

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 2015

20th Annual Fall Family Days 2015 featuring Trees Are Our Friends

To my dear Friends at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum from Martin Kubacki, Chairman

The summer has been flying by and it is hard to believe that Fall Family Days 2015 is only a few weeks away. This year's theme is "Trees Are Our Friends." On hand for this Event will be a very special guest and who would that be, Smokey Bear himself. So be on the look-out for Smokey and everybody's other favorite "Johnny Appleseed."



Our special visitors for the 2015 Fall Family Days are Johnny Appleseed (David Jaroch) and Smokey Bear (Jerry Middaugh, Caro Fire Fighter and owner of the costume) who will be in the Theme tent as well as out and about on the grounds. They will always be together as Smokey must always have a mentor with him to do any talking. Another mentor that will be with Smokey some of the time is Tammy Grifka. Smokey does love giving hugs and having his picture taken.

Our 20th Annual Fall Family Day Event will begin on Friday September 11 at 4 p.m. with a fish dinner served until 7 p.m. prepared by Greg Talaski of Kinde.

Following dinner, visitors are invited to join the **Eastern Michigan Music Makers** in the Barn for some old time music. Then on Saturday and Sunday September 12th and 13th from 8 a.m. through 5 p.m. everything will be available from our tasty foods to demonstrations in the fields, Purdy home, the Octagon Barn and crafters and flea market vendors will be open for business. Each day at 3 p.m. the Parade of Antique Tractors and machinery takes place. There is something for everyone in the family to see and enjoy.

The grounds will have a few minor changes from last year so watch and look at your map closely. The parking lot will have the biggest change. It will NOT be located across the road. It will be south of the Barn located down the road. All spectators will have to enter from Bay City Forestville Rd.

You cannot enter from the North. We have built three new

(Continued on p. 4)



Our 2015 commemorative 20th Fall Family Days button was designed by Dennis Anderson and Martin Kubacki. It features Paul Bunyan who was the most famous lumberjack of all times who with the help of Babe the Blue Ox got the logs downriver to the sawmill. Our Shanty Boy, (Dennis Anderson) another name for lumberjack tells the story of life in the lumber camp in the Sawmill Museum in period appropriate attire. For those who have been collecting the buttons since our very first FFD they will be able to purchase their button at the Welcome Center near the Munro Building and at the Souvenir booth behind the Purdy Garage.

20th Annual Fall Family Days 2015 Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

❖ **Fish Fry in Munro Building**
Friday, September 11 from
4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Adults \$10.00 Children (6-12) \$5.00
Children under 5 – Free

❖ **Fall Family Days**
Saturday, September 12 and Sunday
September 13 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Daily gate admission
\$5.00 per person 6 and older

❖ **Farmer's Breakfast**
Saturday 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Sunday – 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Adults \$7.00
Ages 5 – 12 \$5.00
Children under 5 Free

NO PETS ALLOWED

Executive Committee

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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

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



Dear Friends:

As I'm writing this message, the day is hot. We are in the dog days of summer. This is great especially after the cold, cold winter we had. The best part of the summer is all the activities. We had a great turn out for our "Weekend of Music" in the Barn. The weather was perfect and the music was fantastic. Thank you, musicians, for giving of your time and your many talents. Be sure to volunteer for this event next year, you will have so much fun.

The wedding season has started. There are eight weddings planned this year. If you have a Saturday afternoon free, here is another opportunity for a fun activity. We can always use another person or two to help out as a facilitator for the day. It's amazing how the Barn can be transformed with all the great ideas from the families of the brides and grooms. These are very special days with all the excitement.

One tea party was scheduled this year for the Caro Knights of Columbus Auxiliary. All those in attendance had a great time. Chris Allen was able to offer her expertise to the group on the many valuable antiques that they brought with them. We would love to see more teas. Anyone interested in being the chair? Please let me know.

The Cooperative Elevator of Pigeon hosted a fantastic 100th Anniversary celebration. The site looked fabulous. There was much fun, food and fellowship. The soft served ice cream was my favorite. This was a great opportunity to showcase the site to over 1,100 visitors. I was amazed to talk with and meet many locals who had never been to the Barn before. All were very impressed. I think many will be back for Fall Family Days. I would like to thank Sue Gottschalk of the Co-op who is one of the best organizers I have come across in my day. She was very impressed with the level of support from our volunteers. Thank you all who made this event a great success.

Fall Family Days is just around the corner. Have you set aside some time to come out? I hope so. And, if you have a few hours, we sure could use some help. Please see the article on page 1 for more information. Can't wait to see you all then.

