for partnering with us to make our theme for FFD so successful.

### Executive Committee

**President**  
**Rose Putnam**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**David Jaroch**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Gerald Auten**

**Treasurer**  
**Joan Koch**

**Recording Secretary**  
**Ardis Monroe**

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

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

**Dear Friends,**

It's that time of year when we thank those near and dear to us for all they've done and thank God for all He's provided. We've enjoyed a very successful year at the Thumb Octagon Barn even in these tough economic times. We continue to grow and change and move forward. We had hoped to have the one room school museum completed by the end of the year, but were sidetracked with other important projects. The house now sports a new roof. This is the second time we've shingled the house since we started back in 1994. We've added electricity to a few buildings, improved the kitchen in the Munro building, completed the bridge to join the two lofts in the barn, expanded the museum, installed a fire and theft security system and held activities all season long.

This has been done with the help of many who have worked diligently and lovingly on whatever project is planned. I believe the old saying goes "It takes a tribe to raise a child" and that is certainly true of our project. It took hundreds of volunteers and thousands of hours of man and woman power to make it happen. We are truly blessed with every person who volunteers, whether in a large way or a small way. Our visitors mention often that they had a great experience at the barn due to one person who went above and beyond.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and Committee chairpersons, from the bottom of our hearts, we say "Thank You." These two little words barely express how we feel. We will continue to do our best to deserve your time and talents.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays. Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas!

Your friend and president,

*Rose*



# The Purdy Home

*Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson*

So what's been happening in the beautifully restored Home of James & Cora Purdy. We have a new roof and it looks beautiful. After the bidding process, **Kurtz Brothers Construction** of Snover were contracted for this project. The materials were delivered from Vassar Building Center. **Dale Churchill**, house committee member, made all of the arrangements and was pleased with the results. The crew spent over six days on the project and the cost of labor and material was \$11,002.40. The roof workers also installed new trim board that will be tight and will hopefully deter bats from sneaking in. The basement has been waterproofed and is dry and improved. We hosted five Teas in the Home this year and we know that it could easily have been again as many. We will have a float in the Cass City Light Parade on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 and the Purdy Home will be open to visitors during our Open House, December 15 and 16. Hope to see you there. We are very excited about everything that is happening to maintain this lovely home as well as the many activities that showcase her beauty.



Since the theme for the Tea was aprons, a group of ladies from the Hemlock Methodist Church all wore homemade aprons to the Tea. They will be wearing them again for Sawdust Days when they will be celebrating 100 years of lumbering in Hemlock. Pictured from the left are: **Lynne Turner, Mary Durham** (who made the aprons), **Linda Zarr & Donna Schallhorn**.

## Christmas Coming to the Purdy Home



Ever since a furnace was installed in 2009, we have wanted to have an Open House and decorate for the Holidays just as Cora Purdy did when the Purdy Family lived at the Mud Lake Estate. So the dates have been set and we are already getting started decorating, baking and are excited about this new activity. This is such a beautiful Home and will be especially lovely all decked out in Holiday decorations. The Open House is scheduled for **Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> starting each day at 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$4.00 per person with children under 6 admitted free. We will be serving light refreshments. Tickets can be purchased at Chemical Bank in Cass City & Caro (main branch) Coach Light Pharmacy in Cass City and Our Treasures Antique Mall in Caro. Any questions regarding the Open House, call Marilyn at 989-665-0210 or 989-977-0025. If you would like to bake cookies for this event contact Marilyn.

## September Tea

Because Judy had so many ladies that wanted to attend a Tea she scheduled one final Tea for the year after FFD in September. Once again she had a full house.



Helping Judy serve the guests are from the left **Margreet deVor, Karen King, Stephanie Priestley & Judy Wallace**.



Judy put a couple of friends in charge of arranging bouquets of flowers on each table. The ladies who took care of this task for Judy are pictured in the dining room with one of their beautiful arrangements. **Sharon Erla & Donna Adams** must have beautiful gardens to have so many flowers.



A very special guest attended the September Tea. **Madelyn Skaggs**, a volunteer who was instrumental in working tirelessly to restore the Purdy Home, which was in terrible condition, back to its original magnificence. How fortunate we were to have Madelyn's talent and knowledge because she always worked to restore and not replace. Thank you, Madelyn, for your dedication to this project.



