

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 2013

2013, our 18th Fall Family Days *A Fantastic Week-end and a Great Idea*

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

In 1996, **Dave Babcock, Bob Hirn & Rose Putnam** had a wonderful plan and idea for the Thumb Octagon Barn. We had held several Festivals in Gagetown that were designed to create an awareness of the Barn and the terrible condition that it was in and the Friends plans for **SAVING** the Octagon Barn. These fund raising Festivals were very successful and we thank the Village of Gagetown for co-hosting these Events that did indeed accomplish the original goal. But in 1996 some felt that it was time to demonstrate to the community what life was like on the farm in the 1920's and actually have some of the antique farm implements used during that period operating. So Fall Family Days was planned and the first Event was held September 14, 1996. That first FFD brought 500 interested folks to the Barn in the

pouring rain for this experience. Since then the Event has grown through the years so that we now plan a two-day Event that brings around 15,000 to the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

Through the years **Martin Kubacki** could see that, as the Event grew, Bob Hirn could use some help organizing and planning Fall Family Days. So Martin volunteered to Co-Chair the Event. Bob said, "That was the best thing that ever happened to me. Martin is a great back-up person and a true friend. FFD attracts so many people by word of mouth and is a battery charger for our organization as people come to see what life was like in that era. It was infectious for me. We take the positive things and expand on them and the negative things we try to fix. The tremendous group of Volunteers certainly has played a



Mary Ann and Bob Hirn have worked together for 18 years to assure the success of FFD. Sometimes we forget that the spouse gives a great deal of their time supporting their husband or wife. Mary Ann has been right at Bob's side as he spent hours planning and preparing for FFD. We thank her for sharing her husband with us for all those years and we know that the Hirns will continue to be a major part of FFD. Hats off to a great couple.

big part in the success of FFD." Now Bob has decided that it is time to step down from co-chairing this Event after 18 years and hand this responsibility to Martin. Bob said, "Now I'll cover his back."

(FFD continued on page 4 & 5)

Executive Committee

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Martin Kubacki

2nd Vice President
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Web Site

www.thumboctagonbarn.org



A Letter from Martin Kubacki

Hi, Friends of the Barn. Well it was another successful year at Fall Family Days. The weather was a challenge on Saturday but beautiful on Sunday. The Fish Fry was another success thanks to **George and LaVonne Pettinger** for working hour after hour, to **Greg Talaski** and his crew for the delicious fish, and also to the many volunteers who worked so hard to make it happen.

Thanks also goes out to everyone who worked very hard to make this show run so smoothly. There had to have been 400 plus volunteers who helped to put on the event. **A community that comes together makes great things happen.**

As many of you know, our friend Bob Hirn stepped down as Co-chair of Fall Family Days after this year. Bob and I worked together for 15 years on the show, but Bob started long before that and I have some big shoes to fill. Bob will continue to help and his leadership was priceless. I always call him my big brother (even though I'm bigger than he is) because I look up to him. Through the years, he was the teacher and I was student. Thank you once again Bob, for the endless hours you gave to Fall Family Days. A huge note of appreciation also goes to Bob's wife, **Mary Ann**, who so generously shares her husband's time.

The next FFD Meeting will be **Tuesday, March 25, 2014** at the Gagetown Fire Hall starting at 7 p.m. Theme for 2014 is Michigan Apples. I have some new ideas and I am inviting EVERYONE to come. Please come and be a part of this great Event.

Thank you & Merry Christmas to all!!
Martin Kubacki, FFD Chairman

*Letter From the President*FRIENDS of the THUMB
OCTAGON BARN

Rose M. Putnam

**Dear Friends,**

Thank you one and all for your contributions to the success of Fall Family Days. Once again we had a very successful event. I cannot express how grateful I am for the many, many volunteers who have stepped forward for this wonderful opportunity to showcase the Thumb Octagon Barn project. There are many who have worked all year long to organize for the big weekend, but we certainly couldn't have done this without the leadership of Bob Hirn and Martin Kubacki. Please be sure to give them a handshake or pat on the back next time you see them. I get an annual hug, which may work for some, too.

Fall clean up has been underway. This year we had the privilege of a great group of employees from the Chemical Banks in Caro and Cass City come out and help. Please see the related article on this page. Thank you everybody.

The sign at the end of Richie Road indicates that we are closed for the season until May 15, 2013. That may be true for our visitors, but not for all the busy work crews. The storage building is under construction. As I drive down Richie Road and see the exterior shell, I am still truly amazed at what has been accomplished. It will be with a big sigh of relief when we can move so many things into storage from the outdoor elements.

