

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 2016

21st Fall Family Day 2016 featuring "Our Wonderful World of Water."

Martin Kubacki, FFD Chairman

Dear Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn,

The 21st Thumb Octagon Barn Fall Family Days is planned to be another great event. This year's theme "Our Wonderful World of Water" promises to be a good one. So stop by the Theme Tent and check it out. All the committees are putting the final touches in place and are getting ready.

We will once again begin with the **Fish Fry** with our own Fish Fry expert, **Greg Talaski**. It starts at **4:00 p.m. Friday afternoon, September 9th in the Munro Building** and will be served until **7:00 p.m.** or until we run out. Prices are \$10.00 for adults, children (6-12) \$5.00 and children under 5 are free. **Gates open at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday with breakfast served from 8 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and on Sunday from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. on Sunday prepared by the Caro Knights of Columbus.** The cost of breakfast is \$7.00 for adults with children under 12 \$5.00. **The site is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Daily gate admission on Saturday and Sunday is \$5.00 per person 6 and older.**

Demonstrations will start in the morning and will include digging potatoes that is one of our spectators' favorites. There will be threshing, baling, an operating grist mill, corn shelling, corn binders and silage cutting. Also, returning will be horse drawn wagon rides, sorghum pressing and evaporating, children's activities, barrel train rides, apple cider pressing, the blacksmith shop in action, wood shingles and log sawing. Our visitors will also enjoy the house tours, schoolhouse activities and programs and a working grain elevator. The Elevator has had a big addition put on over the last year, so stop by and see what has been added. Also, we will have a new look in our music area with different bands playing on Saturday and Saturday evening. The music will continue with Sunday morning gospel and some good old Country music on Sunday afternoon.

There will again be plenty to eat and drink including: homemade pie, French fries, donuts, bean soup, cotton candy, home-made ice cream made by the Thumb Area Antique Car Club, apple cider, kettle popcorn and concessions on the grounds. We bet you'll have a hard time picking your favorite.

Another big part of our Event to see is the old engine displays and our huge antique tractor display with over 100 tractors. Also, don't miss our huge flea market with over 250 crafts and vendors.

Frank Franzel of Franzel Well Drilling from Mayville has drilled two wells on the Thumb Agricultural Museum site at no charge to the Friends. Frank also plans on being at FFD to share information on well-drilling and the equipment used to produce water for household needs. We are very excited to have this new demonstration for FFD and thank Frank for all of his efforts on behalf of the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Certainly this will demonstrate "Our Wonderful World of Water" and the importance of water in our lives and what it takes to get water to the surface and into your glass.

We will again provide a **site map when you arrive showing the locations for all the activities and demonstrations** that are taking place. We have built more people movers to handle getting folks to the grounds. Parking was a big worry last year and some improvements have been made and I'm very certain that it will work perfectly. Remember that all spectators have to enter from **Bay City Forestville Rd. You cannot enter from the NORTH.**

Volunteers are needed to help with all these activities and demonstrations, so **PLEASE GIVE US A FEW HOURS OF YOUR TIME!** If you can volunteer to help out, please call **Joan Merchant at 989-872-3395 or Tori Pine at 989-665-2254.**

Also, I (Martin) can be reached at **989-551-0526** with questions but contact the ladies for signing up to volunteer. **We have a job for everyone.**

Hope to see you soon,

Martin Kubacki, FFD Chairman

(More FFD information and schedules can be found on Page 2.)



This year's button is very colorful and has all the information about FFD on it. The button was designed by Greg Alexander. For those who collect our button each year, they will be available for sale at the Souvenir Shop on the North side of the Garage.



Since our theme is "Our Wonderful World of Water" how appropriate to demonstrate how water is brought up to the surface for our use. **Franzel Water Well Drilling** drilled two new wells on the property, at no cost to the Friends, and will be available during FFD to talk with visitors about the process and indeed the importance of water in our lives.

Executive Committee

President
Rose Putnam

1st Vice President
Martin Kubacki

2nd Vice President
Gerald Auten

Treasurer
Joan Koch

Recording Secretary
Ardis Monroe

Purdy Home Chairman
Marilyn Phillips

Museum Committee
Connie Osentoski

Grounds Chairman
Louis Wehrman

Special Projects
Richard Stacer

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,

Fall Family Days is coming up quickly. Plans have been underway since the day after Fall Family Days last year. We need to get a head start to be ready for all of our visitors. There is a lot of current information in Martin's message and a copy of the brochure is on line on our website at thumboctagonbarn.org.. Our theme this year has proven to be quite exciting. There is a lot of great information provided by our partnership with the DNR & DEQ. They have been most helpful. Please stop at the theme tent. It will be well worth the stop. All the barn members are just as excited about the new well drilling demonstrations.

Our summer has been filled with a lot of fun, including our first volunteer picnic, the concerts, the tea parties, our open house and lots of new visitors stopping by. We have been busy, too, with the completion of the addition to the grain elevator.