## Teas in the Purdy House

*Judy Wallace, Chairperson*

This year there were five Teas/Luncheons hosted in the beautifully restored Purdy Home. These Teas have become very popular and are by reservation only. The schedule for 2013 has not been finalized at this time however they will be listed in the Winter 2013 Newsletter or on our website at thumboctagonbarn.org.

### July Teas

**Judy Wallace** hosted two teas in the month of July. Her theme was aprons of the past and Judy walked amongst the tables, as folks enjoyed their lunch, sharing and pointing out the different features of the various aprons. For many it brought back many memories of aprons that they remembered their Moms or Grandmothers wearing.



Pictured is **Glenda Wilson**, wife of George Wilson, grandson of the **James & Cora Purdy**. Glenda is wearing one of Cora Purdy's aprons that George had preserved from his Grandmother's possessions.



Helping Judy with the July 18th Tea/Luncheon from the left are **Rosie Quinn, Kelly Hurford, Christine Anthony, Judy Wallace, Marilyn Phillips** and **Melody Frankowski**.



Before lunch guests were treated to a tour of the site on our people movers driven by **Arnie Maxfield** and **Dave Jaroch**. **Shirley Jones**, who with her husband is one of our host couples, shared the history of the Mudlake Estate with the guests as they toured the site.



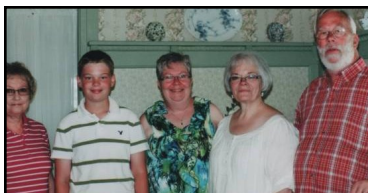
**Judy Wallace** is pictured visiting with **Barb Wilson**, wife of the late James Purdy Wilson, grandson of James & Cora Purdy. Barb loved being a guest at this luncheon in the Home that her husband had fond memories of when his grandparents lived here.



Judy's ladies that helped prepare and serve the guests at the July 21 Luncheon are from the left, **Glenda Wilson, Judy, Norma Wallace, Rosie Quinn & Karen King**. Norma loves helping at these Teas because she remembers back to 1994 when 21 folks met in Caro to decide what to do with the buildings – SAVE THEM or MOVE THEM. Through the years Norma worked very hard to SAVE THEM and is pleased that we have been successful.

### June Tea

The June Tea was hosted by **barbie Brooks** of the **BackStreet Quilt Shop** in Elkton. barbie's theme was quilts and the tradition of quilts through the ages. After lunch, barbie (small b is her chosen signature) shared the history of quilting and where she sees quilting going in the future.



Those that helped barbie with the Tea are from the left **Glenda Wilson**, barbie's grandson **Carson Binder**, **Yvonne Sherman**, hostess, **barbie Brooks** and her husband **Paul Brooks**.



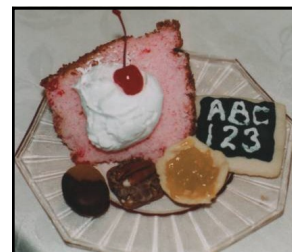
As guests arrived **Grace Blair's** beautiful hand crafted quilts were on a line blowing in the breeze in the front yard of the Purdy Home. Guests were able to admire the beauty of these quilts and notice the intricate patterns and the quality of the quilting. Guests were treated to cucumber sandwiches, a variety of cheese and crackers and a cool refreshing cup of lemonade on the large front porch of the Purdy Home.

### August Tea

**Marilyn Phillips** was the hostess for the August Tea and her theme was School Days. Guests were transported to the One Room Country School by **Ray Caverly** using one of our people movers. When guests arrived in the schoolhouse they had punch and cheese and crackers and were treated to a talk about the special features of the schoolhouse by **Katie Jackson**, chairperson of the country school and museum.



**Marilyn Phillips** is pictured with the ladies who helped prepare, serve and clean up during her Tea. Pictured from the left are: **Marilyn, Rose Putnam, Glenda Wilson, Pat Hester, Chris Allen & Bev Perry**.



Pictured is the plate of goodies that each guest was served for dessert. Marilyn had made cookies shaped like chalk boards with the ABC's and one two three on them. Very clever and tasty too.



**Katie Jackson**, is pictured telling visitors about the paddle that was used in the classroom when it was needed. The very worst thing was that your name was written on the paddle for everyone to see and know that you needed a little paddling for misbehavior. Katie remembers she became involved with the Octagon Barn project when she asked Bob Hirn for a favor and Bob said "It's going to cost you." So she then helped Mary Ann Hirn with registration during FFD and later agreed to arrange a scrapbook with newspaper clippings. Now she's chairperson for the one room country school and museum.

