

Thumb Octagon Barn News



Home of the Thumb Agricultural Museum

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

SUMMER 2013

18th Fall Family Days 2013

September is approaching! So here we go again!

Bob Hirn & Martin Kubacki, Co-chairmen

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Katie Jackson

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

Excitement is building as our 18th Annual Fall Family Days approaches. The grounds are being prepared and the Committee Chairs are lining up their materials and helpers for the Event. See the special requests for volunteers on page 2 and see how you can help out. We can only make this Event a success with the help of folks that volunteer their time to help before, during and after.

What is it that makes FFD so special?

Could it be watching the **ANTIQUE EQUIPMENT** in action threshing and harvesting our crops, the impressive sound of the steam engines operating, learning about the history of the lumber industry



In 2000 the team of **Hirn & Kubacki** worked together to plan and organize Fall Family Days and are still at it. Bob welcomed Martin's help then and to this day. They work very well together and divide up the many responsibilities for making this Event happen. This picture was taken at our 2009 Fall Family Days during the parade of Antique Tractors. A great big thank you to these two gentlemen for all the time and effort that they have given to making Fall Family Days such a success.

and the tools that were used, and then watching at the sawmill when a very big log is cut into usable boards that will be used on site and being impressed with the sound of the saw performing this task, examining the vintage tractors and then watching them in the daily parade at three o'clock?

It is also visiting the **EXHIBITORS** that are demonstrating any number of skills needed to complete a task. They perform these tasks for us and we provide the space for them at no charge. Some of these are: making butter using a Maytag washing machine, making a broom especially for you, learning how to weave a rug on a wagon wheel, watching the veneer mill in operation, seeing a dowel made to your specifications, enjoying a marvelous display of Lionel Trains, watching goats being milked and then making butter from the milk, watching the shingle mill and forge creating a commemorative shingle just as they have since the very first FFD and watching the fashion show of vintage clothing at 2:30 each day in front of the Barn.

Of course it could be the demonstrations that are ongoing in our **VILLAGE BUILDINGS**. The One Room Country School will be conducting class for visi-



Our commemorative button for our 18th Fall Family Days features an adorable little farm girl holding a handful of soybeans. The little girl is **Hope Ogryski** and we 'hope' that you will like it. Buttons will be for sale at the Registration table in front of the Barn and at the Souvenir Table by the garage.

tors and students will be performing Patriotic Programs both days in the schoolhouse, (see schedule on page 4). The temporary Country School Museum will be open to the public and will be filled with interesting artifacts from Country Schools throughout the Thumb. The Grain Elevator will come alive with the sound of soybeans being run through the mill and also experts will be telling the story of the grain elevator of yesteryear. The Blacksmith Shop will be firing up the forge and making interesting hinges and items needed on the farmstead. The Sugar Shack will be extracting sorghum syrup from sorghum grown at the Caverlys. The cider press under the trees in front of the Barn turn apples into a delicious cup

(continued on page 4)

18th ANNUAL FALL FAMILY DAYS 2013

Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

☼ Fish Fry in Munro Building

Friday, September 6th from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.
Adults \$9.00. Children \$4.50, under five are free.

☼ Fall Family Days

Saturday, September 7th and Sunday, September 8th
from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Daily gate admission \$5.00 per person six and older.

**Theme for this year's Event
is soybeans and related products.**

Letter From the President

FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN
Rose M. Putnam



Dear Friends,

Fall Family Days is nearly here, which means that Fall is almost here, too. Time certainly flies by quickly these days.

I don't often mention money, but I am going to take a few minutes to do so this time. I heard a remark that caused me to stop and think about the public's perception of the operation of the Thumb Octagon Barn project. As a banker, I am very conscious of caring for other people's money. I've been at this for over forty years now (I just mentioned how time flies!) not only in my profession but for many other organizations as well. It's a very heavy responsibility. From our first budget back in 1994 of \$3,600 to our current budget of over \$154,000, I would say that we certainly have come a long way from our modest beginnings.

Our volunteers work very hard to save money as does the Executive Committee. Many projects are hands on, hard physical labor. Also much more time is spent on planning and being good stewards of the maintenance of the Thumb Octagon Barn site. I am very proud of you all. We have accomplished what many thought would never happen. First, we saved the barn, then we restored it and now we are working to build an Agricultural Museum that we can say is the "gem" of the Thumb.

It all takes money. Yes, we have money in the bank and I'm proud to say that we do and I hope that you all feel this way as well. Yes, we are coming up to our big fundraiser to raise more money. We need to continue to grow and maintain what we've built. I'm sure many of you are homeowners and understand what it takes just to maintain a home these days, let alone add on. We are reliant upon good weather and God has been good to us for many years. We have set aside some money for hard times, too.

Please feel free to contact any Executive Committee member regarding our finances. Any of us will be more than happy to go over any concerns you might have. Please share the good news that all is well!

We are excited to be hosting a tourism summit in September. Please read the enclosed flyer and consider attending or if you are unable to attend, please share the information with your friends and relatives.