Excitement is in the air for our 2014 theme "Michigan Apples". We will be selling apple butter and making homemade apple pies. There is talk of a baking contest, too. If you have any ideas that you would like to share, please contact a barn committee chairperson.

Another activity that is growing and expanding is the countywide museum's open house weekend. There were a lot of positive comments about the live entertainment that was amplified throughout the whole site. Look for more details about the 2014 event in our next edition of the newsletter.

It's time to give thanks for a great 2013. So, Thank You! Enjoy the upcoming holidays with your family and friends.

*Your Friend and President,
Rose*

Chemical Bank Cares Day

Rose Putnam reporting

On Monday, October 14, 2013 over 1,700 Chemical Bankers volunteered to communities across the state for their inaugural **Chemical Bank Cares Day!** The bankers made a difference as they participated in 230 initiatives such as reading to classrooms, preparing lunch for the elderly and beautifying neighborhood parks and sites.

Twenty-one employees of the Caro and Cass City branches of Chemical Bank chose the Thumb Octagon Barn as their project. They worked very hard raking leaves, black walnuts, pine cones and branches. They cleaned flower beds, picked apples, and then prepared them for freezing and later use for pie baking. One group helped to assemble an antique loom that will be used to demonstrate this lost art. There were 21 Chemical Bank employees and 21 Barn Volunteers working on projects all over the site.



Several bank volunteers bravely used **Jerry Auten's** clever homemade lift to pick apples. Jerry has built a platform that is attached to his Bobcat and is 12' long and 4' wide with a 38" railing that provides a great safe way to pick apples. Another group prepared the apples for later use in pies.

Maybe the best part of the day was the homemade luncheon prepared by **Louise Buehrly, Marilyn DeSimpelare and Diane Battel**. Thank you, too, to **Katie Jackson, Joan Koch and Rose Putnam** for their homemade goodies. The weather was perfect and we all had a fun day. **Thank you, Chemical Bank Employees.**



Chemical Bank employees gathered in front of the Barn for a group picture. They were wonderful workers and seemed to be very proud of their efforts to help the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn.

Annual Meeting/Dinner & Benefit Auction

Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson

Our 2014 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, April 12th at the V.F.W. Hall in Cass City. The evening will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. with Dinner served at 5:45 p.m. There will be a short business meeting followed by our Auction. So mark your calendar and start looking for those interesting items that will be attractive to bidders. A reservation form will be included with our Winter Newsletter that will be mailed in late February. Any questions about our Annual Meeting should be directed to **Nancy Hrabcak, Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City 989-551-6495.**

2013 FFD Annual Raffle

Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam

Our Raffle was once again a success. We thank all who participated especially our membership. **Paula Paterson**, Sandusky, one of our members was very excited about winning and said that it was the first time that she had ever won anything in a raffle.

The other lucky winners are:

Queen size quilt donated by **Ruth Ann Brown**, Kingston, MI won by **John Dewyse** Bay City, MI
 \$300.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by **Mrs. Conrad Latuszek**, Midland, MI
 John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment** won by **Sandy Parrish**, Bad Axe.
 \$150.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by **Ken Steffer**, Columbiaville, MI
 \$100.00 Menard's Gift Certificate donated by **McAlpine Insurance Co.** won by **Ron "Too Tall" Hensley**, Lehigh Acres, FL
 Handmade Afghan donated by **Gwen Poole**, Essexville, MI won by **Rebecca Cambridge**, Sandusky, MI
 Craftsman Mechanics Tool Set donated by *FOTOB won by **Paula Paterson**, Sandusky, MI
 Case Intl. 4WD Steiger Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment-Pigeon & Bad Axe** won by **Della Hillman**, Romeo, MI
 \$100.00 Menard's Gift Certificate donated by **Green Acres Farm of Akron** won by **Lillian Gerstenberger**, Caro, MI
 Handmade Afghan donated by **Pat Hester**, Cass City, MI won by **Toni Ventline**, Cass City, MI
 \$50.00 **Plain & Fancy Decorating**, Cass City, MI gift certificate won by **Rosie Lesoski**, Caro, MI
 \$75.00 cash prize donated by *FOTOB won by **Dan Netzley**, Essexville, MI
 * FOTOB Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn

Teas in the Purdy Home

Judy Wallace, Chairperson

There were three Teas/Luncheons scheduled in the Purdy Home this year but the July Tea had to be cancelled due to a family medical emergency. **Judy Wallace** has been a hostess of our Teas for several years and then assumed the responsibility of coordinating the schedule and details for all the Teas the last few years. Because of some upcoming surgeries she feels that she will be unable to be involved in the Teas as a Hostess and Chairperson in 2014. We thank Judy for all of her help and for creating a very high standard for the quality of the experience for visitors to the Purdy Home.

