

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.

WINTER 2013

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Nancy Braun, Chairperson

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Saturday, April 13, 2013** at the **V.F.W. Hall** in Cass City, MI. We are returning to this location as it lends itself so well to our needs and we thank them for accommodating the Friends for this evening of fun and fellowship.

The occasion will get underway at **5 p.m.** with a Social Hour and the Buffet Dinner, prepared by **McDonald's Food & Family Center** of Bad Axe, will begin at **5:45**. Following dinner there will be a short business meeting, election of officers, a look back at 2012 and plans for the future. We will also recognize our **2013 Barn Friend of the Year**.

After the formal meeting the fun will begin with our **Benefit Auction** handled by **Osentoski Realty Co. & Auctioneering**. **Dave & Marty Osentoski** have been volunteering their time for our Benefit Auction for many years and work very hard to bring the greatest amount of dollars for our organization.

We ask that folks bring some special treasures with them the night of the Auction for both the silent and live auction. Items should be in good saleable condition and can include antiques, humorous items, mystery boxes, baked goods, crafts, tools and items for everyday use. Please start looking for that special something that you think will encourage bidding and make the evening successful.

A reservation form has been included with this newsletter and we hope that you consider joining the Friends for a fun evening. Because we need an accurate count for the caterer, reservation forms must be returned by **April 1, 2013**. If you have any questions please call this year's Chairperson, **Nancy Braun, at 989-551-6495** or email **njbrown15@yahoo.com**. Nancy will need some help getting things set up at the VFW Hall the day of the Event. If you could help out she would really appreciate it. We would like to especially thank **Lila Arroyo** who has handled our Annual Meeting for the past

four years and made the occasion fun for all.

See you, with your treasures, at the **Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction on Saturday, April 13th** at the **VFW Hall in Cass City at 5:00 p.m.**



Marty Osentoski, auctioneer at last year's Benefit Auction, is holding a big stuffed animal that he is trying really hard to convince folks is something they must have. **Marty and Dave Osentoski** generously donate their time to handle our Auction. They are amazing and their energy and enthusiasm make for a fun-filled evening and a successful one in raising funds for our Museum.

Grounds

Louie Wehrman, Chairman

In preparation for opening the site to visitors and School Tours, Louie has set **Clean-up Day for May 4th at 9:00 a.m.** We will gather even if the weather is questionable as there are many areas that need cleaning inside the various structures. We will find a job for everybody that shows up regardless of their capabilities. Folks are encouraged to bring their own lunch and any cleaning supplies that they feel might be helpful. Remember that the more folks that show up the quicker we will have the site ready for the public.

Executive Committee

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1st Vice President
David Jaroch

2nd Vice President
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One Room Country School Chairman
Katie Jackson

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Douglas Monroe

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

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



Dear Friends,

Excitement is in the air for all the activities planned this year. Our theme is "Soybeans and Related Products." Does this sound exciting? Yes it is, if you know about soybeans. I've had quite a learning curve. "What items are printed with soy ink?" This was quite an eye opening question for me and the quest was on.

We are very fortunate to have so many partners to tell the story of soybeans here in the Thumb. Do you know who won a special recognition in 2012 right here in Gagetown? Do you know which local newspapers print with soy ink? Do you know what food products that you love are made with soybeans? Do you know where the Michigan Association of Soybean grower's office is located? Now is the time to find out. We will start the year with information at the annual meeting/dinner/auction in April. More information will follow at the annual school tours and of course, a soybean crop will be planted and harvested during Fall Family Days along with more information.

Let's not forget that there will be more than soybeans to learn about this year. There will also be a concert this summer along with three tea parties. We are partnering with the Tuscola County historical museums to host a county-wide open house in late June. Paul Deo will be teaching at the "Live Steam School" in August. And to wrap up all the fun activities, mark your calendar for September 7th and 8th for Fall Family Days.

We hope that you will come out and see all the changes to the site and walk through the newly renovated museum displays in the barn. 2013 is underway. See you all soon.