Your Friend and president,
Rose

Adult Craft Workshops will be held in the Garage taught by Linda Bailey

These workshops are for adults who want to learn a craft using their hands. Youngsters are welcomed to attend but must be accompanied by an adult. Participants are encouraged to be in attendance at the beginning of the workshop to get instructions.

10:00 a.m. **Corn Husk Dolls** – Learn the technique of creating a "doll" out of ordinary corn husks. History of this art form will be discussed.

11:00 a.m. **Washed Trees** - Make cards, bookmarks using permanent markers, stamps and water colors. A written handout will be included.

1:00 p.m. **Twiggy art** - Demonstration of "sticks and twigs" to create a variety of projects. Adults will have a couple of choices to make and will receive a handout of more easy projects to do.



Linda Bailey who does the craft workshops is pictured with an apple doll that she made with the participants last year for our Apple Theme. For many years, Linda has been instructing these classes and has always had a class on Corn Husk Dolls because making dolls out of corn husks is very popular. Amazing what you can do with corn husks and every doll has its own appeal. Real cute and bring a smile to your face. I still have mine that I made years ago.

Caro Knights of Columbus

This Spring the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn were recognized at the Annual Awards Banquet at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Caro for their partnership with the Caro Knights of Columbus during Fall Family Days. The Knights take care of the Farmer's Breakfast both days of FFD. The funds raised are split with both organizations for their benefit.



From the left are **Martin and Luci Kubacki** representing the Friends, **Pat Decker**, Grand Knight & **Joe Greene** District Deputy of the Knights and **Bob and Mary Ann Hirn** also representing the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn who are being recognized for their partnership that benefits both organizations.



It's Breakfast time at Fall Family Days. When the Auten Family was unable to continue preparing the breakfast the Caro Knights of Columbus offered to take over several years ago. They do a fantastic job and all love the Farmer's Breakfast and the wonderful organization of the Knights. We thank the Auten family for their many

This and That Regarding Fall Family Days

Each day at 2:30 p.m. in front of the Barn there will be a **Variety Show**, organized and narrated by **Lila Arroyo, Cass City**, followed by the **Parade of antique tractors and equipment**.

Louie and Linda Wehrman take care of registering all of the Vendors getting them to their reserved location. They report that there are around 175 vendors that have registered and will be selling a variety of products, from beautiful hand crafted articles, antiques and flea market items with something for all ages. The Wehrmans encourage folks to call if they would like a spot even though we are almost full, as cancellations do occur so they are keeping a waiting list. **Call Linda at 989-948-3429.**

Saturday & Sunday Events

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 830 Sat. | Opening Ceremonies |
| 9-4 | Sorghum Pressing, on the hour |
| 9 a.m., 11, 1 & 3 | Apple Pressing |
| 9:30-4 | Sawmill, Swing Saw, Edger, Veneer Mill |
| 10 a.m. & 1 p.m. | Bee presentation in the Barn |
| 10-11 a.m. | - Sunday Gospel Sing |
| 11 & 1:30 | Dairy Presentation in the Barn |
| 11 & 2 | Goat Milking & Butter Making |
| 1 p.m. | Money Hunt in the sawdust at Children's activity area |
| 2:30 p.m. | Variety Show |
| 3 p.m. | Tractor Parade |
| Throughout the Day | Grain Elevator Demo & Stationary Grist Mill |
| TBA | Threshing, Bailing & Field Demonstrations |

Tea Party at the Purdy Home

There was only one tea party planned for this year. The **Caro Knights of Columbus Auxiliary** gathered for a Tea last year and so enjoyed the experience that they scheduled a Tea for 2015. Rose Putnam and a number of Friends planned, prepared delicious food and entertainment. Each person was asked

to bring an item that they wanted appraised and perhaps learn a little history about their chosen piece. **Chris Allen**, Cass City was able to share her knowledge of antiques with the Ladies who had brought their valuable items with them and were curious about their authenticity.

A Bit of History taken from The Thumb Octagon Barn, The Story of the MudLake Estate Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow Page 51

"The creation of Fall Family Days (FFD) came as a result of the "Friends" mission statement to educate the public about the agricultural heritage of rural America in the early 1900s. As the name of the event implies our goal was, and continues to be, to create an experience that is designed for the whole family, adults and children.

The first event was a one-day activity on September 14, 1996. It drew about three hundred visitors. The committee quickly discovered that this type of activity was well received by the local community. The second year drew a crowd of more than 2,000 people and it took off from there. In 2007 Fall Family Days a record crowd of 15,000 visitors were served by 400 volunteers.

In 1999, FFD was increased to two days because it was drawing visitors and exhibitors from the far corners of Michigan and even from out of state. The volunteers were now working a full week prior to the event for set up. Camaraderie was born and new friendships formed with all those involved. Strong family bonds produced many of the favorite food concessions. The spirit of Fall Family Days lives in the heart and soul of the volunteers."

