

# 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 2017

## School Tours 2017

*Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairwoman*

This is the 16<sup>th</sup> year that Diane has chaired our Annual School Tours. So how did a woman from Essexville become involved with the Barn? Following is a look back and a little bit of history about Diane's interest in the Barn. Diane was raised in the Bad Axe area and was familiar with the "Round Barn" because her family drove by the Barn on their way home from their twice a year shopping trip to Bay City. Over twenty years ago Diane brought a group of her fellow teachers from Bangor Township Schools in Bay City to the Barn for a Mystery Trip. The teachers once a month traveled to an interesting, educational site to familiarize themselves with the memorable attractions of the area surrounding their school. Diane and the others fell in love with the Barn and brought their students for a visit during School Tours for many years. It was our good fortune that when the need for a new Chairperson happened in 2002 that Diane agreed to accept the responsibility of organizing School Tours. This year's event marks the sixteenth School Tours that Diane has chaired and she commented, "This was the very best School Tours ever and then she looked ahead to next year. We're already planning for School Tours 2018 that will be held on May 9, 10 & 11." The Friends say, "Thank you, Diane, for all of your years of leadership to make this a premier educational field trip for students from the area. We hope you know how much you are appreciated for promoting the Barn in such a positive way."

The final totals for the 2017 event are: the number of students attending was 1,301, chaperoned by 400 individuals with 185 VOLUNTEERS on site over the three-day period some for all three days of School Tours. Those totals are awesome. Keeping all those folks organized on site is an amazing accomplishment. Doug Monroe does the scheduling and it is just about perfect. Don't know how he works this out, but the important thing is that he does and it works. Also, assisting is Joan Koch who greets each group and presents each student with a bag of goodies gathered from supporting businesses as well as collecting the \$2.00 for each person attending School Tours. Also, the determined team of Joan Merchant and Tori Pine line up all the many tour guides needed to accompany each group as they move from station to station following the schedule prepared by Doug Monroe. (continued on p. 4)



It is Friday afternoon and the last group of students is on site so Diane Rapson Gabil is relaxing for probably the first time. It was a perfect day and the sun was shining beautifully. Diane had spent much of the day out and about checking on things and was pleased that the weather god had been very cooperative. She ended up with quite a sun burned face and learned from the experience. A visor or cap will be worn next year.

### Executive Committee

**President**  
**Rose Putnam**

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

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**  
**Gerald Auten**

**Treasurer**  
**Joan Koch**

**Purdy Home Chairman**  
**Marilyn Phillips**

**Museum Committee**  
**Connie Osentoski**

**Grounds Chairman**  
**Louis Wehrman**

**Special Projects**  
**Richard Stacer**

**Norm Parker**  
**Chairman of the Alert Team**

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

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



Our Theme for 2017 is "From Farm to Table. Highlighting Grain Processing" features our grain elevator museum. Louie & Linda Wehrman, Co-Chairs of the Grain Elevator, have been working for years organizing, equipping and preparing an outstanding museum highlighting the inner workings of the grain elevator. The Wehrmans recognize the important role that the local grain elevator has contributed to the agricultural community.



Doug Monroe and Joan Koch are important contributors to the success of School Tours. Doug does the scheduling for student involvement at the possible 28 educational stations. Joan meets and greets each group and then moves inside the Barn to take charge of the Souvenir Sales area.

### *Letter From the President* **FRIENDS of the THUMB OCTAGON BARN**

**Rose M. Putnam**

*Dear Friends,*



What an exciting time at the Thumb Octagon Barn this year. We started out with a great crew getting the site cleaned up in May, then right into School Tours. We had one of the best attendance for School Tours including more parents. I know I thoroughly enjoyed my day with a wonderful group of students. Great job everyone. Thank you

June sure was a whirlwind of activity. The Thumb Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting brought many new visitors to the site. It's surprising to know how many local people have not yet been to the site. There was a lot of networking going on and we had the opportunity to speak about our events during the meeting. It was a fantastic day for all. Please see more details in the newsletter.

Then on the very next day, we had another great group on site – our very own volunteers. This was a fun-filled day to visit and enjoy the company of our fellow volunteers. We did have many hands helping during the day, though. The pictures in the newsletter tell the story. We would like your feedback, please, to improve the new format. You may contact any Executive Committee Member or the person who extended your invitation. We hope you all enjoyed the great food and fun during the auction.

Soon it will be Fall Family Days. We hope you are enjoying the wonderful summer weather.

