

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 2016

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

Grant Writing Chairman
Dennis Anderson

Purdy Home Chairman
Marilyn Phillips

Museum Committee
Douglas Monroe

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Special Projects
Richard Stacer

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Web Site

www.thumboctagonbarn.org

School Tours 2016

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

This is the 15th year that Diane has chaired School Tours and she reports, "This was the **BEST School Tours ever!** The volunteers seemed to roll with whatever needed to be done, changed or modified and all with a smile on their faces. **Joan Merchant and Tori Pine** did a fantastic job contacting and scheduling the tour guides. We needed more than ever since we had over **1,300** students visiting during the three days accompanied by **300 plus** chaperons. There were also over **184 volunteers on site many for all three days.** Of the volunteers there were 37 who had never volunteered for School Tours before. It was exciting to see so many new young faces and of course wonderful to see the volunteers who have been helping for all these many years.

Doug Monroe, the scheduling wizard, changed the way the groups were scheduled in that not every group started in the Barn and that allowed Doug to spread the groups all over the site getting away from the congestion in and around the Barn.

The theme **Our Wonderful World of Water** matched with what the students are learning about in the classroom, no matter the age. GREAT THEME! By the way the Theme was chosen a year ago



The Chair of School Tours and one of our faithful VOLUNTEERS, **Diane Rapson Gabil**, is pictured with the scheduling wizard for School Tours, **Doug Monroe**. What an amazing team they are and most are not aware of the many hours that they volunteer their time, behind the scenes, to assure that School Tours will be a memorable experience for our young visitors. (Picture courtesy of Connie Osentoski.)

and little did we know how timely it would be for students in the State of Michigan. We changed the parking arrangements of vehicles of the visitors, which helped immensely for ease in and out and more importantly it helped so much with SAFETY. The lunches prepared and delivered by the gals in the kitchen were terrific and healthy too.

Now you can see why I felt that this was the BEST SCHOOL TOURS EVER!!" How fortunate we are to have Diane chairing this Event for all these many years. Because of her outstanding organizational skills School Tours runs like a well oiled machine. She is already thinking ahead to next year and the folks at the Wrap-up Meeting chose **May 10, 11 & 12** as the dates for **School Tours 2017.**

(See more School tours photos and information on pages 4-5.)



Each day, after the last group had left the site, the Volunteers gathered in the area set up for visiting groups to take a group picture with the very special Octagon Barn in the background. Pictured is the Friday group of Volunteers that were still on the grounds at 2:30 p.m.

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



Dear Friends,

Thank you to all of our members and friends who attended the Annual Meeting/

Dinner/Auction in April. We netted over \$4,000 for the evening, which is awesome. I would like to express a special thank you to Marty & Connie Osentoski for their participation this year. Sometimes challenges in life present themselves at busy times and these two special people proved they are dedicated to the Thumb Octagon Barn.

Not long after came School Tours, again our dedicated **volunteers** got the site ready during Spring Clean Up and came back for more fun the next week to educate our youth in our agricultural heritage. The theme, "Our Wonderful World of Water" has expanded our efforts and brought along some fabulous partnership opportunities. The presentation from the DNR on wildlife related to water was spectacular. I was in the back of the tent watching the fascination on the faces of the youngsters throughout. They were able to touch skins from various wildlife. Oh, there is nothing softer than the fur of a mink. Then they went straight to watching a demonstration from the DEQ department on saturation levels on ground surfaces. It is amazing what a few quarts of water can do to a town in a valley. Want to know what that means? You will find the answer at the theme tent during Fall Family Days. Be sure to tell all your friends and relatives. Thank you, too, to all of our wonderful volunteers. We appreciate each and every one of you.

There is no way to thank everyone thoroughly and express our gratitude over and over enough. Our host couples last year casually mentioned the idea of a picnic. The idea blossomed and we will be hosting our very first "Volunteer Appreciation Picnic" on Tuesday, July 12th on site. We will have a special barbeque meal and some fun activities. No need to bring a dish to pass or desserts. This is on us. We are working on final details, which we will get out to everyone as best we can. If you are not on our weekly e-mail list and would like to receive first-hand information, please let us know. You can call our contact phone at 989-665-0081 or send us an e-mail on the website or contact a barn member.