You must take time to stop in. There is a new and very interesting piece of equipment that is fully operational. Don't forget to see the one and only (that we know of) round wooden granary, which was just recently moved to the site just next to the grain elevator. The windows in the Barn are being repaired or replaced. Please check it out. What a project! Please be sure to thank **Dennis Anderson and Richard Stacer** for staying on task to get this done. Did you notice the beautiful flowers? **Gail Osbourn** has been busy planting and watering all the flowers. When Gail is not on site, there are many hands that have helped to keep the flowerbeds weeded and watered. Information about the Thumb Quilt Trail will be in future newsletters or check out their website at Thumbquilttrail.com.

We are finding as we grow, that there are many more maintenance issues to be handled on site. We have a great many volunteers who keep the site open and maintained. Thank you all for helping to keep our site top notch and making our visitors feel welcome.

We hope to see you all during Fall Family Days. Don't forget the Fish Fry on Friday night!

*Your Friend and President,
Rose M. Putnam*



Barn Restoration

Site Committee Chairman, Dennis Anderson
Special Projects Chairman, Richard Stacer

In our Winter Newsletter, **Dennis Anderson** identified the following needs of the Octagon Barn: a new roof, electrical upgrade and window repairs and painting. Work is already underway on several of these areas of concern. The windows are being repaired, painted and structurally corrected to hopefully solve the problem of water damage.

When Richard Stacer started working on the windows, he made a sad discovery. Because the sill was level, when it rained, the water built up behind the sill resulting in the trim boards and sills eventually rotting. So new sills and trim boards were needed. Now when they are installed they will be on an angle so that the build-up of water hopefully will not occur. Working on the window project with **Richard Stacer** is **David Jaroch, Terry Keinath & Ron Hoffman**.



Dennis Anderson painted the window trim boards giving them several coats of paint to protect them from the elements.



The first window has been rebuilt, painted and installed correctly and Richard is very pleased with the final result. **Bob Hirn**, previous Barn Restoration Chairman, would be so pleased that the Barn is being maintained properly for the future.



Richard Stacer was surprised to see all the water damage on the windows on the lower level of the Barn. There are thirty windows that encircle the lower level, so this is a really big job to get all of them rebuilt and installed so as to eliminate the problem in the future.

Richard had to cut off and replace some of the window frame because of the rot and replace it with new lumber. Richard is very particular and wants everything to be done correctly no matter how long it takes.



This and that regarding FFD

Each day at **2:30 p.m.** in front of the Barn, **Sue Battel** will bring her Cass City home school group on stage to share some patriotic songs. Following their performance will be the Parade of antique tractors again moving across in front of the Barn.

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

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 history and construct a corn husk doll

11:00 a.m. **Oriental water flora** - Learn basic strokes using a bamboo brush and water color techniques to do a simple flower and bird painting.

1:00 p.m. **Folded Fabric Batik** using water and dye; fabric will be folded and dyed to create a unique blended design.

2:00 p.m. **Or-resistible painted fabric** - design is pre-drawn on fabric and water color wash will be applied.

Programs in the one room country school Students are from K-8 as was typical in one Room Country Schools for both boys & girls.

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 Public School Students

Sunday Schedule

11:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Thumb Area Community Theatre Players

**21st Annual Fall Family Days
2016
Thumb Octagon Barn
Agricultural Museum**

❖ **Fish Fry in Munro Building
Friday, September 9 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 10 and
Sunday September 11 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

Teas in the Purdy Home

Two teas were hosted in the Purdy Home that is such a very lovely setting for these occasions. It is wonderful to showcase this beautifully restored house that is not your typical farmstead. Many volunteer hours have been dedicated to bringing back the ornate beauty that originally was designed into this house.

The Friends of the Octagon Barn hosted its first tea party of the year on July 28, 2016 during our Open House Weekend. The theme was "Christmas in July." The house was simply decorated just as Mrs. Cora Purdy would have done while living in the house. She loved to use red bows and fresh greens. About a dozen ladies enjoyed the chicken salad croissants, along with salads and homemade cut Christmas cookies. The ladies were greeted on the port-co-cheer with Christmas songs on the harp played by Sharron Patterson. Rose Putnam read the story written by Florence Purdy Moore, daughter of James and Cora Purdy, called "Christmas on the Farm", a delightful tale of a young girl on a farm. This story can be found in the historical account of the Octagon Barn "The Mud Lake Estate." We think Cora Purdy would be proud of the gathering, much the same as she would have hosted back in the early 1930's.

On August 4th our **Host Couple Ladies** volunteered to host a themed, dessert tea that would include a presentation about "**Woman Suffrage**," presented by **Carol Cavalry**, volunteer and Friend of the Octagon Barn. Since this is a Presidential election year, it was felt that this was a very timely topic to look back at the efforts to give women the right to vote. The movement began in Great Britain in the late 1800's and was lead in this country by Susan B. Anthony & Lucretius Mott. As a result of the efforts of many, on August 26, 1920 the 19th amendment was adopted. As Carol researched this topic she was somewhat surprised to learn of the struggle that women went through fighting for this right. Many lost their children, homes and marriages while pursuing this effort.

