

# 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 2017

### Executive Committee

*President*  
**Rose Putnam**

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

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

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

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

**Grounds Chairman** **Lou-  
is Wehrman**

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

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

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)

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Family Days

*Martin Kubacki & Lisa Geiger, Co-chairs*

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Family Days will begin on Friday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. with an all you can eat Fish Dinner served until 7 p.m. The fish will be fried once again by Greg Talaski of Kinde. Prices will stay the same: Adults \$10.00, children 6-12 \$5.00 and children under 5 are free. All buildings will be closed Friday evening. Beginning on Saturday and Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m., everything will be available from our tasty foods to demonstrations in the fields, tours of the Purdy Home and Barn and crafters and flea market vendors will all be open for business until 5 p.m. each day.

The Knights of Columbus from Caro will be serving up a Country Style Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. each day. Adults \$8.00, children under 12 \$5.00 and children under 5 are free.

The Theme this year is Grain Elevators. Make sure you stop and look at our grain elevator and theme tent. Linda & Louis Wehrman, Greg Alexander & Tammy Grifka are promising an interesting & educational day.

All the old fashion treats, homemade ice cream, hog kettle pop corn, delicious homemade donuts, fresh squeezed apple cider & homemade pies will all be here to enjoy. We are trying something new this year, **HOT PRETZELS**, easy to munch on as you walk around.

The Munro Building Food Concession will have chicken strips and fries, hamburgers, hot dogs, brats and more will be served by McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe.

Our site will be humming with demonstrations in the saw mill, apple cider pressing, corn binding, veneer mill, Bay City Shovel operating, water well drilling, working sugar shack, blacksmith demonstrations, gristmill, threshing and more.

**The Barn will come alive with farm animals from Maplewood Petting Zoo of Kinde and live music on Saturday evening.**

This year is promising to be another great event. If you would like to help in some way as a volunteer during the week-end, call **Luci Kubacki** at **989-658-8450** or **Tori Pine** at **989-665-2254**. It is helpful if you call ahead so we can assign a job and time slot for you.

Hope to see you and your family at our 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Family Days.

*(More information and schedules can be found on page 2.)*



Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Fall Family Days commemorative button features our Grain Elevator Building. For those who collect our buttons each year, they will be available for sale at the Souvenir Shop located on the North side of the garage.



**Louie Wehrman** is surrounded by antique equipment from the early days of farming. Part of a wagon rack lifter has been installed and the very large wheel looks like new as it has been, of course, inside away from the elements all these years. The lifter was used during harvest time to lift the loaded rack off the wagon running gear up above the loft of the barn, so it could be unloaded. This lifter was fastened to the framing in the top third of the barn. Stop by the grain elevator building and see this impressive equipment.

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



Dear Friends,

Wow, what a busy summer this has been for us at the Thumb Octagon Barn. As I've read the previous newsletter and reviewed articles for this newsletter, it reminds me of how many activities have gone by and how fast the summer has gone with Fall Family Days already upon us. We have also returned to offering Wedding ceremonies on site with one coming up in September. These will also keep us busy.

But the most important event at the Barn has been watching the remarkable changes happening in the Barn. We have new windows and paint on the Barn. Doesn't it look great? The cupola really glistens in the sun. We've learned a lot of lessons with this repair project and are so glad that we did not schedule the new roof this year. As most of you homeowner's know what can happen during a remodeling project. It always takes more time and money than originally planned. However, this did not daunt the spirit of those volunteers who came forward to get the job done. I know there are many out there who have helped in many ways, but Dennis Anderson and Richard Stacer need to be thanked for the many hours of effort and planning on this project.

I look forward to seeing many of our "Friends" during Fall Family Days. If you have an hour or two to spare, we can always use your help. Please call Martin Kubacki or Tori Pine to volunteer.

See you soon,  
Rose

## Open House Weekend

The Thumb Octagon Barn hosted its annual open house weekend on July 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The site looked beautiful and the weather was perfect. Our feature this year is Grain Elevators, and **Linda and Louie Wehrman** were busy all weekend sharing their stories. Our visitors were also treated to tours of the Barn, house, sawmill, school house and one room school museum. We had many new visitors from all over the state: Metamora, Ann Arbor, Coleman, Owosso, Grand Blanc, Gowen, Bentley, Sterling Heights, Lyons, Flushing, Ferndale, Richmond, and Southfield to name just a few. **Norm Parker** was busy transporting those that chose to ride on the wagon. Many of these folks had never been here before and plan on coming back for Fall Family Days. This was our largest turnout for the open house weekend. All volunteers had a great time visiting and sharing the history of the Thumb Octagon Barn and we could not have had such a success without them. Thank you one and all.