The schedule and hostesses for the 2014 Teas has not yet been determined but will be announced in our Winter 2014 Newsletter or on the website at thumboctagonbarn.org as soon as the schedule is set.

August Tea

Chris Allen was the Hostess for the August Tea and her theme was the "Mad Hatter". She invited all tea goers to wear their favorite hat to the Tea. Most were then pleasantly surprised when who should appear but the Mad Hatter and Alice who stayed in character the entire time and brought much laughter to the Tea goers. We thank Chris for hosting this Tea and providing a memorable experience for those in attendance.



Guests seated in the beautifully restored dining room of the Purdy Home are enjoying the many courses of the Tea/Luncheon while being served by **Paula Gardner**. The Mad Hatter and Alice also got involved with serving and providing entertainment that brought smiles to those in attendance.



The volunteers that helped with the August Tea are front row: **Emily Arnett**, **Rose Putnam**, Hostess **Chris Allen** & **Vicki Story**, wearing a beautiful butterfly hat. In the back row are **Nathan Arnett**, **Joyce Sheldon**, **Paula Gardner** and **Marilyn Phillips**.



Emily Arnett, portraying Alice, and **Nathan Arnett**, playing the part perfectly of the Mad Hatter, entertained guests. The brother and sister Arnetts have performed for the Thumb Area Center for the Arts in Caro. **Rose Putnam** made arrangements for the performers to attend the Tea.

Newsletter

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

June Tea

Donna Lowe from Bay City, a frequent Tea guest and Friends member, had arranged for the members of her **Olde Thyme Herb Society of Bay County** to attend the June Tea. Judy had chosen as her theme "Antique Dishes" and encouraged guests to bring an item that they wondered about the value of their treasure. Judy arranged seating and appetizers in the Barn and **Gail Smith**, an Antique Dealer and Appraiser, evaluated the pieces.



The parlor in the Purdy Home is arranged to welcome guests for the June Tea hosted by **Judy Wallace**. Judy created a very warm setting and special attention was given to every detail. Notice the decorative coverings on the backs of common folding chairs that added such a soft touch and of course seasonal flowers on every table.

Judy's helpers gathered on the back porch of the Purdy Home. They prepared food, served or washed dishes to help make the June Tea a success. The volunteers are, front row from the left, **Lois Hollister**, **Glenda Wilson** and **Stephanie Priestley**. Middle row, **Marilyn Phillips**, **Paula Gardner** and hostess **Judy Wallace**. **Bernette Schwalm** and **Rosie Quinn** are in the back row.

Judy invited **Gail Smith**, from Cass City, to the tea. She has been an Antique Dealer & Appraiser since 1970. This was the first time that Gail had ever done an appraisal at a Barn. She was very generous with her time and demonstrated her wealth of knowledge about antiques. She also had brought several lovely pieces with her that some lucky folks won in her drawing.

Christmas Open House in the Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Our second Open House in the Purdy Home will be held on December 14th & 15th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. Every room in the Home will be decorated, with prizes awarded to the decorators of the top three voted rooms. Folks have signed up to decorate the room of their choice and have been spending considerable time getting everything just the way they want it to welcome visitors. Refreshments will be served throughout the day and will include: Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and mulled (to heat & sweeten with spices) cider in keeping with our 2014 theme of **Michigan Apples**. The cost for the Open House is \$4.00 per person and will be collected at the door.

So mark your calendar for a visit to the Purdy Home on December 14th and 15th and enjoy the beauty of this lovely home filled with Christmas atmosphere. We'll even have the old phonograph playing some of Bing Crosby's Christmas music.

Also, the Friends will have a float in the Cass City Christmas Lighted Parade on December 7th with prizes awarded at 5:30. The float will be advertising our Open House at the Purdy Home. **Martin Kubacki** volunteered to help and bring others in his family who "love building attractive floats." Previously they have been very successful designing winning floats for the Thumb Two Cylinder Club.

Fall Family Days 2013

(continued in pictures from page 1)



During Opening Ceremonies on Sunday, **Bob Hirn** Co-Chairman of FFD, is welcoming visitors and **Becky Learman**, Caro, MI is preparing to sing the National Anthem and beautifully did so.



Greg Talaski, Filion, and his crew of hard workers are busily using Greg's special breadings for the fish that Greg is now ready to deep fry to perfection. Greg has been preparing the fish for our Fish Supper for many years and he delivers a very, very delicious product. People come from far and near to enjoy the meal but especially the fish.