We hope to see you all at Fall Family Days. We are working very hard to provide you and your families with a wonderful, unique experience. I know I can't wait!

Your Friend and President,
Rose

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

The House Committee has been working in the basement cleaning, removing walls and arranging displays of antique household items that have been stored away for many years. There are several Ironrite machines, wooden ironing boards, containers from soaps used years ago, washboards and much more. The display is still a work in progress and not ready for visitors just yet.

There is some concern about the water leaking from the main chimney of the Home and thoughts are that having a cap covering the chimney will solve that problem. **Dale Churchill**, House Committee member, is taking care of solving that problem.

Planning is already underway for the **Christmas**

Open House that will be held **December 14th & 15th from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m.** Marilyn is planning a contest to get interested people to sign up to decorate a room of the Purdy Home in period appropriate Christmas decorations. Some folks have already signed up but there are still some rooms available. If interested in being involved please contact **Marilyn at 989-665-0210 or 989-977-0025.**

Marilyn thanks those who are helping to clean the Purdy Home and of course we can always use more helpers as "many hands make light the work." Call Marilyn if you would like to join "Cora's Cleaning Crew".

Raffle Tickets

Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam, Raffle Committee

Many have returned their raffle tickets, stubs and money but some are still out. The money collected or unsold tickets should be returned as soon as possible and can also be returned up until the drawing for prize winners. The drawing of winners will take place on **Sunday, September 8th at 4 p.m.**

after the Parade of tractors.

If you choose not to participate, the tickets must still be returned according to the rules of the Michigan State Lottery Commission. If unable to attend FFD, please mail all returns to Friends of the Octagon Barn, P.O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735.

One Room Country School

Katie Jackson, Chairperson

Katie and her fellow school teachers will be ready to share the story of the Country School with visitors to FFD. Katie is pleased that she has several groups that will be performing Patriotic Programs similar to programs that school children performed years ago in their One Room Country Schools. They will be performing both days of FFD. The schedule is listed with the This and That of FFD. (Page 4)

We will still be using the temporary School Museum Building as we were unable to put all the wonderful memorabilia donated through the years from

Country Schools in the Thumb Area into the permanent Museum Building before FFD.

Once again there will be an old fashioned lemonade stand near the Schoolhouse where visitors can get a cold, refreshing drink for fifty cents. Students will be mixing, serving and collecting the money for a cup of lemonade. Also, young visitors can pump water into the bucket in the Schoolhouse that all used to drink out of (oh my) and also ring the bell marking the beginning of school.

Sherry Kappen will be available at the raffle tent area displaying the prizes and selling raffle tickets right up to the drawing at 4 p.m. on Sunday, September 8th. Sherry will also be receiving tickets and stubs that have not yet been returned from our members.



Volunteers Needed for Fall Family Days

The Friends are blessed with many volunteers who come forward to help out for some time during FFD. However, there are some special requests by some Chairmen who are asking for help in lining up volunteers to help out during our 18th FFD. Following are those asking for your help and contact information.

Co-chairman, **Martin Kubacki** is asking anyone who could volunteer for several hours to help with parking and to drive tractor during the two day Event to contact him at 989-551-0526. He'd really like to hear from you. We also need help setting up the week before. Use the same number to volunteer.

Ron & JulAnn Kuenzli, barrel train Chairmen, are asking for volunteers, sixteen years and older, to volunteer to drive the barrel trains using a garden tractor. Contact them at 989-872-4717 or cell 989-670-8297.

Lisa Geiger, Admission Collection responsibilities is in need of volunteers to assist with collecting the gate admission. Lisa can be reached at 989-479-9783 or her cell at 989-553-6048.

For your information – We have a storage problem at the Barn complex and the Site Committee has taken action to solve that problem. The Executive Committee of the Friends has approved the construction of a 60 foot by 120 foot building to be located Southeast of the sawmill building. The volunteers are delighted as all of the equipment that will be gathered from here and there for FFD will now be stored in this new structure to protect them from the elements. Also, this will leave our current buildings available to host Events without having to move around a lot of stuff.

Boys & Gals Day Out

The Boys, Chairmen

The Group of faithful volunteers that gather most Mondays has accomplished so much over the past months. If you have been to the site recently you surely noticed how neat, organized and impressive everything looks. It is indeed The Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum that is becoming one of the main attractions in the Thumb.

Unfortunately, it isn't possible to show everything but you will see some very involved projects

and some very simple tasks that the Monday Group has worked on and all are important.



For years when folks working around the Barn found a rock they always tossed it in the ditch. This worked until we started to cut the grass in the ditch to improve the overall appearance of the grounds. **David Jaroch**, Ubyli is digging up those rocks as they interfere with the mowing of the ditches. It was amazing the size of some of those rocks that had just enough exposed to damage the blades on the mower.