### Adult Craft Workshops taught by Linda Bailey 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. The workshops are conducted on Saturday & Sunday as follows:

**10:00 a.m. Corn Husk Dolls** – Using husks from corn learn how to fashion "Dolls" in multiple steps. Some history of craft explained.

**11:00 a.m. Painting with flowers** – Create a pressed floral decoration ready for framing.

**1 p.m. Wooden Worry Doll** – Using wood, fabric and floss create decorative representation of people. History and background shared.

**2 p.m. Painting with Sand** - Landscapes of the earth by the earth. Using sand of various colors to create a landscape.

#### Programs in the One Room School

##### 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**

**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 Theater Players**

**Thumb Area Community Theater Players**



**Tim & Cathy Veres**, from Richmond were coming home from Caseville and saw the signs for the Octagon Barn. They have always wanted to visit but this time they decided to stop. They felt that the Barn was awesome and were impressed with "the degree of workmanship and that there is a lot of history here."

#### 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Days 2017

##### Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum

❖ **Fish Fry in Munro Building**  
**Friday, September 8 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 9 and**  
**Sunday, September 10 from**  
**8 a.m. until 5 p.m.**

**Daily gate admission**

**\$5.00 per person 6 and older**

❖ **Country Style Breakfast**  
**Munro Building**  
**Saturday & Sunday**  
**8 a.m. to 11 a.m.**

**Adults \$8.00**

**Children under 12 \$5.00**

**Children under 5 Free**

**NO PETS ALLOWED**

You will receive a site map showing the location for all the activities and demonstrations that are taking place when you park. We have built more people movers to handle getting folks to the grounds from the parking area. **REMEMBER – EVERYONE MUST ENTER FROM BAY-CITY FORESTVILLE ROAD. YOU CANNOT ENTER FROM THE NORTH.**

# Barn Restoration

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

Dennis and Richard are very pleased that the 62 windows in the Barn have been removed, repaired, glazed, painted and re-installed. It was a lengthy process but all went so smoothly that they are ahead of schedule. The Amish crew are very hard workers and have a special way of working at the height and pitch of the roof. Also, their work ethic is to be admired and heights don't seem to bother them. The cupola has been primed and painted and the newly installed windows look fantastic. The next step in the process is to get the dormers primed and painted and that needs to be done before the new shingles are installed. So the restoration process is progressing very nicely.

Since the window project was one of the beginning steps in restoring and preserving Mr. Purdy's "air castle" (the Octagon Barn) I turned to Bob Hirn's words from our history book **The Thumb Octagon Barn** to explain why the roof of the Barn was designed as it was. *"The three-stage roof with dormers really adds to the beauty of this landmark. We can only imagine why it was originally designed this way. One obvious answer is that it added a lot to the overall appearance of the Barn, making it stand out as a building of beauty, not just a building of function. The other thought that comes to mind is that this roof design allowed for windows to light the interior of the Barn. The Barn would be so much darker with a conventional pitched roof, if it weren't for the thirty-two window openings that encircle the roof area. The old statement that "form follows function" may very well be the answer to the unique roof design."*

Recently, an amazing



Dennis Anderson is putting the finishing touches on one of the cupola windows. He wants it to be perfect even though it will be 70 feet up in the air.



The crew are putting their heads together to come up with a solution to a problem that they have just now discovered. It always seems that unexpected problems frequently occur when working on this Barn. The problem is, a close look at the vertical shiplap siding indicates deterioration at the base of the siding just above the horizontal 6 inch cedar beveled siding that is above the concrete wall. In an effort to solve this problem now and in the future, the Barn Restoration Committee are exploring all possibilities.

thing happened while working on this project. As is the custom the builders etch their names on the structure and only they know where that is. While removing the windows, there, for the crew to see were the names of **Uria Bender and Bob Hirn** the team that worked together to restore the Octagon Barn starting in 1996. No one revealed where they found the board or window frame with the signatures nor do they know where it is forever preserved within the structure of the Octagon Barn. What a find.



A crew of Amishmen are up on the cupola waiting for a fellow worker who is in the arena of the Barn to secure the frames first and then the nine light windows will carefully be raised up to the waiting workers. The

windows have been marked as to their location as no two windows are exactly the same.



**Richard Stacer & Dennis Anderson** are getting ready to work on one of the cupola windows that needs to be repaired and treated before installing. Richard does all the wood working, repairing and replacing boards as needed and Dennis does the finished treatment of each window. Helping with the Barn window project were: **Terry Keinath, Ron Hoffman & Duaine Phillips.**

## Benefactors

The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 26, 2017.

