

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.

SPRING 2014

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
Martin Kubacki

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Joan Koch

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Corresponding Secretary
Marilyn DeSimpelare

Past President
Bob Hirn

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

One Room Country School Chairman
Katie Jackson

Museum Committee
Douglas Monroe

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

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Web Site
www.thumboctagonbarn.org

What a great way to begin our calendar of Events for 2014. Good attendance, great food by **McDonald's Food & Family Center** of Bad Axe, special recognition of some of our Volunteers and our auction handled by **Dave & Marty Osentoski** who donate their time.

Our President, **Rose Putnam**, presented a certificate of appreciation to **Lila Arroyo** for her dedicated attention to providing lunch for the Boys Day Out Group. They especially enjoy her homemade soup that tastes really good on a very cold Monday. Lila has also taken great pride in planting and caring for the flowers around the site, arranging for the Fashion Show and manning the Theme Tent for several years during FFD. (Lila and Rose are shown below.)



Also, there was a presentation of our Barn Friend of the Year that was determined by the Selection Committee of **Katie Jackson, Ardis Monroe and Margaret Sergeant** based on the information provided by our Members nominating individuals for this recognition.

The first person recognized as Barn Friend of the Year for 2014 was House Committee Chairperson, **Marilyn Phillips and all of her volunteers**. Marilyn has been involved with the Purdy Home since 2000 and assumed the responsibilities of Chairperson in 2002. This past winter we were made very aware of

how valuable and important the Home is to our Museum. Some felt that it was time to acknowledge the years of hard work that many have volunteered to restore this home that was in very poor condition when the Friends began restoration efforts of the Mudlake Estate in 1996. Marilyn has also worked very hard to plan activities that showcase this home that certainly is not your typical farmhouse. She initiated the Teas and the Christmas Open House and is always trying to create an atmosphere that she feels Cora Purdy would want in her Home. Marilyn recognized those volunteers in attendance and paid special recognition to **Madelyn Skaggs** who took this wreck of a house and worked tirelessly to restore it into something very special.



Marilyn Phillips is being presented with a plaque by **President Rose Putnam** that recognizes her and her volunteers for the many years of dedicated service to the Friends. Marilyn got a little teary eyed as she shared how much this beautiful home means to her. She said, "I just love this magnificent home and feel honored to be able to spend so much time preserving it for the future. It's like my second home."

The selection committee surprised folks, and especially the recipient himself, with the presentation of a second Barn Friend of the Year award for 2014. **Dennis Anderson** has been a quiet "behind the scenes worker" finding

workable solutions for problems and securing grants for projects needing attention. He is a good "brain stormer" who can break projects down into tasks that need to be done to reach the goal and, most importantly, he has a great sense of humor that helps defuse tense issues. Dennis has also been responsible for getting the Friends involved in the Gleaner's program that rewards organizations with donations for their accumulated volunteer hours of service. Dennis is known for his storytelling at the Sawmill Museum when he shares the story of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox. Dennis wants folks to know. "I don't portray Paul Bunyan as he was 64 axe handles high and I'm only two axe handles on a tall day."



Dennis Anderson came forward quickly when he realized that he was being recognized and helped **Margaret Sergeant** finish the presentation before she had a chance to ask him to acknowledge HIS Grant Writing Committee. This is a standing joke as Dennis himself is the Chairman and in fact is the entire committee, but he always reports that they have met and had a good productive meeting or they didn't meet this month but are working on some things.

(More photos on page 2)

Letter From the President

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



If you missed participating in School Tours, you missed a lot of fun. The enthusiasm of the young children is contagious. If you ever doubt the reason you give so much of your time and talent to a project, just follow a youngster around. Margaret was able to get some great quotes, which are in this edition. We, as volunteers, also learn many things during the tours. I did enjoy the presentation of learning how bees pollinate flowers, trees, etc. I would like to share that in our group of 2nd graders from Caro we had a young man who seemed very fearful of bees. Following the presentation, when we went back to the bus we watched several bees at work on a dandelion. We all watched in a huddle while the bees moved about and the young man stood close in awe. His fears washed away. I would like to thank Diane and her great group of volunteers. Our mission to educate continues.

Come by this summer and enjoy the concert or a tea party or just a simple walk around the site. As a member you are entitled to free tours. A lot has changed since the fall. Our host couples will be glad to show you around. John and Carolyn Longmuir from New Jersey are new to the site and our old friends Duane and Gail Osborn and Bill Hollingsworth and Betty Armstead are back. Come and say "Hi."

Enjoy this beautiful weather.
Your Friend and President,
Rose



In Memoriam - Aaron Davis, Marshall, MI is pictured doing what he loved, sharing the art of rope making with young students during School Tours or teaching interested visitors at FFD as one of our craft workshop presenters. He gave a very informed presentation and passed on a little philosophical thought as well. In a description of his presentation Aaron wrote, "A thread of working together, doing ones best and being successful is the message conveyed during the rope making process. Attendees will see the production of a rope. Fibers can easily be broken, but when twisted into twine (yarn) they become stronger. Greater strength occurs when the twine (yarn) is twisted into strands. The final strength is reached when three strands are twisted together making one rope. The making of rope exemplifies the benefits of people working together to accomplish a very difficult task and that we become the caretakers of the accomplishment and not the "owners".