The **Caro Knights of Columbus #3224** prepared the Country Style Breakfast for the first time at FFD. They will be back next year and are looking forward to returning. They enjoyed the experience and felt that folks were pleased with their breakfast.

Family and Friends Coming Together at Fall Family Days

It seems that Fall Family Days is a time for Family and Friends to come together for a visit. On pages 4 & 5 stories are told of people renewing old friendships and families attending together to enjoy the two-day Event.



Five generations of the **Amasa Anthes** family gathered at Fall Family Days. Amasa is 94 and was born and raised in the Gagetown area and was involved in farming and the family of Building Movers. In fact the Anthes family moved the Mast School from Sebawaing to the Barn Site several years ago and that was actually the second time that they had moved the structure. In the front row are **Kaylee & Bryce Koch**, the very proud **Amasa Anthes** standing straight and tall and his daughter **Joan Koch** our Souvenir Chairperson & Treasurer. In the back row are **Marie & Bryan Koch** and **Brad & Lauren Koch** sons of Joan and their wives.



The **Ziehms**, local farmers from Gagetown, agreed to plant a small plot, .25 acres of soybeans, for our 2013 Theme, that would hopefully provide a harvesting demonstration during FFD. So they purchased soybean seed from Eastern Ontario that had the shortest maturity group. Unfortunately, they were not ready for harvesting until a month after FFD. Pictured is **Chris Ziehm** combining the beans with the 35' header that his Dad, Larry, brought over on a header cart. He made one pass down and a half



pass back and the plot was harvested. Following the harvest he immediately knew that the crop yielded 33 bushels per acre and the moisture level was 14.

Cass River Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol Auxiliary, USAF presented the colors and raised the American Flag during Opening Ceremonies on Saturday. Those participating were: **John B. Johnson, Colt Jacobs, Chris Hammac, Lucas Brown & Beth Johnson.**



Pictured at left are students that identified themselves as the **Caro Schoolhouse Re-enactors**. They were so happy and having such a grand time. They loved performing at the one room country school and they were very good for such a small group. They are from the left: **Zach Voss, Allison Learman, Scarlet Bringard, Tricia Sharp** and **Mackenzie Reno**, all of Caro.



Martin Kubacki brought family members to the Barn the Saturday before FFD to help with the marking of the various fields for parking of visitor's vehicles, mobile homes and tractors. They have been working all morning and now Martin has prepared lunch for the group and they are waiting for the Brats to be ready for eating. Martin knows how to treat his workers. Those volunteers are Martin's brother, **Ron Kubacki**, **Brad Kubacki**, and behind Brad is Martin, **David Geiger**, **Jack Hill** (not officially part of the family) and **Aaron Guza**.



Pictured is a family enjoying the sights and sounds during FFD and having a nice day at the Thumb Agricultural Museum and indeed they were very much enjoying their visit. Their family has been involved in farming in the area for over one hundred years so they love the demonstrations of antique farm equipment and the memories. From the left they are **John Patrick Timko**, from Unionville and Band Director of Akron, Fairgrove School, **Jennifer Barst**, Unionville, **Susan & John Barst**, St. Charles, and **Donna & Jim Coleman** also from St. Charles, MI



Basil Ziehm started farming in the area in 1910 and the Ziehm Family is now farming eighteen hundred acres of sugar beets, corn and soybeans. In fact, our James Purdy loaned Basil \$75.00 so he could purchase some horses when he was just starting to farm. From the left are four generations of Ziehms: **Ginny**, and husband **Larry Ziehm**, **Evelyn Ziehm**, wife of the late Richard and Larry's Mother, **Chris**, son of Ginny & Larry, is holding the youngest Ziehm, **Amelia** and Chris' wife, **Tonya**. Chris and Tonya were honored as the 2012 Michigan Young Leader Representatives by the Michigan Soybean Assoc. Chris is convinced that Amelia is going to carry on the tradition of farming in the Ziehm Family as she loves riding with him in the very, very big combine.

Fall Family Days 2013



Jasmine Putnam, left, was invited to help Grandpa Bill Putnam, who was working with the Knights of Columbus preparing the Country Breakfast, by serving beverages to the guests. When breakfast was over, Jasmine volunteered to help Grandma, President Rose Putnam, right, with whatever Grandma needed help with. In past years, Jasmine had been part of the Caro group that performed Patriotic Programs in the One Room Country School.



Two old buddies, who went to Cass City High School together but haven't seen each other for over ten years, had a very nice visit. They are Dick Wallace, who has been our Saturday public address announcer for many years, and Jim Munro, Grandson of George Munro, one of the builders of the Octagon Barn. They had a good old time remembering back to the days when the Gagetown Boys came to the Cass City School. One year at FFD, Jim's grandson wore a T-shirt that read "My great, grandfather built the Octagon Barn."