**September Tea on page 2.**



# 17th FFD 2012

(continued from page 1)

that a group was coming from so far away. Positive things like this are what keeps all of us moving forward.

Once again the weekend would not have been so successful if it wasn't for all of our many volunteers. We are so fortunate to have so many people that come forward to make FFD such a great experience for visitors. Our **18<sup>th</sup> Fall Family Days** is scheduled, as always, the weekend after Labor Day, **Saturday,**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>** and **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** with the **Fish Dinner on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**. Put these dates on your 2013 calendar and if you could volunteer to help out at FFD 2013, please call **Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761** or **Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526**.

We appreciate all the support and thank everyone who came to this year's Event. Hope to see you again next year.



For 14 years the Auten Family has been preparing the Farmer's Breakfast for visitors to FFD. Jerry remembers that he got involved with the Barn because he was asked to make pancakes when the Owendale-Cass City Knights of Columbus were preparing breakfast for the first few years of our Festivals and FFD. Then Jerry and his family agreed to take on this responsibility and have until now. Because of family concerns, this will be their last year. Just a part of the crew are pictured from the left: daughters, **Colleen Sweeney, Geraldine Auten, JulAnn Kuenzli**, Jerry's sister, **Kathy Warner**, niece, **Becky Sweeney** and **Jerry**. Missing is daughter **Darlene Bedford**.

Pictured on page 4 & 5 are some of our many volunteers who have been with us for years. Many of them explain how they became involved with the Octagon Barn. We're sorry this is only a small sample because space is limited.



Pictured is **Terry Henne, WSGW's Farm Show** and **Diane Rapson Gabil**, Essexville, MI. When asked how she became involved with the Friends, Diane gave the following series of events. "In 1995 I planned a mystery trip for a group of fellow teachers from Bangor Lincoln School District in Bay City. Then I brought my special needs' students to school tours the first year we had them in 1996 and every year thereafter until my retirement in 2002. When the Friends needed someone to chair the School Tours Committee, I agreed to accept that responsibility." Diane has chaired School Tours ever since. She also handles the advertising for FFD and arranged for Terry Henne to broadcast live from the site on the Friday of FFD.



**Mark Battel** is a maple syrup producer who hosts the public the third Saturday in March to Battel's Sugar Bush to observe the process of harvesting and processing maple syrup. How did he get involved with the Barn. Mark said, "I'm a history buff and I love old things and how they relate to farming. Doug Monroe asked me to help with the dairy display since my work was with the dairy industry. Then I was asked to work with **Bob Wood** in the new Sugar Shack. During FFD we demonstrate using sorghum cane that is fed through the press and the sweet, watery juice is extracted. Then the juice is boiled down to make syrup that can be used as a sweetener in cooking. Originally a horse or mule was hitched to the pole and as the horse moved in a circle someone fed the sorghum in one side of the press and sugar water runs out the bottom." **Brandon Lynn**, Kingston, MI is shown feeding the sorghum into the press while Mark drives his 'horse' around in a circle. Brandon's grandfather, **Ray Caverly**, Gagetown, MI grows the sorghum at his home.

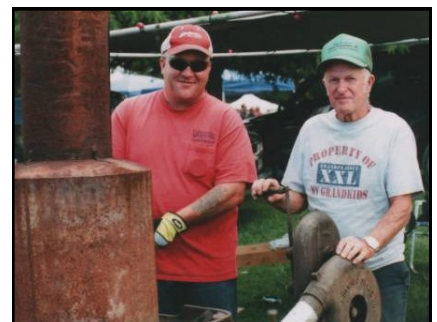


**Joan Koch**, Cass City, MI, souvenir chairperson, has taken on that job since the very beginning of our organization. Joan said, "When my son died in June of 1993 it was suggested that I get involved in something that I believed in and would stay involved as part of my therapy. Doris Schember suggested that I help Chrys Mosack who had been handling a whole bunch of jobs for the newly formed organization to save the Barn. One of these tasks was our souvenirs. Our number one seller at the time was a T-shirt with the words **SAVE the OCTAGON BARN** printed on them." Joan has taken care of our souvenirs for all those years and does a super job.