*Your Friend and President,*  
**Rose M. Putnam**

## Fall Family Days

*Martin Kubacki & Lisa Geiger, Co-Chairs*

As usual, work is well underway by the volunteers that help to organize Fall Family Days. We have had some new faces join our group and take an active role in preparation for the Event that is greatly appreciated.

At this time, I would like to thank **Diane Rapson Gabil** for her years of dedication as head of advertising. **Devin Irons** will take over and we thank him for volunteering his time and talent. We have another volunteer stepping down as well. **Ardis Monroe** has been making cotton candy and keeping kids happy for many years at Fall Family Days. Thank you, Ardis. We are currently looking for a volunteer to take over. So if you like to get sweet and sticky, we have a special job for you. Give us a call.

As you know by now, the Theme for this year's Event is Grain Elevators. Our theme chairs, **Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka** are planning to have a lot of interesting facts and stories on Grain Elevators. **Louie & Linda Wehrman** who have been working on our Grain Elevator for many years will have some exciting exhibits on display.

The delicious **Fish Fry** will be the 2017 kick off on Friday night as usual. Next up is the

### **Thumb Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting**

The Thumb Octagon Barn was alive on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> with quite an exciting event. The **Thumb Electric Cooperative** decided to change their venue for their annual meeting to our site. We were so excited when we received the request. What we knew from our current partnership with this company is that they are a great group of people who work together to get the job done right. They are so organized, hard working and willing to do what it takes.

Those attending were greeted by a large banner stretched over the parking entrance secured by two of TEC bucket trucks. The parking was well organized and the greeters were so friendly. Our President, Rose Putnam, is a member and was given a welcome bag of goodies. The site looked fabulous.

TEC President, **Louis Wenzlaff**, conducted the Annual Meeting and **Dallas Braun**, General Manager, spoke to the anywhere from 750 – 800 members along with their families. Prizes were awarded and then it was time for the luncheon and all the fun activities that were planned.

Following the meeting, many stayed to walk the grounds and enjoy the Thumb Agricultural Museum. It is always surprising to find so many who have never visited the Museum before. TEC has already scheduled the date for next year's Annual Meeting at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Just a reminder, be sure to stop and see the TEC building on the Barn loft and read and observe items all about the early days of rural electrification.

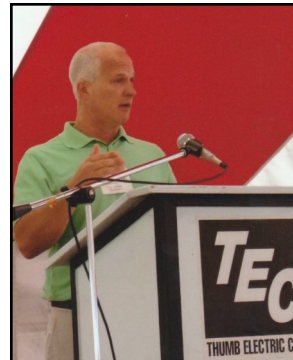
**Farmer's Breakfast Saturday & Sunday morning** from 8:00 until 11:00 a.m. We will have field demonstrations, a working sawmill, blacksmith shop, sorghum pressing, kid's activities and lots of good food.

Once again, we will be holding our **Annual Raffle** that has proven to be a very successful fund raising project. **Members only** will be receiving tickets in the next few weeks. We appreciate your assistance in selling the tickets that offer great prizes. However, you have the option to return the tickets if you cannot participate. If you need more tickets, please call **Joan Koch** at **989-665-0081** and leave a message and she will be delighted to get them out to you.

As always, we are making our plea for **VOL-UNTEER HELP** during the weekend of September 8, 9 and 10<sup>th</sup>. If you can give us a few hours of your time before, & during Fall Family Days, your help would be much appreciated. You can call **Martin Kubacki** at **989-551-0526** or **Lisa Geiger** at **989-553-6048** and let us know.

**We've had meetings in May and July and our final meeting will be August 29. Looking forward to seeing you then! All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. in the Munro Building.**

Have a nice summer,  
Martin & Lisa



**Louis Wenzlaff** TEC President conducted the meeting and pictured is **Dallas Braun**, TEC General Manager, who gave an operational oversight report for the year at the Annual meeting.



TEC had planned many fun activities for the family. The young visitors had great fun participating in face painting and balloon art that was provided for their enjoyment. Pictured above are Angela Lilley and her mother from Mayville. This was a great family outing.



TEC members were greeted with a welcome sign stretched across the entrance to the parking area and secured by two of their bucket trucks.



## Barn Restoration

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

Following is an update on the window/roof project in the Barn. Dennis and Richard are moving along with the restoration of the Barn roof in sequential order. The window project must be completed first to assure that folks aren't walking on the newly installed shingles and that no paint will be spilled on the new roof.