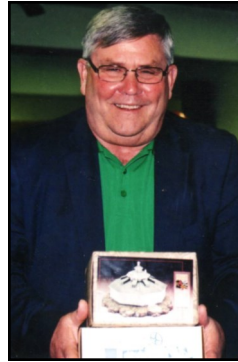
Several years ago, Aaron also took over the responsibility of managing our website which proved to be a frustrating process at times. Last year Aaron insisted that he have a back-up web manager that would know the workings of the website. He insisted that they be a **team**. Last year **George Pettinger** volunteered to join the team thus we have a smooth transition and a new caretaker of our website www.thumboctagonbarn.org. Aaron will be missed and our thoughts and prayers are with his devoted wife, Dorothy.

Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)



During the auction, **Sue Findlay**, Caro, MI bid on this beautiful baby buggy and her bid was the highest. She then decided to present it to the Friends for displaying in the Purdy Home. **Marilyn Phillips** said that we do have other buggies but none are in as good condition as this buggy.



State Senator Mike Green is very happy because he was the final bidder on the Ertl replica of the Thumb Octagon Barn. He said, "This is what I came for. I really wanted this Barn." **Hedlun Walton** had donated one Barn for our Auction and **Jeannie Osborn's Estate** had offered the second replica of the Barn to be auctioned in her memory. The Barns raised almost \$200.00 each for the Agricultural Museum.

LOOKING FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

Each year the Friends of the Octagon Barn choose a theme from the 1900's to the present that is agriculture related which will be a part of our program for the next year for all of our Events. The purpose of the Theme is to coordinate activities throughout the year and help to identify groups and organizations that would support our Theme. Previous themes have been potatoes, soybeans, wheat, steam power, children's activities, vintage toys & dolls, lumbering, quilting, laundry day, hay, corn from the farm to you, beets, lumber industry, small grains, the corn industry, Michigan bean industry, the dairy industry and our theme in 1999 when we celebrated the Barn's 75th birthday. Any of these themes could be repeated and expanded upon. We are asking for your help in suggesting a theme for 2015. Please email Marilyn DeSimpelare at kdesimpelare@yahoo.com with your suggestion and supporting comments by July 15th. Thanks for your thoughts.

ANNUAL RAFFLE

*Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam,
Raffle Committee*

Our Fall Family Days Annual Raffle is once again being planned and arranged for by the Raffle Committee. A dozen prizes have been identified, the license has been requested and the tickets will be printed once the license is received. The Raffle has proven to be a great fundraiser for the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and provides funds that have helped us with our restoration efforts and expansion of the Museum.

Tickets will be sent to **MEMBERS ONLY** in the next few weeks. We thank you for your assistance selling our raffle tickets but you always have the option to return them if you do not care to participate. Once you make this request it will be honored each year. If you would like to request additional tickets or didn't receive any, please contact **Joan Koch** at 989-665-0081.

The 2014 Raffle Prizes are:

- * Handmade Quilt pieced by **Grace Blair** and quilted by the **Back Street Quilt Shop** in Bad Axe.
- * \$300.00 donated by ***FOTOB**.
- * CASEIH Pedal Tractor donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment**, Bad Axe. IH STEIGER PANTHER PTA 297 4 WHEEL DRIVE
- * Handmade queen size Quilt donated by **Ruth Ann Brown**.
- * \$150.00 donated by ***FOTOB**.
- * \$100.00 Menard's gift certificate donated by **Green Acres Farm**.
- * Handmade afghan donated by **Gwen Poole**.
- * Craftsman Mechanics Tool Set donated by ***FOTOB**.
- * John Deere Pedal Tractor donated by **Tri-County Equipment**.
- * Handmade Afghan donated by **Marion Emerson**.
- * \$75.00 donated by ***FOTOB**.
- * \$50.00 donated by ***FOTOB**.

**FOTOB stands for
Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn*

Bad Axe Memorial Day Parade



Karen Lenton saw an ad for interested folks to enter a float in the Bad Axe Memorial Day Parade. So **Wayne & Karen Lenton**, **Uby and Louie & Linda Wehrman**, Reese assembled a very attractive float that promoted the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and our theme of Michigan Apples. Their float won third place. Congratulations, job well done.

2014 Fall Family Days

Martin Kubacki, Chairman

Dear Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum,

Fall Family Days 2014 is fast approaching and I have been busy putting things together for this upcoming event featuring Michigan Apples. Our 19th Annual FFD will begin on Friday, September 5th at 4 p.m. with fish being served until 7 p.m. The fish will be prepared by Fish Chef **Greg Talaski** and our Co-Chairpersons **LaVonne & George Pettinger** who do a wonderful job. Let's hope this year we don't run out of fish but we have a good plan should that happen. We don't want to turn anyone away without being fed. Following dinner, visitors are invited to join the **Eastern Michigan Music Makers**, coordinated by **Arlen Bannick**, in the Barn for some old time music. Then, on **Saturday and Sunday, September 6th and 7th from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.**, everything will be available from our tasty foods (hopefully some apple pie) to our field demonstrations. In the fields yes, we will be digging and selling potatoes as it was a favorite demonstration two years ago. The house, barn, crafters and flea market will be open for business. Each day at 3:00

p.m. the parade of antique tractors and machinery will take place. This is fun for the whole family.