Your friend and president,

Rose

18th Fall Family Days 2013

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairmen

The upcoming Fall Family Days will be our **18th Annual Event**; my how time flies. This year the Theme will be **Soybeans and Related Products** derived from the soybeans. We are very excited about this theme as it will be the first time that we have ever focused on soybeans. Before the year is over we will all learn more about this crop than we could imagine. Here's just a taste of what is to come. Soybean is an annual crop plant of the pea family native to China and Japan but widely grown for its seeds which contain much protein and oil. Soybeans were introduced to Michigan in the early 1920's when **Henry Ford** began raising them on eventually 12,000 acres. He was making plastic out of the beans that was used in the construction of the Model A. Soybeans were introduced in the Thumb in the 60's and there was some concern if they would grow further North because of the weather and genetics. From the hardware to the grocery store, soybeans touch our lives everyday and truly it is a **Miracle Crop**.

Our 2012 FFD was very successful due in part to all the volunteers that help during the weekend after Labor Day. However, we are always looking for more volunteers because as our project grows so does the need for additional volunteers. If you could volunteer for any length of time, please call **Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-658-8450 or 989-551-0526**.

Louie & Linda Wehrman who register the vendors report that almost 80% of the available spots are filled and are going fast. If you would like to reserve a spot for FFD 2013 the weekend after Labor Day, please call them at **989-948-3429**.

Throughout the years, our FFD Sponsors are essential as they provide part of the funds to cover the cost of putting on the Event. This is especially true if we should have inclement weather and our attendance would be down. Also, our expenses have increased dramatically through the years. We are most appreciative of those who are willing to be a **2013 Fall Family Days Sponsor**. Therefore, we are including a **Sponsor Form** with this Newsletter and we realize that it seems like September is a long time away but we need to know our Sponsor information for our advertising by May 1st. The profits from Fall Family Days are what enable us to move forward with this museum project.

Our kick off meeting for Fall Family Days will be **Tuesday March 19th at 7:00 p.m.** at the **Fire Hall in Gagetown**. Those of you that can attend will be very helpful in getting our displays and demonstrations decided for our Event.

Wanted - We are still looking for an individual or organization to handle the Farmer's Breakfast during FFD. Please contact Bob Hirn at 989-872-3761 or Martin Kubacki at 989-551-0526.



The animals that Maplewood Petting Zoo of Kinde brings are a big attraction for young and old. We thank **Bobby Peters**, owner of the zoo, for the wonderful display and variety of animals that he brings to School Tours and Fall Family Days.



The FFD Sponsors are listed in the Barn and plaques are presented to our sponsors each year. When **Independent Bank** closed their Branch in Gagetown, they donated their plaques to the Thumb Agricultural Museum. They had the entire collection as they have been sponsors from the beginning. We thank **David Jaroch, Lee Sowden and Richard Stacer** for securing the plaques to the wall around the list of Sponsors.

School Tours 2013

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2013 are scheduled for **Wednesday, May 8th, Thursday, May 9th, and Friday, May 10th** during the School Day by reservation only. **The Theme for 2013 is Soybeans and Related Products**. We ask for a donation of \$2.00 for each person attending School Tours. This is an exceptional, educational experience for students from Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade. Those interested in attending should contact **Diane Rapson Gabil at 989-892-3105** or email at drapsongabil@chartermi.net.

School Tours 2013 meetings are held at Rawson Memorial Library in Cass City at 12:30 - 2:30. Meetings are scheduled for the following Wednesdays, March 6th, April 10th and May 1st. All are welcomed and encouraged to attend school tours planning meetings.

Host Couples

David Jaroch, Chairman

In 1999 we realized that it was very important to have a presence on site during the summer months to greet visitors, conduct tours and share the history and provide security. So we invited folks with a RV to come and spend some time at this peaceful, historic, all volunteer site. We are very grateful for their efforts throughout the months of May through October when we are open to the public. We often have folks that come back year after year and are joined by the Friends that they have made while staying at

the Agricultural Museum in previous years. We try to arrange for multiple couples to be on site so that they can share the responsibilities.

If you or someone you know might be interested in being one of our Host Couples this summer, please call David Jaroch at **989-658-2133** or **765-409-5891**.