All 30 of the lower level windows in the Barn have been repaired or replaced. **Richard Stacer** is doing all of the woodwork and is demonstrating all of his outstanding wood working skills on this project and is doing a very fine job. Some windows need more work than others and Richard is restoring each one based on need. **Dennis Anderson** is doing all of the finishing work on each window. Each window must be cleaned, scraped, glazed and painted on the outside only. The glazing process was new to Dennis so he sought guidance from the Internet so that he would be completing the process correctly. Each pane of glass needs to be secured with glaze and when necessary silicone sealer. This is a tedious job as there are six panes of glass on all thirty of the windows on the lower level and nine panes of glass in the 32 windows in the upper level. This glazing process forms an airtight and watertight seal securing each

pane of glass to the frame. **Duaine Phillips** is helping with the painting. Dennis estimates that it takes two hours per window to complete the restoration.

The work now proceeds to the 32 upper level windows. They are being removed so that they can be repaired, cleaned, glazed and painted at ground level before being re-installed. Dennis, with a smile said, "Best to check out my work at the lower level rather than 60 feet high in the upper level." He also noted that attention to detail was followed for all windows even though most won't be seen.

Once all the windows are back in place the dormers need to be painted. We cannot start replacement of the roof until the window project is completed. We do not want to walk and work on a new roof.

**Work is progressing on the Barn restoration, so please be patient. The plan is to have the window project completed by Fall Family Days. The Barn restoration team is doing a great job of taking care of this almost one hundred year old structure, preserving and protecting its uniqueness.**



Pictured is one of the 30 newly repaired, glazed, sealed and painted windows that encircle the lower level of the Barn. Just as was done originally all glazing to seal the windowpane was on the outside of the window and the inside window frame was not painted.

## Special Donations

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

Donation in memory of Lucille Wehrman given by Heath & Marcy Wehrman & Elisha Wehrman, Parker, CO Farmer's Co-OP, Kinde, MI donated five 50 lb. bags of shelled corn to be used during School Tours

Pat Gibbard, Green Acres Farm, made a very generous donation for our raffle.

Donation in memory of Barbara Kritschmer Scharich given by Owendale Class of 1953.

Donation in memory of Richard Holdwick given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI

Donation in memory of Donald Keinath given by Terry and Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI

Donations in memory of Arnie & Reita Maxfield, one of our very first Host Couples for many years, given by Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI, Jack & Dorothy Kelly, Marlette, MI, Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI, Mid-Thumb Crickets, Gerald Auten, Cass City, MI, Ken & Lenore Meockel, John & Diane Rogers, Betty Armstead & Bill Hollingsworth, Zephyrhills FL, Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI & George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI

Donation in memory of Howard Gehrls, dedicated member of the Monday Boys Day Out Work Crew, (see picture and article to the right) were given by Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI, Arnie Maxfield, Dade City, FL, George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI, Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI, Ronald Jones, Saginaw, MI, Zimmer & Associates, Ins. Reese, MI, Newton-Johnson Plumbing & Heating, Vassar, MI, R & R Humpert Farms, LLC, Fairgrove, MI, David & Shirley Bates, North Branch, MI, Doug & Ardis Monroe, Gagetown, MI, Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI, Bryan & Sue McMullen, Midland, MI, Robert & Linda Gehrls, DeWitt, MI, Donald & Elizabeth Wehrman, Caro, MI, Duaine & Marilyn Phillips, Caro, MI, Patsy Vinton & Susan McMullen, Mt. Pleasant, MI, Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI, Curtis & Mary Bell, Carthage, MO, Joe H. & Diane Gamino, Chapel Hill, TN, Virginia M. Birney & Bridget R. Leibinger, Bay City, MI, Ervin & Judy Letson, Reese, MI & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI.

Donation in memory of Barb Wilson, wife of James Purdy Wilson, grandson of James & Cora Purdy original owners of the Octagon Barn given by Janet Muntz Cass City, MI & Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI.

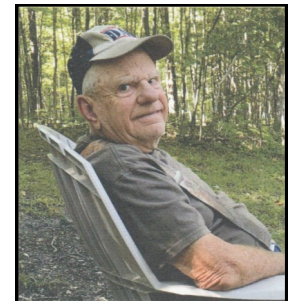
An anonymous donor generously donated to provide food for and in honor of our Monday Boys Day Out Work Crew's hard work.

Donation in memory of John Eisele given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI

Jim Osentoski donated two semi-truck loads of road grade gravel to be used on the grounds to improve the condition of the roads on site.