A variety of activities that reflect agriculture and early rural living designed for all ages continue to be our goal. So we have many old favorites returning by popular demand with a few new and interesting projects for our visitors as well. The new Country School Museum will be open for FFD. Stop by and check it out. **Katie Jackson** and her committee did a wonderful job on this project.

The vendor area with crafters, antique dealers and flea marketers promises to be the biggest ever as we have increased the number of available lots to over 200. **Louie & Linda Wehrman**, Vendor Chairpersons report that the spots are filling up quickly. The variety of vendor offerings is wide and there should be something for everyone.

The food department will be serving those hot donuts, fresh apple cider, hand cranked ice cream, hog kettle popcorn, chicken strips, bean soup, homemade fries, apple pie, hot dogs, brats and sloppy joes. Also returning is our Farmer's Breakfast prepared by the K of C

members of Caro.

The hands on workshops will be back in the garage this year. Our feature tent will have a variety of apple related items. **Greg Alexander and Tammy Grifka**, who are chairing the theme tent, are planning some exciting demonstrations. I heard that Greg might have the **Michigan Apple Queen** appearing for one of the days of our Event.

Wayne Lenton and his boys will be putting on sawmill demonstrations daily with a spokesman explaining how the sawmill works cutting lumber. Also, the famous Veneer Mill will be back along with a nice display on the lumber industry.

Mary Inbody & Bernadette Schwalm will be setting up the children's tent that will feature activities that kept children entertained in the early 1900's including checkerboards, stilts, hoop and stick, scrub boards, bean sorters and more. Watch for the apple rhyme signs that will be posted all over the grounds. **Denny Anderson** did an excellent job putting this together for School Tours and FFD.

So come one, come all, and step back in time as you enjoy a day on the Farm on Saturday, September 6th and Sunday, September 7th from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Thumb Octagon Barn. But a reminder to all my friends of the Octagon Barn, I need **YOU** to volunteer to help for just a short time to make this another successful Event. Please look over the letter inserted in this issue and see if there is something that you would be able to do to help us out during FFD.



Teas in the Purdy Home

Tori Pine, Chairperson

The first "Dessert Tea" will be held on Saturday, June 21 when guests will be able to enjoy delectable desserts with assorted flavored teas while experiencing the unique atmosphere of the early 1900's in Cora's beautifully restored home. This Tea has been sold out for quite some time. There are two Dessert Teas scheduled and a very few places still available. Please call **Tori Pine** or **Chris Allen** for the July Tea and **Chris Allen** for the August Tea for reservations.

July 29th – Themed Dessert Tea featuring **"Make a Joyful Noise"**

6:00 p.m. - \$12.00 pre-paid per person two weeks before the Tea.

Contact hostess **Tori Pine** for information & to make a reservation 989-665-2254 or Co-Hostess **Chris Allen** at 989-670-6137.

August 16th – Themed Dessert Tea featuring **"Sweet Treats & Antiques"**

2:00 p.m. \$12.00 pre-paid per person two weeks before the Tea.

Please bring porcelain or glassware items for Appraisal.

Contact Hostess **Chris Allen** for information & to make a reservation 989-670-6137.

P. S. - The next FFD planning meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Tuesday, July 22nd in the Munro Building. Please join us and help us prepare for this Event. We always welcome new thoughts and ideas. Those attending will be treated to apple pie and ice cream.

BENEFACTORS: The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through June 5, 2014.

Anonymous Donor
Paul Begick, Bay City, MI
Dale M. & Patty Churchill, Deford, MI
Michael E. Colburn, Caro, MI
Robert & Susan Darmofal, Toledo, OH
Tony & Diane Eisele, Vassar, MI
Lyle C. Hall, Fairgrove, MI

Drs. Susan Hoppe & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI
Edward Knight, Cass City, MI
Russell & Marlene Kraft, Marlette, MI
Peter M. & Marilyn A. Leiterman, Howell, MI
Gerald & Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI
Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI

Don & Carla McKimmy, Bad Axe, MI
L. J. & Elmira Meseraull, Chesaning, MI
Jill Ogryski, Ubly, MI
Eldine Parent, Bay City, MI
Charles & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI
Donald R. Ramaut, Harbor Beach, MI
Lawrence & Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI

Ron & Margene Scott, Brown City, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI
Karen Weaver, Standish, MI
Louis E. & Sharon L. Wenzlaff, Kingston, MI
Janice L. Winter, Cass City, MI
Joe & Julie Zinger, Caro, MI

School Tours 2014

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

Our mission statement for School Tours is:
Today...Everyday...Educating...
Improving...Working...
To Save History for Tomorrow's Future

From **APPLES to ZEBUS** and everything in between, what a wonderful three days in May for the students, teachers, volunteers and presenters at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. Diane always reminds volunteers of the Mission Statement for School Tours and wants to be certain that we are focused on that goal at all times and ultimately are successful in accomplishing our mission.