This year **Martin Kubacki**, Chairman of the 20th Fall Family Days is looking for 16,000 visitors with over 450 volunteers on site to make the visit extra special.

The Co-Chairs of the first FFD were **Dave Babcock, Bob Hirn and Rose Putnam** and their cry and about a dozen or so others was **SAVE THE OCTAGON BARN.**

School Tours 2016

Diane Rapson Gabil
Chairperson

School Tours 2016 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 11th, Thursday May 12th and Friday, May 13th during the school day.

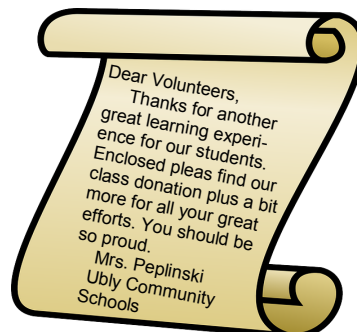
This is an outstanding educational field trip that gets better each year as new activities are planned. Groups should plan on spending the entire school day enjoying all of the educational activities. We have several picnic areas where groups can enjoy their sack lunches. The fee is \$2.00 per student and chaperon. Educators may sign up for School Tours 2016 starting in September 2015 through April 15, 2016 on the website under "Events" at thumboctagonbarn.org or they can contact Diane Rapson Gabil at drapsongail@chartermi.net.

Shortly after School Tours 2015 the letter at right was received by one of the groups who had attended this Event. The class sent the Friends a check for \$100 How fantastic!

Co-Op Elevator 100th Year Celebration



How very exciting to have the Co-Op Elevator hold their one hundred year celebration at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum with over 1,100 patrons joining in the festivities. This was a way to thank those who are involved with the Co-op for a hundred years of service. Guests were treated to a wonderful meal, a goodie bag of course including a bag of beans, the opportunity to tour the Agricultural Museum and enjoy soft serve ice cream cones. The weather cooperated and it was warm but not too hot and the rains held off.



The **Auxiliary Ladies** are seated in the beautifully restored parlor in the Purdy Home listening attentively to **Chris Allen** tell about the treasures that the Ladies have brought with them. What a beautiful setting the parlor is and one can only imagine what other groups have gathered in that room in the past. Cora Purdy loved to entertain and she would be delighted that others are enjoying her beautiful home.



The ladies that helped with the Tea are in the front row from the left, Pat Hester and Marilyn Phillips, House Committee Chairperson. In the back row from the left are Mary Curtis, Tammi Hensley, Chris Allen, Norma Wallace and Rose Putnam.



What would a celebration be without cake! The red, white and blue decorated cake recognizing the occasion was very attractive.

U. S. Senator Debbie Stabenow joined the celebration and congratulated the Co-op Elevator for their 100 years of service to the farming community. Senator Stabenow is having a conversation with **Dr. Ned Canfield**, Representative of the 84th Michigan district. Wonder what they are talking about.



Fall Family Days 2015 *(continued from p. 1)*

people movers to handle the distance. **We are confident it will work out.**

Finally a little quote from my friend, Bob Hirn, "I love it when a plan comes together. "Our plan is coming together and we are sure you will love it when you see it. We are looking forward to seeing you the weekend of

September 12th & 13th. **Bob Hirn, our weatherman, told me the weather is going to be GREAT!**

If you can give a few hours of your time to volunteer, please call **Joan Merchant at 989-872-3395** or **Tori Pine at 989-665-2254** so we can place your name on a schedule. Our

final meeting is August 25th when we will put the finishing touches on our biggest event of the year. See additional FFD information on page 3 & 5.

*See you soon,
Martin Kubacki,
FFD Chairman*



Recently Martin met with the volunteers that already agreed to help with the parking. It is a great group but he needs twice as many. So if you could give us a couple of hours of your time especially during the peak arrival times, late morning and early afternoon, that would be fantastic. Starting at the lower left and going around are: **David Geiger, Julie Geiger, Lisa Geiger, Mike Geiger, Jackie Geiger, Jim Morell, Ron "Too Tall" Hensley, Martin Kubacki, Dave Coleman, Tim Kreiner, Tammi Hensley, Wayne Rhode, Dan Hormel and Ron Kuenzli.** Julie & Jackie accompanied their folks to the meeting but we'll have to wait a bit for them to volunteer.

Parking Plans for Fall Family Days

There are going to be major changes in parking during FFD that is of concern to Chairman, **Martin Kubacki** who has been preparing for these changes for almost a year. During the winter months crews worked to build three new people movers to add to the eight that we already have. The movers are needed to provide transportation to the site as the parking lots are a little ways down the road from the Event Grounds.