**Dave Babcock**, Cass City, MI, had been keeping track of what was happening at the Octagon Barn in 1996. Dave said, "I had a cider event at my home known as Dave's Apple Press and Bob Hirn came to visit. Bob asked if I would come and make cider at the very first Fall Family Days. I felt it was the right place to come because the Friends were hoping to turn it into a Museum. It's very special." Dave comes every year. He is excited about having the restored cider mill building where he will be able to demonstrate and make cider at our 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days using a big old cider press donated by **Jim Hunter** and **Roy Reinke** from Port Hope.



**Loren Stein**, Pigeon, MI has been coming to FFD for all 17 years. Lola Stein said, "We love coming to the Barn. We go to Shows all over the area but find this Show very special. We make it a family affair with our sons and grandchildren. We always give most of the money donated for the shingles back to the Barn. We only keep out enough to cover the cost of material."





## More Photos from FFD 2012



How did **George & LaVonne Pettinger**, Snover, MI get involved with the Barn. LaVonne said, "We knew Martin Kubacki and he first asked George to drive a tractor pulling the people mover during FFD. Then Martin needed help handling the pop and water to be sold during FFD and before we knew it we were doing the Fish Dinner. We continue to do it because we have an excellent crew. That prepares the potatoes for the fries. George brings 21 workers with him and most are family as well as friends and all wear a name tag that proudly identifies them as George's crew. Pictured are the crew and **John Liverance**, from St. Clair, MI (far right) who has been working with this potato crew for at least five years.



**Arlen Bannick**, Bad Axe, MI, has a very interesting story to tell about how he became involved with the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. Sharon Bannick said, "There had been a parade in Gagetown to make folks aware of the effort to Save the Barn. We attended along with Joe Remsing and another of our Band members. After the parade we decided to go out to the Barn. We sat on a rickety old picnic table with the grass grown up as tall as where we sat, and played our guitars for the folks that came out to take a look. It was heartbreaking to see the condition of the Barn but so nice to see it now." Ever since then Arlen Bannick and the **Eastern Music Makers** have come to play during FFD and School Tours.

**Doris Schember**, Gagetown, MI, worked at the Bank in Gagetown and she remembers exactly how she became involved with the effort to Save the Barn back in 1993. She said, "**Frank & Adeline Butler** (a family that lived directly East of the Barn and knew the Purdys) came into the Bank and told her about the meetings to Save the Octagon Barn. They literally took me to the meeting and before the night was over, I was the Treasurer, a job I had until just a year ago." Doris is pictured during FFD when she handled the membership table.



**Bob Hirn**, Cass City, MI is pictured giving **Edie Frye** Elsie, MI a big hug after she finished singing a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem at FFD on Sunday morning. Recently, when asked how he became involved with the Friends, Bob gave the following account. "The Tuscola County ISD had received a federal grant to promote a School to Work program. I was speaking at a Service Club Meeting on the School to Work Program and the other speaker was Rose Putnam talking about Saving the Octagon Barn. This meeting was in late 1995 and I thought that it sounded interesting and decided to attend a meeting." The rest is history.



**Greg Talaski** has been coming to the Barn for many years to prepare his delicious fish for our fish dinner. Well, an amazing thing happened several years ago when he met **Margie White**, who was helping with the Fish Supper at FFD. I'm excited to tell you that as Greg says, "I met my bride here at the Barn and we are on our honeymoon." Now that's dedication. Greg said, "I love all of the Barn people and especially cooking. Also, I love making people happy." Congratulations to the happy couple.



**Rose Putnam**, Cass City, MI, has been involved with the Barn from the very beginning serving as President for most of those years. Rose said, "I became involved with the Barn in 1993 when I was a member of Tuscola 2001 an organization of businesses and individuals gathered to promote Tuscola County. I remember in May of 1993 that the organization had a bus tour with folks from all over the State to see the assets of the County. I was on the bus to promote the Tuscola County Pumpkin Festival. One of the stops was the Octagon Barn that I had never seen before. I was very impressed with the size and uniqueness of the Barn but found it cold and daunting with oh so many holes." A short time later, **Susan Walker**, Tuscola 2001 Board Member, asked Rose if she would like to help **Save the Octagon Barn**. I guess we know her answer. From that day on Rose could say, "I have a Barn in Gagetown and I'm determined to Save it." Rose is pictured cleaning up in the kitchen area during FFD.