Diane reports that the numbers for School Tours 2014 are: 1,100 students visited with 400 chaperons accompanying their child and/or others and 170 volunteers who assisted both students and chaperons around the site. Diane was very happy that fourteen of the volunteers had never participated in School Tours before. One of the volunteers said, "School Tours are the best of the Barn each year. You see so many happy faces and that makes for glad hearts."

A great big thank you to **Diane Rapson Gabil** of Essexville, Chairperson, for masterfully organizing this Event that ran smoothly from start to finish. We also thank **Doug Monroe** of Gagetown, who takes the information given by teachers as to what areas they would like to visit and builds a schedule for each class and their students based on their requests. How he works out these schedules is a puzzle, but he designs it so that each group moves around the site with the aide of a tour guide. **Norma Wallace** of Cass City, arranges for the tour guides by contacting every friend that she has or has had. Many say that they were expecting Norma's call and are ready to go. Being a tour guide is a big job and a very important one. Sometimes our aging population of volunteers finds it a little more difficult each year to be a guide but Diane can always find another job that they will feel more comfortable performing. **There's a job for everyone.**

Diane presented each volunteer with a commemorative gift to show her appreciation for their part in making School Tours a success just as she has done each year. She knows that the **VOLUNTEERS** are the ones that keep groups moving around the site. She especially thanks those that present at their station, many for all three days informing students about egg hatching to sawing a log into lumber to build homes. This year's gift was a mug with the Barn logo and most important to Diane, our website address, www.thumboctagonbarn.org.

Diane was especially pleased that the **Weather Committee** did a fine job for the most part. It was dry but cold on Wednesday, warm and humid

but no rain on Thursday and on Friday the rain held off until the last hour that students were on site. Diane already has some new volunteers for this committee.

So, did the students learn a thing or six while visiting? Just listen to their responses (p.4-5) to the question, "What did you learn today?" They were bursting with pride and anxious to share what they had learned. For your information: Each parent signed a release for their child's picture, information and response to be printed in our newsletter.

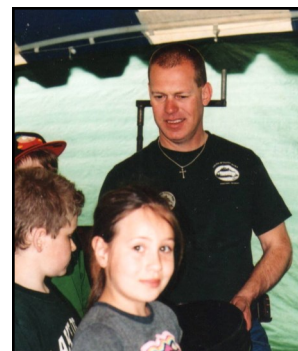
School Tours 2015 are scheduled for **Wednesday, May 6th, Thursday May 7th and Friday May 8th during the school day.** Teachers will be able to sign up for School Tours 2015 beginning in September 2014 through April 2015 on the website under Events at www.thumboctagonbarn.org or they may contact Diane Rapson Gabil at drapsonga-bil@chartermi.net.



Dennis Anderson, Cass City, came away from his location in the Sawmill Building and joined **David Jaroch**, Ubly, MI to exchange stories about the excitement students and chaperones were having looking for the Worm in an Apple. Dennis had made numerous large apples and printed phrases about apples on each one. For example, "An apple without cheese is like a hug without the squeeze." and "What is worse than finding a worm in an apple? Finding half a worm!" Dennis also made a large cut-out of a green worm that he placed near one of the large apples with phrases on them. Johnny Appleseed, during his presentation, told the students to look for the Worm as they went around to the different areas. When they found it they could return to the Barn and David would take their picture with another large apple that had a place cut out for their smiling face. Such excitement when they found the worm. With the parent's permission, David would take their picture with his phone and email it to the family. **The apples will be on display during FFD and the WORM is still on the move. Look for it while enjoying your visit to FFD.** Dennis is dressed as a **Shanty boy**, another name for a lumberjack who was a person that joined a lumber camp for the winter and stayed in a shanty. David is dressed as **Johnny Chapman Appleseed** and he shared Johnny's story. Then sent the students out to search for the Worm. See more about Johnny in his update on Grafting Ideas and Trees on page 6.



During the three days of School Tours in May, the Barn was filled with the wonderful sound of dulcimers being played. It was so melodic and peaceful. The student visitors were fascinated with the instruments and the sounds that they were hearing. The ladies played some familiar songs, but the students had never heard them sound like this. The ladies are from the left: **Joanne Satkowiak**, Linwood, **Shirley Keyser**, Bay City, **Margene Scott**, Brown City & **Sharon Patterson**, Lapeer.



Since our theme for our 2014 Events is Michigan Apples **Greg Alexander**, Carsonville, MI, and **Tammy Grifka**, Peck, MI, were in the Theme Tent to share a little about apples and demonstrate how to make apple cider. Greg is handing out apples to the students that they drop into the cider press. **Emily**, when asked what she learned at School Tours, said, "I learned how you make apple cider. You take an apple and put it in bleach water to get it clean and then rinse with regular water. Put it in the grinder and then press it until juice comes out. I enjoy coming every year to the Barn. I also saw baby goats and a zebu from India."

