

# 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 2014

## Fall Family Days 2014 Featuring Michigan Apples

### Executive Committee

**President**  
**Rose Putnam**

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**  
**Martin Kubacki**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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**

Contributions to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization, are tax deductible according to the IRS guidelines.

**Web Site**  
[www.thumboctagonbarn.org](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org)

*To my dear Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum from Martin Kubacki, Fall Family Days Chairman,*

Our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days Event will begin on Friday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. with a fish dinner prepared by **Greg Talaski** of Kinde, co-chairs **LaVonne** and **George Pettinger** and numerous hardworking volunteers. Dinner will be served until 7 p.m. Following the fish dinner, visitors can move to the Barn to listen to some good ole time music performed by the **Eastern Michigan Music Makers**. On Saturday the 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup>, the show is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. There is something for the whole family including agriculture field demonstrations, the Purdy home and Octagon Barn tours, crafters and flea market vendors, children's activities as well as many tasty treats. Each day at 3:00 p.m. there will be a parade of antique tractors and equipment. Before the Parade, at 2:30 p.m., **Tori Pine** is organizing a Fashion Show featuring **APRONS AT WORK** when aprons from the 20's and 30's will be modeled. You might even see Cora Purdy's apron that she wore while in the kitchen of the Purdy Home.

This year we are featuring **Michigan Apples** with many demonstrations going on daily. Don't miss the bee honey extraction demonstrations at 10:15 a.m. and 2:15 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday located in the theme tent next to the Purdy Home. At the cider mill, which is located next door to the grain elevator at the east end of the grounds, there will be a cider press demonstration. In honor of our theme, you will be able to purchase a yummy slice of apple pie, baked by our friends at the **Knights of Columbus of Caro**. This will be served right next to the homemade ice cream made by the **Thumb Antique Car Club**. Other delicious, old fashioned goodies including hog kettle popcorn, donuts, fresh

squeezed apple cider and cotton candy will be back to enjoy as well. The sorghum evaporator will be going again and there will be sorghum syrup and delicious caramel corn for sale. The basic food concession will be run by **McDonald's Food and Family Center of Bad Axe**. **Janice Winter** and her volunteers will once again be preparing chicken strips and fries in the Munro Building. The **Farmer's Breakfast** will be put on by the **Knights of Columbus from Caro**

ro serving on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Continued on page 4.)



**Dave Babcock**, Cass City, our apple cider man since our very first FFD, is pleased to announce that apple cider will be pressed in the new Cider Mill Building. Since the hydraulic press has not been used for possibly 75 years it has taken dedicated work to get it operational. Dave thanks those that have worked on the equipment and especially thanks **Jerry Auten** who has been very positive that the job will get done. So Dave invites FFD visitors to stop by the Cider Press Building to observe the process and have a taste of fresh squeezed cider. There will also be interesting displays and demonstrations in the Theme tent where they will be demonstrating "pollination to processing of apples" to be used for apple cider, apple pie and all the other tasty apple treats.



Our commemorative button for the 19<sup>th</sup> Fall Family Days features a big, bright red apple along with an outline map of Michigan. It is very colorful and those who have collected these buttons since the early days of Fall Family Days will want to know that they will be available for sale at the Registration Table or the Souvenir Table near the garage. **Martin & Luci Kubacki** and their daughter **Jill Ogryski** were the designers of the button, the plate for the plaque and the brochure. Martin greatly appreciated their help.

### 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Family Days 2014 Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

#### ➤Fish Fry in Munro Building

Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Adults \$10.00 Children \$5.00 Under five are free.

#### ➤Fall Family Days

Saturday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> and Sunday Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> From 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Daily gate admission \$5.00 per person 6 and older

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



Dear Friends:

Fall Family Days is just around the corner and the many committee volunteers are busy preparing for all the visitors. I hope you are one of them. We've had a lot of excitement with our "Michigan Apples" theme this year. Many hands have rebuilt the Beecher barn into an operational cider mill. Under the direction of **Dave Babcock, Gerald Auten**, and many others, the cider press will be ready to press apples. It's an amazing apparatus. Please be sure to stop in.

It's been a busy summer. Love has been in the air with several wedding ceremonies at the barn. We even had a horse as part of one of the wedding parties. **Tori Pine** as the new chairperson for our Tea Parties has been a wonderful hostess along with her crew of helpers and all the guests were most impressed. Several organizations have held workshops and dinners in the Munro Building. We've had several car clubs and tour busses stop by for a visit.

Something new is happening that I hope you will take time to come out and see on October 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting an open house as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's annual fall barn tour. The Thumb Octagon Barn is one of five sites on the driving tour. Well, you say, I've been there, but I bet you will have not seen the quilt square on site. That same day will be the opening day of the **Thumb Quilt Trail**. We are so very pleased to be the sponsor of this project. Please see the related articles about both events. It will be a great way to spend a Saturday in the Thumb.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you during Fall Family Days. Please say "HI".