Jack & Terri (Carol) Beith, Linden, MI  
Curtis & Mary Bell, Carthage, MO  
Mary Brauer, Clawson, MI  
Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI  
Russell & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI  
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Helen Dombroski, Clinton Twp, MI  
Sandra Finkbeiner, Caro, MI  
Sherrill French, Reese, MI  
Tom Fritz, Gagetown, MI  
Donna Gehrls, Reese, MI  
Stephen & Karen Hamlin, South Haven, MI  
Ronald Hutchins, Plymouth, MI  
Susan Ignasiak, Grosse Pointe, MI  
Joe & Debra Jenness, Cass City, MI

Connie Latuszek, Midland, MI  
Mr. & Mrs. Conrad Latuszek, Midland, MI  
Peter & Marilyn Leiterman, Gagetown, MI  
Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI  
Mary Lou MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI  
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI  
Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI  
Lynne O'Rourke, Lincoln, NE  
Richard Smith, Alpaca Acres, Gagetown, MI  
Will & Linda Staggs, Brown City, MI  
Kim Strunz, Caro, MI  
Mike & Toby Weaver, Sand Pointe, MI  
Marvin & Mary Wilcox, Clifford, MI  
Ronald Yageman, Rogersville, TN

## Monday Work Crew

What a sight to visit the Barn on a Monday. There are folks working here and there doing a wide variety of tasks that need doing.



**Lee Sowden** is cutting the grass in the north field using our very special mower a Ventrac 4226 Diesel engine that cuts a 7' swath and articulates in the middle. The purchase of this mower was made possible with a generous donation from an anonymous donor.



For the past few years, during Chemical BankCares Day, Bob Wolak, Community President at Chemical Bank in Caro, has been working with Richard Stacer to cut plaques from the original siding of the barn.



**Louie Wehrman & Wayne Lenton** are working to tighten a bolt on the mower that Norm Parker usually operates. Aren't we lucky to have people who can repair all the equipment that is necessary to keep the site looking neat and trim.



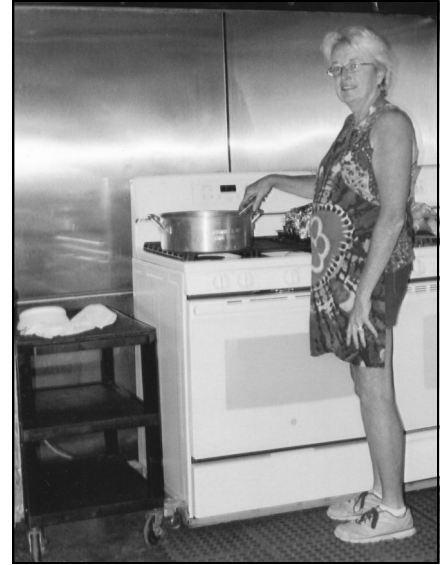
**Jim Osantoski** donated road grade gravel to be used to improve the quality of the roads on site. **Wayne Lenton** is using a tractor with bucket to move the gravel and **Jack Hill** is pulling a 1914 road grader operated by **Louie Wehrman**. The grader was originally owned by the Huron County Road Commission and then three neighbors purchased it so that they could clear their own roads when needed. **Louie Wehrman** was excellent at operating the grader and he said it does a wonderful job of smoothing out the material on the road. This piece of antique equipment was donated to the Friends in 1999.



**Duaine Phillips** is waiting for one of the windows he has painted to be raised up and put back in place in the cupola.



**Jim Osantoski** donated this miniature cutter that had a wooden box attached to it. **Wayne Lenton and Ron Coltson** are removing that added box so that the sleigh will be visible.



**Tammi Hensley** spoils the Monday work crew by preparing a tasty lunch for all to enjoy. She often has help from "**Too Tall**" her husband, **Curtis & Mary Bell** and our new host couple **Tena & Randy Wisner**. Tammi will continue to prepare lunch for the Monday Crew until the Hensleys departure the end of September. An anonymous donor recently made a sizeable donation to cover the expenses to prepare lunches on Monday for the workers.



**Jerry Auten** is collecting caps that will be on display in the grist mill building. Pictured is the beginning of that collection. His hope is to completely cover one whole wall with donated caps. He is especially looking for vintage caps.



**Jack Hill**, the tractor driver, is moving the new picnic tables that were out for several large groups that had a picnic at the Agricultural Museum. SAPA Extrusion, North Liberty, IN & Extrusion Aluminum Corporation, Belding, MI, provided the aluminum seats and table tops for 20 picnic tables.