Also, in the Theme Tent was **Dean Hutchinson**, Cass City who had several hives of bees and stressed the importance of bees in pollinating the grains that are fed to animals so that we can have a Big Mac and our cereal in the morning. He also explained that the bees are very important in pollinating the apple blossoms so that we will have apples to enjoy. Without bees we would not have many of the foods that we need to survive. Dean was joined by **Norm Adams** from Midland, MI who is the President of the Saginaw Bee Keepers Association.

Tanner said, "Saw bees messing around in a little cage making honey. At the schoolhouse we learned what kids did for fun. They played tag, baseball and hide-go-seek. Saw a paddle. When kids are bad the teacher tells them to bend over and get spanked."



More School Tours Photos

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson



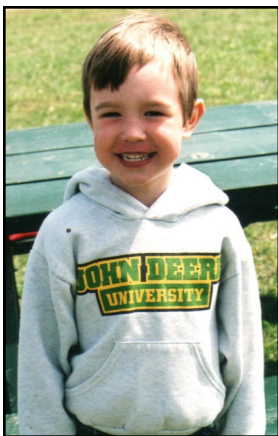
Cassidy is pictured standing in the arena of Barn by some of the large apples that **Dennis Anderson** and **David Jaroch** had on display throughout the site. Cassidy said, "I learned if you want to melt metal, heat to 1600 or 1800 degrees that you have in a coal stove. Down on the bottom have a lever that push up and down to make hotter. It gets hot so you can bend." Just an added note, Cassidy's grandfather did the cement work in the arena of the Barn some years ago when it was decided that the original dirt floor was no longer practical for the large numbers of folks moving through that area. The dust was terrible.



Carson commented on the ice box in the Purdy Home. "The ice melts and they put in a tube so water would go off the ice. They would use the water to get a place for his dog to get a drink. Never knew a Barn shaped like this. Need it really hot for a chick to hatch but not too hot. It takes 27 days."



Daniel is in the **Grain Elevator Building** where he has just finished listening to a presentation by **Louie and Linda Wehrman** and is standing on the platform scale where the bags of grain were weighed. Daniel said, "I didn't know a lot of things about the Octagon Barn. It is my first time here. The Barn looks cool and it would be nice and cool to lie down and look up. The Blacksmith told us what the different things are. The horn of the anvil has different parts from other anvils. Different shapes and one half of the anvil is higher than the other. Daniel's Mother Laura said, "You folks do an awesome job. It's our first time here. I like going on field trips because I learn so much."



Wyatt learned at the schoolhouse: "If you put ink on her hair you will get a spanking on your butt. At the Blacksmith Shop you stick a piece in the fire and it got burned. Cut hot piece off and put in water because wanted it to cool down. I got to play in wheat and soybeans and it was the very first time that I had ever picked them up." Wyatt was accompanied by his grandfather, George Pettinger, who is the Web site manager for the Octagon Barn web site.



Kennedy had visited the sawmill and museum and said, "I saw how they used a two handed saw and learned about Paul Bunyan going down a raft. He was really big – 64 axe handles high. Also, I saw a picture of Babe the Blue Ox."



Rose Putnam, our President, took the day off from work to serve as a tour guide. She is enjoying her lunch while the students in her group are also eating. She was joined by **Roland Bedell** from Akron who had accompanied his grandson on his field trip to the Octagon Barn. Roland and Rose have known each other for many years and Roland said, "This is my first time visiting. I've heard about the Barn but didn't know it was to this magnitude. I'm impressed."

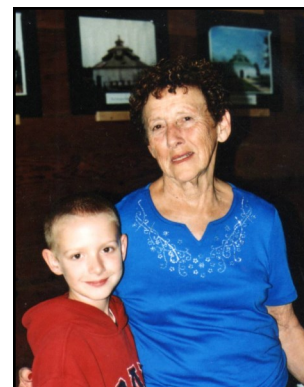
Several comments from students follow, but unfortunately there are no pictures to accompany their thoughts.

Aiden replied as to what he had learned, "I learned how to make apple cider. Put an apple in the machine and twist and push down and get cider out of the apple. I like apple cider. At the sawmill I learned how to chop wood down and how made houses."

Olivia commented, "Johnny Appleseed walked a hundred miles planting seeds to make apple trees. I had an apple for lunch. I saw how to make syrup with water from trees and when you ring the bell at the School it is time for school to start."



In 1996 **Carol Stoeckle**, Cass City volunteered to bring some of her animals to the Barn. She also planned some activities for students to come to the Barn for School Tours to raise funds to help with our restoration efforts. These tours brought 500 students the first year and the number grew each year. After six years of arranging School Tours, Carol stepped down as she had family responsibilities that took much of her time. Her youngest of four children, **Ashleigh**, was four and her oldest was in High School. **Carol and Ashleigh** visited during School Tours 2014 as Ashleigh had just graduated from the University of Findlay in Ohio where she was a member of the Stock Horse Team. Ashleigh has accepted a position in Kentucky as the Assistant Horse Trainer at the Darling 888 Ranch. She said, "Now I'm getting paid to ride horses, something that I truly love."