VG's NEW Cash for Class Program

Starting September 1, 2013, the Community Share program will become the Cash for Class program. What does this mean for us? It's quite simple. You will no longer have to cut the community share points off your receipts and turn them in for credit for the Octagon Barn. When you use your card, your points will automatically go to an organization of your choice. However, you will need to sign up on their website as follows: www.myyesrewards.com and click "create account" tab and complete the required fields. There is a long list of organizations in the system. You have the option of choosing one organization (Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn) and ALL of your points will be credited to their account or you may choose two organizations which will split the points 50/50. If you do not have a computer or do not wish to go on line, you may call a customer service representative at VG's who will sign you up as long as you can provide your VG's "yes" card number. A percentage of the purchase amounts will be automatically added to our group's account and that amount will be paid out in March of 2014. Also, we can earn dollars with *Spartan labels*. Please start saving your labels to turn in. We thank you for continuing to support the Thumb Octagon Barn through this program at VG's.

Steam Power School

Paul Deo, Chairman

If you have ever wanted to operate a steam engine then you should be contacting **Paul Deo** at 989-658-2206 or 989-550-0077. Paul is planning our second steam power school for **Saturday, August 31, 2013 from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.** at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Half of the day will be in a classroom setting with the other half of the day devoted to hands-on involvement with steam engines focusing on safety, operation and maintenance. The instructors will be **Paul Deo** and **Dave Kemler** and each participant will receive a copy of The Steam Engine Guide by Prof. P. S. Rose as well as other handouts and information.

The class is limited to 25 and pre-registration is required. The cost is \$25.00 and includes lunch. The Steam School is available to students 14 and older but they must be accompanied by an adult. Those who attend the Steam School, can get additional training when they come to FFD the following weekend and that will be free.

This is the only Steam School scheduled in the State of Michigan this year. Everyone is welcome!

There is still room for a few additional participants. You may register and pay when you attend, but you must let Paul know of your intentions.



Ron Kuenzli, Deford is working to improve the sound system that will cover the entire Museum Grounds. Ron is spending considerable time getting all the necessary wiring into each area. Some of the Monday Crew worked to help with the wiring. Pictured are a group of guys who are pulling the wire through conduit and that takes some tough pulling. From the left are: **Norm Parker**, Cass City, **Lee Sowden**, Owendale, **Jerry Auten**, Cass City & **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe. Also working but not pictured was **David Jaroch**, Ubyli and using the dozer to dig the trenches for the wiring was **Louis Wehrman**, Reese.



Richard Stacer, Ubyli has put up fencing to separate the parking area from the Museum Grounds. The fencing also has signs that explain the tour guidelines. It is a big improvement over the yellow caution tape that was being used. Richard is shown putting hinges on the gate that can be opened to allow vehicles to pass through. Holding the gate in position is **Duane Osbourn**, New Baltimore, one of our hosts.

School Tours 2014

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

School Tours 2014 will be held **May 7th, May 8th and May 9th** during the school day. Groups should plan on spending the entire school day enjoying all of the planned activities. We have several picnic areas for students and chaperones to enjoy their sack lunches. The fee is \$2.00 per student and chaperone. Educators may sign up for School Tours 2014 beginning in September 2013 through April 15, 2014 on the website under "Events" at thumboctagonbarn.org or they may contact **Diane Rapson Gabil** at 989-892-3105.



There has always been a problem at the hose outlet on the North side of the Purdy Home with spills that left the area a muddy mess. **Lila Arroyo**, Cass City donated 18 paver bricks and **Norm Parker**, Cass City, artistically arranged them to form a pad to catch those spills. He then used pieces of the original bricks from the powerhouse to make a border around the pad. Lila uses this hose often to water all of the beautiful flowers that she has planted around the Purdy Home and around the grounds. Cora Purdy, wife of James the original owner of the Barn, would be delighted with Lila's efforts as she always had beautiful flowers.

Tractor Monitors who helped Trent during FFD

Dan Caister, Lee Simms
Larry Hoelzle, LaVerne
Rutkowski, all of Cass City
Archie Allen & Dean Hoag,
Caro, Dave Klama, Ruth &
Ron Rockwell, Snover

Fall Family Days 2013

(continued from page 1)

of apple cider. Our Cider Mill Building will be opening next year.

Another thing that makes the visit to Fall Family Days so special is the **FOOD** that is being prepared on site. Start the day with a Country Style Breakfast served from 8–10 a.m. Saturday, and 8–11 a.m. Sunday prepared by the Caro Knights of Columbus #3224. Also available each day will be homemade bean soup, cotton candy, fresh pressed apple cider, fresh donuts, homemade ice cream, fresh lemonade, chicken strips and fries and hog kettle popcorn. A food concession is also available for visitors in the Munro Building.

Maybe it's the **MUSIC** that is provided by Arlen Bannick and the Eastern Michigan Music Makers who start the Event with a Music Jam in the Barn on Friday from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Then they will perform each day from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. under the trees in front of the Barn. On Saturday evening folks are invited to gather in the Barn for a good old fashioned Barn Dance and Sing-a-long. Folks are also invited to a gospel sing on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. This group has been performing at our Events from the very beginning.

Could it be the **CRAFT WORKSHOPS** planned by Linda Bailey and held in the beautifully restored Purdy Garage? There will be workshops both days for adults at no charge but donations are appreciated to assist with Barn projects. The workshops will begin with Aaron Davis of Marshall demonstrating and teaching the art of rope making from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m. (See schedule of events below.)