Gathered on the front porch of the Country School after presenting a very special Patriotic Program are the performers, all Home School students. Sue Battel worked with the students who presented a wonderful program. It's too bad that many more didn't get an opportunity to experience their performance because it made you feel proud to be an American.



Here's a great story. Sue Beck was becoming a member at the membership table handled by Doris Schember who encouraged membership by sharing a past newsletter with interested folks. Sue just happened to pick up the letter that had a picture of Ena Reintjes. Sue went to New Haven High School with Ena and graduated in 1976. Sue was visiting during FFD because she is a member of the Richmond Antique Club that sold a 1960's Veneer Mill to the Friends and she was curious about its use. The veneer mill has been a wonderful addition to the Sawmill and Lumber Museum and draws big crowds when it is being operated. Well, Sue tracked Ena down so that she could have a visit with her former classmate. Around the same time a couple that knew Ena from the time that they worked together at Home Depot appeared. What a reunion - and all came together at the Octagon Barn's FFD. Pictured are John Tyson, Richmond Antique Club member, Debbie VanDriessche, Home Depot, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores & Gagetown, Bob VanDriessche, Casco and Ena's high school classmate Sue Beck, Richmond.



A family gathering in front of the Barn found three generations having a special visit during FFD. On the left is Grandma Luci Kubacki, a FFD volunteer for many years, Jill Kubacki Ogryski, our public address announcer on Sunday for many years, and Hope Ogryski, the cute little girl featured on our commemorative 2013 button.



A group of folks from Canada gathered at FFD. Karl & Lorna Fretz had hoped to bring a bus load of folks in their area to FFD but decided that perhaps some folks didn't have enough information about how wonderful it is at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Karl & Lorna Fretz, members, feel that the folks who joined them will now be able to convince others to join in and come for next year's FFD. Pictured are Ed Geyer, Jesse Adams, Mary Geyer and Lorna & Karl Fretz.



Two of our previous Host Couples came back for FFD and everyone was delighted to visit with them once again. They enjoyed seeing the new buildings and the improvements that are taking place on the site. The couples are Lillian & Leon Farmer, Runaway Bay, TX and Jerry & Barb Weber, Winter Park, FL



We were delighted to have a group of spinners in the Barn arena during FFD. They are members of the Woolies Group that formed in 1985. The ladies spinning are Dorothy Warner Echlin, Maddy Skaggs, Sandy Frettenborough and Sue Boughman (not pictured as she is off to the side giving a beginning spinner some valuable tips). The group had many interested observers throughout the Event.

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 with their special donations.

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

Bill Chippi's, Cass City Oil & Gas donated at least 70 to 80 gallons of propane used to fill 20 tanks at no charge. The tanks were used for food preparation. Bill also loaned the Friends a limousine style golf cart that seats six.

Pigeon Cooperative Elevator donated 300 lbs. of beans used for the bean soup.

Country Fresh, arranged through **Bruce Hartman**, donated 244 quarts of half and half used to make the homemade ice cream.

Hampton Potato Growers donated 2500 lbs. of potatoes used for the Fish Fry, Farmer's Breakfast and the Fries to go with the Chicken Strips.

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

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.

Erla's Food Center, Cass City made all the arrangements with Country Fresh for the donated half & half and provided extra when needed at cost.

MMR (Mobile Medical Response) Supervisor, **Scott Smeader**, Saginaw, MI arranged for four people to be available on the grounds for emergencies each day of FFD.

The following businesses donated items that were put in bags for exhibitors and vendors participating in FFD. Folks love receiving these bags and we hope they provide some advertising for those donating as well. Contributing businesses were: **Thumb National Bank, Independent Bank, Chemical Bank, Plain & Fancy Decorating, Knight's Insurance, Hills & Dales General Hospital, ACE Hardware, Sebewaing, Thumb Cellular, Caro, Narayhan Rehabilitation and Coach Light Pharmacy.** Mary Ann Hirn assembles these bags as she has for many years.

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 a rose.putnam@chemicalbankmi.com.

THIS & THAT - For your information

Wedding Coordinator

Carolyn Sorenson, Chairperson

Carolyn reports that there are several weddings scheduled for 2014. She is getting many requests and some would reserve the site if they could also have their reception at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Currently we are not scheduling any receptions as we are not equipped to handle all that is involved in a reception. If you or someone you know would like information regarding reserving the site for their wedding, contact **Carolyn at 989-912-0449** and she will answer all of your questions.