Matthew learned about the Schoolhouse that there were all different rows by grades and that you put potatoes in the furnace to keep them warm. I really liked finding the worm. I wanted to find the worm because I would get my picture taken." Matthew was accompanied by his grandmother, **Betty Pattullo**, who in the late 80's along with Harry Schubel, came upon this Barn in the middle of nowhere. Betty said, "We had a dream of what it could become. This far exceeds anything we thought about. What has been accomplished!! **Some years ago we found this jewel and you folks have made it into a DIAMOND.**"

Boy Day Out Crew

The Boys, Chairmen

The Boys are back at it after the long, cold winter when even the hardest didn't show up to volunteer their time a few weeks when the weather was at its worst. Now they have the longest list you could imagine of things small and easily accomplished to some pretty major projects. **David Jaroch** sends out a list of projects and now **Jerry Auten** has surveyed the entire site and has made a list of all those needs. David said, "We'll just start and we know that the list

will continue to grow so you can see that we can always use more volunteers." To get the list of projects and what is scheduled for Monday, request David's email at tdjaroch@yahoo.com and David will add your address to the almost one hundred others.

The pictures at right highlight just a few of the projects that are being worked on as of the first week in June. More projects will be highlighted in our next newsletter in August.



Ron Coltson of Marlette is installing the hydraulic cylinder for the cider press that will squeeze the juice from the apples. The Boys are hoping to have the cider press operational during FFD as our Theme is Michigan Apples. The press was donated by the **Jim Hunter & Roy Reinke** of Port Hope. It is a hydraulic press probably used at orchards and is from the period of 1910 to the 30's.



Another group was working out in the Cider Mill Building installing beams and the line shafts that will run the cider press off of some kind of engine. **Louie Wehrman**, Reese, **Ron Coltson**, Marlette, **Terry Keinath**, Reese, **Low Martin**, Decker and **Jerry Auten** of Cass City, not pictured as he went searching for something needed to continue, worked on this project. The parts of the press are really heavy and the 1500 pound capacity winch that Jerry has on his pick-up was appreciated for lifting the beams in place as well as the parts of the press.



Norm Parker, Cass City, and **Ron Hoffman**, Bad Axe, are working with **Richard Stacer** of Uby to complete the new storage room that has been constructed in the southeast area of the Munro Building. This room will house some of the equipment needed for FFD out of sight while it is not being used. One of our host couples, **John & Carolyn Longmuir**, painted the interior so the Monday crew can now start moving the stuff to be stored into the new room.

Grafting Ideas and Trees

Johnny Appleseed, Chairman

John Chapman 1774-1845

John Chapman, born in Massachusetts, spent his life traveling the rivers and trails of Pennsylvania, Ohio and Indiana. He left this life known as the American iconic figure "Johnny Appleseed". Others traveled the same rivers and trails selling apple seedlings to early settlers. "Johnny Appleseed" is the one we remember due to his long life and easy going personality.

Born to a poor family John's mother died after her second child was born. His father's second marriage created a house full of children making it necessary for John to find employment. His first work was working in apple orchards. From there he developed the wandering spirit looking to take apple seeds further west in order to grow apple seedlings for the rapidly expanding western area.

Traveling Pennsylvania waterways John found great places to plant apple orchards for the new settlers. In order to get settlers to move west, the newly forming government was giving tracks of land to new arrivals. One of the conditions of keeping the land was to plant an apple orchard consisting of at least 40 apple trees. John Chapman, his apple tree nursery already established, was ready to sell them apple trees when they arrived.

The history of John Chapman is sketchy at best. In 1797 it was recorded that John had purchased a small plot of land in Warren County, Pennsylvania. It is believed that his first nursery was planted on that property.

To be continued.....

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Joan was very pleased with the sales during School Tours. The best customers were from groups that were visiting the Barn for the first time. Joan carefully selects items that will appeal to our young visitors and are very affordable. It's great fun watching the young shoppers who are so excited with their purchases.

Betty Armstead and **Bill Hollingsworth**, one of our Host couples, have set up a souvenir store on site that is open during our regular hours. Currently the store is in the garage, but will soon be located in the old Country School Museum Building that was moved next to the Munro Building.

Joan is already planning for FFD when she will be located in her usual spot behind the garage. She will have a full stock of our merchandise with the Barn logo. There'll be the same low prices and maybe a surprise or two of new items. Our T's and sweatshirts come in sizes from 2T to Big Daddy (XXXXL). We also have nice camouflage and mesh hats. We thank you for your support of the Barn by wearing our Barn logo.

During School Tours Joan is also responsible

for greeting the different groups each day and collecting the admission fee and presenting each group with a bag of goodies for each student. While she was greeting the youngsters she had a memorable experience that she wanted to share. "As one of the students came off the bus, white cane in hand and helped by two of her fellow students I, as a volunteer, thought, "What is this little girl going to get out of this trip to the Barn since so much of what we have for the students is visual and hands on?" As the day went on I didn't see the girl but still thought about her. Well as fate would have it, I met up with her at the end of her day at the Octagon Barn and now she was with her Mom. Since I was very sensitive to the fact that she was blind, I asked, "What did you hear at the Barn today?" She told me, "Tractors, lots of kids and animals. I even got to pet the animals." It was obvious that she was a very happy little girl. So I gave her a "Squeaky the Mouse" so she could feel his ears and tail and remember her day at the Octagon Barn. Volunteering is usually more rewarding for us than our young visitors will ever know."