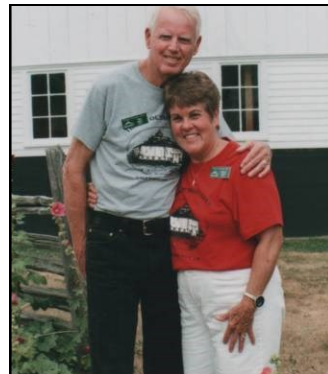
A great big thank you to our 2012 Host Couples who are pictured on this page along with some of their thoughts about their experience while being a part of our Barn Family.



Betty Armstead & Bill Hollingsworth, Zephyrhills, Florida were one of our host couples in July. In 1999, Betty and her late husband, **Ray Armstead**, were our very first host couple. When they were unable to continue because of health issues, another Good Sam couple **Arnie & Reita Maxfield** came on board. Betty said, "The Friends are my Family as much as my own. We loved it here from the very beginning. I'm amazed that it has come so far from what it was like the very first time. Just didn't think I'd see it that way after what it was like. I love coming back for the hugs."



Curtis and Mary Bell of Cartage, Missouri were new this year. Mary said, "It was the best. Wonderful people to work with as host couples and the whole group of volunteers are the most wonderful, caring individuals. We loved eating S'mores with them. On rainy days we were sad that there were no people and then someone would come even in the rain." They plan on returning in August.



Xen & Shirley Jones, Brawley, California, were a Host Couple for the first time. Xen said, "Greatest experience was meeting all the folks involved and the people who came from all over the Country to see an Octagon Barn in the middle of nowhere. It was a unique experience to see all the people who are volunteering their time and effort. You can't get that in California and probably not in most places. We especially enjoyed **Arnie and Reita Maxfield** and learned so much from them. If we weren't two thousand miles away, we'd come back."



Ronald "Too Tall" & Tammi Hensley, Lehigh Acres, Florida were first timers. Tammi said, "We had a lot of fun and we will have more fun this year. We are coming back in August with Curtis and Mary Bell and Doug and Jan Traverse. Can't wait. We'll see you then."



Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, Florida, have been one of our Host Couples for over ten years arriving in late April and staying until October. They may come this year for a very short visit if their health will allow. To see them you wouldn't know that they are in their eighties, but each year it has become a little more difficult to make the trip to Michigan. Reita said, "We loved being at the Barn and loved all the people. Every night Arnie had to check to make sure everything was okay. He worried as much about everything as Bob does."



Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, Michigan, (left) returned briefly to help out during FFD for a few weeks and are planning on returning in July as one of our Host Couples. They enjoyed their time at the Barn and are looking forward to returning for an extended period of time. Gail said, "We've noticed that there is so much more stuff going on and we hope that it won't be too much for us."



Douglas & Janice Traverse, Davenport, Florida, (left) were serving as a host couple for the first time. Doug said, "Everyone should do it more than once so that is why we are coming in August and staying until after FFD. I talk it up all the time. We go to Good Sam Rallies and tell folks that they should come to the Barn. I give them Dave's number and I think that we are getting some folks to agree to come to the Octagon Barn." Doug is a retired chef and prepared several delicious meals for Barn Members and Host Couples.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

2012 was a very busy year for the Purdy Home with our Annual Events, Teas and for the first time a Christmas Open House. Cora Purdy would be so happy that folks are enjoying her beautiful home but she also knew that it takes much work to keep the Home clean and ready for guests. **Marilyn Phillips** also loves showing off this beautiful home and is putting out a request for volunteers who would like to become part of **Cora's Cleaning Crew**. Like all homes this one needs weekly cleaning during the months that we are open to the public and especially when we have our Events. If you love the Purdy Home, please consider helping out by joining Cora's Cleaning Crew. Marilyn says that cleaning with others in this beautiful Home is work but also fun. Contact Marilyn at **989-665-0210 or 989-977-0025**.