Details are complete for the Music Weekend in the Barn. Please see the related article. We have some new and exciting entertainment. Please stop by once, twice or for all three. We know you'll have a good time. Don't forget the spectacular homemade goodies that will be available during the intermission at all three concerts.

Whew and that's just for a start. Enjoy your summer and we hope you'll stop for a visit to see the new addition to the Elevator. Don't forget that as a paid member, you do not have to pay a tour fee.

Your Friend and President,
Rose M. Putnam

Annual Meeting, Banquet & Benefit Auction

Nancy Hrabcak, Chairperson

Our Annual Meeting provided for a good beginning to our schedule of activities for 2016. We had a little over a hundred folks attend and all enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by **McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe**. Following our meal **Rose Putnam, President** conducted a short business meeting, election of officers and a look ahead to the activities and projects for 2016. **Dennis Anderson** tried something new to create fun and involvement by our attendees. The Cookie Jar Raffle provided fun while also raising funds for the restoration of the Barn. Denny already has a number of cookie jars for next year or he might use piggy banks. Great fun! Then **Marty Osentoski** of Osentoski Auctioneering took over and handled our Auction. He did an excellent job and made sure that folks were raising as

much as possible for the restoration of the Barn keeping the bidding going as high as possible.

As always the homemade pies, cakes and candy were the big attraction for our bidders. They always seem to catch the eye of the bidders who will bid amazing amounts to taste of those delicious homemade goodies.



The team that helped with the set-up for our Annual Meeting was **Archie & Chris Allen** and **Duaine & Marilyn Phillips**. They did a fine job of decorating the tables and Thanks bunches for springing into action on such short notice.



As soon as **Helen Larson** saw the angel food cake she knew she had to have it and would bid as high as necessary to win that delicious, appealing cake. When Helen found out that **Janice Winter** had baked the cake, she knew why it was perfect. On the right is **Frank Stoup of Flowers Galore & More**, and a Gold Sponsor who knew that he would like to have the replica of a John Deere D tractor donated by **Louis & Linda Wehrman**. As a red Tractor lover, when asked for the actual model number, Louie said, "I'm not sure, after all they all look alike!"



The biggest fund-raiser for the evening has to be **Mary Ann Hirn** that bidders raised almost \$1,500. from her homemade lemon meringue pie and two raspberry pies. Those pies have quite a reputation and folks were just waiting for the bidding to begin. From the left is **Phil Nichols** one of the raspberry pie bidders, the pie baker, **Mary Ann Hirn** and **Pauline & Paul Findlay** and their very exceptionally delicious raspberry pie. Thank you to all who bid on these pies and a huge thank you to Mary Ann for her baking talent.

Volunteer Appreciation Picnic

Our Volunteers are very important to us. We are the envy of many for the amazing volunteer support that we have for Events. To show our appreciation of our Volunteers, we have planned a **Volunteer Appreciation Picnic on July 12th at 6:00 p.m.** Everyone who helps promote the mission of the Barn is invited. As **David Jaroch** said in his weekly update, "This will provide an opportunity to visit with your fellow volunteers and dream of the future the Barn offers the community. No need to bring a dish to pass or desserts as this is a **catered Event**. Please let folks know if you can attend by letting your chairperson know or post a message on the web page or call the Barn number by July 7, 2016." We look forward to seeing you on the 12th of July.

Fall Family Days 2016

Martin Kubacki, Chairman

Dear Friends of the Thumb Agricultural Museum,

Fall Family Days 2016 is fast approaching. I just can't believe this will be our 21st Event. Where has all the time gone! All the committee chair people are hard at work once again and their biggest task is finding **VOLUNTEERS**. A lot of preparation has already been done and I'm sure you will be pleased with this year's Event.