## Music Weekend at the Barn

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

The Thumb Octagon Barn was alive with music and dancing on Friday night July 14<sup>th</sup>. **Ron Kuenzli was DJ** and a great selection of country music filled the arena. The dancers took to the floor and what a sight it was to watch. Those remaining in their seats could be seen tapping their toes. All were invited to learn some new steps by instructor **Mary Schulze**. She made it look so easy and it was. Barn volunteer, **Paul Deo and wife, Sandy**, missed very few chances to show off their skills. Who knew Paul had this additional talent?" Paul runs the steam engine that powers the sawmill and the veneer mill during our activities.

More fun followed on Saturday night. Jenni Lynn and the Ruckus put on quite a show. She told us she had taken off a few years to be with her younger children, but she sure didn't lose any talent along the way. Her voice rose to the rafters. The Ruckus were fun to watch and what great mu-

sic. We would love to have them back.

Sunday proved to be another great day. **The Skylight Quartet** was fabulous. These boys love to sing gospel and they didn't hold back. If you didn't believe before their music started, you had to following their performance. But not to be left out, was our own local star, **Michaela Sonnenberg** from Caro who took to the stage prior to the Skylight Quartet and warmed up the crowd with her sweet voice. **Jared Sorenson and Ron Kuenzli** also accompanied Michaela during a song or two.

Please thank the Concert Committee members, **Ron Kuenzli, Richard Wrobleski, Dave Jaroch and Rose Putnam** for all their efforts for a wonderful music filled Weekend in the Barn. We would also like to thank all those that made and served the homemade cookies and bars. This is always a highlight during the concert. A big thank you also goes out to **Thrivent**



The Skylight Quartet and others on stage are Mike Looney, Robert Vander Leest, Ron Kuenzli, Michaela Sonnenberg, Rob Schrock, Kurt Vander Loon & Jared Sorenson.

**Financial** for once again sponsoring the concert.

In 2018, please set aside **July 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** for another fun night of dancing and afternoon of gospel music at the Thumb Octagon Barn.

## AED Training

*Norm Parker, Coordinator & Alert Team Chair*

AED and CPR Training was held at the Munro Building on Monday, August 14, 2017, provided by **Gayle Barthel**, Program Coordinator, of the Pulse 3 Foundation. 21 Barn members attended the training that will provide backup to those trained, but unavailable if needed on site. It will be also helpful in the event of other emergencies. We all learned a lot of interesting facts. Please read the information provided during our training. We are very thankful to the **Pulse 3 Foundation** for providing an AED unit (**automated external defibrillator**) and training to the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn. We would also like to thank **Norm Parker**, Alert Team chair, for organizing this training.

Did you know the human heart beats a billion times in an average lifetime? That's a lot of work for one

little muscle. Although the heart is a strong and resilient muscle, it is also vulnerable - vulnerable to disease, genetics and lifestyle.

**Since 2007, Pulse3 has been making sure hearts keep the beat in mid-Michigan, to ensure each person has a chance to live a long and full life, free of heart disease. All of its work is centered in three core areas:**

Living: Promoting healthier ways of living

Learning: Improving care through better learning

Lifesaving: Providing technology and training to promote lifesaving

The Pulse 3 Foundation is located at 1015 S. Washington Avenue, Saginaw. For more information on the Foundation, visit their website at [www.pulse3.org](http://www.pulse3.org).



The Friends are receiving training in the operation of the equipment as well as learning more about the heart and the need for special care of this muscle.

### Paint Your Own Quilt Block Workshop

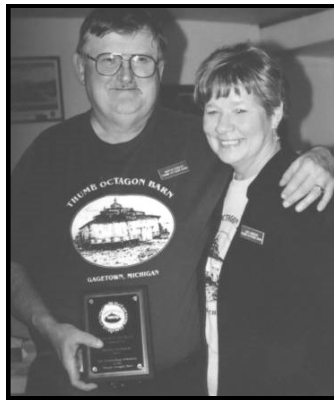
Would you like to paint your own quilt square for your shed or garage? The Thumb Quilt Trail Committee will be hosting a "Paint your Own Mini-Block" workshop on Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 9AM – 3PM at the Sanford-Bullard Memorial Library in Vassar. You will be able to take your block home with you that day. The cost is \$50.00 for the workshop and lunch. For more information contact Rose Putnam at 989-444-9574