Site Donation Box in the Barn

Ray & Carol Caverly, Chairmen

The Friends have a donation box at the entrance to the Barn. We encourage donations as this is how we fund projects to further develop the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum & Village. **Ray & Carol Caverly** faithfully check the box daily and deposit the donations in our account. The final totals for 2013 are as follows, May - \$64.97, June - \$806.00, July - \$1,576.00, August - \$1,240.00, September - \$1,211.38 and October - \$497.85. Total for the year is \$5,396.20.

We thank our Host Couples for encouraging donations and the Caverlys for handling this responsibility throughout the months that the Museum is open.

Michigan Blood Drive

During FFD at the Friday Fish Fry, **Michigan Blood** had their mobile unit on site and were pleased to report that they registered 21 donors and collected 16 lifesaving pints. There were 4 first time donors.

FFD Recycling Report

Rose Putnam, President has encouraged recycling since the beginning of FFD. Each year she emphasizes the importance of recycling as much material as possible rather than continuing to fill up our landfills. She is pleased to report that many pounds of stuff was collected. The totals are: 165 lbs. of cardboard, 49 lbs. of plastic and 52 lbs. of metal and aluminum cans. Rose thanks all for their efforts to recycle.

Wanted: Individual or Couple to manage the Welcome Center and oversight of host couples for the Thumb Octagon Barn. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., May 15th through September 30th. Free hook up for RV and internet service available. Contact Rose Putnam at 989-673-3184 or 989-550-0693.



On July 5, 2013 **Nancy Braun**, Annual Meeting Chairperson and owner of Plain & Fancy Decorating, Cass City, married **Kevin Hrabcak**, Dryden, MI, in the arena of the Barn. They met when Kevin came into her store to get change so he could pay his rent and the rest is history. Pictured are **Nancy Walsh Hrabcak** and her husband **Kevin Hrabcak** following the ceremony.

Weekly Updates

David Jaroch, Update Messenger

David sends out an update on the projects that the Boys Day Out Crew will be working on when they gather on Monday. Currently, he is sending an email message to seventy-five interested persons. If you would like to be included and receive these weekly emails, send an email to David at tdjaroch@yahoo.com and he will add you to the list.

Concert in the Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

Once again we are planning the very popular Concert in the Barn featuring the **Lonesome Mountain Boys**. Mark your 2014 calendar for **July 13, 2014** the day selected for their entertaining performance. Watch for additional information in future newsletters.

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Joan was pleased with the souvenir sales during FFD and thanks all for their willingness to help promote the Thumb Agricultural Museum by wearing our shirts and caps with the Barn logo. Joan reminds folks that our souvenirs make great Christmas gifts for kids including stocking stuffers to T-shirts and sweatshirts appropriate for all ages. You can call Joan to place an order at **989-325-0041** and items can be picked up at her home in Gagetown or she will mail them to you.

For the first time, Joan will have **gift certificates** available for those special people on your Christmas list so they can do their own shopping.

School Tours 2014

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2014 will be held **Wednesday, May 7th, Thursday, May 8th and Friday, May 9th** during the school day by appointment only. Several schools have already reserved their date and those interested should contact Diane at drapsongabil@charter.net or for more information about School Tours and how to sign up using our website go to www.thumboctagonbarn.org. This is an exceptional educational experience for students from Pre-K through 8th grade.

Modern Woodmen of America

The local chapter of **Modern Woodmen of America** chose the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn as their community partner organization. On October 22, 2013 **David Janson**, Financial Representative of Modern Woodmen of America, is pictured presenting **President Rose Putnam** with a check for \$1,250.00, their maximum donation, that we easily were able to meet as a match for the profit from our Friday Fish Fry.



David Janson, Financial Representative of **Modern Woodmen of America**, is presenting a very large check for \$1250.00 to President, **Rose Putnam**.

Boys and Gals Day Out

The Boys, Chairmen

Mondays are very busy at the Barn and you can find volunteers doing all sorts of tasks. It is amazing to see what they accomplish and we are so fortunate to have this great group of volunteers. They truly are the lifeblood of our organization and the envy of others. They plan on working throughout the winter months but it would be a good idea to check and make sure there will be workers on site. Newcomers are always welcomed. You can request receiving Dave Jaroch's weekly update at tdjaroch@yahoo.com or call **Wayne Lenton** at 989-553-3349. The Boys have several projects that they are anxiously waiting to accomplish in the new storage building under construction as soon as the siding is installed.