The first **Christmas Open House** was a new activity and those that ventured out really enjoyed seeing the Home decorated appropriately for the holidays. During the Barnyard Sale **Ron & Arloia Lutz** of Sebawaing brought some beautiful Christmas decorations for us to sell. Knowing that the House Committee was planning an Open House, some of the items were set aside to be used decorating the Purdy Home. They were beautiful and looked perfect. **Alex Paladi** who restored the Purdy melodeon worked to get the Purdy phonograph operating so we could play an old 78 record featuring Bing

Barnyard Sale Cancelled

Please note that the Barnyard Sale is not scheduled this year. Originally the Sale was held to sell some of the duplicate items that had been donated to our museum. Donors had given their permission when they donated the item that we might possibly sell duplicates. Our plan now is to identify an area during FFD where these duplicate museum pieces will be available for sale. Check your FFD schedule for the location. We extend many thanks to **Ardis Monroe** who initiated the first Barnyard Sale in 2006 and to **Lila Arroyo** who chaired this Event for the past five years.

Crosby's Christmas. **Marilyn, Pat Hester** and **Gail McCreedy** decorated the Home and were joined on the days of the Open House by **Dale Churchill, Alex Paladi, Madelyn Skaggs & Rose Putnam** who greeted the guests.

Marilyn is planning another Open House for **December 14 & 15, 2013** and she has a plan. The committee decorated most of the rooms on the lower level but none of the rooms on the second floor. Marilyn is hoping to get volunteers to sign up to decorate a room using a theme of their choice. She already has some folks signed up but if interested please call Marilyn at the phone numbers in the first paragraph. Also, if you have some decorations from the period that the Purdy's lived at the Mud Lake Estate, 1920's to 1940's, the House Committee would love to add them to their collection.



When Cora Purdy decorated for the holidays she opened the parlor doors and decorated the room with fresh greens and red velvet bows. During the Open House, the parlor was beautifully decorated and even had lights in the fireplace that made it look like a fire was burning.



Newsletter

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



Gail McCreedy and Marilyn Phillips are very pleased with the occasion and delighted that all the work that they did decorating for the open house, preparing treats for the guests and sharing information about the Purdy Family was appreciated.



How many people does it take to get a cast iron bathtub up the steps in the parlor to the front upstairs bathroom? Well, five fit and there wasn't room for the sixth even though they could have used the extra muscle. Marilyn found the tub at a garage sale in Saginaw that was in very good condition. She knew that we needed a tub in Florence Purdy's bathroom off her front upstairs bedroom. Marilyn was pleased that she was able to get the price down when she mentioned the Octagon Barn. The tub is early 1900's and probably weighs 250 pounds. To navigate around the corners they had to stand the tub on end and very slowly move it up the stairs. The tub movers were **Mark Battel, Karl DeSimpelare, Bob Hirn, Duaine Phillips & Richard Stacer**. Marilyn has promised that she won't be looking for any more bath tubs for a while. She added, "Thanks guys. I know that this wasn't a pleasant job but I really appreciate it."

Marilyn Phillips organized a group to decorate a float for Cass City's lighted Christmas Parade that would advertise the Open House at the Purdy Home. **Bob Hirn** supplied the trailer and **Martin Kubacki** provided his 1939 John Deere Model B tractor to pull the float in the parade. **Martin** very artistically decorated his tractor with lights and framing so it looked like an old train engine. He won the trophy for the "Best Decorated Farm Implement." The Octagon Barn won a trophy as well. The group that assembled the float thanks **Bob** for providing his heated workshop for them to prepare the float. Pictured are the folks that worked on the float from the left **Norm Parker, Rose Putnam, Martin & Luci Kubacki & Marilyn Phillips**. Bob took the picture.

Purdy Family Member Visits

Bob Hirn was very surprised when he received a phone call from **Karen Hamlin** of South Haven, MI who identified herself as the granddaughter of **Edith Purdy**, James Purdy's only sister. Edith was the youngest of the Purdy children and she had four brothers with James being the oldest. In 1909 Edith married Terry Fritz and settled in Pigeon where they spent all of their lives. Karen explained that she recently became particularly interested in this uniquely shaped barn that had been built by James Purdy just outside of the town of Gagetown for two reasons. Her Aunt Helen Fritz Bulford put some Barn Newsletters "under her nose" and Karen found a book that pictured the Octagon Barn. The Book was Michigan Heritage Barns with photographs by Mary Keithan. So

Karen thought that it was time to reconnect with this Barn in Michigan's Thumb.