Also, it was necessary to prepare several areas for parking that have not been used in the past. To make

this happen, Martin was able to arrange for a number of volunteers to provide material and trucking. Following is the list of businesses and material that they donated. We thank each and everyone for their donation.

♦Jim Osentoski Trucking, Ubyly donated 158 yards of gravel valued at \$2,169.00, plus trucking fees.

♦Atwater Farms, Ubyly donated \$155.00 for trucking costs.

♦Bucholz Excavating, Owendale donated \$302.50

Briolat Farm, Ubyly donated \$250.00 in trucking fees.

♦Bay Port Stone donated 55

tons of crushed stone valued at \$1,500.00

♦Nicols Excavating created three new driveways for our new parking lot valued at \$1,200.00

So Martin feels confident that the parking lots are ready but now he is looking for more volunteer help. He needs **more tractor drivers and more volunteers for directing traffic.** If you can be of help please contact Martin at **989-551-0526**. Get a friend to come along and it will really help us plus it can be fun to know that you are volunteering for a good cause.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS AND MORE VOLUNTEERS

- *We are in need of volunteers the day of the Fish Supper from 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 p.m.
- *Need folks to help sell refreshments and take orders for the Food Concession.
- *Helpers needed the week before the Event and for several days after the Event
- *We have many sit-down jobs and we can always find a place or task for everyone who wants to help during FFD.
- *We need tractor drivers for the people movers and folks to help direct traffic the weekend of FFD.

If you are able to help out anytime during FFD, please give a call to Joan Merchant at 989-872-3395 or Tori Pine at 989-665-2254 and they will find a place and job for you. We need you and will always have a job for you.

Programs for the One-Room Country School

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

Saturday Schedule

10:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.-

Cass City Home School Students

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. -

Cass City School Students

Students are from K-8 as was typical in One Room Country Schools for both boys and girls.

Sunday Schedule

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. -

Thumb Area Community Theatre Players

Please note – We invite and would welcome student groups from other areas to participate in these programs for FFD 2016 in September. They need not necessarily have to be a patriotic program. Perhaps a school play, Christmas or holiday program, spelling or geography bee or something that would be typical of old fashion, one-room country school programs about 30 minutes in length. Please contact Katie Jackson by email at jacksonkt30@outlook.com if you are interested.

Fall Family Days Sponsors 2015

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 the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.

Gold Sponsors

(\$250 & up)

Bay Port State Bank, Bay Port, MI
 Ruby Boyse, Birch Run, MI
 Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
 Sally Brauer, Troy, MI
 Caro Gleaner Arbor, Mandy Knox, Caro, 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, MI
 d/s Services, Inc. Cass City, MI
 Flowers Galore & More, Cass City, MI
 Hampton Potato Farm, Essexville, MI
 Harris & Company, Dave & Heather Weiler, Cass City, MI
 Hills & Dales General Hospital, Cass City, MI
 Independent Bank, Cass City, MI
 ITC Holdings, Julie Garavaglia & Gary Kirsh, Novi, MI
 J. W. Hunt, Inc., Bad Axe, MI
 Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI
 Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, MI
 McDonald's Food & Family Center, Bad Axe, MI
 McLachlan Farms, Bob & Edna McLachlan, Cass City, MI
 Michigan Milk Producers, C. Johnson, Ovid, MI
 Michigan Sugar Company, Bay City, MI
 Modern Woodmen of America, Inc.
 Mortimer Lumber, Bad Axe, MI
 Phil & Kathy Nichols, Decker, MI
 Osentoski Equipment, Inc., Pigeon, MI
 Jim Osentoski, Uby, MI
 Ivernia Schwartz, Gageton, MI in honor of Frank J. Schwartz
 Serenity Golf, Inc. Cass City, MI
 Margaret Sergeant, Gageton, MI
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 T.D.M. Construction, Tracey Moore, Cass City, MI
 Dr. James D. Thomas, DDS, PC Cass City, MI
 Thompson Chevrolet, Uby, 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
 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

Weiss Equipment, Frankenmuth, MI

Silver Sponsors

(\$150 to \$249)