The new storage building, located in the SE corner of the property, is being built by Tracy Moore's TDM Construction. The framing is all in and they are waiting for the steel for this 60' by 120' and 14' high building. The building will have a gravel floor and the Boys are prepared to distribute it throughout the building when it becomes available. The building will have doors on the north and south entrances with two doors on both the east and west walls to provide easy access. This building will be a welcome addition as it will house all of the people movers, antique farm equipment, picnic tables, etc. This means that our other buildings will be easily accessible for Events without having to move all of these pieces.

Steam Power School

Paul Deo, Chairman

Paul Deo, Snover was delighted with the participation at the Second Steam School hosted at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. He said, "It's a great day when the sun is shining and the Steam Engines are being prepared and building up steam." He loves his steam engine and enjoys sharing the experience of steam power with others.

Dave Kemler from Stanton, MI provided instruction on the operation and safety of steam engines. He has been involved with steam engines since he was fourteen when his Dad gave him his first steam engine. It was a 16 horse Advance engine that his Dad bought for paid \$300.00. Recently, Dave was offered \$25,000 for his steam engine and he said it was NOT for sale. Then he added, "Steam Engines don't depreciate, they APPRECIATE." **Paul Deo** and **Dave** are instructing the class outside by the steam engines while waiting for the steam to build up. Paul is in the bib overalls facing the students and that's **Dave Kemler** in the white cap leaning up against the steam engine.



Museum Committee

Doug Monroe, Chairman

The Museum Committee is continuing our goal of creating a Museum atmosphere on the entire site. In that effort Doug is looking for several volunteers to help develop our Museum concept. During Chemical Bank Cares Day a group of volunteers assembled the loom donated by **Bob Good & Bob Mackay** in 2010. The loom is approximately of the Civil War era and is made of black walnut and held together with pegs. Doug recently did some needed repairs on the loom and feels that it is now operational. So now that it is assembled the

committee would like to find someone who would be willing to learn how to operate the loom and ultimately demonstrate it during our Events. Contact Doug at 989-665-9948 if interested.

The committee is also looking for a **Communications Coordinator** who would create an Orientation Theatre using technology to accomplish uniformity of information as well as provide an aide for our Host Couples when they conduct tours. If interested, contact Doug at the number listed above.

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.

- Ray Armstead, Jr. Conroe, TX donated a wide variety of items from his closed antique store in Cass City that included a wooden cigar box, a paper oriental fan, domino game, variety of canning jars, Victorian multi level ornate picture frame, one pound Kroger coffee can, New Era potato chip tin and a cast iron waffle maker and much more.
- He requested that the Barn have first choice at selecting whatever they would be able to use for the beautifully restored Purdy Home.
- Pat Bezemek, Ubly, MI donated six old Scott Foresman reading series books for the School Museum.
- Joe Bezemek, Ubly, MI donated a Bad Axe Stockyard wooden cane that will be displayed in the Lumbering Museum in the Sawmill Building.
- Don & Dolores Wolverton, Reese, MI donated a seven foot curved church pew, a 30 gallon oak barrel, captains chair, white dunce rocking chair, hand grinder corn sheller and a wheelbarrow for wood barrels.
- Steve Ortner, Reese, MI donated a floor model drill press.
- Russ & Doris Holmes, Troy, MI donated 1920's fruit, lard and sausage press.
- LeRoy & Virginia Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI donated John Deere 4 row midmount cultivator, pipe fittings, electrical fixtures and a trailer type sprayer.
- Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI donated a Quinn Clothing and Shoes coat hanger.
- Ted Freilach, Owendale, MI donated a AutoFyr Stop Fire Extinguisher.
- Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubly, MI have loaned a four head molding machine built by L. Houston Co, Montgomery PA with a 1875 patent date.



Russ Holmes, Troy, MI donated this 1920's Enterprise Mfg. Co, Philadelphia, PA press that is unique because of its many uses as a fruit, lard and sausage press. He purchased this press from an antique store thirty years ago.

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

989-665-0081

Non-Profit Org.
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Permit No. 3

We're on the Web!

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings will be held the second Tues., every other month, at the Gagetown Village Hall. Feb., April, June, Aug, Oct. & Dec. at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events

December 10, 2013
December 14 & 15, 2013
April 12, 2014

May 3
May 7, 8 & 9, 2014
July 13, 2014
September, 5, 2014
September 6 & 7, 2014

General Membership Meeting, 7 p.m.
Christmas Open House in Purdy Home
Annual Meeting, Dinner and Benefit Auction
V.F.W. Hall Cass City 5 p.m.
Spring Clean-up Day
School Tours by appointment only
Concert in the Barn, Lonesome Mountain Boys
Annual Fish Supper
19th Annual Fall Family Days