While talking with Bob a date and time was chosen for a visit to Gagetown so Karen and her husband Steve could tour the Thumb Agricultural Museum on a Boys Day Out Monday. They could hardly believe what they found. **Jack Hill** escorted them around the site in a golf cart and shared information about the family, our Village and the Purdy Home. Then **Rose Putnam** finished their visit with a tour of the Octagon Barn. Karen said that she was privileged to see all the work that had been done and the wonderful spirit of the Volunteers. Then she added, "For all that you have done, thank you from a family member."



Steve and Karen Hamlin of South Haven, MI are pictured in the Barn's Welcome Center where they loved reading and learning about the Purdy Family. They also were amazed seeing the before and after pictures of the original buildings and all the work that has been done to restore them back to their original condition. They found their entire visit fabulous.



Pictured is the first place winner in Caro's Gingerbread Festival. **Lori Weingartz** from Deford created this replica of the Octagon Barn out of gingerbread, white and green frosting and candy canes. She presented it to the Friends so we could have it on display during our Open House in the Purdy Home.



Teas in the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

Judy has arranged for the following Teas to occur during the summer months in the Purdy Home. We recommend that you make your reservation early as there are limited spaces available and they fill up quickly. Following is the information for each of the Teas, the Theme, Hostess and Phone Number.

June 6th - Themed Tea/luncheon featuring "Antique Dishes"

12:30 p.m. \$15.00 pre-paid per person.
Contact Hostess Judy Wallace for information and to make a reservation 989-872-2766.

July 27th - Themed Tea featuring "Christmas in July"

6:00 p.m. \$15.00 pre-paid per person.
Contact Hostess Gail McCreedy for information and to make a reservation 989-665-0127

August 10th - Themed Tea/Luncheon featuring "Mad Hatter Tea Party"

12:30 p.m. \$15.00 pre-paid per person.
Please wear your favorite hat.
Contact Hostess Chris Allen for information and to make a reservation 989-672-0289.

Thumb Two Cylinder Club

The **Thumb Two Cylinder Club** has been a supporter of the Thumb Agricultural Museum financially and with volunteers from the very beginning of our project. A special area of the Barn has been designated where they display John Deere memorabilia. Several years ago the Club commissioned **Adiel DeBoever**, a Thumb area artist from Sebawaing, to paint a mural of the Octagon Barn and some John Deere Tractors. Two of the tractors pictured belong to **Richard & Marilyn Kottke** of Port Austin and the third tractor belongs to **Keith Stock** of Sebawaing. Adiel has painted murals throughout the Thumb and has them on display at Papa's Pizza in Pigeon, Lakers Gym, Bay Port Hotel and Owendale High School as well as other sites.



Adiel is pictured with his mural at the Thumb Two Cylinder display area during last year's Fall Family Days.

Boys & Gals Day Out

The Boys, Co Chairmen

Everyone who visits the Thumb Agricultural Museum is always amazed at the number of volunteers that we have that are supporting this project. So many are dazzled by the dedication and camaraderie that they observe everywhere by those that are working. Also, the many projects that this group is able to accomplish are remarkable and allows us to continue to add and improve the entire site.

Indeed it is amazing and listed below are the names of the volunteers that are and have been a part of the Monday crew. They are grouped by the number of hours volunteered. We track these hours because we forward that information to Gleaner's Caro Arbor. *(For more information about Gleaners see the statement at the end of this article.)* These are just the totals of the 2012 Boys & Gals Day

0-100 hours	101-200 hours	Wayne Lenton
Paul Deo	Lila Arroyo	Lew Martin
Karl DeSimpelare	Gerald Auten	Lee Sowden
Marilyn DeSimpelare	Tony Grifka	Richard Stacer
Bill Hollingsworth	David Jaroch	Louie Wehrman
Bud Inbody	Norm Parker	
Terry Keinath	George Wilson	Over 300
Karen Lenton		Howard Gehrls
Anthony Lenton	201-300 hours	Jack Hill
Ed Nicholson	Byron Arnold	Bob Hirn
Jim Ware	Ron Coltson	
Linda Wehrman	Ron Hoffman	

Out volunteer hours and we have hundreds more who volunteer during our Events throughout the year. Isn't that spectacular! Our apologies if any of the Boys were missed. Let us know and we'll correct the error.