Sapa Industries, North Liberty, IN donated the aluminum for 20 tabletops to be used for picnic tables being assembled by a work crew. See picture and details on the Clean-up Day article.

Special thanks to Clemco Printing for collating, folding and stapling our winter newsletter at no cost to the Friends.



In Memoriam - **Howard Edward Gehrls**, 82, died following a brief illness. Howard was a devoted member of the Monday Boys Day Out Work Crew and was known as a master at finding ingenious ways of fixing things. He almost never missed a Monday workday. He liked to get things fixed and get things done. **Louie Wehrman**, Howard's cousin, and neighbor, remembers that when it was decided to keep a record of hours spent each month working at the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum, an interesting thing happened. Howard logged more hours than the late **Bob Hirn** who practically lived at the Barn. Howard was known for always greeting folks with a smile and always tried to be helpful to those who could use a helping hand. **David Jaroch**, member of the Monday work crew said, "Howard enjoyed the solitude at the Barn, cutting grass, visiting or just tinkering around. His wealth of knowledge and dedication to the Barn mission will be missed."

## School Tours *(continued from p.1)*

Diane's comments about School Tours 2017 are: "Through the years this was the highest number of students attending ever, having Michigan State University Extension gals join School Tours was a WONDERFUL addition to the Event and hopefully they'll be back next year, there were 19 Volunteers who had never been involved for any Event at the Thumb Octagon Barn & the weather god was generous to us. Good weather is always a plus!"

Also, the teachers attending shared some very positive thoughts about their experience at the Agricultural Museum. Following are just a few. "Our Tour Guide was one of the best we've had. Please share with your volunteers how much fun Vassar had!" "This is a wonderful group of volunteers. We thoroughly enjoy being at the Octagon Barn. Thank you for this program." "The volunteers are SUPER NICE, SUPER HELPFUL AND SUPER FRIENDLY." "Thank you so much. We LOVE this trip." "The lady who led our group was helpful and it helped to have them leading us around. The volunteers leading the different stations were very helpful as well."

The pictures on this page and page 5 give you a little flavor of School Tours. Our volunteers are very important to the continued success of the Thumb Agricultural Museum and all of our events. We appreciate and need everyone of you and thank you for your dedication and support. Katie Jackson reminded me once again of the simple thoughts expressed in a little passage that her mother had preserved in her Bible. We thought it worth repeating: "You might be surprised as the day of judgment nears, there's a special place in Heaven set aside for VOLUNTEERS." By the way, to keep our volunteers happy **Karen Lenton** and her team delivered sack lunches to them each day.



The theme tent "From Farm to Table" housed the **Michigan State University Extension** representatives who explained how the food you eat gets from being grown on a farm, the preparation of that product to get it ready to eat or put into other foods that we eat. The representatives are from the left, **Heather Middleton, Jennifer McNamara, Kris Swartzendruber, Renee Stacer, Lauren Stacer, Julie Androsuk & Kim Parker.**



**Raymond & Carol Caverly** line up many drivers for our shuttles pulled by an antique tractor and are available to transport our visitors from one station to another. There is no specific schedule but are available to groups as needed. Teachers can just tell the volunteer driver where they need to go, climb aboard, sit back and enjoy the ride. The volunteer shuttle drivers are: **Bob Ashmore, Jack Hill, Dan Ondrajka, Norm Parker, Duaine Phillips, Ron Scott, Sam Fackler, Frank Ellicott, David Coleman** and pictured driving the tractor pulling one of our shuttles is **Dan Hormel.**

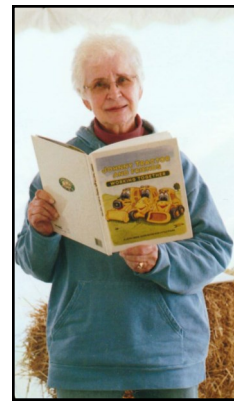


**Roy Tuckey**, filling in for chairman, **Dean Hutchinson**, showed a display of live bees in a productive hive and explained the structure of the bee colony (workers, drones and the queen). Bees pollinate nature's fruits and vegetables and are very important in the production of many foods that we eat. Roy explained how bees produce the very delicious and healthy honey that is so very tasty and so very good for us.



The One Room Country School was busy the entire time as our young visitors were able to experience what school was like many years ago. Schoolmarm (teachers) talk with students as they are seated at the antique wooden desks complete with inkwells. **Connie Iwankovitch** gathered the students in front of the schoolhouse by the large bell used to let youngsters know that school was in session.

**Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)** (see photo at right) used a model to demonstrate how wetlands and farming practices effect the environment. Students could follow the path of the water as it flowed down and over the land effecting the environment leading to pollution now and in the future. **Julia Miller & Audrey Schwing**, DEQ representatives, were impressed by the interest and the questions that our young student visitors asked.



**Ardis Monroe** provides a quiet time for the students where, depending on the age of the students, she shares a story. The younger students will have the John Deere series of Johnny Tractor and Corny Cornpicker read to them. For the older students, **Ardis** will share passages from **Cora Purdy's** diaries. She will highlight the pages where **Cora** keeps a ledger of the prices of various food items back in the early nineteen hundreds and make comparisons with the cost of those items today.



**Tori Pine & Joan Merchant** contact many folks who have volunteered in the past or might be interested in volunteering to be a tour guide. They need to line up approximately 60 individuals to serve in that capacity and were pleased that they had some folks who had never volunteered at the Barn previously.



The grist mill is the perfect place to see our theme "**From Farm to Table**" in operation. First students learn how corn came to grow in our country with the help of proper amounts of rain. Each student will have the opportunity to put a cob of corn in the hand cranked corn sheller. Then the grist mill, powered by a tractor, grinds the corn into cornmeal. **Jerry Auten and Gerald Booms** are pictured bagging up the cornmeal so that each class will have enough corn meal to take back to their classroom to make corn muffins. "From Farm to Table"



## More School Tours' Photos



Greg Alexander, one of the chairs of the Theme Tent, talked with students about how the food we eat gets from being grown on the farm and the preparation of that product to get it ready to eat or put into other foods. Greg even had some of the crops in their growing stage to familiarize students to what the crop looks like.



The Barn is filled with the sound of the folk music instruments being played. It's wonderful. Students have an opportunity to see and learn about the history of some of the musical instruments that provided entertainment in years past. The musical entertainers from the left are: **Ida O'Dell, Ruth Badgley, Ron O'Dell, Margene Scott, Betty Scherzer & Joann Satkowiak.**



For the first time the loft or mow was a station for students to climb up the stairs and walk around viewing the displays available. There are machines used for processing grains and farm crops, antique buggies and sleighs (cutters), the Thumb Electric Cooperative house that shows what life was like before electricity and a wonderful fishing display. **Richard Stacer** was on the mow and available to answer questions. That's Richard on the mow just above the location of our volunteer nurse identified by the Red Cross.



One of the stations that our young visitors enjoy are the tractors that they are able to climb up on and pretend to be driving. **Lukas Stoliker** loved sitting on the Farmall A and Mom, **Rebecca**, also enjoyed the experience. In the background you can see the Children's Activity area where our young visitors are trying to master walking on stilts.



What a crew it takes to operate the sawmill. Our visitors will learn how hard it was years ago to put together the lumber to build their home. The equipment used will be demonstrated and the sound of the sawmill running to cut the boards from a large tree is deafening. The Sawmill volunteers are in the back row are **Jack Hill, Tim Kreiner, Dennis Anderson** (also the Sawmill Museum where students hear the stories of Paul Bunyan) **Jerry Meredith, George Gray, Dave Bates, Wayne Lenton, Duaine Philips, Dave Ondrajka** and seated are **Bruce Brown, Tony Grifka & Ron Coltson.**

The little guy in the Children's Activities area chaired by **Mary Inbody**, is frustrated. He is trying to make a set of crutches work like the stilts and is having quite a time. The Children's Activity area is filled with fun things from years gone by for the visitors to interact with. They love washing clothes using an old scrub board and hanging them out to dry on a line with clothespins. Checkers are also available and you will not find any electronics at this station.

**WANTED - Mary expressed the need for antique children's toys, old tops, farm toys, wooden puzzles and old board games for the very popular Children's Activity area.**



**Dave Babcock** had our cider press operating and students had an opportunity to see the whole process of making apple cider. Students were involved by placing an apple on the belt feeding into the press. Assisting Dave was his wife, **Shelia Babcock**, who explained the process and did an outstanding job engaging the students in the conversation. She loved the experience and will return next year. The cider press that is on display and being used to make apple cider is over one hundred years old.