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 Atwater Farms, Uby, MI
 AVCI.net, Agri-Valley Services, Pigeon, MI
 Bad Axe Tire Service
 Battel's Sugar Bush, Cass City, MI
 Raymond E. Baur, Unionville, MI
 Brentwood Graphics, Caro, MI
 Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI
 CKS Precision Machining, Bad Axe, MI
 Caro Rental, Caro, MI
 Chemical Bank
 DJ's Portable Toilets, Owendale, MI
 Daniel & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI
 Sandra Finkbeiner, Caro, MI
 Greg & Christine Guza, Cass City, MI
 Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI
 Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI
 Dean and Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
 Knights Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI
 Langenburg Construction Co. Inc. Cass City, MI
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 Milligan Farms, Cass City, MI
 Vera Milz, Troy, MI
 Moore Motor Sales, Mark McGarry, Caro, MI
 Morell's Milling, Jim Morell, Uby, MI
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 Northstar Bank, Bad Axe, MI
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 ProBuild Company LLC, Caro, MI
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 Rolling Hills Golf Course, Cass City, MI
 LeRoy Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI
 Thabet Funeral Home, Inc., Cass City, MI
 Thumb National Bank, Cass City, MI
 Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI
 Tuscola County Republican Party, Caro, MI
 Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI

Bronze Sponsors

(\$50 - \$149)

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 Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI
 Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI
 Laurence G. Beatenhead, Unionville, MI
 Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI
 Paul R. Bliss, Builder, Cass City, MI
 Gerald L. Booms, Uby, MI
 Braden Tire & Service, Bad Axe, MI
 Louise Buehrly, Palmetto, FL
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 Cass City Hardware, Cass City, MI
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 Clemco Printing, Bad Axe, MI
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 Mary M. Downing, Gageton, MI
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 Gageton Funeral Chapel, Gageton, MI
 Keny & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL
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 David & Marie Jaroch, Uby, MI
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 Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI
 Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
 Walter Kloc, Deford, MI
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 Jack & Betty Laurie, Gageton, MI
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 Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI
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 Narayan Physical Therapy & Medical Supplies, Bad Axe, MI
 Northwood Modular Homes, Cass City, MI
 Frank O'Donnell & Helen Weber, Ferndale, MI
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 Pro Graphix, Cass City, MI
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 Ena Reintjes, St Clair Shores, MI
 Ruth State Bank
 Doris & Earl Schember, Gageton, MI
 Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts., MI
 Mrs. Marjorie Schwartz, Gageton, MI
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 Sherwood on the Hill, Gageton, MI
 Star Vision Center, Caro, MI
 Mike Sterker, Fort Collins, CO
 Robert & Barbara Stickle, Cass City, MI
 Superior 1, Inc. Marvin & Carolyn Klein, Cass City, MI
 Sue & Leon Swartzentruber, Uby, MI
 Ken and Mary Jane Sweeney, Uby, MI
 Thumb Electric Cooperative, Uby, MI
 Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Inc., Elkton, MI
 Thumb Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI
 Henry & Ann Tschetter, Rockford, MI
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 Uby Motor Service, Uby, MI
 Valley Collision, Uby, MI
 Susan Walker, Caro, MI
 Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI

Gary Wark, Fairgrove, MI

Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI
 Barbara L. Wilson, Fort Collins, CO
 George & Glenda Wilson, Gageton, MI
 Richard & Vera Wroblewski, Sebewaing, MI
 Rose Wunderlich, Farwell, MI

Certificate Sponsors

(\$10 - \$49)

Terri & Jack Beith, Linden, MI
 Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI
 Anne L. Cenci, O.P. Saginaw, MI
 Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI
 Connie Latuszek, Midland, MI
 Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI
 Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI

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 at the Welcome Center/Souvenir shop and Mary Ann Hirn will have your plaque. Those unable to attend will receive their plaque by mail.



Frank Stoup pictured in the middle is a gold sponsor for the two of the businesses that he owns in Cass City. **Helen Larson** on the left manages **Flowers Galore** and **More** and **Ryan Larson** manages **Serenity Golf, Inc.** Frank said "He loved learning about the history and design of the Barn, the ventilation system and all the special features of the Octagon Barn. He also felt the Purdy Family history was very interesting. You folks make sure that a visit during FFD is a family experience from start to finish." Attending FFD last year for the very first time, Helen said, "I had fun everywhere that I went but I especially enjoyed the steam powered equipment cutting logs into planks. They were working



FFD Chairman **Martin Kubacki** is having a little side meeting double checking with members about what they will be responsible for during FFD. He was very pleased that the number of volunteers attending the July meeting was terrific and so many assured Martin that they were ready to go.



Our 2015 FFD Sponsor plaque features a beautiful pine tree and a jolly happy Smokey Bear designed by **Dennis Anderson & Martin Kubacki**. 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 Octagon Barn. **Martin Kubacki** affixes the commemorative plaque to the wooden base. Those receiving the plaques love the colorful, cheery plaque and are proud to display it for others to see.