**Doug & Ardis Monroe**, Gagetown, MI are working together to prepare the Cotton Candy. Ardis is covered from tip to toe with strands of cotton candy that she is expert at making. She knows just how much to twist around and put into the plastic bag that Doug is holding open for her. Doug said, "I became involved because restoring this Barn became my passion. I was retired and this was a good retirement, community project." Ardis said, "I had never heard of the Barn until I married Doug. It was a new experience." Doug serves on the Board as the Chairman of the Museum Committee and Ardis has served as our Recording Secretary for many years.

### Fall Family Day Alert!!!

For 14 years the Auten Family has been preparing the Farmer's Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday during FFD. The family is saddened that they are no longer going to be able to take responsibility for this area because of family issues. Therefore Bob and Martin are looking for a person or group to take over the Farmer's Breakfast. Contact Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526.

## Boys (& Gals) Day Out Crew

*The Boys, Co-Chairmen*

The Boys have worked all year and are pleased with the results they have achieved. Basically they have been cleaning up, organizing and preparing the site for the winter. The number of volunteers is always growing and that is exciting. The Boys will continue to work throughout the winter months completing projects and looking ahead to proposed projects for 2013. If you'd like to join this group please call Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761, Wayne Lenton 989-658-8283 or Louie Wehrman 989-693-6743 for information.

## Steam Power School

*Paul Deo, Chairman*

The Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum will be hosting our second **Steam Power School on Saturday, August 31, 2013**. Part of the day will be spent in a classroom setting while the remaining part of the day will be hands-on working with steam engines focusing on safety, maintenance and operation.

Please look for more information in future newsletters. Pre-registration will be required and the class is limited to 25 participants. Questions can be directed to **Paul Deo at 989-658-2206 or 989-550-0077**.

## 2013 Host Couples Needed

*David Jaroch, Chairman*

Planning ahead for 2013, we are looking for couples who have RV's and would consider coming to the Thumb Agricultural Museum for an extended visit to serve as hosts welcoming our visitors and providing guided tours. Training will be provided to assist with the story to be shared of the history of this historic site. If interested, please contact **David Jaroch at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133**.

## 2012 Recycling During FFD

Rose Putnam, president, has been involved in recycling efforts during FFD for several years. She was very pleased that this year we kept the following pounds of stuff from going into a landfill. The totals are 225 pounds of cardboard, 52 pounds of plastic and 45 pounds of metal or aluminum cans. Rose would like to thank all who diligently work to recycle material during our FFD Event.

## Annual Raffle

*Sherry Kappen, Rose Putnam & Doris Schember*

Our Raffle was once again very successful. We thank all who participated especially our membership.

The lucky prize winners are listed below.

Queen size quilt donated by **Ruth Ann Brown**, Kingston, MI won by **Pat Coleman**, Blackfoot, ID

\$300 cash prize won by **Lorna Gray**, Vassar, MI

International Pedal Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment**, Bad Axe won by **Jamison Pudlik** Farmington Hills, MI

\$150 cash prize won by **Albert Arnold**, Caro, MI

Handmade Afghan donated by **Gwen Poole**, Essexville, won by **Jill Ogryski**, Ubly, MI

John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment**, Sandusky won by **Sandra Finkbeiner**, Caro, MI

Sears BBQ Grill won by **Patricia Hallman**, Shelby Twp, MI

\$100 Menard's Gift Card donated by **Green Acres Farm**, Akron won by **Jerry Nast**, Ubly, MI

\$75 cash prize won by **Anthony Eisele**, Vassar, MI

\$50 Gift Card donated by **Tractor Supply Co.**, Bad Axe, MI won by **Tom Young**, Upper Sandusky, OH

Handmade Afghan donated by **Diane Eisele**, Vassar, MI won by **John Grant**, Rochester Hills, MI

\$50 cash prize won by **Orville Smithers**, Elktion, MI

\*Cash prizes and BBQ Grill donated by Friends of the Octagon Barn

## 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. Several schools have already signed up and those interested should reserve their date and time early to assure availability of their preference. This is an exceptional, educational experience for students from Pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Those interested can contact Diane at [drapsongabil@chartermi.net](mailto:drapsongabil@chartermi.net) or for more information and a reservation form please refer to our website at [www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org).

## Thank You

The following businesses and individuals made a special donation for FFD that enabled the Friends to save considerably on expenses. Many have been donating for a number of years and we especially appreciate all who give us this extra support.