It could be the beautifully restored **ORIGINAL BUILDINGS** that Mr. James Purdy had built on his Mud Lake Estate. The Purdy Home has been carefully restored and takes you back to the 1920's when the Purdy family lived there. Dulcimer players will be filling the Home with their melodic sound. The Powerhouse will give visitors an opportunity to see how Mr. Purdy provided electricity for his homestead. Of course the centerpiece of the entire Event in the Oc-

tagon Barn. On the north and south mows a variety of period appropriate displays will be open to the public. Interpretive guides will be available in all of the various buildings listed above.

I bet that it is the **VENDORS**, all 165 of them, occupying 238 spaces. Co-Chairs **Linda & Louie Wehrman** report that the vendors have a wide variety of items for sale including all price ranges. There will be something for everyone. All spaces are sold but sometimes there is a cancellation so the Wehrman's are taking names for a waiting list. Call Linda at 989-948-3429.

We have planned many activities for our younger visitors that will make Fall Family Days special for the **CHILDREN**. Most of these occur across the creek and **Maplewood Petting Zoo** will fill the north side of the Octagon Barn with animals. The Children's Activity Tent has a wide range of fun things for our younger visitors. There will be Barrel Train rides and horse-drawn wagon rides available free of charge.

All of the wonderful activities, **ANTIQUE EQUIPMENT, EXHIBITS, VILLAGE BUILDING, FOOD, MUSIC, CRAFT WORKSHOPS, RESTORED ORIGINAL BUILDINGS, VENDORS AND CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES** that will be a happening during Fall Family Days certainly make it special. But the folks who come each year to enjoy a day together are the most special part of FFD. It is fun to watch them getting reacquainted with friends that perhaps they haven't seen for years. We are planning and hoping for 15,000 to once again visit and enjoy the Thumb Agricultural Museum the weekend after Labor Day. **FAMILIES & FRIENDS COMING TOGETHER FOR A DAY AT THE THUMB AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM DURING OUR 18TH FALL FAMILY DAYS - NOW THAT'S SPECIAL!!**

Our final FFD Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7 p.m. on August 27th at the Barn site in the Munro Building. Come and join us to see how you could become involved.



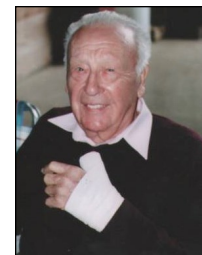
The barrel train is a big hit with the children. They will be running the trains by the Children's Activity tent across the creek. **Ron and JulAnn Kuenzli** are in charge of this area for FFD. They are in need of drivers of the lawn tractors to pull the barrel trains. See contact information in the volunteer article on page 2.



There will be many volunteers on site starting with Labor Day and on through FFD and especially after the Event. **Karen Lenton**, Kitchen supply chairperson, and **Marilyn DeSimpelare**, Unionville, prepare lunches for sometimes fifty or more volunteers during the set-up for FFD. How wonderful it is to work hard and then have a lunch prepared for you. It is greatly appreciated.



Pictured are the crew working to prepare the fish for the Fish Fry held Friday, September 7th from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Munro Building. **Greg Talaski**, Filion, MI on the right, is the Fish Fry chef who works steadily the entire time of the Supper. He is known for his delicious fish. In the center is his wife, **Margie**, who he met several years ago while, you got it, helping at FFD preparing the fish with the batter before frying.



Pictured is **Arlen Bannick**, Bad Axe, MI at the Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert. He injured his left hand when he slipped and fell. It has been a long recovery

and he is hopeful that the cast will come off soon and that he will be up to full strength for FFD. This will be Arlen's and the Eastern Michigan Music Makers 18th FFD as they played at the very first FFD.

This and That Regarding Fall Family Days

The schedule for the **Patriotic Programs** in the One Room Country School is as follows:

- ❖ Saturday, 10:30 & 12:30 - Cass City student group
- ❖ Saturday, 11:30 & 1:30 - Cass City home school group
- ❖ Sunday, 12:00 & 2:00 - Sacred Heart Children's Choir, Caro

Adult Craft workshops will be held in the Garage for folks interested in learning and wanting to work with their hands.

These workshops are for adults but youngsters are welcomed to attend when accompanied by an adult. Also, participants are encouraged to be in attendance at the start of each session to get instructions and complete the project.

The schedule is as follows:

- ❖ **Saturday & Sunday, 9:00 – 10:00**

Rope splicing with **Aaron Davis**, Marshall. Workshop will include unique techniques for splicing sisal roping and history of this "lost" art.

All of the following workshops will be taught by **Linda Bailey**, Cass City

- ❖ **Saturday & Sunday, 10:30 – 11:30**

Learn techniques for creating a "doll" out of ordinary corn husks. History of this art form will be discussed.

- ❖ **Saturday & Sunday, 12:30 – 1:30**

Oil Stick Stenciling - Learn the technique for applying color to a negative space. Lots of variety in method & use.