Weekend of Music in the Mr. Purdy's Air Castle

David Jaroch and Richard Wrobleski, Co-Chairmen

What fun the Weekend of Music brought to Mr. Purdy's Air Castle. The music started with a group new to the Barn performing on Friday evening. The "**Second Time Around**" band are from the Sebawaing/Unionville area and play Classic Rock, Folk and Country from the 60's, 70's and 80's. Folks were clapping their hands and tapping their toes in time to the music and soon the arena of the Barn was being reorganized to make room for some dancing. Imagine the Barn being filled with the sound of Bob Seger. Dr. Ned Canfield Michigan's 84th District Representative plays with this Band and can he ever sing as can many with this Band. Very entertaining.

On Sunday afternoon, the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** filled the Barn with their traditional Blue Grass, Old-time and gospel music interspersed with a little humor here and there. They welcomed **Randy Howard** of Owendale to the group and were they ever glad that he had joined the Boys as Bill Brasgalla was unable to attend due to illness. The Lonesome Mountain Boys provided a wonderful afternoon of entertainment that was enjoyed by all. Visitors also were dazzled by the refreshments served during intermission provided by my Barn volunteers and musician volunteers. Folks really enjoyed the wide variety of cookies and the refreshing beverages were perfect on a warm summer day.

The Friends thank **David Jaroch** and **Richard Wrobleski** for arranging for a Weekend of Music. A very special thank you to **Ron Kuenzli** of Deford for managing the sound system in the Barn that provided the proper amplification for each group. The concert was partially funded by **Huron County's Thrivent Financial for Lutherans**.



During intermission several attendees found the Information Center very interesting and enjoyed learning more about the Thumb Octagon Barn and the Purdy Family. On the left is **Betty Guenther**, Rich Wrobleski's neighbor from Sebawaing and **Charlie Kastraba** of Caro, whose parents grew up in the area, is on the right.



The **Second Time Around** musicians gathered for a picture and you can see that they just love having fun and entertaining. They sometimes refer to themselves as "a bunch of old rocker dudes and one young guy entertaining for the "Second Time Around." Musicians include: **Carl Linzner**, **Ron Marker**, **Ned Canfield**, **Adam Arnold**, **Leo Ainsworth**, **Roger Vermeersch**, **Kurt Mihacs**, **Lonnie Vermeersch** and **Butch Gokey**.



Richard Wrobleski shared the following picture with the Friends of the **Lonesome Mountain Boys** performing in the arena of the Octagon Barn on a lovely Sunday afternoon just as they have for the past few years. From the left are **Richard Wrobleski**, **Sebawaing**, **Ron Smolka**, **Livonia** and **Randy Howard** of Owendale. The group said, "We are convinced that our type of music is just right for this place. We hope that all will leave feeling the same way, and with a song in their heart and joy in their soul."

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

The souvenir stock has been replenished and some new items have been added. One of these items is a V-neck women's T-shirt in a variety of colors. Joan always listens to the suggestions of shoppers as this is the very best advertising that we can have. When shopping in the area it is quite common to see folks sporting Octagon Barn gear and a conversation begins.

Joan will be available for early sales on Friday **September 11th** from **5 p.m. until 7 p.m.** and both days of FFD during regular hours. She will be located in her usual spot just behind the Purdy Garage.

There will also be a volunteer available to handle new memberships and renewals at the Souvenir table.

One of the new items will be the historical DVD that will be available for sale for the first time during FFD. The DVD **Thumb Octagon Barn, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow** features **Marilyn Phillips** touring the Purdy Home, **Al Eicher of Program Source International**, producer of the DVD, who tells the history of the Purdy Family and the Friends effort to Save the Octagon Barn and a very special tour of the Barn with **Bob Hirn** who over many years and the help of many worked tirelessly to restore the Barn back to its original magnificent beauty. The cost of the DVD is \$20.00 and can be purchased at the Souvenir booth. If ordering and requesting that it be mailed to you, please send \$23.00 for each DVD ordered and mail to Thumb Octagon Barn, P. O. Box 145, Gagetown, MI 48735.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have sponsored and therefore have a spot on the DVD sleeve, please stop at Souvenirs during FFD and pick up the DVD's that come with your sponsorship. (Those sponsors that do not pick up during FFD will receive their DVD's by mail following FFD.)



Joan Koch is holding the DVD with a beautiful picture of our showpiece, the Octagon Barn, and the sleeve listing all of the sponsors who donated to support this project.



Steve & Marilyn Kacer from Saginaw attended the Sunday Concert presented by the **Lonesome Mountain Boys**. During intermission Marilyn said, "We are enjoying the concert. It is rustic, down to earth good wholesome music. They have a heck of a lot of cookies." Steve has previously donated several things to the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.



Lila Arroyo and Marilyn DeSimpelare were in charge of the refreshments served during intermission for both Concerts. They were pleased that they had so many cookies for folks to select from and thank those who baked all those delicious cookies. They also prepared cool drinks to go with the cookies.