Volunteer Picnic - A Giant Thank You Party

On July 12, 2016, the first ever Volunteer Picnic was held in the Munro Building. The idea came from our Host Couples who felt that this type of recognition was needed. Our volunteers need to know how much they are appreciated and are deserving of a Giant Thank You Party. The Friends of the Thumb Agricultural Museum are admired by other organizations for our tremendous volunteer 'army' that come forward year after year to assure the success of our Events. So the Executive committee agreed with the idea and **Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley**, host couple ladies, put their heads together to organize the event. All felt it was important to keep the agenda simple and focus on the chance to chat with fellow volunteers in a relaxed environment.

K & K Catering prepared the food for the Volunteer Picnic and it was a feast. No one had to bring a dish to pass or bake any cookies. Mary & Tammi decided to surprise everyone with their famous homemade cupcakes instead of the caterers providing desserts. Helping with the baking of the cupcakes were **Mary Curtis, Tammi Hensley, Karen Lenton, Linda Wehrman & Glenda Wilson**. Over 275 volunteers were in attendance so you can imagine how many dozens of cupcakes they baked.

There were many positive comments and folks were amazed at the



The volunteers that prepared and served lunch for the July tea are from the left: **Jane Morse, Marilyn Phillips, Norma Wallace, Chris Allen, Bev Perry** and taking the picture is **Rose Putnam**.



The Host couple ladies moved the 1929 Dodge 2 door sedan from the garage to the driveway under the Porte-co-cheer (a covering over an entrance to a building) and carefully decorated the vehicle for the celebration of passage of the 19th amendment. **Charles & Edward Leak**, Great Falls, VA and formerly of Portland, MI donated the Dodge to the Friends in 2010. The vehicle is in excellent condition and the ladies were very careful while decorating the sedan.

Theme Tent - Our Wonderful World of Water

Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka Co-Chairs

Greg reports that the Theme tent will be a busy place filled with wonderful information about "**Our Wonderful World of Water**." The **DEQ** and hopefully the **DNR** are going to be presenting throughout FFD with similar programs that they gave during School Tours. They were excellent. Greg reports that **Knowlton Ice Museum** has been contacted to give a presentation and **Water Resource Commissioners** will be providing information. There will also be a video regarding the importance of water, clean water, will be very timely and informative. So, be sure to stop at the Theme tent as it will be a busy place filled with good information for the



The ladies are enjoying lunch in the Sitting Room of the beautifully restored Purdy Home. Cora frequently used this room to entertain her friends for lunch followed by a good game of bridge.



The Host Couple Ladies are seated around one of the tables set up in the beautifully restored Parlor of the Purdy Home. Notice the very ornate wood trim on the walls and stairway. From left and around are **Mary Bell, Carolyn Longmuir, Gail Osborn, Tami Hensley** and standing is **Carol Cavalry**. The ladies are wearing special "Woman Suffrage" T-shirts that Carolyn presented to each of them. Carol is dressed in her formal ladies American Legion Auxiliary, Caro Post 7 uniform where she is a member.

Octagon Barn Cookbook

Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley, Co-Chairladies

Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley two of our Host Couple Ladies are putting together our third Octagon Barn Cookbook. They could still use more recipes in all categories. For those attending FFD, recipes could be dropped off at the Welcome Center/Souvenir Shop on site during FFD. After FFD please mail recipes to **Mary Bell, 5140 S. Baker Blvd. Carthage, MO 64838 or Tammi Hensley, P. O. Box 2073, Lehigh Acres, FL 33970**. Please be sure to include your name and address with your recipes. Thank you.

large number of people who volunteered during the year for School Tours, Fall Family Days, our Monday work crew and on and on. No wonder we are the envy of other organizations in the area.

We did take a few moments to recognize **Marilyn DeSimpelare** for her six years of service as our Corresponding Secretary for the Executive Committee. The door prize was a 2' by 2' quilt square block made by the Thumb Quilt Trail Committee and won by **Peggy Helwig**.

We are very interested in your thoughts. If you have any suggestions for next year's picnic, please contact the Executive Committee or **Mary Bell & Tammi Hensley**.



Our volunteers attending the 'Thank You Party' filled the Munro Building. Many were dazzled by how many volunteers we have and in reality we could have filled another building if ALL our volunteers had been able to attend.

Monday Work Crew

A recent visit to the site on a Monday showed the hustle and bustle that is going on all over the site by our faithful volunteers. It's no wonder that folks marvel at the dedication of our volunteers. Following are just a few of those working on this particular Monday including the group working on the windows in the Barn.



Duane Phillips has just finished painting the front of the garage and is checking to make sure that he has not missed a single board. It looks great, bright and fresh.



The group working at the Grain Elevator need a longer board or two for the flooring that they are building for the new granary. **Wayne Lenten** is dragging a used telephone pole to the sawmill to cut the needed boards.