Concert at the Barn

David Jaroch & Richard Wroblewski, Co-Chairmen

Just a few weeks until the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** return to the Thumb Octagon Barn and perform in the arena of the Barn. The concert is scheduled for Sunday, July 13, 2014 from 2 p.m. until 4:15. An admission/donation fee of \$5.00 is suggested with youngsters 12 and under admitted free. Refreshments will be served halfway through their performance. The grounds will be open from Noon until 5 p.m. Visit the website for additional information. The Event is partially funded by Thrivent Financial. Come early and tour the grounds before settling in for a relaxing, enjoyable concert.



The Lonesome Mountain Boys are pictured with their instruments and they are ready to go. They love entertaining and have just as much fun as the audience. From the left are **Bill Brasgalla** and **Ron Smolka** of Livonia, **Richard Wroblewski** of Sebawaing and **Mark Kemner** of Eastpointe.

Clean-up Day

Preparing the site for opening

Louie Wehrman, Grounds Chairman

Clean-up Day was in early May at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum and there was much to do. Louie had suggested that folks take care of their area and when that was all finished to move about and help wherever you could see something in need of cleaning, straightening and organizing to be ready for our visitors young and old. The pictures on this page highlight some of the volunteers and their efforts to prepare our site.



Joe Greene, Caro, MI volunteered to help wherever needed. Joe became involved with the Barn when the **Caro Knights of Columbus** agreed to prepare the Breakfast that is served on Saturday and Sunday during FFD. Joe worked to clean the many different buggies that we have on display in the arena of the Barn. They looked so much better after his cleaning efforts.



The **Thumb Two Cylinder Club** area needed straightening and cleaning to get all of the dirt and grime that had accumulated over the long winter months. Our student visitors love looking at the collection of replicas of John Deere tractors through the years. Pictured is **Cathy Stacer** cleaning and polishing. Earlier she was joined in the clean-up process by her husband **Richard**, Ubly, MI and **Dan Hormel**, Mayville, MI who had finished their part of the cleaning.



Lee Sowden, and his son **Rusty**, Owendale worked in the North mow putting together a display of an assortment of antique tools. The tools had been lying around here and there just waiting for someone to organize them in a display. The various tools are labeled which is a good thing as there are some very unusual tools and sometimes it's difficult to determine what the purpose was for each of the them. Take a look the next time you visit the Thumb Agricultural Museum for the display of tools in the North mow.



David Osentoski, Cass City, one of our auctioneers, brought this Push Lawn Mower to our Annual Meeting in April for our auction. He then made the final bid of \$100.00 for the mower and donated it to the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Pictured is **Jerry Auten**, Cass City, MI demonstrating the mower before it will be put on display. We thank David for bringing this unusual piece to our Museum.

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.

- Dick Gentner donated a Trigger lunch box for the One Room Country School Museum & a block and tackle.
- Bill Sageman, Freeland, MI donated a Sageman Dairy milk bottle.
- Bartnik Service, Cass City donated a breaker plow.
- Martin Osentoski, Cass City donated a muck plow.
- William Chappel, Kinde, MI donated a Gale Mfg. Co. plow.
- Carol Murday, Fairgrove, MI loaned the Friends a wagon hitch.
- Thumb Electric Power Co., Ubly, MI donated a gas engine & air compressor.
- Bryan & Janet Phillips, Dearborn, MI donated a 1925 Pennsylvania phone directory and a Kellogg brand oak wall phone with a crank.
- Saginaw River Marine Historical Society, Don Comtois, President, Bay City, MI donated a wagon running gear.
- Bill Wertz, Oxford, MI donated a buck saw, scythe, apple crate & a wrenches box.
- Karen Sonquist, Caro, MI donated various newspaper articles, pictures, a man's and a woman's swimming suit from the 1915-1920 period.
- Roy Reinke, Port Hope, MI donated a hydraulic apple cider press used for extraction of apple cider made by Hydraulic Press Mfg. Co., Mount Gilead, OH incorporated in 1877.
- David Osentoski, Cass City, MI donated a lawn mower that was manufactured by the Montague Mfg. Co. of Traverse City, MI from 1923 to 1962.



Pictured is **Mary Ann Hirn**, Cass City who has finished washing the windows in the lower level of the Barn just as she has for many years. She has moved inside to sweep all the debris that has accumulated in the arena of the Barn and is joined by **David Jaroch**, Ubly, MI and **Bill Learman**, Caro, MI who organizes all of the details for the Caro Knights of Columbus breakfast prepared during FFD. The trio found that they could get the sweeping of the arena completed more quickly by working together.