Dennis Anderson has been our contact person with Gleaners and shared the following information about the Company and our involvement with them.

Gleaners was founded in 1894, originally as a fraternal benefit society for farmers who found it difficult to buy insurance and obtain financial support to operate their family farms. Today the society is centered around Gleaners Insurance Company whose home office is in Adrian, Michigan. The Gleaners are organized into community chapters called "arbors". Each arbor is made up of community volunteers that do good work in their respective communities to help people in need.

The Gleaners Insurance Company

rewards each arbor financially based on the number of hours and good deeds that are done in each community. It is this caring and sharing side of Gleaners that make it different from many other insurance companies. The Gleaner arbor in Caro has provided volunteers and financial support to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn from time to time. We benefit from the good work done by the Gleaners. They are a part of our agricultural history yet today.

Gleaners Insurance Company through Caro Arbor # 106 just donated as a Fall Family Days Sponsor at the Gold Level of \$250.00 and up. They included a note that read, "Thank you for all your volunteering and support of our community."

Steam Power School

Paul Deo, Chairman

Ever wanted to operate a steam engine? It will be possible as the Thumb Agricultural Museum will be hosting our second **Steam Power School on Saturday, August 31, 2013**. The day will begin in a classroom setting and the remaining part of the day will provide hands-on involvement with steam engines focusing on safety, operation and maintenance.

The class will be limited to 25 and Pre-registration is required. Questions and registration are being handled by **Paul Deo at 989-658-2206 or 989-550-0077**.



Pictured is **Howard Gehrls** of Reese who logged over 300 hours of volunteer time in 2012. Howard can be found working here, there and everywhere doing whatever needs doing. Howard's area of expertise is metalwork, he repairs machinery, welds, grinds and is an all around great guy to have on our team. Also, Howard always seems to have a big smile and a cheery greeting for everyone.

Concert in the Barn – Lonesome Mountain Boys Return The Purdy Family's Musical History Lives On *David Jaroch, Chairman*

The **Lonesome Mountain Boys** return for the third annual Blue Grass in the Barn Concert scheduled for **Sunday, July 28, 2013 at 2 p.m.** (Please note that this a week later than the date originally listed in our previous newsletter.) We filled the main floor of the Barn last year and hope to be able to use seating/standing room on the loft this year. They will be playing two sets of traditional music with an intermission when finger foods and refreshing drinks will be served. There will be a nominal donation suggested.

Richard Wroblewski from Sebawaing volunteers his time and talent to perform and organize the Concert. It is thanks to volunteers like Richard that this Event gets better each year.

The Barn members are discussing having additional music events along with hands on displays during the summer. The **Tuscola County Museums Open House on Saturday, June 29th and Sunday June 30th** weekend will feature a stop at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Richard has volunteered to play on one of the days. Does anyone know another appropriate musical group that would be willing to volunteer an afternoon to playing at the Barn during the Museum tour weekend? **David Jaroch** is the contact person for music in the barn and can be reached at **989-658-2133**.

During last year's concert, David Jaroch (*shown at left*) couldn't resist getting up on the antique wagon that was donated to our Museum. He is pictured pretending to round-up folks. Perhaps he is telling them to come to our **2013 Concert in the Barn on July 28th at 2 p.m.**

Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum Committee

Doug Monroe, Chairman

The committee is pleased to report that **ACE American Alarm** has installed a Fire and Break-in security system in the Octagon Barn and the Purdy Home with the possibility of covering other building as requested. **Karl DeSimpelare** arranged for five different security companies to submit proposals for the project before settling on ACE. The system took many days to install and they worked very hard to make the installation as unnoticeable as possible.