With the theme, **Our Wonderful World of Water**, the theme co-chairs **Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka** are promising to have an exciting display and our Friends from the DNR and DEQ are going to be presenting also. Something else we are planning this year is to have a well drilling demonstration put on by **Franzel Well Drilling**. It is new and still being discussed but we hope it will happen. Back again by popular demand will be our potato patch. This is a popular demonstration where we dig potatoes and have our FFD visitors pick their own. The Grain Elevator has had a big addition put on over the last year so stop by and take a look. The music this year will have some changes. **Ron**

Kuenzli has taken over **Arlen Bannick's** position and promises to do a good job. Arlen, thank you once again for you and your wife's dedication through the years.

Louis and Linda Wehrman who handle the registration for the flea market vendors and crafters report that reservations are pouring in. There are a limited number of spots still open and reservations can be made by calling **Linda at 989-948-3429**.

We are in need of a talent show person. If we do not have one soon we will have no talent show. Let me know if you could help us out and if you would like more information, please call me, **Martin, at 989-551-0526**.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Munro Building. Bring a friend, neighbor or anyone that can help volunteer. Our final meeting for FFD will be August 23. So circle these dates on your calendar. We will be serving ice cream at our next meeting. **Please volunteer.**

Yours truly,
Martin Kubacki, Chairman FFD

Music Weekend in the Barn

Music Committee, David Jaroch, Uby, Ron Kuenzli, Deford, Rose Putnam, Cass City & Richard Wroblewski, Sebewaing

The committee is very excited about the schedule of musical groups that will be performing in the most unique setting, the arena of the Octagon Barn. The schedule includes a nice variety of music including Classic Rock, Country music and old-time Gospel Bluegrass. The cost for each concert will be \$10.00 per person with children 12 and under admitted free. Finger foods and drinks will be served at all three concerts during intermission. **David Jaroch** has agreed to be MC for all concerts and will promote the concerts as a way to benefit further renovations to the Octagon Barn. The Thumb Agricultural Museum is a 501-c3 non-profit serving the need to protect local history.

Annual Raffle

Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam
Raffle Committee

Once again we are planning our FFD raffle as it has been a successful way to raise funds that help us with our restoration efforts as well as take care of the maintenance needed at the Thumb Agricultural Museum. We have prizes that we hope our members will find attractive and worthy of consideration.

Tickets will be sent to **MEMBERS ONLY** in the next few weeks. We thank you for your help in selling the tickets and please remember that you always have the option of returning the tickets should you not care to participate. Once you have made this request, it will be honored each year. If you would like additional tickets or didn't receive any, please contact **Joan Koch at 989-325-0041**.

The schedule is as follows:

- ❖ **Friday, July 15th "Music Doctors" a Classic Rock Band.** Performance will be 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Saturday, July 16th Mandi Layne and The Lost Highway Band" Country music Performance** will be 7:00 to 9:30 p.m.
- ❖ **Sunday, July 17th Silverwood Bottom Boys "Old-Timey Gospel Bluegrass" Performance** will be 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. **Valley Lutheran High will be warm up group starting at 1:30 p.m.**

Can't wait to hear these new groups perform and fill the Barn with their special musical talent. So mark your calendars and plan to come to the Thumb Agricultural Museum and enjoy the **Music Weekend in the Barn**.

Raffle Prizes 2016

- * Queen Size Quilt – Donated by Ruth Ann Brown & Thumb Quilt Guild
- * 40" Samsung Smart TV – Donated by *FOTOB
- * \$300.00 – Donated by *FOTOB
- * 1206 Farmall Pedal Tractor – Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment, Bad Axe
- * Samsung Tablet – Donated by *FOTOB
- * John Deere Pedal Tractor – Donated by Tri-County Equipment
- * Craftsman Mechanics Tool Set – Donated by *FOTOB
- * Handmade Queen Size Quilt – Donated by Dorothy Bergsten
- * \$100.00-Menard's Gift Certificate-Donated by Green Acres Farm, Akron
- * \$100.00 – Donated by *FOTOB
- * Books & Bucks – Donated by John & Carolyn Longmuir & *FOTOB
- * Handmade Afghan – Donated by Toni Ventline
- * Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn

More School Tours and Some Of Our Volunteers

The Friends know that without our Volunteers we would be unable to hold the Events that we do. We are the envy of many groups for the army of volunteers that support our Events year after year. Of course we always have room and need for more.