Enjoy this beautiful weather.  
 Your Friend and President,  
**Rose**

## Wedding Coordinator

*Carolyn Sorenson*

Carolyn has been very busy this year as there have been numerous weddings at the Thumb Octagon Barn. The setting is very special and allows for some flexibility in planning the ceremony. To schedule a wedding or get information and details about planning a wedding, contact Carolyn at 989-912-0449.



**Leah Schuman** slowly rode her horse, Sky, through the arena of the Barn where she joined her Father for the walk down the aisle. Leah had chosen to have guests seated outside east of the Barn and the weather was perfect. What a lovely sight to see Leah sitting sidesaddle on her horse that she had won many trophies with while she was in 4H. Leah has recently been accepted to Michigan State University's Veterinary Program. Leah married **Larry Reid II**.

## Lincoln Day Dinner

Huron and Tuscola County Republicans once again held their Lincoln Day Dinner at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. They had a fun evening complete with rides on the people mover to tour the site, a wonderful meal, entertainment and of course some political speeches.

## Fall Barn Tour Slated

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) is hosting a Fall barn driving tour on October 11, 2014. The Thumb Octagon Barn will be one of the five featured barns on the tour. Please sign up the day of the tour at the Mayville Historical Museum to receive your car registration pass to stop at each site. The fee is \$15.00 per adult MBPN member or \$5.00 per child over 12 years old, non-member fee is \$45.00. We will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, please visit the MBPN website at [mibarn.net](http://mibarn.net) then open the Newsletter tab and scroll down to the Summer 2014 edition for more information.



Carolyn tries to assure that everything is in order for the couples' special day. She makes sure that the seating is as requested, the decorations in place and the couple will be pleased and very happy. She becomes almost part of the wedding party checking this and that and then sighs with relief that all is going on schedule. Carolyn said, "I have to have the 'funnest' volunteer job at the Barn that there is."

## School Tours

**Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson**

School Tours 2015 will be held **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup> and Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>** 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](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org) or they may contact Diane Rapson Gabil at [drapsongabil@chartermi.net](mailto:drapsongabil@chartermi.net). Groups should plan on spending the entire school day enjoying all of the planned activities. There are several picnic areas where groups can enjoy their sack lunches. This is an outstanding educational field trip that gets better each year as new activities are planned and arranged.



**Caitlin Marie Reed** and her husband **Logan Michael Walz** are all smiles as they have been united in marriage and are exiting the arena. What a lovely setting for a wedding.



The Sorenson Family provided entertainment throughout the evening for guests attending the Lincoln Day Dinner. **Craig Sorenson** often plays with the Eastern Music Makers at our Events but this was very special as Craig was performing with his two sons. From the left is the proud father **Craig Sorenson** in the middle playing the guitar and vocalizing and **Justin Sorenson** playing the box drum (cajone).



There were some inquiries about the pink flowers that were growing and in bloom along the east wall of the powerhouse. Eventually the curious folks found **Dan Keane** from Hemlock who is a beekeeper and is also retired from the Michigan Department of Agriculture. Dan was able to identify the flower as, swamp milkweed, a native perennial that has probably been growing there for years. Check it out when you visit FFD. It is a quite different looking flower that hopefully will still be in bloom.



**Bill Hollingsworth**, one of our host couples, was taking folks around the site on the people mover being pulled by a tractor. Secretary of State, **Ruth Ann Johnson**, got right up on the tractor for a photo opportunity.



## Lonesome Mountain Boys Concert

*David Jaroch & Richard Wrobleski, Co-Chairmen*

Almost 250 folks came out to enjoy an afternoon of music, humor and refreshments in the very comfortable setting in the arena of the Thumb Octagon Barn. Everything worked out very well, the weather cooperated and the Boys entertained for several hours. Volunteers had prepared homemade goodies for folks to enjoy during the intermission and they were appreciated by those attending the concert. Once again, **Ron Kuenzli** from Deford worked to control the level of amplification and the Boys thanked Ron for his efforts. The concert was partially funded by Huron County's Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.



The Boys are relaxing before the concert was scheduled to begin. Seated on the bench in the entry way to the arena are from the left **Ron Smolka, & Bill Brasgalla** from Livonia and **Richard Wrobleski** of Sebawaing. Shortly after the photo was taken the Boys went on stage and entertained the 250 people in the audience for an hour before the intermission.

## Christmas Open House in the Purdy Home

*Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson*

The Christmas Open House in the beautifully restored Purdy Home will be held **November 7, 8, 9 and 11<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day**. Admission will be \$4.00 and will include a tour of the decorated rooms and refreshments. If interested in decorating a room, please call Marilyn Phillips at 989-665-0210. There will be prizes for the best decorated rooms that a committee will select as winners. We will have hot chocolate, punch and homemade Christmas cookies that we hope folks will volunteer to donate for the Open House. Let Marilyn know if you could become one of her cookie elves. So mark your calendar for **November 7, 8, 9 and 11<sup>th</sup>**. Hopefully November weather will be better for this Event.