Some of the other Museum accomplishments include signage for the buildings and the entrance to the Barn to aid visitors while touring the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. Seven

displays have been organized and started on the North and South lofts and work is underway to develop a Volunteer Board that will be in the Welcome Area.

The committee is looking for volunteers to step forward to help with the design and set up of the following displays:

Hay handling equipment

Farm hand tools

Winter farm life in the Thumb

Rug Weaving using a donated loom

Buggy & sleigh display on first floor of the Barn

Anyone interested in accepting this responsibility should call Doug Monroe at 989-665-9948.



Paul Deo and Bob Hirn are pictured working in the School Museum on the raised display areas in front of the windows.

Newsletter Editor Needed

The Friends are looking for a person or team to take over the duties of composing, editing and mailing the quarterly newsletter. If interested contact Rose Putnam at rose.putnam@chemicalbankmi.com.

One Room Country School & Museum

Katie Jackson, Chairperson

A lot has been done to the interior of the new Museum Building this winter by the volunteers on Mondays. The two raised display areas in front of each of the windows have been completed. There are doors in the lower part of the case for storage. The wainscoting and chair rail in the display room is done. The interior doors have been installed and all the trim work around the windows and doors is complete. The custom made doors for the front of the building are to be installed in April. Once the weather warms up, the second coat of paint will be applied to the walls and all the trim will be painted as well. After the painting is done the ceiling will be finished and the oak flooring will be installed. Our plan is to have it done hopefully by mid July, so the displays can be moved in and ready for Fall Family Days in September.

We think that **Clayton Turner**, who made a generous donation for the construction of the Country School Museum in memory of his wife of 64 years, **Margaret Glougie**, would be pleased. The Turners were both educators for many years. We thank Clayton and all the others who donated for the construction of the One Room Country School Museum. Donations for this project are still being accepted and appreciated. The committee can't wait to be able to display all of the items that have been donated and are currently housed in the very small temporary building. It's going to be wonderful.

During FFD we have been scheduling groups of students to perform Patriotic Programs in the Schoolhouse on both days. They are very special and are well received by those that can fit into the Schoolhouse. We're looking for school, Church or home school groups that would be interested in performing. Please contact Katie at jacksonk@speednetllc.com.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Jerry Auten, Museum Records

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

Andy Gray, Cass City, MI donated a fodder chopper.
Mike Berlin, North Branch, MI donated an apple polisher for the cider mill.
Irene Krozek, Fillion, MI donated a horse shoe impeded in a tree trunk, ox yoke, cow collar, horse collar with harness, horse collar with harness & horse picture and a concrete swan shaped flower pot.
Ervin Lockwood Family donated a 1920's slate board for the schoolhouse.
Gerald Loeffler, Gagetown, MI donated a hay carrier.
Ann Laethem, Caro, MI donated a 1930 community song book, Elson-Gray basic reader book 1, Hear America Singing song book, green 1935-46 lunch box, embroidered Graham School baseball cap and a Graham School memorabilia notebook.
Bruce Weither, Pleasant Ridge, MI donated a corn sheller.
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI donated a wagon with a flat rack.
Esther Reif donated the following books: Christmas at Casey's, Christmas at Punkin Holler, Christmas at Schoolroom, Christmas Plays and Comedies and Twenty Plays for Christmas Music.
Kathy Ray & Marjorie Englehardt, Frankenmuth, MI donated several wedding gowns, a tuxedo, baby items and a two Christening dresses.
Ron Barrons, Marlette, MI donated a large variety of handmade horse drawn farm equipment and house furniture. These are all toy size and include hand carved men, women and horses to go with the equipment. It includes covered wagons, equipment for working the ground for farming, horse drawn box type sleighs and more. They will be on display this Spring.
Charles Leik, Great Falls, VA donated blacksmith tools.
Gary & Kelly Zurek, Harbor Beach, MI donated a hay carrier, portable blacksmith forge, two tine hay fork, 11 1/2 foot hay carrier track, one pump jack and a flat belt driven metal

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.

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
6948 RICHIE 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.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Karen (Fritz) & Steve Hamlin, South Haven, MI donated in honor of Karen's grandmother, Edith Purdy, sister of James Purdy original owner of the Mud Lake Estate.