- ❖ **Saturday & Sunday 2:00 – 3:00**

"Painting" with threads. Learn basic embroidery stitches to create a simple design.

- ❖ **Saturday ONLY 3:30 – 4:30** Scrapbook Mats.

Take a plain paper mat and enhance with scrapbook paper and embellishments to add interest to your prize photos.

Money Hunt in the Children's Activities Tent at 1 p.m. each day.

See children's activity picture on page 5 for details.

Fall Family Days Sponsors 2013

The following businesses and individuals are sponsors who provide the financial backing and/or goods to cover the cost of putting on Fall Family Days. We thank each and every one who became a FFD sponsor and encourage all to show their appreciation by patronizing those businesses that support our project.

Gold Sponsors

(\$250 & up)

Atwater Farms, Inc. in memory of Dennis Hagen, Ubyly, MI
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Don Weber, Frankenmuth, MI & Bob Hirn, Cass City, MI

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(\$150 to \$249)

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Sandra Finkbeiner, Caro, MI
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Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI
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Maurer Electric, Inc., Bad Axe, MI
Jason & Carol McCarty, Ubyly, MI
McDonald's Restaurant, Caro, MI
Milligan Farms, Cass City, MI
Vera Milz, Troy, MI
Northstar Bank, Bad Axe, MI
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ProBuild, Caro, MI
Dr. S. H. Raythatha, Cass City, MI
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in memory of Frank J. Schwartz
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Bob & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI
David & Donna Sting Farm, Unionville, MI
Thabet Funeral Home, Dwight Thabet, Cass City, MI
Thumb Cellular, Pigeon, MI
Thumb National Bank, Cass City, MI
Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI
Unionville Printing Co., Bill & Betty Koepf, Unionville, MI
Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI

Bronze Sponsors

(\$50 - \$149)

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Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Fligger, Ubyly, MI
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Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI
AVCI.net, Pigeon, MI
Mark & Diane Battel, Cass City, MI
Laurence. G. Beatenhead, Unionville, MI
Gerald L. Booms, Ubyly, MI
Louise Buehrly, Cass City, MI
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Cass City Chronicle, Cass City, MI
Cass City Hardware, Cass City, MI
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI
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Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI
Plain & Fancy Decorating, Nancy Braun, Cass City, MI
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Scottish American Society of Michigan, Royal Oak, MI
Don & Jan Severance, Palm Harbor, FL
Sherwood on the Hill, Gagetown, MI
Star Vision Center, Caro, MI
Mike Sterker, Fort Collins, CO
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Ken and Mary Jane Sweeney, Ubyly, MI
Thumb Electric Cooperative, Ubyly, MI
Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Inc., Elkton, MI
Thumb Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI
Kenneth F. Tiseo, DDS, Caro, MI
Henry & Ann Tschetter, Rockford, MI

Valley Collision, Ubyly, MI
VIP Salon, Cass City, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI
Wal-Mart, Caro, MI
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI
Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI
Barbara L. Wilson, Cass City, MI
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI
Richard & Vera Wrobleksi, Sebawaing, MI
Rose Wunderlich, Farwell, MI

Certificate Sponsors

(\$10 - \$49)

Theresa and Ralph Bielawski, Fraser, MI
Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI
Anne L. Cenci, O. P. Saginaw, MI
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI
Alvin Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
Dolores Merchant, Ocqueoc, MI
Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors to recognize their contribution. Sponsors below the Bronze level will receive a certificate. **Richard Stacer** cuts the wood for the plaque from the original siding of the Barn and **Martin Kubacki** affixes the commemorative plate to the wooden base.

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



The fish are the big draw for the Friday Fish Fry but there is a lot of planning, preparing and work to get all of the other items on the menu ready. Some of these are baked fish, baked beans, scalloped potatoes, corn, coleslaw, rolls and dessert. **George and LaVonne Pettinger**, Snover, MI go non-stop on Friday to make sure that all these things are available for our guests at the Fish Fry. Pictured is **LaVonne Pettinger**, Snover, MI getting something needed for the meal.

For Everyone's Information

Martin Kubacki wants everyone to know that there is **NO CHARGE** for tractor & engine exhibitors at this year's Event. There is a rumor out there that we are charging and **WE ARE NOT** and never have.



Pictured is the plaque that Sponsors will receive. Since our theme for 2013 FFD is soybeans and related products, the plaque shows the life cycle of the soybean from

germination, emergence, pod growth and seed development to the mature plant. The soybean is a legume related to clover, peas and alfalfa. Soybeans are grown in 31 states by some 500,000 U. S. farmers. More soybeans are grown in the U. S. than anywhere else in the world. Recent harvests have yielded about 3.3 billion bushels of soybeans each year and nearly 2 million acres of soybeans are planted annually in Michigan. The soybean is truly an incredible bean and is often called "The Miracle Crop" because of its many important uses. Information provided by the Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee.