## Raffle Tickets

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

Many have returned their raffle ticket stubs and money and we thank you for participating in this fund raiser. The rules of the Michigan State Lottery require that ALL tickets must be accounted for so that if you choose not to participate we still need to have the tickets returned. Please mail all returns to Friends of the Octagon Barn, P.O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735. Tickets may also be returned during FFD at the Raffle Booth up until the drawing for prize winners. The drawing for winners will take place on **Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. after the Parade of tractors**.



One of the raffle prizes is this handmade quilt pieced by **Grace Blair**, Bad Axe, and quilted by the **Back Street Quilt Shop** of Bad Axe. It is beautiful and reflects our rural, agricultural heritage. One quilt square is shown enlarged at the bottom of the picture.

## A Little Bit of History



The Octagon Barn was built in 1923 and finished in 1924 which means that the Barn is 90 years old. Back in 1994, Doug Monroe brought a good

friend of his to a Barn meeting. He knew that this friend had the knowledge, skill and hopefully the passion to undertake the restoration of the Octagon Barn. The friend was Bob Hirn and, thanks to Doug, Bob got involved and the rest is history. Doug said, "Bob had the foresight and ingenuity to know how to see the Barn brought back to its original condition. Perhaps he was the only one who had the capacity to accomplish this task and certainly the passion. He had the knowledge and skills to bring together laborers, builders and suppliers." The boulder, shown above, that has the plaque affixed to it is from the grounds and was used to block the entry to the powerhouse. Bob & Doug both wanted to preserve that boulder. Well, it has been preserved and recognizes all of the many volunteers that contributed to bringing the Barn back to Mr. Purdy's dream of building an 'air castle' like the one he had seen while traveling in Iowa. The message on the rock reads, "Somewhere James Purdy and the Munro Brothers are saying, 'Our dream is very much alive in the conscience of Bob Hirn. The Barn is once again truly magnificent.'"

## Important Notice

We ask all members when mailing any correspondence to the Thumb Octagon Barn to use the following address only: **Thumb Octagon Barn, P. O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735**. Because we are a seasonal museum it is important that our mail be delivered to the Post Office rather than the box on Richie Road. The only reason that we began including the address on Richie Rd. was for GPS users. Thank you for your cooperation.



## Fall Family Days 2014 *(Continued from page 1.)*

Louis and Linda Wehrman, who handle the registrations for the flea market vendors and crafters, report that reservations have been pouring in and it appears that we will sell out all of the spaces once again this year to make it a great shopping experience for all. **New to the grounds this year will be an ATM machine for your convenience.** Another new item this year will be a special lumber presentation on the history of lumber in Michigan presented by **Bob Hirn**.

A site map will be available with locations of activities as well as times of demonstrations and presentations. Also, public address announcements will be made throughout FFD as activities are occurring.

As always there is a lot going on and we hope you can find the time to join us again for a weekend of family fun. **The final meeting for Fall Family Days is August 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Munro Building. We need ALL to volunteer.**

*God bless, Martin*

## Souvenirs

*Joan Koch, Chairperson*

The Souvenir Booth will be open both days of Fall Family Days, but for the workers, volunteers or vendors, Joan will be at the souvenir trailer, just north of the garage on Friday afternoon from 4:00 until 6:00 p.m. At that time the inventory will be fresh and fully stocked. There are some new colors and cute things. Some have requested a small logo on clothing items and a light pink zipper hoodie. Joan has also ordered a front license plate and umbrellas that hopefully we won't need during FFD. There will be magnets and Joan plans on having some sales of merchandise. She hopes that visitors will continue to buy our gear as it is the best advertisement we could have.



What a wonderful treat we had following our FFD meeting in July. Martin had promised apple pie and ice cream to those attending the meeting and he didn't disappoint. Also, it was a test to see if pie could be available to go with the homemade ice cream during FFD. The **Caro Knights of Columbus** prepared homemade apple pie and it was exceptional. The Knights pie bakers and servers are from the left **Mike Bauerschmidt**, **Bill Learman**, licking his fingers, Friends member, **Dennis Anderson**, who couldn't wait for the meeting to end to have his pie, and **Joe Greene** all of Caro. All agreed that apple pie would be a wonderful addition to our tasty treats during FFD.