Newsletter

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

MEMBERSHIP

Newsletters that have a membership form with **RENEWAL** written in **RED** are either past due or will be due before our next newsletter. If **FINAL NOTICE** is stamped on the form this means that this will be your **LAST REMINDER** to renew your membership before being **removed** from our mailing list. The levels of membership are: **Associate Membership** - \$5.00 and brings you our quarterly newsletter. **General Membership** - \$10.00 for an individual and \$15.00 for a family, which along with receipt of the newsletter gives you the right and opportunity to hold office. A membership form can be obtained from our website at thumboctagonbarn.org.

IMPORTANT REMINDER - If you have a new address or a seasonal change of address, it is important that you let us know as bulk mail is NOT forwarded.

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

989-665-0081

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>

**George Pettinger
Web Manager**

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings
will be held the second Tues.,
every other month, at 7 p.m.
at the Gagetown Village Hall.

Feb., April, Oct. & Dec.

**The June & August meetings
will be held in the Munro
Building on site.**

Upcoming Events

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

June 21	Dessert Tea Party 2:00 p.m. Sold out.
June 21 & 22	Tuscola County Historical Consortium Open House Weekend
July 13	Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert in the Barn, 2 p.m.
July 29	Dessert Tea, 6 p.m., by reservation only
August 16	Dessert Tea, 2 p.m. by reservation only
September 5	Annual Fish Dinner 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. Munro Building
September 6 & 7	19th Fall Family Days 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day
November 7, 8, 9 & 11th	Christmas Open House 11:00 a.m. - 4 p.m.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

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

TDJ Farms, Inc., Donna Johnson of Boone, IA made a generous donation to the Museum.
Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI donated in honor of Oscar & Esther Haag's 70th Anniversary.
Ivemia H. Schwartz, Gagetown, MI donated in memory of her husband Frank J. Schwartz.
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI donated in honor of Richard Stacer, Ubyl, MI for a special project he completed.
Ruby Boyse, Birch Run, and her late husband Harold have been members since 2000.
Ruby made a very generous donation to our Thumb Agricultural Museum in his memory.
Donation in memory of Richard Turner given by Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI
Donation in honor of her aunt, Marilyn Phillips, given by Estee Woods & Stephen Greif, Saginaw, MI
Lowell & Beth McDonald, Bad Axe made a donation to cover the entire cost of a large cooler purchased from K-Mart when their Bad Axe store closed.
Donation in memory of Dan O'Rourke, grandson of George Munro one of the original builders of the Octagon Barn, given by cousin, Mary Braur, Clawson, MI
Donation in memory of her husband, Jim Wilson, given by Barbara Wilson, Fort Collins, CO
Donation in memory of Georgeanne Booms given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubyl, MI
Donation in memory of Ellen Toner, a retired teacher, given by Dan Toner, Cass City, MI for the Schoolhouse Museum.
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI donated four Annette Hirstedt dolls for our auction. These dolls are very special and look like real children with human hair and eyelashes. After 23 years of doll making, Annette retired from doll making in 2008.
VG's awarded the Barn with \$26.66 for their Cash for class - Family Fare Program.
Huron County Chapter of Thrivent Financial awarded the Octagon Barn with \$300.00 to cover the cost of the fund raiser benefit performance by the Lonesome Mountain Boys.
Willia J. Vargas, Bellevue, NE made a donation in memory of Frank Schwartz.
Paul Findlay, Caro made a generous donation in memory of Phyllis his wife of 62 years, that enabled the Friends to purchase a Ventrac commercial lawn mower. See accompanying picture and story on this page.
The Tuscola County Community Foundation awarded two grants, one from the Janks Foundation & one from the Andrews Foundation for the Thumb Quilt project.
Ed Nicholson, Fairgrove donated a 750 watt electric heater.
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI donated 2 electric roasters.
Donation in memory of George Schwartz given by Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
A donation was given by the Dorcas Group at the Cass City United Methodist Church to thank the Friends and Gerald Auten for their efforts to help them with a coffee maker problem.
Donations were made in memory of Aaron Davis, Marshall, MI who died after a short illness.
Aaron demonstrated rope making at our Events and was one of our Web Managers. See accompanying picture and story on page 2. Donations were received by: The Auten Family, Cass City, MI, Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubyl, MI, Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI, Bob & Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, George Pettinger, Snover, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI & Rose Putnam, Cass City, MI.



that provided the funds to purchase this very special mower. The mower is to be used on site by **Ed Nicholson** and **Lee Sowden**. Paul made this donation in memory of his wife **Phyllis** who loved to cut grass and cut and cut the grounds at the farmstead and even cut the roadside. Paul met his future wife at a 4-H Pig Show held at the stockyard when she was 16. The winners were given an extra award of a plane ride offered by **Frank Fullmer** who owned the stockyard. Phyllis received Grand Champion Award and Paul was also one of the top winners. Soon after they began dating and Paul married Phyllis when she was seventeen. Paul is pleased that he could donate something special for the Thumb Agricultural Museum that would help the Friends and also pay tribute to his wife of 62 years.

Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum is open to the public May 15th - September 30th.

The hours are:

★ Wednesday - Saturday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

★ Sunday Noon - 5 p.m.

★ Monday & Tuesday closed

Guided tours are available: 11 a.m. 1 p.m. 3 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00 per person

Self Guided Tour (includes map)

Admission: \$2.00 per person

Children 6 and under are free