Site Committee

Dennis Anderson, Chairman

On August 3rd, **Greg Alexander**, member & Sanilac County Drain Commissioner, **Dennis Anderson**, Site Committee Chairman & **Louis Wehrman**, Grounds Chairman met with **Brian Rudolph**, DEQ District Supervisor to discuss the future use of our wetland area east of the Purdy Drain. We were told earlier that a permit was needed for the grain elevator addition from the DEQ and that we were in violation for mowing in the area.

Both issues were resolved. First the area immediately around the elevator, sugar shack, blacksmith shop and cider mill is not in the wetland and no permit will be needed to proceed with the elevator addition and mowing in this area. The work will proceed with the addition this fall, as soon as we can reset the schedule.

Second, the DEQ approved mowing the tall grass in the wetland area for use of the barrel train at Fall Family Days. We can mow the area between Aug. 1st and Aug.

20th prior to FFD that allows the use of the barrel train in a safe area. This also reduces the potential fire hazard from the tall grass at this time of year.

The meeting was positive and also gave us an opportunity to talk with the DEQ about working together on School Tours and Fall Family Days Events. Brian was sincerely interested and future discussion to this end is underway. The DEQ has a lot to offer in this regard. With the selection of **Our Wonderful World of Water** for next year's theme, we have the opportunity for a meaningful cooperative effort with the DEQ as well as the DNR. We want folks to know that we still have a wetland area and we will manage the area to comply with all State regulations. We're just happy to resolve these issues that have been in question for some time. My thanks to Louis for his problem solving abilities and Greg, who set up the meeting with Brian to get us on a positive path to resolve these questions.



Shortly after the agreement was reached with the DEQ the Monday Boys Day Out Group got busy and cut and raked the tall grass in the wetland area so that it will be ready for FFD and the barrel train rides. Wow did that ever open up that area and we are grateful for this agreement with the DEQ. The Boys that worked on this project are from the left **Terry Keinath**, **Ron Hoffman**, **Jack Hill** on the tractor and **Louie Wehrman** using his red IH cap to cover the green John Deere tractor.

Country School Museum

Jim Ware, Chairman

In 2009 plans began to build a Country School Museum to house all the memorabilia that had been collected through the years. **Clayton Turner** offered the Friends a challenge with a very generous donation in memory of his wife of 64 years **Margaret Glougie** who taught at the Cedar Run Country School and the Gagetown Public Schools.

The fund raising initiative began and was managed by **Bob Gengler** who as an educator himself became committed to seeing this Museum completed. **Katie Jackson**, Chairperson of the One Room

Country School was instrumental in the design of the exterior and interior of the Museum from start to finish. The Museum will be open to the Public during FFD and is a wonderful tribute to the One Room Country Schools. Be sure to visit the Museum and remember back to what schools were like in the early 1900's. We thank all who have donated the financial backing, memorabilia and construction skills to see this Museum become a reality and wonderful addition to our Village.



Jim Ware, Country School Museum Chairman, has built a number of display tables that provide a viewing area on the top of the table and shelves underneath to house the many early educational books that have been donated. What a clever way to showcase the many items that will be of interest to visitors while protecting and preserving them under glass.



Bob Gengler former Chairman of the Country School Museum is all smiles as he sees the **One Room Country School Museum** attracting many visitors during FFD. Visitors could spend hours looking at all the scrapbooks and memorabilia of the One Room Country School experience. It is very impressive and represents a great deal of dedication to preserving this part of rural heritage.

Theme Tent: Trees Are Our Friends-Theme Tent

The Theme Tent will be located near the Purdy Home and will have many displays that have been provided by a number of organizations all relating to our theme Trees Are Our Friends. One of these topics will be information concerning the Fire of 1881 that burned over most of the Thumb Area destroying most everything in its path. The Fire of 1881 was also the beginning of the American Red Cross with **Clara**

Barton heading the project! **Greg Alexander**, Carsonville and **Tammy Grifka**, Peck Theme Tent Chairmen, will be giving presentations and answering questions relating to our Theme and sharing how trees and their products contribute to our lives. **Trees, Are Our Friends**. Be sure to find out what Clara Barton's gift was to Rev. William T. Rawson and where you could see this gift.

MUSEUM DONATIONS

Gerald Auten, Museum Records

PLEASE NOTE: When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation Form so that we will have the item 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.

Robert & Dan McGreevy, Charlotte, MI donated a commercial butter churn.
Marjorie Bowser, Kendallville, IN donated a 1920s cardigan with pearl buttons.
Duaine & Marilyn Phillips donated a 1935 rug for the Purdy Home

Ron & Deb Vittitow, West Branch donated a radiator, milk strainer and two milk pails.
Rosalie Stafford, Wayne MI donated one encyclopedia set.
Philip Esch, Sebawaing donate an eleven-row grain drill.