**Walther Potato Farms**, Cass City brought in their equipment (shown below) and planted a patch of potatoes because we are bringing back the field demonstration that was so successful two years ago. Visitors had great fun watching the large equipment harvesting the potatoes or folks really loved hand digging their own potatoes that they could purchase for a couple of dollars. The photo was taken by Bill Hollingsworth

The picture on the left shows the potato harvesting equipment turning up several rows of potatoes. You could hear the oohs and aahs as the potatoes were unearthed. Folks rushed out and filled their bag with those delicious freshly dug potatoes. Walther's plants over 8000 acres of potatoes in Michigan that are used for potato chips.



The Stein Family, Loren, Lola and their sons have been coming to FFD since the very first Event demonstrating the shingle mill and forge to craft collectible shingles that have the year and an agricultural symbol imprinted on them. **Doug Kalis, Gagetown & Unionville Funeral Chapels**, has filled his Gagetown facility with photos and paintings that he bid on during our Annual Auction and all of his Thumb Octagon Barn shingles and plaques. Pictured is Doug's shingle collection and on page 5 with the list of FFD Sponsors is a picture of Doug and his plaques that show he has faithfully been a sponsor each year. When presented with his 2014 plaque he immediately got the tools to affix it to his display.



Pictured is Linda Wehrman in the Grain Elevator where she has just finished tidying up. In fact, she sometimes introduces herself as the sweeper in the Grain Elevator Building but she is much more than that. This building is a wonderful museum of agricultural history. **Linda & Louis Wehrman** spend a great deal of time sharing the story of grain elevators and the equipment that we are so fortunate to have installed for demonstrations. Louie said that we have something new this year, as we try to do each year, but you'll have to stop by to see what that might be. Louie also planted 8 rows of corn that will be used for field demonstrations. The Wehrmans also take care of the crafters and flea market vendors that occupy over 200 spots. There is a wide

variety of things that the vendors will have, such as furniture, handmade crafts, hand carved ducks, tools and tasty treats. They report that they have only a few spots still available but do encourage interested vendors to inquire and be put on a waiting list as sometimes unexpected things can happen that require folks to cancel. **Linda can be reached at 989-948-3429.**



**Sharon Cummins**, Gagetown, is picking up the sugar that she uses to coat the hot donuts. She mixes the sugar with cinnamon and folks will wait in long lines to get several or even dozens of these delicious donuts. Some have even been known to say that the donuts are why they come to Fall Family Days. This year Sharon, her family and volunteers will be selling cider and coffee from her location. **Michigan Sugar** donates almost 300 pounds of white and brown sugar that is used for not only the donuts but for the homemade ice cream and cotton candy.





## Fall Family Day Sponsors 2014

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)

Bartnick Services, Cass City, MI  
Bay Port State Bank, Bay Port, MI  
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI  
Sally J. Brauer, Troy, MI  
Cass City Oil & Gas Co., Cass City, MI  
Cooperative Elevator Co., Sue Gottschalk, Pigeon, MI  
Dr. & Mrs. William Corsini, Bad Axe, MI  
Country Fresh, LLC, Livonia, MI  
Pat Curtis Chevrolet, Cadillac, Caro  
Flowers Galore & More, Cass City, MI  
Gleaner's Caro Arbor #106, Caro, MI  
Hampton Potato Farm, Essexville, MI  
Harris & Company, Dave & Heather Weiler, Cass City, MI  
Pat Hester, Cass City, MI  
Hills & Dales General Hospital, Cass City, MI  
J. W. Hunt, Inc., Bad Axe, MI  
Independent Bank, East Michigan  
ITC Holdings, Julie Garavaglia & Gary Kirsh, Novi, MI  
Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI  
Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, MI  
L. R. M. Dairy & Repair, Snover, MI  
McDonald's Food & Family Center, Bad Axe, MI  
McLachlan Farms, Bob & Edna McLachlan, Cass City, MI  
Michigan Milk Producers, Dave Wittkop, Ovid, MI  
Michigan Sugar Company, Bay City, MI  
Modern Woodmen of America, Reese, MI  
Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI  
Northwood Modular Homes, Cass City, MI  
Osentoski Equipment, Inc., Pigeon  
Rita & Jim Osentoski, Ubyly, MI  
Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI  
Smith's Alpaca Acres,  
Richard & Vivian Smith, Gagetown, MI  
David & Diane Sting Farm, Unionville, MI  
James D. Thomas, DDS, PC Cass City, MI  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans -  
Chuck Volz, Caro, MI  
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans  
Foundation, Princeton, NJ  
Thumb Cellular, Pigeon, MI  
Thumb Tool & Engineering Co., Bad Axe, MI  
Thumb Two Cylinder Club  
Daniel Toner, Cass City, MI  
Tri-County Equipment, Sandusky, MI  
Triple R. Collision, Inc. Caro, MI  
Don Weber, Frankenmuth, MI &  
Bob Hirn, Cass City, MI

### Silver Sponsors

(\$150 to \$249)