**Shane Auten** of Decker was helping **Cathy Healy**, chairman, present at the chick hatching station and explained the development of chicks in the egg. **Jack Laurie and Doug Monroe** pick up the fertilized eggs from Michigan State University's Poultry Department who guarantee that they will hatch during School Tours. They have wonderful success and this was also the case this year. Shane is explaining the process to a young student who is watching a young chick poke its way out. Students will then be able to see the baby chicks in the brooder, all 24 of them, eating and drinking. Shane took his responsibility very seriously and did a fine job.



## Volunteer Appreciation Day and Annual Auction

*Executive Committee*

On June 11, 2017, the second annual Volunteer Appreciation Picnic was held at the Munro Building. More than 250 volunteers were in attendance. The food was fabulous. We were blessed with beautiful weather. An idea came forth to hold the Annual Auction along with the picnic for some added fun. We are happy to report that this was the most successful auction to date. There were many great items donated. We appreciate all those that took the new guidelines for auction items to heart and as a result provided fantastic, appealing auction pieces.

Of course, the pies baked by **Mary Ann Hirn** and the chocolate peanut clusters made by **Gerald Auten** were the hit of the day. We heard from one of the winners of the bid that the pie was shared that night with their son-in-law who mentioned that he never thought he would be eating a piece of pie worth \$500.00. **Joan Koch and Ray Caverly** put their heads together and made a clever bench out of a bed headboard. **Dave Dietzel** was "so excited" to have won the bid, or should it be said that his wife was "so excited" as it perfectly matched furniture in their home. **Dennis Anderson's** "Cookie Jar" drawing was great fun and the winners were delighted (See de-

tails with picture on this page). The 50-50 raffle was handled by **Jack Hill and Jerry Booms** and the winners were, **Mary Schuette, Tammi Hensley & Marty Osentoski** and they were surprised and delighted.

We would like to thank all those who volunteered for the day. As always, even though this was our "Thank You" to all of our volunteers, many hands were needed to set up, sell tickets, handle registration and assist **Marty Osentoski** with the auction items, those clerking the auction and the cleanup following. So a double thank you goes to all those members who came forward. Many of those tasks mentioned were handled by **Joan Koch** who does an amazing job keeping everything straight and always performing every task so very well. Also a great big thank you to **Marty Osentoski** who did his usual fantastic job conducting the Auction. And last but not least is a great big special thank you to **Martin Kubacki** who went above and beyond to help organize this fantastic Event. Already thinking ahead, **next year we will eat earlier**. Please let us know if you have any ideas for improvement to this new Annual Event.

### AED

Norm Parker, Coordinator

**Norm Parker**, Cass City, became concerned that when we had our big events at the Barn, School Tours, Fall Family Days, Monday work crew and almost any time that we have folks on the grounds that we are not adequately prepared to deal with emergencies. Norm presented details and outlined the benefits of an **automated external defibrillator (AED)** to the Executive Committee who found the need to purchase a second AED along with the grant application to Pulse 3 Foundation. The Foundation awarded our request and the Foundation was pleased to provide this lifesaving device to the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. Norm has attended a certified course in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation and hopes to have others trained as well. Let Norm know if interested in this training. The funding for this project was made possible through the Pulse 3 Foundation's Shocks and Saves fundraiser, a partnership with Mobile Medical Response (MMR) and the Saginaw Spirit.

**Norm Parker** is in the Munro Building with the newly installed equipment that is in this publicly accessible location and Norm has agreed to maintain the unit with monthly checks that include monitoring the battery and pad expiration dates.



The Munro Building proved to be an excellent location for our Auction. **Marty Osentoski** found it great for getting folks involved and bidding higher and higher. Marty was assisted by **Louie Wehrman** and **Martin Kubacki**.



**Jack Hill & Jerry Booms** handled the 50/50 raffle and folks enjoyed the possibility of winning. It was a winning afternoon for **Mary Schuette, Tammi Hensley & Marty Osentoski**.



**Dennis Anderson** once again held his "Cookie Jar" drawing when folks buy a card from a deck for five dollars. They tear the card in half and put half in a container that someone will be drawing from and they keep the other half. The cookie jars do contain a lot of different items mainly just for fun. Dennis has found that there are many vintage cookie jars to be had, more than you would realize. He has enough jars to keep this activity going for many years. Thank you Dennis for introducing this activity to our Annual Auction. He has great fun with this activity as do the participants. The winners of the Cookie Jar drawing were **Mary Ann Hirn, Jerry Booms and Jerry Bartnik**.