Recently, President Obama identified April 8 -16 as National Volunteer Week. In part of his proclamation he stated "This week, we celebrate the selfless individuals

around the country who channel their civic virtues through volunteerism, and we encourage more people to make service an integral part of their lives."

Katie Jackson, one-room Country School volunteer, shared something that she recently found tucked away in her Mother's Bible. Katie's Mom often found little sayings that she felt important and wanted to save. So she wrote them out and tucked them away in her Bible. Following is something she

saved about Volunteers. Short and perfect!

You might be surprised to find As the day of judgment nears, There's a special place in Heaven Set aside for Volunteers.

Following are some of our Volunteers and the task they perform during School Tours. Represented are just a few of our volunteers that were volunteering during School Tours 2016 as well as just a few of the stations that students visited.



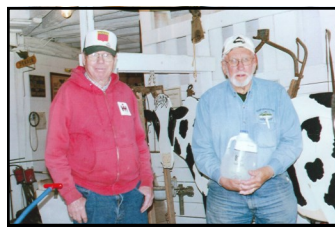
Joan Merchant and Tori Pine volunteered to contact past volunteers and then they called all their friends and neighbors to sign them up to volunteer during School Tours as Tour Guides. It was wonderful to see all the new young folks that had **VOLUNTEERED**.



Dorothy Sampson, Chairperson of the Live Animal display in the stalls on the north lower level of the Octagon Barn, especially loves the young goats. She had great fun holding one so that the students could touch, hear and see the goat up close. She emphasized how important clean water is to all animals.



The Purdy Home offers students the opportunity to see the living style of the 20 - 40's. They will see the icebox and other items used during that period that will include clothing & home furnishing from that era. Those in the house on Friday who volunteered their time to walk through the Purdy Home with the students from the left are: **Pauline Kelly, Marilyn Phillips, Dale Churchill, Betty Woehlert, Sharon Rockwell, Gail Osbourn and Jane Morse**.



Lee Sowden & Bud Inbody volunteered their time in the milking parlor. Students will learn how farmers obtained milk and butter in the early days. There is a variety of milking equipment on display and even Earlene, a cow waiting to be milked. Did you know that milk is 87% water?



Craig Haag loves to bring **Rusty**, his Haflinger draft horse, to School Tours and the students love to be greeted by Rusty who gives them a big smile on command. The students respond with a big smile and laugh.



Meet two new volunteers. **Noah & Jonah Becker** from Davison attended School Tours with a group of Home School students. Following a presentation in the Barn the boys had many thoughtful questions about the construction of the Barn and the Purdy Family. Eventually the conversation got around to the need for young high school age students to **VOLUNTEER** their time to ride the shuttles from the parking area to the grounds. While riding they are also asked to share some information about the Thumb Agricultural Museum. How exciting to have some new young volunteers come forward.



Margene Scott, Ruth Badgley, Ron O'Dell & Ida O'Dell filled the Barn with the wonderful sounds of their folk instruments. Students learned about the history of some of the musical instruments that provided entertainment in years past like the hammered dulcimer, chorded zither, fiddle, guitar and a few others.



Joan Koch and Diane Battel are all ready for the student shoppers to come and make their big purchases. Joan has been in charge of Souvenirs since the very first School Tours over twenty years ago. Joan seems to know just what will appeal to the students. All merchandise has the Octagon Barn Logo on it and are very reasonably priced. Joan also welcomes each group and leaves a welcoming bag of goodies for each student and collects the \$2.00 admission fee for all attending School Tours.