In preparation for the arrival of the granary, a floor is being constructed next to the Grain Elevator Building. Those working on this project are **Wayne Lenten, Mark Battle, Ron Colton, Jerry Meredith & Louie Behrman**. The boards used for the flooring are being sawed at our sawmill from old telephone poles.



Byron Arnold is installing a new part on our International Lawn Mower that Howard Gehrls uses to cut grass on the east side of the ditch. The belt tightened was broken. Byron took off the old part, it was welded and Byron is putting it back on. It worked!



Jack Hill in the middle of the picture was cutting grass just like he does every Monday when he discovered that he had a flat tire. So he went to the workshop in the sawmill building to get the tools needed to remove the tire so it could be fixed. **Tony Grimke and Howard Girls** helped Jack find the tools needed to fix the tire.



Marilyn Phillips has been working in the basement of the Purdy home arranging all the many laundry, canning and oh so many things so that folks will be able to tour the basement for the first time during FFD. For those of us that are a little older, this will bring back many memories.



Lee Sowden has finished cutting the grass in the area that he is responsible for and is now cutting the grass that Jack usually cuts but is unable to because of the flat tire.

School Tours 2017

Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson

It's hard to believe but planning is already underway for School Tours 2017. During the wrap up meeting for School Tours 2016 the consensus of the group was that the dates for School Tours 2017 would be **Wednesday, May 10, Thursday, May 11 and Friday May 12 during the school day.**

This is an outstanding educational field trip that has become very popular with area educators and most importantly the students from pre-school through 8th grade. The fee is \$2.00 per student and chaperone. Educators may sign up for School Tours 2017 starting in September 2016 through April 15, 2017 on the website under "Events" at thumboctagonbarn.org or they can contact Chair, Diane Rapson Gabil at drapsongabil@chartermi.net

Site Committee

Dennis Anderson



Now that we have had some rain the site is looking better every day. A great big thank you to **Gail Osbourn** for the loving care that she is giving the flowers. Gail, one of our Host Couple ladies, was in charge of arranging, planting, fertilizing and of course weeding the flowerbeds. Denny said, "I brought the flowers she requested and Gail planted them. Recently, Big Acres donated many flowers and we thank them. Flowers are beautiful and add so much to the site."

Grain Elevator Building

Louis & Linda Behrman, Co-chairs

The Germans have been working long hours getting all the displays ready for FFD. They appreciate all the extra space for demonstrations and displays. Now they are very excited that they have a new redwood, tongue and groove, granary that was donated by James & Veronica Haines of Vassar.

Veronica's father, Willis Stoic, bought their farm on Kirk Road, Vassar, where she grew up around

1940. The granary was already on the farm at that time. The granary is believed to have been constructed circa 1920.

Last year the Haines attended FFD and visited the Grain Elevator and decided that this was the perfect home for their 1920's granary. So the site needed to be prepared for placement of the granary that also needed to be structurally reinforced for the move from north of

Vassar to the Thumb Agricultural Museum site by Anthes Brothers Movers. The movers did a great job and the granary arrived in excellent condition. More work is needed on the interior of the granary so that folks will be able to enter the granary. Stop by and take a look during FFD and also see the new displays in the building. The Wehrmans have done a fantastic job recreating a grain elevator of the past.



The granary has been successfully moved next to the Grain Elevator Building. **Linda Behrman**, Co-chairman of the Grain Elevator, took this picture that shows the new look that the granary addition presents.



James & Veronica (Stoic) Haines of Vassar are meeting with **Louie Behrman**, Chairman of the Grain Elevator, to make arrangements for the granary to be moved from their farm to the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

Please note several corrections from our Spring Newsletter. Under Benefactors, **Ione Kreger** is from East Tawas, MI not Ubly, MI. The picture caption accompanying **Children's Activities** volunteer should have read **Rita Green**.



This Seed Corn Grader is on loan from Dan Manley in memory of Fritz Manley, Fairgrove and can be seen in the expanded Grain Elevator Building. The purpose of this piece of equipment was to separate the different size kernels for planting. Be sure to check it out as it is quite interesting and a wonderful addition to our Agricultural Museum. I'm sure those in the granary will be glad to tell you more about

Benefactors

The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 18, 2016

Danny & Patricia Allen, Deform, MI
Anonymous Donor
Ralph & Theresa Byelaws, Fraser, MI
Ruby Boise, Birch Run, MI
Mary Breuer, Clawson, MI
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI
Leonard Detrain, Harbor Beach, MI
Paul & Linda Eland, Port Hope, MI
Sherrill French, Reese, MI
Bob & Beth Garner, Cadillac, MI
Janet Garrett, Troy, MI
Leo "Bob" Gentler & Grace Janowski, Cass City, MI
Susan M. Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI
Debra & Joe Jenness, Cass City, MI
Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI
Ione L. Kreger, East Tawas, MI
Peter M. & Marilyn Leitterman, Howell, MI