**Michigan Milk Producers Association, Dave Wittkop**, donated two 55 lb. boxes of cube butter used for the Fish Fry and the Farmer's Breakfast.

**Mark & Diane Battel & Richard & Loraine Enos** donated homemade pure maple syrup used for the Farmer's Breakfast.

**Bill Chippi's, Cass City Oil & Gas** filled the many propane tanks, at no charge, that were used in the preparation of food. **Bill** also loaned the Friends a limousine style golf cart that could seat six.

**Pigeon Cooperative Elevator** donated 330 pounds of beans used for the bean soup.

**Country Fresh**, arranged thru **Bruce Hartman**, donated 288 quarts of half and half used to make the homemade ice cream.

**Hampton Potato Growers** donated 2400 lbs. of potatoes used for the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast & Fries to go with the Chicken Strips.

**McDonald's Family & Food Center, Bad Axe**, gave special pricing on purchased products.

**Michigan Sugar** donated 50 lbs. of brown sugar and 265 lbs. of white sugar used for the homemade ice cream, donuts and cotton candy.

**Northstar Bank, Huron & Tuscola Counties**, donated 150 lbs. of popcorn, popcorn bags and several quarts of seasoning.

## Annual Meeting/Dinner & Benefit Auction

*Nancy Braun, Chairperson*

Our **2013 Annual Meeting** will be held **Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City**. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5 p.m. with dinner served at 5:45 p.m. There will be a short meeting followed by our Auction. Be sure to start looking for that something special to donate for our Auction.

A reservation form will be included with our Winter Newsletter that will be mailed in late February. Any questions about the Annual Meeting can be directed to **Nancy Braun, Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City 989-551-6495**.

## 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](http://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.

**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*

A crew of volunteers have worked many hours throughout the summer months cleaning and organizing the material and donated items that have accumulated over the years on the north loft of the Barn. This area had become a catch all for anything that we knew we wanted to keep but didn't know where we wanted it to be displayed. The Museum Committee has now established a Plan for our museum displays throughout the Barn. The location and assigned space for each of the display areas has been determined. Several of the new display areas that are already being developed are: Cement

processing equipment display developed by **Dave Babcock**, Grain display developed by **Louie Wehrman** & an early kitchen display being developed by **Lila Arroyo**.

We are now in need of volunteers who would like to set up the following display areas: **a tool display, winter activities of the 30's - 40's display, weaving loom display and hay processing display**. We also need volunteers who could help move and arrange artifacts to the proper place or designated area in the Barn. If you could assist the Museum Committee, please contact **Doug Monroe at 989-665-9948**.



A grain drill is being moved from the North loft where it had been stored to the South loft to be a part of the newly designated grain display area. **Louie Wehrman** is developing this display area and is pictured with other volunteers helping to move this piece to its new location. Shown from the left are: **Richard Stacer, Louie Wehrman, Karl DeSimpelare, Doug Monroe and Dave Jaroch**.