The sawmill and sawmill museum (shown at left) will give students an idea of how hard it was to build a home years ago. They will be able to see the sawmill in operation cutting boards needed for building their homes. **Wayne Lenton** talked with the students sharing the tools used years ago. **Dennis Anderson** is helping out and will return to the Sawmill Museum and tell the tales of Paul Bunyan.



Coltson Blair and Linda & Louie Wehrman are waiting for a group of students to arrive for their visit to the grain elevator where they will learn what a grain elevator does in getting food from the farm field to our table. They will also be able to see equipment operating including mills that clean and size the grain and vertical conveyors called grain legs.



School Tours and Volunteers

Continued from page 4



Lew Martin, our volunteer blacksmith, demonstrates how metal is heated in a forge, fueled by coal, until it turns red in color. Then it is hammered out into useful shapes for making shelf brackets, candleholders and even the tools used by the blacksmith.



Mark Battel and Richard Enos are in the sugar shack sharing with our young visitors the process of how sap from a maple tree is used to make maple syrup by boiling the syrup in an evaporator. The sap is made up of mostly water. Richard is demonstrating how pails were taken out of the woods to the evaporator by using a yoke that made it possible to carry two pails at a time. Mark was very pleased that a vendor had a yoke for sale last year during FFD. Mark found that it worked very well and was a good addition to his presentation.



Ray & Carol Caverly arrange for all the tractors and drivers to be available to transport groups around the site. Ray has just finished lunch with **Duaine Phillips**, one of the tractor drivers and over in the corner is School Tours Chairperson, **Diane Rapson Gabil** also taking a minute to enjoy lunch.

Arlen Bannick and the **Eastern Michigan Music Makers** have been providing appropriate music since the very first School Tours. Students are encouraged to get involved with the music by singing along or even dancing. They don't need much encouragement as the songs are familiar to them and the singing coming from this station is very special. We thank Arlen for providing this wonderful musical experience for our young visitors for all these many years.



The Friends have many shuttles that are pulled by antique tractors and are greatly appreciated by groups as they move about the site. They welcome this service, as it is quite a hike from the Octagon Barn to the Sawmill. Ready to provide taxi service for the next group is, **Dan Hormel** and **Ronald Rockwell**.



Jerry Auten is in the area built to house the gristmill when the addition to the grain elevator was built. Each student has an opportunity to put an ear of corn in the hand cranked corn sheller. Then the gristmill, powered by a tractor, will grind the corn to make cornmeal. Each class that visits takes a bag of corn meal back to their classroom to make corn muffins.



The School House Museum contains the history of many One Room Country Schools especially those in the Thumb of Michigan. The Museum contains old children's books and artifacts from these schools of years gone by. Welcoming students to the Museum are in the front row from the left: **Connie Iwankovitsch**, **Katie Jackson**, **Kathy Tuckey** and in the back row are **Janet Retford** and **Jim Ware**.



The One Room Country School House provides students with an opportunity to experience what schools looked like many years ago. They are taught in the style used in a one-room school years ago as demonstrated by teachers **Marilyn Peters & Rhonda Powers**. There are many teachers over the three-days of School Tours all portraying their teaching duties very well.



The Children's Activity area is a fun place for the student visitors. They have a chance to be involved with a wide variety of things to do as was done many years ago. Some are household chores and others are games and toys of the era gone by. The Ladies welcoming the young visitors are from the left: **Mary Inbody**, **Bernadette Schwalm**, **Rita Coreen** & **Loretta Broezker**.



The operating steam engine was a wonderful addition to our Theme **Our Wonderful World of Water**. **Gary Sutherby** owns the 1923 Case steam engine and assisting with its operation are **Randy Diamond** and **Paul Deo**.



Each day of School Tours the ladies in the kitchen prepare sack lunches and then deliver to each station around the site. How special to receive a lunch as there would be no time to gather in the Munro Building for lunch with the group. There are many ladies who work the lunch detail. **Karen Lenton**, far right, is the chairperson that arranges for food to be donated or purchased to assure a nutritional lunch for all. Assisting this day are from the left, **Marilyn DeSimpelare** and **Jean Sherman**.

The Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips, Chairperson

Marilyn Phillips is hosting **Christmas** in July Open House Weekend on July 29, 30 & 31 when the Friends will be offering free admission and tours the entire weekend during the regular hours that the site is open. Marilyn plans on decorating the Purdy Home the way in was decorated according to Cora Purdy's diaries, simple and tasteful.

Teas in the Purdy Home

Marilyn Phillips is hosting the **Christmas** in July Open House Weekend on July 29, 30 & 31 when the Friends will be offering free admission and tours the entire weekend during the regular hours that the site is open. Marilyn plans on decorating the Purdy Home the way in was decorated according to Cora Purdy's diaries, simple and tasteful.

Marilyn Phillips will be hosting a **Christmas In July Tea/ luncheon on Thursday, July 28th at 11:30 a.m.** The cost is \$15.00 and must be pre-paid to assure your seat. Marilyn reports that there are still a few seats available. Please call Marilyn at **989-977-0025** to make your reservation.

Our Host Couple Ladies will be hosting a themed Tea on **August 4th at 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.** featuring **Carol Caverly** discussing **"Women's Suffrage."** This is a very timely topic in this presidential election year. The ladies are planning on having door prizes, souvenir teacup, entertainment & tours of the Purdy Home. The cost is \$15.00 payable upon reserving your place at the Tea (adults only). Your reservation can be made by contacting **Carolyn Longmuir** at **609-851-4958**. **Carolyn reports that there are a few seats available.**

Octagon Barn Cookbook

Mary Bell & Tammi Hensley, Friends Club members

Two of our Host Couple Ladies are putting together our third Octagon Barn Cookbook and they are asking for your help. We would appreciate folks sharing some of the recipes for all the delicious dishes that they prepare for our potluck meals during the summer months. The ladies said, **"We need recipes in all categories and hope you'll help us out."**

They have received many recipes and can always use more. Their original plan was to have the cookbook ready for sale during FFD 2016 but they are now looking at having the Cookbook ready for FFD 2017. Feel free to enter as many recipes as you would like. Recipes should be sent to either Mary Bell or Tammi Hensley.

Mary Bell
5140 S Baker Blvd.
Carthage, MO 64836

Tammi Hensley
P. O Box 2037
Lehigh Acres, FL 33970

Grain Elevator

The addition to the Grain Elevator was partially completed by School Tours and provided much needed space for touring by our young visitors. Now the Wehrmans have been installing and staining the hardwood floor and are starting to move in the antique equipment. The additional space is welcomed as they have so many pieces of antique equipment that has been donated through the years to our Agricultural Museum. The addition also provides ground level space for the gristmill equipment and provides an area for demonstrations.

We are so grateful to those who have donated for this project as well as all those who have donated equipment and memorabilia appropriate for our grain elevator. Please stop by and see this little jewel, you will be dazzled as you go back in time and reminisce about the day when the grain elevator was so very important to our agricultural community.



The grain elevator addition is complete and how special it is. The Wehrmans have done a spectacular job over-seeing this addition. Job well done.

Museum Committee

Welcome our new Museum Chairperson, **Connie Osentoski**. Connie said, "I agreed to be chairman of the Barn Museum so that I could organize the items and make everything look more like a museum. I want to put everything in categories, with appropriate labels and wherever possible be functional. This will not happen overnight but we have a good start on it. Everyone is very helpful and that makes everything flow smoothly. We hope to make this a great project with everyone enjoying the work and the outcome of this committee. I also look forward to working with **Richard Stacer** as he oversees the projects in the Barn."

We thank, **Doug Monroe** our previous Museum Chairperson for all that the committee

accomplished under his leadership. Initially Doug set goals for the Museum Committee and then worked methodically to accomplish each of these goals. They were: signage in front of the original buildings and village buildings telling their story, installation of a security system in the Barn and Purdy Home, develop a DVD telling the history and special features of the Barn and Purdy Home and finally set up a TV viewing area in the Barn to share taped informational DVD's with visitors. Doug is especially pleased that he was able to arrange for Bob Hirn to tell the details of the restoration and point out the many special features of this most unique Barn. Thank you, Doug, for making this all happen.