Pictured are **Mary Inbody**, Snover, MI and **Bernadette Schwalm**, Ubyly who are in charge of the Children's Activities. Last FFD they tried a new activity and the children seemed to really enjoy the experience. So they plan to once again have a "Money Hunt" for children up to twelve years old. This will take place in the Children's Activities Tent at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Youngsters will search for money in a pile of sawdust. There will be two groups, five and under and 6 to 12. The hunt will be timed and of course the Money Hunters get to keep their treasure.



Concert in the Barn

David Jaroch, Chairman

On Sunday, July 28, 2013 the Friends hosted the third concert at the Thumb Agricultural Museum when the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** performed in the arena of the Barn. Folks started to arrive in the rain, but as we got closer to the scheduled time for the Concert, the rain stopped. It was a nice cool day and folks were very comfortable and we didn't need to worry about the rain as we are fortunate to have the "biggest umbrella in Tuscola County."

Richard Wroblewski, Sebawaing is the contact person for the Lonesome Mountain Boys and **David Jaroch**, Chairman of the concert, works with the group to have everything ready. Richard appreciates working with David as they are always looking for ways to improve the experience. Richard said, "The Arena of the Barn is a wonderful venue for a Concert. I especially love the implements that are on display on

the mow floor above our heads. The whole experience is very enjoyable." Because several of the players come from some distance, **David and Marie Jaroch**, Ubly, prepared lunch for the Boys and they are most appreciative of this.

Richard had arranged to have pre-concert music as folks were arriving and finding a seat. Participating in the pre-concert session were: **Robby Steff**, **Caleb Smith** and **Richard Wroblewski** all from Sebawaing.

Ron Kuenzli, Deford worked with the Group to amplify their equipment used during the Concert. The Mountain Boys were "tickled with the sound" and thanked Ron for his efforts. Ron is working on the sound system throughout the Barn complex volunteering all of his time spent on this project. It will be ready for FFD.



Pictured are the Lonesome Mountain Boys performing in the arena of the Barn. It truly is a beautiful setting for a Concert. The Boys are from the left, **Mark Kemner**, Eastpointe, MI, **Bill Brasgalla**, Livonia, MI, **Ron Smolka**, Livonia, MI and **Richard Wroblewski**, Sebawaing, MI. Picture taken by **Crystal Bauer**, Sebawaing.

Henry Ford and Agriculture (Especially Soybeans)

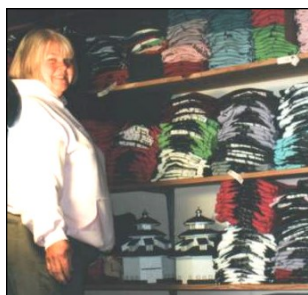
Last year when Soybeans was chosen as our Theme for FFD 2013 most of us didn't really know a great deal about this crop. At our meetings, **Louie & Linda Wehrman**, Reese, members of the Michigan Soybean Association and the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, have shared the story of the Soybean and their many uses in our daily lives. Following is how Henry Ford was instrumental in creating an awareness of soybeans in this country and how he used this "Miracle Crop" in the assembly of his vehicles then and to this day. The following information was taken from an article by Ned Birkey, MSU Extension.

"Henry Ford was born in 1863 and raised on a family farm in Dearborn, MI. His family came to the United States from Ireland after trying to earn a living there by farming. Henry was not interested in the hard, physical work and long hours of farming so he left the farm at the age of 16 for Detroit to work in machine shops. Realizing that farmers needed a rugged, reliable tractor and one that they could afford, led Henry Ford to an interest in

tractor development. He wanted to "lift the burden of farming from flesh and blood and place it on steel and motors." In 1916 the Ford Dearborn tractor plant opened with the first tractors, the Fordson, available in 1918 until production came to an end in 1964.

Henry Ford was convinced that he could GROW a car rather than manufacture one. He used many commodities such as cotton for upholstery, linseed and soybean oil for paint, and experimented with molasses for antifreeze. In 1933, Henry Ford was growing soybeans on some of his 12,000 acres and he was the largest soybean grower in America. In a 1935 TIME magazine article it mentioned that Ford would use soybeans from 61,000 acres. It was estimated that a bushel of soybeans was used in the manufacturing of every Ford car."

The promotion and development of soybeans as an agricultural product proved to be one of Henry Ford's greatest contributions to American agriculture. What goes around comes around.



Joan Koch, Gagetown, is pictured inside the souvenir trailer organizing the stacks and stacks of shirts and hats in all sizes and colors

Souvenirs

*Joan Koch,
Chairperson*

Joan has a new supply of souvenirs ready to go for FFD. She has ordered coffee cups, lots of camouflage hats and water bottles. Also, this year there will be a new style of sweat-shirt in a wide variety of popular colors. After the rainy weather on the

final day of School Tours, Joan decided to order umbrellas with the Barn logo. We of course will hopefully not even need to open them during FFD but they are great to have on hand when rainy weather happens.