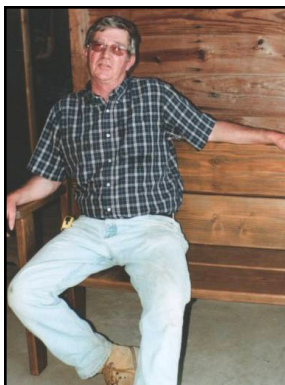
## MUSEUM DONATIONS

*Gerald Auten, Museum Records*

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

Glen Harrington, Akron, MI donated an acetylene generator and a sausage stuffer.  
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI donated electric soldering copper.  
Jim & Pat Beier, Caro, MI donated a 12" long file with tiny threads, hand made file with wooden handles, oil can with label reading fuel oil, assorted dishes for the house including a cruet, butter dish, tea pots and cups and saucers.  
Dave Babcock, Caro, MI donated a concrete chimney block machine.  
Mark Battel, Cass City, MI donated a 1938 Thumb Electric letter to their members.  
Dorothy Warner, Sandusky, MI donated a hay sling, two tine harpoon hay fork, double whipple tree, wire fence stretcher, a ten tine grapple hay loader and two pair of handmade black knee socks (1 adult and 1 child).  
Brown Dairy Equipment, Bad Axe, MI donated box of milk pipeline fittings, glass milk pipeline & glass C350 milk receiver pipeline.  
Bill Ewald, Cass City, MI donated a two wheel elevator bag cart  
Jonathan Schumitsch, Millington, MI donated a scrapbook he put together for his 4H Group of the Octagon Barn and Fall Family Days Event.  
Dale & Janice Smith, Akron, MI donated a folding, cross cut log saw.  
Kaye Sims, Kingston, MI donated a baby bassinet, bride doll & an electric 4 slice toaster.  
Eugene Bunch, Sebawaing, MI donated a horse drawn beet lifter, block & tackle with wood pulleys & a pair of harness.  
Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts. MI donated two creamer and sugar bowls, twelve cups & saucers and an individual size tea pot all in excellent condition to be used for the Teas.  
Pro Build Holdings, Caro, MI donated a commercial 16" Kirchfeld table saw.  
Jim & Betty Parker, Lapeer, MI donated a seed potato cutter & 1912 Massey Harris corn cutter.  
Melvin Gay, Saginaw, MI donated a sickle bar grinder.  
Ann Mullally, Vassar, MI donated a potato grader, wine press & a wood burning kitchen stove.  
Jim Stahl, Bad Axe, MI donated a flat belt for a threshing machine, a garden hand cultivator & horse drawn cultivator.  
Village of Ubly, Ubly, MI donated a Ford tractor with loader.  
David & Marie Jaroch, Ubly, MI donated an EZ Go. electric golf cart.  
Dan Toner, Cass City, MI donated two beet knives.  
Arnold & Keith Schuman, Bad Axe, MI donated a variety of items too many to list that included hay equipment, hand tools for buggies and wagons, early electric iron and more.  
Thomas & Anne Dawson, Clinton Twp. MI donated a period appropriate living room chair with ottoman and a 1930's electric coffee pot with a silver tray and silver creamer and sugar bowls.  
Huron County Road Commission of Bad Axe, MI donated a wheelbarrow Grain Spreader.  
Clarence & Pat Heleski of Ubly, MI donated two wood stoves that originally came from the Messing Family of Harbor Beach.

**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.**



**Richard Stacer** and **Dave Jaroch**, both from Ubly, have taken on the task of creating a museum-like atmosphere in the Barn from cleaning, replacing damaged boards, building the bridge to connect the north and south lofts, reorganizing and putting the finishing touches on the overall presentation. Richard felt that the orange and blue plastic chairs at the west entrance to the Barn were not appropriate for our Museum. He crafted a wooden bench, that he is sitting on and David stained and finished the piece. It is beautiful and very fitting and appropriate for our Museum.

## Correction

In the Spring newsletter, Jim Ware was pictured painting the newly installed water pump by the One Room Country School. The following volunteers should have also been identified as working on the installation of the pump. Those volunteers are: **Jerry Auten, Ron Colton, Howard Gehrls, Jack Hill, Jim Ware and George Wilson**. All contributed in some way on this project.

## Souvenirs

*Joan Koch, Chairperson*

We were delighted that sales were strong during FFD. We appreciate the willingness of so many to wear our clothing proudly displaying the Octagon Barn logo. Many comment that they can be far from home and find a Friend of the Barn and soon a conversation is started. Thank you for representing our cause.

We have an excellent supply of all of our souvenir items that could make special holiday gifts. If you'd like to do some shopping, please feel free to call **989-665-0081** and if Joan doesn't answer just leave a message and she will get back with you to arrange a shopping time or take an order. We have T-shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies in most sizes from kids 2 - 4 through adult AXXXXL with the Barn logo proudly displayed on them.

## Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert

*David Jaroch, Chairman*

The Lonesome Mountain Boys will be returning to the Barn for a Concert on **Sunday, July 21, 2013**. Mark your calendars. More details will follow. If you have any thoughts about some other groups that could perform at the Barn please contact David at 765-409-5891 or 989-658-2133.