Connie Osentoski is excited about creating a wonderful museum in the very unique Octagon Barn. She always has her camera with her that is a wonderful aide to her plans of developing the best possible Agricultural Museum and tribute to our rural heritage.

2016 Theme Tent

Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka

Theme Chair, **Greg Alexander**, arranged for representatives from the **Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** and the **Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** to give presentations that supported our 2016 Theme, **Our Wonderful World of Water**. Their presentations were outstanding and kept the youngsters attention and interest by getting the students involved in their presentations. We thank both Departments for providing these representatives for School Tours and they will return to our Theme Tent for Fall Family Days. You'll want to stop by and hear their presentations. .

Clean-up Day

Louie Wehrman, Grounds Chairman

A Saturday in early May was another testament to the Friends amazing **VOLUNTEERS**. Clean-up day was May 7th and one could look all over the site and see sweepers, dusters, distributors of bales of straw and benches, window polishers, movers of stuff that needed to be in another place and just about anything else needing attention before School Tours. Louie had requested that each chairperson be responsible for his or her area and it appears that the system worked very well.



Richard Stacer, Special Projects Chairman & **Connie Osentoski**, Museum Committee Chairperson are teaming up to provide visitors with a positive museum experience on the main floor and mow area of the Barn. See article on page ? for the specific goals that Connie has for our **AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM**.



Holly Vaughn, wildlife technician with the DNR, shared information about some of the wildlife that live in the wetlands. She had a number of skins from animals and students were able to touch them. They were amazed at how soft some were.



The Powerhouse Chairmen, **Byron Arnold & Karl DeSimpelare** cleaned up and arranged displays in the powerhouse. One of the tasks that needed doing was to re-install the steam whistle on the powerhouse that is sounded at noon each day of School Tours and at our other Events during the year. Byron brought his son, **Neil Arnold**, with him to help out. The re-installation of the whistle was a perfect job for this young gentleman. Of course they had to check it out to make sure it is indeed working and Boy is it ever LOUD!!

Mrs. Laura Cherniawski, O'Fallon, MO donated this pickle sorter that they owned from 1960 to 1980 to our Agricultural Museum. Years ago almost every township had a pickle collection center and there were many pickle farms in the Thumb area. The Cherniawskis took their pickles to Eastern Market in Detroit and sold out quickly as they had a good quality product. **Richard Rokita** Caro, MI made arrangements for this donation to our museum following a conversation with Rose Putnam.



Greg Alexander, Theme chair & Barn volunteer, is pictured with **Joy Brooks** and **Brian Rudolph** (DEQ) representatives. Joy gave a presentation on saturation levels on ground surfaces. Using a model, students were able to see what happens when large quantities of water flow down to a city or town in the valley. You could see their eyes get real big as the town was completely flooded.



Since our theme for the year is, "**Our Wonderful World of Water**", it was felt that a steam engine would be an appropriate display for students to see operating. So **Paul Deo** arranged for **Gary Sutherby** to have his 1923 Case Steam Engine delivered to the site by **Jerry Bartnik** of Bartnik Trucking, Cass City. Jerry arrived with the engine during Clean-up Day.



The thirty windows that encircle the lower level of the Octagon Barn need cleaning each year after the long winter months. **Curtis and Mary Bell**, one of our Host Couples, took on the task of cleaning all those windows. This has been, through the years, a job that **Mary Ann Hirn** has performed but she was more than glad that the Bells did this task. She thought she was done but others quickly found a job for her.