ACE Hardware #267-N, Bad Axe, MI  
Atwater Farms, Ubyly, MI  
AVCI.net, Pigeon, MI  
Bad Axe Tire Service  
Mark & Diane Battel, Cass City, MI  
Raymond E. & Norma J. Baur, Unionville, MI  
Dorothy Bills, Cass City, MI  
Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI  
Caro Rental, Caro, MI  
Chemical Bank, Thumb Region

Bill & Patsy Chippi, Caro, MI  
DJ's Portable Toilets & Rentals, Owendale, MI  
Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI  
Sandra Finkbeiner, Caro, MI  
Gregory & Christine Guza, Cass City, MI  
Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI  
Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI  
Fred & Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI  
Knight's Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI  
Langenburg Construction Co. Inc., Cass City, MI  
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  
Mike & Drucilla Pisarek, Cass City, MI  
ProBuild, Caro, MI  
Dr. S. H. Raythatha, Cass City, MI  
Mary Ann Hobart Reidinger, Rochester, MI  
Ruth State Bank, Ruth, MI  
Ivemia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI  
in memory of Frank J. Schwartz  
Thabet Funeral Home, Dwight Thabet, Cass City, MI  
Thumb National Bank, Cass City, MI  
Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI  
Walther Potato Farms, Cass City, MI  
Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI

### Bronze Sponsors

(\$50 - \$149)

Allway Stop Market, Gagetown, MI  
Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Fligger, Ubyly, MI  
Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI  
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI  
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI  
Laurence. G. Beatenhead, Unionville, MI  
Gerald L. Booms, Ubyly, MI  
Braden Tire & Service, Bad Axe, MI  
Louise Buehrlly, Cass City, MI  
Charles J. Busch, Jr., Clare, MI  
Caro Moose Family Center  
Cass City Hardware, Cass City, MI  
CKS Precision Machining, Bad Axe,  
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI  
Clemco Printing Co., Bad Axe, MI  
Larry Clerc, Bay City, MI  
Coachlight Pharmacy, Cass City, MI  
Janet Cooper, Reese, MI  
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO  
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI  
Sharon Cummins, Gagetown, MI  
d/s Services, Inc., Cass City, MI  
Marilyn DeShano, Caseville, MI  
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI  
Mary M. Downing, Gagetown, MI  
Robert Duncan, Denfield, Ontario, Canada  
Erla Foods, Cass City, MI  
Jon & Char Fahmer, Cass City, MI  
Fritz's Family Restaurant, Fred Diedrich, Richville, MI  
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI  
Gagetown-Unionville Funeral Chapels, Unionville, MI  
Keny & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL  
Terry & Joanne Herban, Frankfort, MI  
Drs. Susan Hoppe & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI  
Jim & Carol Hunter, Port Hope, MI  
Dean & Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI  
Douglas R. Jackson, M.D., Renewable Energy Consultant, Midland, MI  
David & Marie Jaroch, Ubyly, MI  
Flemming & Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI  
Dr. John Jostock & Dr. Kenneth Tiseo, DDS Caro, MI  
Paul Keast & Timothy Bang, Reese, MI  
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI  
Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI  
Kelly & Company Realty, Cass City, MI  
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI  
Joey & Chad Kreeger, Cass City, MI  
Tim & Jean Kreiner, North Branch, MI  
Tim & Debbie Kubacki, Sebawaing, MI  
Connie L. Latuseck, Midland, MI  
Jack & Betty Laurie, Gagetown, MI  
Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI  
James E. Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI  
Ken Martin Electric, Cass City, MI  
Arnold & Reita Maxfield, Dade City, FL  
Harvey McIntyre, Ubyly, MI  
Marie Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM  
Narayan Physical Therapy & Medical Supply, Bad Axe, MI  
Frank O'Donnell & Helen Weber, Ferndale, MI  
John & Bev Perry, Cass City, MI  
Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI  
Plain & Fancy Decorating, Nancy Hrabcak, Cass City, MI  
Jim & Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI  
Pro Graphix, Cass City, MI  
Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI  
Earl & Doris Schember, Gagetown, MI  
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts., MI  
LeRoy & Ginny Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI  
Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI  
Don & Jan Severance, Naples, FL  
Sherwood on the Hill, Gagetown, MI  
Star Vision Center, Caro, MI  
Mike Sterker, Fort Collins, CO  
Bob & Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI  
Superior 1, Inc. Plumbing & Heating, Cass City, MI  
Leon & Susan Swartzentruber, Ubyly, MI  
Ken and Mary Jane Sweeney, Ubyly, MI  
Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Inc., Elkton, MI  
Thumb Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI  
Henry & Ann Tschetter, Rockford, MI  
Tuscola County Republican Party, Caro, MI  
Valley Collision, Ubyly, MI  
Susan Walker, Caro, MI  
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI  
Wal-Mart, Caro, MI  
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI  
Gary & Tammy Wark, Fairgrove, MI  
Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI  
Barbara L. Wilson, Cass City, MI  
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
Richard & Vera Wroblewski, Sebawaing, MI  
Rose Wunderlich, Farwell, MI