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

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

Keny & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL are once again our first 2014 FFD Sponsor.
VG's Community Share Points sent a check for \$85.00 giving us a grand total received since we began saving points of \$1,380.44.
Donations in memory of Phyllis Findlay, Caro given by Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
John & Bev Perry, Cass City, MI donated in honor of Lois & Newell Harris Fountain Hills, AZ, 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Huron Medical Center donated \$95.00 from "Dress Down Days for a Cause" and thanked the Friends for their contribution to the residents of our communities.
Donations in memory of Louie Arroyo, son of Luis & Lila Arroyo given by Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Donations in memory of Marie Reifel, Detroit, MI given by cousin Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI and Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI
Donation in memory of Joe Donovan given by George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI
Donation given by Nancy Smith, Rhodes, MI in honor of Unionville's Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare's 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Cass City Oil & Gas, Cass City, MI donated \$192.94 to cover the cost of propane used during FFD.
Donations in memory of Marion Rutkowski given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI and Aggie & Wally Zawilinski, Cass City, MI
Ed Treso, Clio, MI made his annual \$200.00 donation for the Grain Elevator and Blacksmith Shop.
He also renewed his membership for five years.
Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI made a donation in honor of Lowell & Beth McDonald's, Bad Axe, MI, 50th Wedding Anniversary.
Pat Bezemek, Ubly, MI donated an electric roaster for the Munro Building,
Jim & Joan Ware, Cass City, MI donated a door 6' x 8' x 36" in a steel frame for the entrance to the School Museum Building.

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through Nov. 18, 2013*

Raymond J. Abraham, Chesterfield, MI
Roger Acker, Birch Run, MI
Curtis K. & Mary Ada Bell, Carthage, MO
Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI
Bruce & Charlotte Bollinger, Oscoda, MI
Donald & Sally J. Brauer, Wilmington, NC
Sally Brauer, Troy, MI
Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbiaville, MI
Louise Buehrly, Cass City, MI
Pat Colman, Blackfoot, ID
Richard & Lori Cori, Colorado Springs, CO
Cheryl Corsini Smith, Sausalito, CA
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI
Daniel D. & Jean E. Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Jack & Carol DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI
Arthur & Ann Dittenber, Hope, MI
Alex Fischer, Saginaw, MI
Maris & Judy Fravel, Bainbridge Island, WA

Mr. John Gallagher, Carsonville, MI
Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI
George & Arlene Harding, Pinckney, MI
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI
Nile L. & Ruth E. Hayden, Sand Lake, MI
Joseph B. Hickey, Bad Axe, MI
Dean & Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
Orrin (Bud) & Mary Inbody, Snover, MI
Carolyn Jackson, Dearborn Heights, MI
Flemming & Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Carolyn Craves Johnson, Saginaw, MI
Tom & Jane Johnson, M.D., Williamston, MI
Fran Kanaby, Bad Axe, MI
Fred & Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI
Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Knopf, Marlette, MI
Ronald A. & Jean E. Krzak, Kingman, AZ

Pat Kuxhaus, Northville, MI
James Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI
Vera E. Milz, Troy, MI
Stanley R. & Barbara J. Otulakowski, Snover, MI
John & Paula Paterson, Sandusky, MI
William & Deborah Posak, East China, MI
Barbara Scharich The Richard Scharich Trust, Burton, MI
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI
Dorothy (Dotty) Scollon, Cass City, MI
Robert & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI
Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI
David Turner, Mayville, MI
James Ware, Cass City, MI
Marvin & Mary Wilcox, Clifford, MI
Beverly Zelis, Cottonwood, CA

VG's Community Share Point Program

Mary Ann Hirn, Chairperson

The Friends have just received another check from VG's share point program that supports projects in the community by donating a portion of each receipt of purchase to the organization of your choice. Since Mary Ann began collecting the share point portion of the receipt, the Friends have received **\$1,380.49** from VG's. Now that VG's has their new Cash for Class program that is all automated, customers no longer have to cut the bottom portion of their receipt off and send them to Mary Ann. However, you must have a card that will be used when you shop and will automatically credit your points to the organization of your choice. You can register on line at their website www.myyesrewards.com. We thank Mary Ann for all the years that she collected your share point receipts and most importantly thanks to our Friends who faithfully saved and forwarded the receipts to Mary Ann.

Now Mary Ann is encouraging folks to earn dollars for the Thumb Octagon Barn by saving the **UPC label from Spartan products**. These labels appear on all products and if you simply cut off the UPC label from Spartan products purchased from **any** Spartan store and return them to **Mary Ann Hirn at 6622 Kelly Rd. Cass City, MI 48726** we will get credit and dollars for those returned UPC labels. Thank you again Mary Ann for continuing to find ways to raise needed funds for our Agricultural Museum.