Elizabeth Hales, Mesa, AZ donated in memory of her parents,
Alan & Nancy Hales.

A donation in honor of Pat Hester was given by her son and
daughter-in-law Brad & Beth Kitchen, Mesa, AZ.

They also commented, "The Farm looks fantastic."

Donation was given by Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing,
in memory of Elaine Brown, Bad Axe, MI

Donation in honor of George Kuemmerle's 100th Birthday
given by Wally and Helga Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI

A donation was given in memory of Dennis Engelhardt
given by Ron & Arloia Lutz of Sebewaing.

**Wayne Lenton would like to thank all of his Friends who supported him
with prayers, cards and visits when he had quadruple by-pass surgery.**

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since
our last newsletter through Feb. 17, 2013*

Anonymous Donor
Tom Barton, St. Clair Shores, MI
Winnie Bauman, Royal Oak, MI
Bernard & Patty Billingsley, Sanford, MI
Don Carlyon, Bay City, MI
Ray Christie, Freeland, MI
Jack & Marlene Crawford, Troy, MI
Paul Deo, Snover, MI
Paul R. & Linda K. Elandt, Port Hope, MI
Paul & Phyllis Findlay, Caro, MI
Gleaners Caro Arbor #106
Doug & Juanita Hakala, Boulder, CO
Lyle C. Hall, Fairgrove, MI
Neal J. Hentschl, Harbor Beach, MI
Russ & Doris Holmes, Troy, MI
Randall Kursinsky, Midland, MI

Marvin & Liz Lambert, Kingston, MI
Gerald & Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI
Fran Lovejoy, Cass City, MI
Mark & Betsy McKelvey, Morton Grove, IL
Dr. Jeff Metheny, Davis, CA
Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI
James Parker, Saginaw, MI
Michael & Drucilla Pisarek, Cass City, MI
Jim & Barbara Prill,
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI
Mary Ann Hobart Reidinger, Rochester, MI
Dick & Pam Roth, Caseville, MI
Robert & Sharon Rumon, Caro, MI
Ivemia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Mary Simon, Blanchard, MI

2013 Upcoming Events

April 13	Annual Meeting, Dinner & Benefit Auction, VFW Hall Cass City, 5 p.m.
May 4	Site clean-up Day, 9 a.m.
May 8, 9 & 10	School Tours by reservation only
June 6	Themed Tea Party, 12:30 p.m.
June 29 & 30	Tuscola County Museum Tours, 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
July 27	Themed Tea Party, 6 p.m.
July 28	Bluegrass in the Barn, 2 p.m.
August 10	Themed Tea Party, 12:30 p.m.
August 31	Live Steam Power School
September 6	Annual Fish Supper, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
September 7 & 8	18th Annual Fall Family Days, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
December 14 & 15	Christmas Open House, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

*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*

Web Managers

Aaron Davis, Marshall, MI was instrumental in developing our website in 2003 and has been our Web Manager since then, doing an exceptional job. Recently **George Pettinger**, Snover, MI, agreed to team up with Aaron to manage the website. They will be meeting on April 12th so that Aaron can provide hands on training making it possible for George to do everything that Aaron does now. They will then decide on the parts of the website that each will manage. Aaron welcomes teaming up with George as there should be others that understand the workings of the website. Be sure to check out our website www.thumboctagonbarn.org. It is very impressive.

Site Safety Committee

David Jaroch, Chairman

As the Thumb Agricultural Museum has grown, understandably, so have the number of minor incidents/accidents. Therefore, we now have a Safety Committee that is trying to identify areas of possible danger and highlight them for our visitors and volunteers.

Next time you are on the Grounds, **think** before you act and **speak up** before a person gets hurt. **Slip and fall, twist wrong, lift wrong, carelessness and a multitude of other preventable accidents are only a mistake away. Safety is everyone's responsibility.**

We will never know if we prevented an accident but we will always know if someone gets hurt because we did not act. The goal is no accidents, ever.

For your Information

Complimentary copies of the Newsletter are being sent to Volunteers that are not members to keep them informed of our activities and encourage continued involvement.