#### Newsletter

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



## Clean-Up Day

Louie Wehrman, Grounds Chairman

Louie set the Saturday before School Tours 2017 as the day to do our Spring Cleaning in preparation for the arrival of hundreds of students, chaperones and volunteers to the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum. There was a lot of work to do and the volunteers showed up in record numbers. The site was alive with folks at every corner of the grounds. The weather didn't fully cooperate, as it was a tad on the cold side but folks just worked harder and faster to get the job done. Shown on this page are a few of those who volunteered.



**Ena Reintjes**, St. Clair Shores, shows up each year to dust, vacuum, secure information signs and make sure that our Welcome Center in the Barn gives a welcoming presentation to our many visitors. It's quite common to see folks gather in the Welcome Center carefully reading all the information to learn about the history of the Purdy family, the original owners of the Barn and the Munro brothers who built the Octagon Barn and the Purdy Home.

### Bits & Pieces



When there was a need for two new stoves for the kitchen in the Munro Building, the suggestion was made to check our FFD Sponsors and purchase from one of our sponsors. We always encourage folks to support those businesses that support the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. Our shoppers were **Tami Hensley and Karen Lenton** shown with the two brand new stoves located in our kitchen in the Munro Building. The stoves were purchased at **Thumb Hardware & Appliance** in Elkton, a Fall Family Days Sponsor for many years.

We congratulate **David Eichler** on his recent retirement from Agri Valley Communications. David has managed the database containing all of our membership information since 1997. He also prints all of the labels for our mailings. David will continue to keep our membership information current and print labels as needed from his home. We thank him for all these years of volunteering his time and material.



A special delivery took place during our Clean-up Day. A group of volunteers have been meeting to assemble picnic tables that have tops made from aluminum donated by **Sapa Industries** in North Liberty, IN. Sapa is a customer of Thumb Tool & Engineering, **Martin Kubacki's** employer, who wanted to support the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum with their donation. **Martin Kubacki**, Ugly **Lew Martin**, Decker & **Norm Parker**, Cass City worked on this project over the winter months in Martin's out building. Eight of the tables were delivered in early May and are being put out for immediate use by **Norm Parker**, Cass City, **Greg Alexander**, Carsonville & **Martin Kubacki**, Ugly. The fellows have now assembled ten more with one table designed to accommodate a special needs individual. A big thank you to Sapa Industries and the fellows who assembled these tables that are lightweight for easy moving, never need painting and provide very nice seating for our visitors.



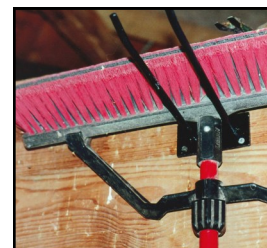
**Richard Stacer**, Ugly, Special Projects in the Barn Chairman, is putting the finishing touches on the granary in the southwest corner of the Octagon Barn. He and other volunteers have worked to clean up and rebuild the area. It is beautiful and it is amazing to see how that whole area has been cleaned up and organized.



**Gerald Booms**, Ugly is sweeping up all the stuff that has blown into the Barn during the winter months. He is grateful to have this big broom that covers more floor space to get the job done.



It wouldn't be clean up day without **Mary Ann Hirn**, Cass City, showing up to clean & shine up all thirty windows that encircle the lower level of the Barn. She comes prepared with a step stool, cleaning supplies and the determination to get the job done.



**Richard Stacer**, in an effort to get the supply room of cleaning supplies organized, shared his need for hangers with our resident Blacksmith, **Lew Martin**, Decker. Lew designed the hangers and using the tools in the Blacksmith shop he created the most wonderful hangers to hang the cleaning tools on. How lucky we are to have the talents of Lew and the equipment in our blacksmith shop to make these hangers.

## Souvenirs

Joan Koch, Chairperson

Thank you to all the little munchkins that cleared out our souvenir supplies during School Tours in May. This means that for Fall Family Days we will be all restocked with some new and different items to use as advertising tools. Most items that are for sale have the Barn logo on them and what a wonderful way to advertise the Thumb Octagon Barn. Please stop and visit us at the Souvenir Stand at the north end of the garage. During FFD we do take credit cards and you can also use your card to receive cash if needed. This service is only available during FFD.



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

**989-665-0081**

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

### We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>  
**Dave Eicher,**  
*Web Manager*

### 2017 Upcoming Events

September 8 Fish Fry 4 p.m.-7 p.m.  
September 9 & 10 Fall Family Days 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

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

### 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

Eric Vandelooven, Sebewaing, MI donated two framed old pictures of farming and schools.