## Newsletter

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

**Friends of the  
THUMB OCTAGON BARN  
PO BOX 145  
6948 TICHIE RD.  
GAGETOWN MI 48735**

**989-665-0081**

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

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>  
**Aaron Davis & George Pettinger**  
*Web Managers*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

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

### 2012-2013 Upcoming Events

<b>Dec. 15-16, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.</b>	<b>Christmas Open House in Purdy Home</b>
<b>April 13, 2013</b>	<b>Annual Meeting/Dinner &amp; Benefit Auction</b>
<b>May 8, 9 &amp; 10, 2013</b>	<b>School Tours by Appointment only</b>
<b>July 21, 2013</b>	<b>Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert</b>
<b>August 31, 2013</b>	<b>Steam Power School</b>
<b>September 6, 2013</b>	<b>Fish Dinner</b>
<b>September 7 &amp; 8, 2013</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days</b>

*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)*

### SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Donation in memory of Wally Singler, Royal Oak and Ed Howard, Owendale given  
by the Owendale Class of 1953.  
Jim Osentoski, Ubly donated 63.18 tons of stone valued at \$316.00.  
Donation in memory of Gordon Merchant given by his wife,  
Dolores from Ocqueoc, MI  
Alan Hahn of St. Charles was a vendor during FFD selling a wide variety of flags. He  
donated 3 flags to the agricultural museum in the Munro Building.  
Donation in honor of Helen Decker who recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday  
given by Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City.  
Error's Greenhouse of Bad Axe donated seven flats of flowers for the Friends to sell  
during FFD.  
Bonnie Gaeth, Owendale donated for the Country School.  
Barbara Scharich, Burton, MI donated in memory of her husband, Dick Scharich.  
Clinton Rockwell, Dansville, MI, donated in memory of Dale Buehly.  
Cass City Oil & Gas donated \$346.60 to cover the cost of propane used during FFD.  
Jerry Schley, Dearborn Heights, donated a floral arrangement of bittersweet grown  
on private land near Mud Lake that is on display in the kitchen of the Purdy Home.

### Site Donation Box in the Barn

*Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown*

The Friends have a donation box in the west entrance to the Barn in the  
Visitor Information area. As a 501 ( c ) 3 organization we depend on  
donations to provide funds for our many projects that are under construction  
or proposed in the future. **Ray & Carol Caverly** check this box each day,  
keep track of the daily donations and deposit them in our account.

They report monthly totals as follows: May - \$230.00, June - \$846.00,  
July \$1,062.00, August - \$1,405.00, September - \$1,215.00 and October,  
\$371.95. The total for 2012 is \$5,669.95 which was two hundred dollars  
more than was donated last year.

We especially thank our Host Couples for greeting our visitors and  
providing information about our Museum to visitors and encouraging  
donations. We also, thank the Caverlys for volunteering to take care of this  
responsibility throughout the months that the Thumb Agricultural Museum is  
open.

### Newsletter Editor Needed

The first newsletter was published in January, 1995 and has  
been published by a team of volunteers for all these years. Now it is  
time for a fresh new group to take over this responsibility. If  
interested in working to compose the quarterly newsletter please  
contact Rose Putnam at 989-673-3184 or email at  
[rose.putnam@chemicalbankmi.com](mailto:rose.putnam@chemicalbankmi.com).

**BENEFACTORS:** *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through Nov. 20, 2012.*

Raymond J. Abraham, Lenox, MI  
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI  
Robert B. Bennatts, Burtchille, MI  
Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI  
Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI  
Phyllis Bothwell, Farmington Hills, MI  
Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbiaville, MI  
Louise Buehly, Cass City, MI  
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO  
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI  
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI  
Arthur & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI

Joan M. Doyen, Lansing, MI  
Mildred Gibbard, Imlay City, MI  
Robert J. Gillmore, Cato, NY  
Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI  
George & Arlene Harding, Pinckney, MI  
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI  
Nile L. & Ruth E. Hayden, Sand Lake, MI  
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI  
Ronald & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI  
Fleming & Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI  
Fran Kanaby, Bad Axe, MI  
Fred & Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI

Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI  
Stanley & Rita Knopf, Marlette, MI  
Ron & Jean Krzak, Kingman, AZ  
James Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI  
Kyle Sr. & Sharon McCormick, Caro, MI  
Dan & Corey Netzey, Essexville, MI  
Amasa & Peggy Ondrajka, Unionville, MI  
John & Paula Paterson, Sandusky, MI  
Nicholas Posak, Saint Clair, MI  
William & Deborah Posak, China, MI  
Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI  
Leah & Joseph Robbins, Mayville, MI

Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI  
John Slachta, Bay City, MI  
Bob & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI  
Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI  
David Turner, Mayville, MI  
Lynne Turner Hemlock, MI  
Mike & Toby Weaver, Sand Point, MI  
Marvin Wilcox, Clifford, MI  
Richard & Vera Wroblewski, Sebawaing, MI  
Michael Zagata, Sebawaing, MI