Octagon Barn Cookbook, Third Edition

Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley, Chairpersons

Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley our lady Host Couples are putting together our Third Edition of the Thumb Octagon Barn Cookbook. Please drop your recipes off at FFD in the **Welcome Center/Souvenir Shop** or mail to **Octagon Barn (recipes), 6948 Richie Road, Gagetown, MI 48735**. The deadline for sending your recipes is September 30, 2015. Please include your name and address with your recipe.

We have a number of openings for various assignments at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Following is the list and if you feel that you could volunteer for one of these areas please contact Rose Putnam at Rose.Putnam@chemicalbankmi.com

Chairperson for One Room Country School
Chairperson for the Teas in the Purdy Home
Editor for quarterly Newsletter
Co-Chair for Wedding Coordinator
Chairperson for Friday Night Fish Fry during FFD
Co-chair for Fall Family Days.

**Friends of the
THUMB OCTAGON BARN
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<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 Fire Hall.
Feb., April, Oct. & Dec.

Thumb Quilt Trail

The Thumb Quilt Trail is a project sponsored by the Friends of the Octagon Barn and is funded by donations from grants. Last year the Friends participated by completing a square that is beautifully displayed in front of the Octagon Barn and visible from Richie Road. Our quilt block square has the Michigan Royal Star pattern and was completed by **Paula Gardner & Ardis Monroe**. The quilt trail is an organized effort to celebrate community through history, barn preservation and the legacy of quilt-making in the region.

The Thumb Quilt Trail is a carefully selected trail winding through the Thumb region including Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties. Last year 21 quilt squares were installed and this year they plan to add 24 more. For more information



It is great fun to be out and about in the Thumb and spot a barn with a quilt square on it. Most squares are 8' by 8' but the Shagene square is the largest at 16 foot. The square is proudly displayed on **Bill and Andrea Shagene's** barn on Cemetery Road just a few miles north of Cass City. The design and colors for the quilt square were chosen and painted by Andrea.

Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site through August 22, 2015.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

ABC Oil & Gas Co. donated five tubes of gun grease & 2 quarts of motor oil used for mowers and machinery.
Caro Elevator of Pigeon made a very generous donation following their 100th year celebration at the Barn
Donations made in memory of Loren Stein "The Shingle Man" were given by Ron & Arlo Lutz, Sebewaing, Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Donation in memory of Clarke Cummings was given by Janet Cummings, Mt. Pleasant, MI
Donations made in memory of Linda Harris, Ray Caverly's sister, were given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Willa J. Vargas, Bellevue, NE donated in memory of George Toner and Anna Barnard.
Donation in memory of Marie Osentoski, mother of auctioneers Dave & Marty Osentoski given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI

BENEFACTORS: *The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our newsletter through Aug. 22, 2015.*

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| Raymond E. Baur, Unionville, MI | Tom M. Johnson, Williamston, MI | Betty Ruth Robinson, Jacksonville, MI |
| Mary Brauer, Clawson, MI | Joe & Debra Jenness, Cass City, MI | Dick & Pam Roth, Caseville, MI |
| Charles Busch, Clare, MI | Glen Moore, Unionville, MI | Glenn & Nancy Savinski, Troy, MI |
| James & Janet Collin, Lakeport, MI | Janet Muntz, Cass City MI | Rebecca Scovill, Lansing, MI |
| Russell & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI | Tom & Sue Muto, Midland, MI | Carol Upleger, Brockway, MI |
| Sherill French, Reese, MI Robert J. | Daniel Netzeley, Breckenridge, MI | Dr. Fred Walton, Deckerville, MI |
| Gillmore, Cato, NY | Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI | Mike & Toby Weaver, Sand Point, MI |
| George & Arlene Harding, Pinckney, MI | MI | Lucille Wehrman, Caro, MI |
| Jan Holik, Caro, MI | Eldine Parent, Bay City, MI | Ronald Yageman & Mary Lou Rose, Ecorse, MI |
| Al & Lois Hollister, Madison, SD | Janet Retford, Owendale, MI | |

2016 Theme for the Year

Greg Alexander and Tammy Grifka, Co-Chairmen

Each year the Friends of the Octagon Barn choose a theme that is agriculture related from the 1900's to the present 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, soy beans, 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.

The Theme for 2016 is **Our Wonderful World of Water** and will be chaired by With the selection of water as our 2016 Theme the opportunity for a cooperative effort with the DEQ as well as the DNR is being explored including their involvement during School Tours and Fall Family Days Events.

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 the prize-winners on **Sunday, September 13th at 4 p.m. following the Parade of Tractors.**