Sam & Wendy Leppert, Cass City, MI
Mark McKelvey, Chicago, IL
Don & Carla McKimmy, Bad Axe, MI
Glen A. Moore, Unionville, MI
David & Jane Morse, Cass City, MI
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI
Kenneth & Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI
Beverly J. Perry, Cass City, MI
Janet Retford, Owendale, MI
Larry & Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI
Betty Ruth Robinson, Jacksonville Beach, FL
Gretchen Rodammer, Auburn, MI
Mark Schubel, Caro, MI
Dick & Vivian Smith, Smith Alpaca Acres, Gagetown, MI
Kim Strunz, Caro, MI
Mike & Toby Weaver, Pigeon, MI

Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Don't forget to bring your Christmas shopping list to Fall Family Days. We have just cut the price of our DVD in half to \$10.00. Also, I took advantage of a sale on assorted women's T-shirts. They will be sold at the souvenir trailer at the north end of the garage. We will also be showing a **new color called antique sapphire in 'T's and sweat shirts**. All sizes of denim shirts are in. We take credit cards, stop by and say "Hi" and shop for a bit.

Joan will be available for early sales on Friday, September 9 from five until seven and both Saturday and Sunday during the regular Event hours. There will also be a volunteer available to handle new memberships as well as renewals at the souvenir booth.

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.**

Wanted

Host couple with RV includes full hook-up and internet. Apply for a one-month or more stay from May through September. Please call Rose Putnam at 989-444-9574.

Music in the Barn

David Jaroch, Ron Kuenzli, Rose Putnam & Richard Wroblewski, Committee

David Jaroch submitted the following article and wrap-up meeting report.

Music in the Barn weekend is now an annual event. This year the barn hosted a full weekend of music that included classic rock, country and gospel. Hundreds of people are now able to enjoy Mr. Purdy's Octagon Barn while listening to music. On Friday night the rock band vibrated the rafters while the Sunday afternoon Gospel trio soothed the soul.

Six years ago a musician from Sebewaing, **Richard Wroblewski**, had a desire to bring his band "The Lonesome Mountain Boys" to the Barn for a concert. The Executive Committee agreed with the idea and the first concert was successfully held. The original goal for the music in the Barn effort was to improve lighting in the Barn. This year during "Music in the Barn" weekend the electrical wiring was being upgraded.

Along with the new wiring the music committee has expanded. The original members, **Richard Wroblewski, David Jaroch and Marilyn Peters** were joined a few years ago by **Ron Kuenzli**. This year **Rose Putnam** joined the group to plan and host the event. The success of the event is through the efforts of Marilyn Peters & Mary Bell finding enough snacks for intermission, Ron Kuenzli setting up and operating the sound and lighting, Richard Stacer and Ron building the stage used by the performers, Richard Wroblewski bringing talented musicians and coordinating advertising and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans sponsorship for every concert.

Along with the talented committee are numerous volunteers working to bake cookies, set up the stage and seating, cleaning the facility, parking cars, collecting at the door and overall support. Our host couples generously help every night of the concert, our treasurer, Joan Koch, handled the finances, **Tori Pine, Marie Jaroch and Carol Caverly assisted at the gate, Ray Caverly** assisted with parking.

Byron Arnold greeted our guests, **Rose Putnam and Richard Wroblewski** assisted at the Barn entrance. **Janice Winter** served our bands: The Music Doctors, Mandi Layne and the Lost Highway Boys, and the Silverwood Bottom Boys a pre-concert luncheon.

The host couples: **John & Carolyn Longmuir, Mary & Curtis Bell, Duane & Gail Osbourn** helped wherever needed. These individuals and many others were involved in making the Barn come alive with sound. I believe that the Purdy Family smiles on everyone that brings life and memories to the Barn. I hope they have a special smile for using their masterpiece for music.

The committee held a wrap up meeting on August 11 and David has presented the following summation of that meeting.

Ron & JulAnn Kuenzli hosted the Music Committee's wrap up meeting at their home on Thursday, August 11, 2016. In attendance were **Ron & JulAnn, Richard Wroblewski, Rose Putnam and David Jaroch**. The purpose of the meeting was to review this year's 6th Annual Music Weekend. We wish to thank Emily Kuenzli, a future accomplished Elementary Teacher, for her contributions.

We agreed the event was a success. The Barn staging deliv-

ered an excellent musical experience for performers as well as audience members. Host couples and volunteers graciously welcomed and assisted our guests making the weekend event run smoothly and efficiently. We were also blessed with great weather all weekend.

Reflecting back on possible changes for 2017, we identified sound control and lighting issues that can be addressed for future concerts. We noted that the advertising was sufficient to the general public but not our own membership. Music in the Barn is a great event for our own members to enjoy while supporting other ongoing projects.

This year's musical selections were designed to support diverse musical tastes. We agreed that Saturday evening country music with Mandi Layne and the Lost Highway Band be repeated next year. Sunday afternoon gospel music should grow to be a great musical day. Friday evening will be redesigned to include a celebrity host, dance and costume contests and dance instruction.