Joan notes that our prices are kept low and reasonable because those that purchase our souvenirs are our best form of advertising. Joan will be selling souvenirs on **Friday, Sept. 6 from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. and both days of the FFD event during regular show hours.**

Weekly Updates Available

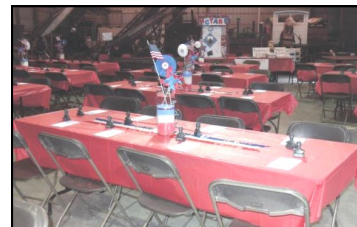
David Jaroch, Update Messenger

If you are interested in receiving updates about the projects that are going on at the Barn, David sends out a weekly update and agenda for our great Monday work crew. If interested, send an email to David at tdjaroch@yahoo.com. Every year the needs of the Barn seem to be growing and everyone is invited to participate no matter what their contribution.

Lincoln Day Dinner

Huron and Tuscola County Republicans hosted their Lincoln Day Dinner at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum on Friday, June 14, 2013. They transformed the Munro Building into a very patriotic setting with seating for 200 people. Before dinner the Friends conducted continuous tours of the Museum and Historic Buildings. We appreciated that they chose our site for their meeting and possibly they might return next year. **Michigan Lt. Governor, Brian Calley**, was the keynote speaker who also enjoyed a tour of the Octagon Barn. (See photo at right.)

The Munro Building is pictured all ready for folks to arrive for dinner. The table decorations were red, white and blue. There is a lot of stuff stored in the back of the building. Hopefully, with our new building all those pieces of equipment will be stored elsewhere and leave the Munro Building open for meetings at any time.



Museum Committee

Doug Monroe, Chairman

The Museum Committee has several projects in the works.
Active projects are:

1. Establish an Orientation Theater to educate visitors on what will be seen on tours and the Mission of the Friends. It will also double as a presentation tool to groups and for use by the Friends in meetings.
2. Narration equipment for the tour guides to standardize their presentation when touring visitors.

WE NEED A VOLUNTEER to come forward to help in the management of this project before we can go forward with the expenditure.

3. We have Executive Committee permission to drain the rain water away from in front of the Barn doors during rainy weather. This will be done after FFD.

4. Lastly we are still arranging the displays in the loft area to make us look more like the Museum we would like to be.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS to come forward and help with the creation of displays.

If you are interested in helping with your creative skills, contact Doug at 989-665-9948.

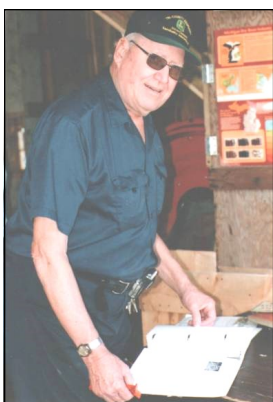
Tuscola County Historical Consortium Open House Weekend

The 2nd annual open house weekend was held on June 29 & 30th at six historical museums in Tuscola County. Each museum had a special themed display and offered refreshments. Everyone lent a helping hand and the site looked especially nice with the lawn freshly mowed, the ditches all trimmed up and many beautiful flowers (thanks, ladies!) to brighten up the area. The Thumb Octagon Barn for the first time offered live music through our improved sound system. Volunteers **Richard Wroblewski, Andy Zagata & Robby Steff**, all from Sebawaing, played in the Barn and it was broadcast throughout the grounds. Our visitors appreciated this special treat as did the volunteers on site. Thank you, **Dave Jaroch** and **Ron Kuenzli** for making this happen.

Our guests were given free tours of any and all the buildings on site. **Law Martin** had a fire going in the Blacksmith Shop and **Mark Battel** was on duty to give tours. **Katie Jackson** was on hand at the schoolhouse. We greeted many new visitors to the Thumb. The Consortium designed a passport for the visitors, which requires a special stamp from each location. Once the passports are full, they can be turned into any museum and prizes will be awarded on November 15, 2013. Please contact Rose Putnam (989-872-4435) with questions or to volunteer to help with this project. If you missed this opportunity, it will be back in 2014.



The musicians performing for visitors during the Museum Tours Days are from the left, **Andy Zagata, Richard Wroblewski and Robby Steff**. They are playing at the west entrance to the Barn. Pictured with his back to the musicians is Ron Kuenzli as he checks out the sound system that is broadcasting all over the site.



Pictured is **Jerry Auten**, Museum Records, who has all donated items cataloged in a binder with all the necessary information including a picture. All of this information is also stored on his computer and he is able to retrieve information regarding any item very quickly. It's quite amazing. Jerry also makes tags for these donated museum pieces.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Jerry Auten, Museum Records

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

Linda Cveller & Jack Leusing, Freeland, MI donated five dynamite augers, two horse collars, a cream separator, corn sheller and a hay sling with wood slats in excellent condition.

Bob White, Cass City, MI donated an ox shoe.

Paul McKelvey, Dexter, MI donated a school desk in honor of Barbara Maynard McKelvey.

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.



Two of the visitors that enjoyed their visit to the Thumb Agricultural Museum during the Tuscola County Museums' Open House were **Yvonne Walker**, Croswell and her son **Chris Walker** visiting from Baltimore, Maryland. They are looking at the tree cookie displayed in the arena of the Barn. **Doug Monroe**, Museum Chairman, has put together this display. He has marked the rings on the tree to coincide with events happening at the Barn and has prepared a written explanation as well. The tree was planted sometime between 1896 and 1900 and was cut down in 2010 when it was 114 years old.