Sandra Finkbeiner, Caro, MI donated Gray Marine engine, a John Deere engine, a two cylinder engine, a Hollingsworth generator with a Crosley engine and a generator with a Wisconsin engine.

Family of Mildred Spiekerman, Reese donated a 20 ft. grain auger, 2 assembled 16' wood, grain elevator models, a Gilford Elevator Co. thermometer and a "Reese Farmers Elevator" yardstick in excellent condition with all items to be displayed in the grain elevator.

Greg Ackerman, Vassar donated a grain scythe for the grain elevator.

Greg & Sue Morris, Caro, MI donated in memory of Mildred Spiekerman an 8 inch drive belt and an 8 inch wide pulley for the Sawmill Building

Dale & Judy Janson, Reese, MI donated a hand corn planter, a grub hoe and a one man cross cut saw.

Duane Hartman, Frankenmuth, MI donated a Howe Scale Co. Bag scales, an A. T. Ferrell Co. #1 clipper fanning mill and a screw type post hole digger.

Shelly Corsini, Bad Axe, MI donated a grain sack with property of Bad Axe printed on it.

Alex Zawacki, Bentley, MI donated a Stuhr Bean and Grain Cleaner.

### Annual Raffle

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

The Raffle Committee members have been busy gathering prizes for our Annual Raffle held during Fall Family Days. A wonderful donation from **Pat Gibbard** and **Green Acres Farms** will start out the Raffle with a cash prize of **\$750.00** along with their annual donation of a **Menard's \$100.00 Gift Certificate**. We are happy to report that we once again will have a beautiful quilt made by **Ruth Ann Brown** and the **Thumb Thimble Quilt Guild**. Something new this year is a **Case IH Red Stake Wagon** donated by **Osentoski Farm Equipment** of Bad Axe. Of course, one of the favorites is a **John Deere Pedal Tractor** donated by **Tri-County Equipment**. Following is a list of all 12 prizes and MEMBERS ONLY will once again receive two packets of tickets by mail to buy or sell. We thank you for participating but please remember that you always have the option of returning the tickets should you be unable to participate. Once you make that request it is honored each year. If you would like additional tickets or didn't receive any, please contact **Joan Koch** at **989-665-0081** and she will get back with you. Tickets will also be sold during FFD.

### 2017 Raffle Prizes

\$750.00 – Donated by Pat Gibbard and Green Acres Farms, Akron  
Queen Size Quilt – Donated by Ruth Ann Brown and the Thumb Thimble Quilt Guild.  
40" Samsung Smart TV - Donated by \*FOTOB  
\$300.00 – Donated by \*FOTOB  
John Deere Pedal Tractor – Donated by Tri-County Equipment  
Samsung Tablet – Donated by \*FOTOB  
Case IH Red Stake Wagon- Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment-Bad Axe  
Craftsman Mechanics Tool Set – Donated by \*FOTOB  
\$100.00 Menard's Gift Certificate – Donated by Green Acres Farm, Akron  
Handmade Afghan – Donated by Ida Nixon  
\$100.00 – Donated by \*FOTOB  
Handmade Afghan – Donated by Gwen Poole

\*FOTOB - Friends  
of the Thumb  
Octagon Barn

### Benefactors

*The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through July 10, 2017.*

Anonymous Donor  
Paul Begick, Bay City, MI  
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI  
Helen Dombruski, Clinton Twp., MI  
Anthony & Diane Eisele, Vassar, MI  
Foster & Pam Findlay, Freeland, MI  
Dorothea Hass, Brookline, MA  
Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI  
Drs. Susan Hoppe & Charles Reed, Cass City, MI  
David & Marie Jaroch, Ubly, MI  
Tom M. & Jane S. Johnson, Williamston, MI  
Mrs. Connie Latuszek, Midland, MI  
Fran Lovejoy, Cass City, MI  
Paul MacCallum, Owendale, MI  
Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI  
Dolores Merchant, Oqueoc, MI  
Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI  
Jill Ogryski, Ubly, MI  
Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI  
Chuck & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI  
Donald & Marion Rushlo, Tavares, FL  
Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI  
Will & Linda Staggs, Brown City, MI  
Susan Walker, Caro, MI  
Jerry & Barb Weber, Winter Park, FL  
Susanna Weber, Ubly, MI  
Marvin & Mary Wilcox, Clifford, MI  
Charlie & Patty Witkovsky, Caro, MI  
Evelyn Ziehm, Gagetown, MI