The schedule for Music in the Barn 2017 is:

Friday evening, July 14 Dance instructor, Celebrity host and Dance and Dress Competitions, Country Dancing with Western Dress will be 2017's Theme.

Saturday evening, July 15 Country Western – Mandi Layne and the Lost

Highway Band will be invited back.

Sunday afternoon, July 16 Old Time Gospel – Group yet to be chosen.

If you have any suggestions for the 7th annual "Music in the Barn Weekend", please contact music coordinator **Ron Kuenzli 989-670-8297** or **David Jaroch 989-658-2133**. The music committee is seeking a featured Friday night celebrity and Sunday afternoon Gospel musical groups. If you, a loved one, or acquaintance would be "perfect" for hosting an evening of an "Old time barn dance", we need you to call.



The Music Committee has everything under control for the Saturday evening performance. From the left are **Ron Kuenzli, Richard Wroblewski, Rose Putnam and David Jaroch**. Richard and Rose are wearing special T-shirts that were provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who provide financial backing for the



One of the highlights of the concerts is intermission when concert goers are treated to refreshing drinks and many dozens of homemade treats. So many of our volunteers baked dozens of cookies and the committee appreciated their contribution. Preparing and serving during intermission are our host couple ladies and Marilyn Peters. In the front row is **Carolyn Longmuir, Marilyn Peters** and in the back are **Mary Bell and Gail Osbourn**.

Raffle Tickets

Sherry Kappen, Joan Koch & Rose Putnam

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 11th at 4 p.m. following the Parade of Tractors.

Mandi Layne, right, has just finished a meal prepared and served by volunteer **Janice Winter**. What a special treat and greatly appreciated by the performers. Mandi liked the John Deere tractor stored in the Munro Building that provided a good background for a picture. The Committee is planning on asking her group back for a concert on **Saturday, July 15, 2017**.



Fall Family Day Sponsors 2016

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)

ACE Hardware of Bad Axe, Inc.
Bay Port State Bank, Bay Port, MI
Ruby Boyse, Birch Run, MI
Mary J. Brauer, Clawson, MI
Sally J. Brauer, Troy, MI
Cass City Oil & Gas Co., Cass City, MI
Coachlight Pharmacy, 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
DJ's Portable Toilet Rental, Owendale, MI
d/s Services, Inc. Cass City, MI
Flowers Galore & More, Cass City, MI
Franzel Well Drilling, Mayville, MI
Gleaner's Caro Arbor, Mandy Knox, Caro, MI
Hampton Potato Farm, Essexville, MI
Harris & Company, Dave & Heather Weiler, Cass City, MI
Patricia Hester, Cass City, MI
Hills & Dales General Hospital, Cass City MI
Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City & Don Weber, Frankenmuth, MI
Independent Bank, Cass City, MI
ITC Holdings Corp. Novi, MI
J. W. Hunt, Inc. OTC, Bad Axe, MI
Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI
Kohl Farms Agritourism, Gagetown, MI
Kranz Funeral Home, Cass City, MI
Chad & Joey Kreeger & Family, Cass City, MI
Langenburg Construction Co. Inc. Cass City, MI
McDonald's Food & Family Center, Bad Axe, MI
Robert J. McLachlan Farms, Bob & Edna McLachlan, Cass City, MI
Michigan Milk Producers, C. Johnson, Ovid, MI
Michigan Sugar Company, Bay City, MI
Tracey Moore, T.D.M Construction, Cass City, MI
Osentoski Equipment, Inc., Pigeon, MI
Jim Osentoski, Ubly, MI
Protrim, Cass City, MI
Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI in memory of Frank J. Schwartz
Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI
Smith Alpaca Acres, Richard & Vivian Smith, Gagetown, MI
Dr. James D. Thomas, DDS, PC Cass City, MI
Thompson Chevrolet, Ubly, MI
Thrivent Financial, Randy Kurtz, Caro, MI
Thrivent Financial Foundation, Princeton, NJ
Thumb Cellular, Pigeon, MI
Thumb Tool & Engineering Co., Bad Axe, MI
Daniel Toner, Cass City, MI
Tri-County Equipment, Inc. Sandusky, MI
Triple R. Collision, Inc. Caro, MI
Walther Farm, Cass City, MI
Weiss Equipment, Frankenmuth, MI

Silver Sponsors (\$150 to \$249)

Agri-Valley Services, Inc. Pigeon, MI
Atwater Farms, Ubly, MI
Bad Axe Tire Service
Battel's Sugar Bush, Cass City, MI
Raymond E. Baur, Unionville, MI
Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI
Caro Rental, Caro, MI
Chemical Bank, Caro, MI