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

989-665-0081

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We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>

*George Pettinger,
Web Manager*

2016 Upcoming Events

July 12	Volunteer Appreciation Picnic
July 15-17	Music Weekend in the Barn
July 28	Christmas in July Tea in the Purdy Home Marilyn Phillips
July 29, 30,31	Christmas in July Open House Weekend
August 4	Host Couple Ladies Tea, Theme: Women's Suffrage
September 9	FFD Fish Fry, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
September 10 & 11	21st Fall Family Days, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

FUTURE MEETINGS

General membership meetings
will be held the second Tuesday,
every other month, at 7 p.m.
at the Elmwood Twp. Hall
Feb., April, Oct. & Dec.
With June & Aug. meetings
in the Munro Bldg.

Benefactors

The following have made a donation of \$10.00
or more since our last newsletter through June
23, 2016.

Anonymous Donor
Paul Begick, Bay City, MI
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Helen Dombruski, Clinton Twp., MI
Tony & Diane Eisele, Vassar, MI
Richard & Loraine Enos, Akron, MI
Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI
Alexander Fischer, Saginaw
Paula Geller & Robert Festerling,
Hemlock, MI
Steve & Karen Hamlin, South Haven,
MI
Michael & Jan Holik, Caro, MI
Ione Kreger, Ubly, MI
Charles Leik, Great Falls, VA
Fran Lovejoy, Cass City, MI
Donna Lowe, Bay City, MI
Paul MacCallum, Owendale, MI
Dolores Merchant, Ocqueoc, MI
Jill Ogryski, Ubly, MI
Gail & Duane Osbourn, New Balti-
more, MI
Charles Pardee, Lake, MI
Donald Ramaut, Harbor Beach
Jeff & Mary Sloan, Clarkston, MI
Susan Walker, Caro, MI
Evelyn Ziehm, Gagetown, MI

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.

Please note: When donating items for our Museum, please 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.

John Hunter, Caro, MI donated wooden clothes hangers & early 1900's school books.

Kim Strunz, Caro, MI donated 1920's cardboard doll house, Keystone graph model movie, grain bags & bag scales with weights.

Anton & Marilyn Peters, Cass City, MI donated an anvil & wood block and an ox yoke.

Mrs. Laura Cherniawski, O'Fallon, MO & family donated a wooden pickle sorter.

Stanley Fessler, Jr., Caro, MI donated a fire wood box for the Purdy Home.

Norm Parker, Cass City, MI donated early American tools for the sawmill.

Special Donations

Donations were given in memory of Kenneth Parker who passed away on March 1, 2016. Ken's greatest pleasure was telling people about the Barn and the wonderful programs. His greatest enjoyment came during FFD listening to the music on the lawn. The family would like to see the donations used to purchase benches or chairs for others listening pleasure in Ken's memory. Donations given by: Norm & Patti Parker, Cass City, MI, Wendy & Samuael Leppert, Cass City, MI, Beth & Daniel Walz, Sebawaing, MI, David Gingell Insurance LLC, Marlette, MI, Timberline Lodge, Inc. Caro, MI, Co-Op Elevator, Pigeon, MI, Kerry & Gloria McKellar, Sebawaing, MI, George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI

Donation in memory of "Anna" Darmofal, Grandmother of the Pisarek Brothers given by Robert & Susan Darmofal, Toledo, OH

Donation In memory of Laura McRae, Sue VanErp's Mother given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI

Donations in memory of Bob Hirn were given by Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI & Melvin J. Gay, Saginaw, MI

Donation in memory of Fred Kausch was given by Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI

Donations in memory of Doris Schember were given by Ruby Ann Burk, Decker, MI & Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI

Donation in memory of her parents, Nolan & Irene Stafford, given by Ruth Stevenson, Pickford, MI

Donation in memory of Harold M. Taggart, Port Hope, MI given by Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI

Dorothy Watt, Frankenmuth, MI. donated a P. Buckley Moss print "Michigan Days" (Number 47 of 1000) to the Barn.

Farmer's Co-op Grain Co. donated 200 lbs. of shelled corn for the grist mill.

Newsletter

Database and labels.....David Eichler
Editing.....Rose Putnam
Design Layout.....Lois Moslander
Newsletter Coordinator.....Margaret Sergeant

NOTE: Please be sure to provide any change of address as well as a winter address and the months that you will be gone.