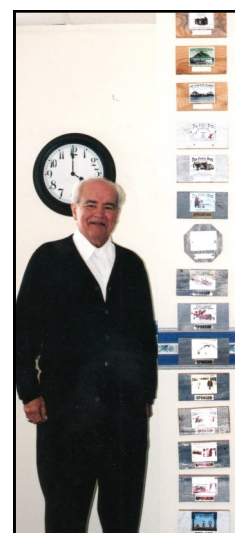
### Certificate Sponsors

(\$10 - \$49)

Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI  
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI  
Barb & Alvin Hutchinson, Cass City, MI  
Thumb Electric Cooperative, Ubyly, 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 plaques 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, please stop by the Registration Table on the NW side of the Barn and pick up your sponsor plaque. Those unable to attend will receive their plaque by mail.



**Doug Kalis**, Gagetown & Unionville Funeral Chapels, is standing by his plaque collection in Gagetown that he has from the first year that plaques were presented to our FFD Sponsors and each year ever since.

### Story Time During FFD

**Kylie Ogryski** from Ubyly asked her Grandfather, **Martin Kubacki** if she could share the story about **Squeaky the Mouse and his Adventures at the Thumb Octagon Barn** with our young visitors during FFD. Kylie will be in the area between the Schoolhouse and the new Museum Building and will read both days of FFD. Her schedule will be on the map given to visitors as well as announced over the public address system.

## Grafting Ideas and Trees

Johnny Appleseed, (aka David Jaroch), Chairman

John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, probably planted his first apple orchard from seed in 1798 in Warren, Pennsylvania. Little is known about his early travels, as you might expect, since most people could not read or write and record keeping was sketchy at best. Accounts of his travels can be found, however, in storekeepers' books or land records. It is known that John Chapman traveled west each spring to plant trees and tend his orchards and returned east each fall to gather more seeds.

John was a friendly man who found peace in nature and in people. Throughout his 70 years of life he entertained, informed and inspired families along his trail with accounts of distant places he had visited. Gradually, the Church of New

Jerusalem, started by a scholar Emanuel Swedenborg, became a guiding light in Johnny's life. As his religious beliefs grew, he came to understand that all nature was precious and should be respected. It is rumored that John would not even hurt a fly. It wasn't until much later in life that John Chapman became known as Johnny Appleseed.

There are many wonderful stories about Johnny Appleseed and his adventures. For me, the best stories are taken from "Johnny Appleseed: The Man, the Myth, the American Story" by Howard Means. I hope you share Johnny's love of travel and wonder throughout your life. This is: **"the news right fresh from heaven for you."**

## Veteran Motor Car Club of America

The VMCCA is a touring club dedicated to the acquisition, preservation, restoration and exhibition of antique and historically significant automobiles and related materials. Twenty, one and two cylinder cars ranging in model year from 1898 through 1912, registered for this trip to the Octagon Barn. It was an unbelievably cold morning but the folks braved the elements by wearing many, many layers of clothing. They enjoyed a hot cup of coffee, watched the video in the Barn Theater and toured the various buildings. Each vehicle had a sign on the back that read NASTY HATCHET, 1 and 2 cylinder tour, July 29 – August 1, 2014, Bad Axe, MI and the number assigned to their vehicle.



It was an impressive sight to see these magnificent vehicles drive past the Barn and line up side by side in the north field. They were truly beautifully restored vehicles and most were running well. There were several that were experiencing some difficulties but they had planned ahead and had a flat-bed trailer traveling with them to rescue the broken down vehicle. **Greg Lange** from Saginaw arranged for the touring group to come to the Thumb Agricultural Museum and wouldn't you know – his vehicle was on the trailer.

## Bees were Buzzing at the Agricultural Museum

**Michigan Beekeepers** held their summer picnic at the Thumb Octagon Barn hosted by the local club out of Saginaw. There were 130 plus folks who attended the gathering and it was great that the small beekeepers had a chance to interact with the larger keepers. **Dean Hutchinson**, who is a beekeeper in the area and a Friend of the Octagon Barn, had placed some hives on the site so that those new to this hobby would be able to observe some young queens, learn how to check for mites and the general things that beekeepers do all the time. Dean will be in the Theme Tent during FFD and will present a honey extraction demonstration at 10:15 & 2:15 both days. He will also have some hives and will talk about the importance of bees in pollinating grains, fruit blossoms and flowers. Dean will also have some of his delicious, very healthy for you honey for sale.