Eastern Michigan Bank, Croswell, MI
Jon & Charmaine Fahrner, Cass City, MI
Sandra S. Finkbeiner, Caro, MI
Gemini Precision Machining, Bad Axe, MI
Greg & Christine Guza, Cass City, MI
Huron Daily Tribune, Bad Axe, MI
Dean and Nancy Hutchinson, Cass City, MI
Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI
Knights Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI
James Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI
Maurer Electric, Inc., Bad Axe, MI
McDonalds Restaurant, Cass City, MI
Milligan Farms, LLC, Cass City, MI
Vera Milz, Troy, MI
Moore Motor Sales, Caro, MI
Morell's Milling, Jim Morell, Ubly, MI
Mortimer Lumber, Bad Axe, MI
James & Carlene Munro, Gladwin, MI
Northstar Bank, Bad Axe, MI
Beverly Perry, Cass City, MI
Mike & Drucilla Pisarek, Cass City, MI
PROBuild Company LLC, Caro, MI
S. H. Raythatha, M.D. P. C. Cass City, MI
Mary Ann Hobart Reidinger, Rochester, MI
David & Donna Sting, Unionville, MI
Thabet Funeral Home, Inc., Cass City, MI
Thumb National Bank & Trust, Cass City, MI
Henry Tschetter Brooms, Rockford, MI
Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI
Tuscola County Republican Party, Caro, MI
Valley Collision, Ubly, MI
Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI

Bronze Sponsors (\$50 - \$149)

Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Fligger, Ubly, MI
Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C., Caro, MI
Edmund Armbruster, Sebewaing, MI
Lila Arroyo, Cass City, MI
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI
Laurence. G. Beatenhead, Unionville, MI
Gerald L. Booms, Ubly, MI
Braden Tire & Service, Bad Axe, MI
Brentwood Graphics, Caro, MI
Louise Buehrly, Palmetto, FL
Charles J. Busch, Jr., Clare, MI
Caro Moose Family Center, Caro, MI
Cass City Hardware & Supply, Cass City, MI
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI
Clemco Printing, Inc. Bad Axe, MI
Larry Clerc, Bay City, MI
Janet Cooper, Reese, MI
Rich & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO
Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI
Sharon L. Cummins, Gagetown, MI
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI
Wayne & Sherry Dillon, Cass City, MI
Mary M. Downing, Gagetown, MI
Dan & Marlene Eria, Cass City, MI
Fritz's Family Restaurant, Fred Diedrich, Richville, MI
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI
Ken & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL
Joanne E. Herban, Frankfort, MI
Marie Hobart, Worcester, MA
Drs. Susan Hoppe & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI
Jim & Carol Hunter, Port Hope, MI
Douglas R. Jackson, M.D., Midland, MI
David & Marie Jaroch, Ubly, MI
Deloris Jensen, St. Clair Shores, MI

John E. Jostock DDS & Kenneth F. Tiseo DDS, Caro, MI
Paul Keast & Timothy Bang, Reese, MI
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI
Kelly & Company Realty, Cass City, MI
Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI
Walter Kloc, Deford, MI
Tim & Jean Kreiner, North Branch, MI
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Jack & Betty Laurie, Gagetown, MI
Gerald & Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI
Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI
Ken Martin Electric, Inc., Cass City, MI
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Harvey McIntyre, Ubly, MI
J. McLeod Realty, Inc. Caro, MI
Marie Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM in memory of Arnold & Dorothy Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM
Narayan Rehabilitation Inc., Bad Axe, MI
Northwood Modular Homes, Inc., Cass City, MI
Frank O'Donnell & Helen Weber, Ferndale, MI
Chuck & Sharon Patterson, Lapeer, MI
Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI
Jim & Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI
Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI
ProGraphix, Cass City, MI
Ena Reintjes, St Clair Shores, MI
Gerald & Jane Schember, Goodells MI in memory of Doris Schember
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts., MI
LeRoy Schluckebier, Frankenmuth, MI
Marjorie H. Schwartz, Gagetown, MI
Sherman & Associates, Farmers Insurance Group, Caro, MI
Sherwood on the Hill, Gagetown, MI
Star Vision Center, Caro, MI
Robert & Barbara Stickle, Cass City, MI
Superior 1, Inc. Marvin & Carolyn Klein, Cass City, MI
Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI
Ken and Mary Jane Sweeney, Ubly, MI
Thumb Electric Co-operative, Ubly, MI
Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Inc., Elkton, MI
Thumb Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI
Thumb Two Cylinder Club, Ubly, MI
Dave & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI
Ubly Motor Service, Ubly, MI
Valley Collision, Ubly, MI
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI
Wal-Mart, Caro, MI
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI
Kenneth & Margaret Watson, New Hudson, MI
Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI
Jerry & Barb Weber, Winter Park, FL
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI
Andrew & Ashleigh Witucki, Bay City, MI
Richard & Vera Wrobleksi, Sebewaing, MI
Rose Wunderlich, Farwell, MI

Certificate Sponsors (\$10 - \$49)

Terri & Jack Beith, Linden, MI
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI
Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI
Melvin J. Gay, Saginaw, MI in memory of Bob Hirn.
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI
Connie Latuszek, Midland, MI
Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI
Tom & Denise Patrick, Fostoria, MI
Earl Schember, Gagetown, MI