MEMBERSHIP

Attention to those people who have a different mailing address during the winter months. It is very important that you let us know as bulk mail is not forwarded. Usually when mail cannot be delivered it is simply thrown away. Last March the 484 zip codes were returned for those folks who had a different mailing address for the winter months. I was most appreciative as further checking revealed the problem. **Please let us know the temporary winter address and also the months that it will be used.**

Doris Schember will once again be handling the Membership Area in the Souvenir Tent during FFD. Members can bring their renewal information to Doris and she will also be encouraging folks to become members.

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

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership
meetings will be held at the
Gagetown Village Hall
Oct. 8 & Dec. 10, 7 p.m.



Ed Nicholson, Fairgrove has volunteered to cut the acres of grass on the Barn grounds for several years using his own equipment. At our Annual Meeting he shared a poem that he had written and thought about as he cut away. It is too long to print in its entirety but the opening and final comments are repeated here as they express the feelings of many of our volunteers.

This poem is dedicated to my friends at the Octagon Barn.

It is all in good fun, I don't mean any harm.....

Oh, thank you Rose for letting me share my poem
& the way it did flow,

This took a lot longer to do than when the lawn I do mow.

No matter what your contribution,

remember, we all get the same pay.

You're all appreciated whether you give money, time or items to display.

I call it pleasure to come here, when I can, and do what I do,

...VOLUNTEERING WITH THESE WONDERFUL PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP
"THE OCTAGON BARN CREW."

Ed is pictured in his professional lawn cutting tractor getting ready to continue cutting.

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 15, 2013.*

Raymond E. & Norma J. Baur, Unionville, MI
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI
Fran Simmons Bishop, Haleyville, AL
Mary Brauer, Clawson, MI
Mark & Jeanette Brewer, Bay Port, MI
Bruce & Marjorie Coleman, Rochester Hills, MI
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI
Russell & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI
Clarence & Leona Depcinski, Bad Axe, MI
Jon C. & Charmaine Fahmer, Cass City, MI
Sherril French, Reese, MI

Thomas & Elizabeth Fritz, Gagetown, MI
Gerry & Russ Leavitt, Bay City, MI
Lesley Markle, Mattawan, MI
James & Carlene Munro, Gladwin, MI
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI
Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI
Marie A. Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM
Dan & Corey Netzley, Essexville, MI
Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI
John & Bev Perry, Cass City, MI
Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI
Janet Retford, Owendale, MI
Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Patrick & Susan Ross, Waterford, MI
Robert & Sharon Rumon, Caro, MI
Mike & Linda Slocum, Vassar, MI
Willia Vargas, Bellevue, NE
Gary & Tammy Wark, Fairgrove, MI
Jerry & Barbara Weber, Winter Park, FL

Newsletter

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

2013 Upcoming Events

September 6	Annual Fish Supper 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
September 7 & 8	18 th Annual Fall Family Days 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
September 18	Tourism Summit at Barn
December 14 & 15	Christmas Open House in Purdy Home, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
May 7, 8, 9, 2014	School Tours by reservation only

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.

Donations in memory of Dick Scharich given by Barbara Scharich, Burton, MI & Brenda J. Besant, Burton, MI in memory of my Dad.

Donations in memory of Jean Osborn, sister of Marilyn Peters and Norma Wallace given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI

Donations in memory of David R. Vollmer who died suddenly owned Vollmer Ready Mix of Pigeon were given by: Ron & Linda Nelson, Haslette, MI, Bob Glees, Mr. & Mrs. Tim Kubacki, Sebewaing, MI, Marc & Michelle Hill, Pigeon, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Don Parrish, Pigeon, MI, Lois Blondell, Owendale, MI, Don & Alice Wissner, Owendale, MI, Ron Wolfram Family, Sebewaing, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Haag, Sebewaing, MI, Beatrice Elenbaum, Unionville, MI, Scott & Jennifer Wissner, Sebewaing, MI, Gary & Deann Protzman, Caseville, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Alan Kunding, Sebewaing, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Bryce Kunding, Sebewaing, MI, Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Kunding, Sebewaing, MI

Leaning Pine Greenhouse, Melvin & Katie Schlabach, Cass City, MI gave us as many of their end of the season flats of flowers and tomato plants that the Barn could use.

Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI donated an electric roaster.

Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI donated two electric roasters and 18 paver bricks used to make a pad for the hose outlet on the North side of the Purdy Home.

A donation in memory of Jean Rochefort, Bad Axe was given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI

Louie & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI donated 10 hardwood logs cut from their Centennial Farm. The logs have been sawed into boards at our sawmill and used for the flooring in the Cider Mill Building. It gives the the Wehrmans a good feeling to know that their trees were used at the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI donated in honor of Dean & Nancy Hutchinson's 50th wedding anniversary.

Ed Nicholson, Fairgrove donated a 1500 watt electric heater for the kitchen in the Munro Building.

Mark Battel, Cass City donated 16 pine logs to be used at the sawmill.