## Site Committee

*Dennis Anderson, Chairman*



**Dennis Anderson** has been over-seeing the planting of flowers around the site. He has secured the flowers and given some suggestions as to what to plant where. **Gail Osbourn**, New Baltimore, one of our Host Couples is shown at right. She has been tending to the flowers, weeding the beds, planting and fertilizing the flowers and continues to take care of them. They are beautiful and lend much to the over-all beauty of our site.



When Michigan Apples was selected as our theme for 2014, David decided to go into action and become Johnny Appleseed at all of our Events. He was for many students the highlight of School Tours when you could have your picture taken with Johnny Appleseed. Who will David be next year, Mr. Purdy or Smokey the Bear?

## 2015 Theme for our Events

Recently we asked members to present a proposal to identify our 2015 Theme for our Events. Many participated and it was great to see the interest and the ideas that were presented. At the August general membership meeting the top three suggestions were presented and the votes were cast. The suggestion **Trees are our Friends** was the top vote getter. The creators of this proposal are **Dennis Anderson & David Jaroch** who will co-chair and explore how this theme can be integrated into all areas of the Thumb Agricultural Museum at all of our Events. They already have lined up **Rick Thompson Chevrolet of Ubly** who will support this Theme in whatever way possible. Some of their teasers for this theme are: large oak leaves with tree facts and try to find the acorn, visit with Smokey the Bear and learn how to prevent forest fires and what can you make with ten sticks. Denny and Dave welcome others to join their group. It will be "tree-mendous".



## Country School Museum Building Move

The **Anthes Brothers** have been in business for over 125 years, most building moves are agreed to move the temporary School Museum first moving with horses and grappling hooks, and then trucks and hand jacks, to the new hydraulic Room Country School Building Movers systems of today. They worked on the building of location at the Thumb has been a family business the Blue Water Bridge but Octagon Barn site.

### Museum Committee

*Doug Monroe, Chairman*

The Committee is working on several projects this summer. The main project was to work through the different steps in finishing the Barn Theater that we now have in place in the Barn arena. Our first narration features **Bob Hirn** describing the special features of the Barn and is being enjoyed by visitors in the new viewing area. If you have not viewed it please take time to do so and tell us what you think. The second project is to put up exterior signage in front of the Grain Elevator and the Blacksmith Shop. They are being constructed at this time and will be in place for FFD. The 3<sup>rd</sup> project is one supported by a Barn volunteer to enhance the Winter

Activities display on the north loft. Several new artifacts used to make income during our Michigan winters in the 20's and 30's are on display.

The small building, previously being used for the Country School Museum, has been moved to our gate area to be used as a Welcome Center so we can better manage visitors on our grounds.

We continue to look for volunteers to come forward and help with the Tool Display and the Loom Display in the loft area and the Live Animal Area in the north lower barn area. If you are interested please contact Doug at 989-665-9948.



The old building is gone and it looks great. The new Country School Museum is finished and ready to open its doors to the public during FFD. The Museum is beautiful and filled with memorabilia from days gone by. Be sure to visit and see this Museum to the One Room Country Schools of the Tri-county area. It will bring back many fond memories.



Three generations of Anthes Brothers Movers gathered as the building was being moved. From the left are **Joan Anthes Koch, Chris Anthes, Amasa Anthes, Jr.** who will be 95 on September 16<sup>th</sup> and **Amasa (Bud) Anthes.**

### 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.

- Keith & Jane Mitchell, Cass City, MI donated a stamp set used in schools prior to 1925 and a 1894 Michigan map.
- Carl McIntosh, Williamston, MI loaned to the Friends, while the organization is operational, a John Deere man's bicycle and a John Deere woman's bicycle in excellent condition.
- Ruth (Jantz) Bentley, North Branch, MI donated a 1930's wood ironing board.
- Angela Roth, Bay City, MI donated a #200 adding machine.
- Beth Ann Welker, Harbor Beach, MI donated a No 36 raisin cutter and a May 15, 1917 NO 117 cherry stoner.
- Dale Hasenleder, Caro, MI donated two ice fishing Tip Ups, ice fishing pole with spearing decoy, ice fishing sled and a spear for ice fishing.
- Zach Deitering, Garrett Deitering & Conner Kreeger, Cass City, MI donated a small, doll rocking chair.



A previous project of the Museum Committee was to find a solution to the drainage problem in front of the west entrance to the Octagon Barn. When it rained during one of our Events it ended up becoming a muddy mess making it difficult to enter the Barn. **Lubeski and Son Excavating** designed the approach complete with a safe drainage grate. We are pleased to say that recent rains have demonstrated that the system works and we are now free of the mud puddles that people had to walk through to enter the Barn. It is also on the same level as the Barn floor making for easy access.

#### Newsletter

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



A group of visitors are seated in the Barn Theater viewing the video about the history of the Barn and its special features.