Our 2016 Sponsor Plaque shows a hand water pump that was a step up from using a pail at the end of a rope to lift water up from a well. Martin selected the picture because it represented rural life on the farm in the 1920's and the importance of water and the method used to make it available for our needs. Plaques are presented to Gold, Silver & Bronze Sponsors to



recognize their contribution. Sponsors below the Bronze level receive a certificate. **Richard Stacer** cut the wooden base from the original siding of the Octagon Barn and **Martin Kubacki** affixed the commemorative plaque to the wooden base. Please note: **Plaques are being delivered locally. For those sponsors that are not in the immediate area and plan to attend FFD please stop by the Welcome Center/Souvenir Shop next to the Munro Building and Mary Ann Hirn will have your plaque. Those unable to attend will receive their plaques by mail.**

A new gold sponsor this year is **Kohl Farms Agritourism of Gagetown**. (Agritourism is a non-profit organization that supports agriculture in Michigan. Their goal is to keep family farms sustainable, support local economic growth, and provide rich and unique experiences for visitors to make lasting memories)

The Kohl Family (shown at left) are receiving their plaque at the Dairy Barn in Sebewaing that has been a family owned business for many years and continues with the Kohl Family. **Ryan & Mandy Kohl** have turned their farm in Gagetown into a place to gather for fun in the Fall as well as a place to get your Christmas holiday decorations. Mandy wanted her whole family to be pictured, so **Max** and **Mason** are holding the plaque while in the back row are niece, **Lexy Neal**, and **Mandy & Ryan Kohl**. Mandy said, "I always wanted to get involved with the Octagon Barn and now I am."

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

989-665-0081

Non-Profit Org.
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We're on the Web!

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

2016 Upcoming Events

September 9 FFD Fish Fry, 4 p.m.-7 p.m.
September 10 & 11 21st Fall Family Days, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

2017 Upcoming Events

May 10, 11 12 School Tours
July 14 Celebrity Host Dance & Dress Competitions
July 15 Country Western Mandi Layne & the Lost highway Band
July 16 Old Time Gospel Music

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.

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.

Jim Morell, Ubly, MI donated an antique lawn edger.
Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI donated a 12" flat drive belt & a wooden hand water pump.
Ted Morgan Family, Snover, MI donated an 1890 Anvil, bellows for a forge, two new ox yokes and a vice pedestal.
Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI donated sleigh runners for a wheeled buggy.
Dan's Fireplace & Stove, Cass City, MI donated a four finger grain cradle scythe.
Roy & Shirley Wagg, Cass City, MI donated a three point auger.
Gentner Sales & Service, Melvin Gentner donated a valve grinder.
Don Morin, Bay City, MI donated a wheelbarrow with a wooden frame and a wooden wheel in beautiful condition for its age.
James & Veronica (Stoick) Haines, Vassar, MI donated a redwood, tongue & groove, round granary circa 1920.

Special Donations

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

Fairgrove Oil & Propane, Jeff Fairgrove, Fairgrove, MI donated 1"x 8' gas hose.
Donation in memory of Marian F. Bauer, Reese, MI given by Raymond E. Baur, Sebewaing, MI
Donation in memory of Clayton & Margaret Turner given by Don & Jean Severance, Naples, FL. Clayton provided much of the funding for moving the One Room Country School from Sebewaing to the Thumb Agricultural Museum site.
Donations were given in memory of Robert "Bob" Anderson age 87 of Grant Township, Dennis Anderson's father. Bob was a very talented man who could build or invent any part for any purpose. He loved taking scrap metal and creating all sorts of clever figures. One creation was the "Amazing Shovel Head Band" with the Energizer Bunny as the drummer. Bob enjoyed attending Fall Family Days and making sure that Denny was doing a fine job in the Sawmill and Lumber Museum talking with visitors. An important ending to most conversations in the Anderson family is "All is Well, No Problem." Donations in Bob's memory were given to several non-profits and included the Thumb Octagon Barn. Donors are: Diana Kausch, Sanford, MI, Franklin & Betty Koch, Gagetown, MI, Anton & Marilyn Peters, Cass City, MI, Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI, Katie Jackson, Cass City, MI, Joan Koch, Gagetown, MI, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI, Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI.

A special thank you to Jim Osentoski for the donation of gravel to be used on site.

Donation in memory of Elaine Seibel was given by Diane C. Warack & Timothy Hartman

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, donated \$250.00 to help cover "Concerts in the Barn" expenses.

King's Daughters & Sons a non-denominational Christian philanthropic organization made a generous donation for School Tours



Art Nitz, Sebewaing, MI donated his Octagon Barn button collection to the Friends. He was very proud of his button collection and each year he proudly wore all of his buttons to FFD. He also drove his tractor, patriotically decorated, in the parade of antique tractors. Art was formerly from Sebewaing and is now living in Frankenmuth and unable to attend our Fall Family Days. The entire collection can be seen in the showcase located in the Barn.

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

Newsletter

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