### DVD of the History of the Thumb Octagon Barn

An effort by the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn to document the Purdy Family, property and restoration efforts from the start until today has been approved by the Executive Board. We are looking for interested volunteers to sit on a committee to work with the company "Program Source International" to put the DVD together. This project will probably take a year and will involve research of our pictures and files along with seeking grant and sponsor funding. If you are interested, please contact one of our members on the Executive Board.

**WE ARE NOW A LANDMARK IN THE THUMB.**

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

**989-665-0081**

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

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>  
**George Pettinger,**  
*Web Manager*

### FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings will be held the second Tuesday, 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](http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org)*

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  
October 11 **Thumb Area Quilt Trail & MBPN Tour**  
November 7, 8, 9 & 11 **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.*

Donations in memory of Pat Easton were given by Joan Koch, Cass City, MI and George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
Donation in memory of Sam McKnight given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI  
Donation in memory of Alan & Nancy Hales given by Elizabeth Hales, Mesa, AZ  
Donation in memory of Wilma Finkbeiner, Pat Holland's Mom, given by Joan Koch, Cass City, MI for the Schoolhouse.  
Donation in memory of Shirley Hogan given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI  
Donations in memory of Jackie Goodell for the One Room Country School Museum were given by: Gougeon Employees Foundation, Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI, Joann Beauchamp, Bay City, MI, Sally Sines, Clinton, MI, Joan Koch, Cass City, MI, Evelyn Ziehm, Gagetown, MI, Stephanie Robertson, Bay City, MI  
Donation in memory of Aaron Davis given by Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI  
Donation in memory of Ken McDonald given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI  
Ron Stang, Vassar, MI donated twelve spruce logs.  
Jim Osentoski, Ubly, MI donated 25 yards of black dirt.  
Bob & Jackie Duncan, Denfield, Ontario, Canada donated two floodlights.  
Bill Chippi, Cass City, MI donated a 3 seat Club Car golf cart.  
Millington Company Star of the West, Rick Parik donated five assorted bags of soybeans & two bags food grade soybeans.  
Hilda Bierlein, Reese, MI donated a 20 CF Freezer.  
Brad & Gloria Groth, Holland, MI donated a shop vac.

### Thumb Area Quilt Trail

There are currently 7 existing Quilt Trails in Michigan. The Thumb Area is now proud to announce we will be #8. This project is in conjunction with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network and proudly sponsored by the Thumb Octagon Barn. The **Thumb Quilt Trail** is a carefully selected trail winding through the Thumb Region including Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties.

The 'barn quilt' itself is an 8' by 8' painted quilt block attached to a frame and mounted on a barn or historically significant building. Brochures and maps will direct visitors around the trail for photos, shopping and tourism opportunities.

Our mission is to promote tourism, to promote the appreciation of barns, to tell the story of a small agricultural community and to promote the art, craft and legacy of quilt making in the Thumb Region. The trail will increase a sense of community pride, as well as attract tourism to our region.

In conjunction with the Michigan Barn Preservation Network, there will be a Driving Tour of the Thumb Trail on **October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2014**, showcasing our brand new Trail! Check us out at [www.thumbquilttrail.com](http://www.thumbquilttrail.com).

**BENEFACTORS:** *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 15, 2014.*

Winnifred (Winnie Orr) Bauman,  
Royal Oak, MI  
Raymond E. & Norma J. Baur,  
Unionville, MI  
Jack & Terri Beith, Linden, MI  
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI  
Mary Brauer, Clawson, MI  
Martha Butcher, Caseville, MI  
Dale Churchill, Deford, MI  
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI  
Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI

Janet Cooper, Owendale, MI  
Robert Dennis, Davison, MI  
Robert & Charlotte Dennis, Davison, MI  
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Errer, Bad Axe, MI  
Alexander Fischer, Saginaw, MI  
Sherill French, Reese, MI  
Delores Garety, Cass City, MI  
Terry & Joanne Herban, Frankfort, MI  
Jan Holik, Caro, MI  
Tom & Jane Johnson, Williamston, MI  
Ruth A. Leen, Carsonville, MI

Bruce & Virginia Leipprandt, Caseville, MI  
Wayne & Karen Lenton, Ubly, MI  
Charles L. Mackay, Foley, AL  
William & Renee Marsrow,  
Frankenmuth, MI  
Glen & Maxine Moore, Unionville, MI  
Stanton & Dorothy Moore, Charlotte, MI  
James & Carlene Munro, Gladwin, MI  
Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI  
Dan Netzley, Breckenridge, MI  
Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI

Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI  
Charles & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI  
Richard & Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI  
Roscoe & Linda Pudlik, Farmington Hills, MI  
Rebecca Scovill, Lansing, MI  
Carol Upleger, Yale, MI  
Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI  
Mike & Toby Weaver, Sand Point, MI  
Jerry & Barbara Weber, Winter Park, FL  
Larry & Suzanne Wegner, Pigeon, MI  
Lucile Wehrman, Caro, MI