**A little bit of history** - You might find it interesting to know how **Martin Kubacki**, Chairman of FFD, originally became involved with the Barn. In 1999 Martin, while attending the Old Engine & Tractor Show in Caro, heard about FFD at the Octagon Barn. As a member of the Thumb Two Cylinder Club he decided to bring a display to FFD when he became aware that the Chairman, Bob Hirn, certainly needed some help. Martin volunteered to help in whatever way he could. After some discussion he agreed to be the Co-Chair of the Event and the rest is history. Through the years Martin performed many tasks. He lined up sponsors, obtained items for our raffle, designed and ordered our FFD buttons and plaques, handled the parking of visitors and made sure that the tents were in good order and properly placed. Martin also plowed the plot used for our field demonstrations of our vintage farm machinery. He used a two-bottom plow and knew that his Dad would be proud and pleased with the job that he did. Because of his many connections he has worked behind the scenes on my projects that have helped to make the Thumb Agricultural Museum what it is today. It wasn't long before he had his wife, Luci, very involved in FFD preparing food for the Fish Supper and then handling the gate fees for admission to FFD. When Martin was recognized for Barn Friend of the Year in 2011 he wanted to recognize his number one volunteer, Luci, his wife. Martin has been the lone Chairman since Bob Hirn's illness and eventual passing. Now Martin is pleased to have **Lisa Geiger** Co-chairing FFD and handling many of the details as he knows all too well how important it is to have help. Special thanks to Martin for volunteering back in 1999 to help his dear Friend, Bob Hirn with Fall Family Days.

The Rest of the Story. Since 2007, **Louie & Linda Wehrman** from Reese have been handling the hundreds of vendors that fill the North field and large tent. This is a very involved process before, during and after FFD and they beautifully organized the entire vendor operation. The Wehrmans have also been instrumental in

developing the Purdy Elevator and want to spend more time there during FFD sharing the stories of the importance of the Grain Elevator to the community. Therefore, they are handing over the responsibility of registering, arranging and locating all the many vendors that have become a major attraction during FFD. The new chairs will be **Ronnie & Dara Irion** of Owendale. We welcome them and thank them for taking on this major responsibility. Now the rest of the story is how the Wehrmans became involved with the Barn some years ago. Believe it or not, **Martin Kubacki** contacted Louie regarding some parts for an Oliver tractor. Martin of course, told the Wehrmans about FFD and suggested that Louie display one of his many tractors during FFD and participate in our daily parade of antique tractors. Louie agreed to bring one of his "Red" tractors and that was the beginning of a wonderful friendship with the Friends and how lucky we are to have their dedication and commitment to the Thumb Agricultural Museum.



At left is a photo of Martin and Luci Kubacki, taken when Martin received the Barn Friend of the Year award in 2011.



A must see display in the Purdy Home is the showcase filled with Cora Purdy's diaries. Cora kept diaries from 1895, the year she was married, through 1954. We are so very fortunate that Cora's grandson, the late **James Purdy Wilson**, preserved his Grandmother's diaries and has now presented them to the Thumb Agricultural Museum. Not only is this an amazing accomplishment to have written a sentence or two for all those years but they have helped us document what life was like for the Purdy's during that period. Be sure to stop by and see her comments in January of 1919 when she writes "*Jim has great intentions of building a wonderful home on his Mud Lake Estate. One of his dreams or air-castles,*" (referring to the Octagon Barn).

## The Purdy Home

*Marilyn Phillips, Chairwoman*

What a beautifully restored home that is a wonderful place to visit and hear the stories from yesteryear. Many memories come back as you go from room to room. Like any home it takes and needs cleaning throughout the year. Marilyn is always looking for more help especially to become a member of Cora's Cleaning Crew. The Purdy Home will be available for tours all during FFD. It is a wonderful experience to step back in time and remember a time of quietness in a home without all the technology. What a peaceful life. The Purdy Home has been beautifully restored inside and out.



The House like any house needs to be maintained and Marilyn is so happy that she has found **Henry Gere** of Fourth Gere Carpentry, who is working on the exterior of the Purdy Home. He has repaired, replaced and is now painting the trim. He is also repairing the decorative corbels on the front, east and west sides of the Home. The results are super and Marilyn is so happy that she found Henry. Not only does he do great work but he appreciates the quality of the Home and what the Friends are doing creating the Thumb Agricultural Museum.

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



**Byron Arnold** is installing a new door knob on the exterior entrance door that is period appropriate.



**Betty & Victor Woehlert** from Decker are putting together a stovepipe that will be attached to the stove to simulate a cook stove as was used years ago.

### Newsletter

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

## 2017 Fall Family Days Sponsors

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 our one hundred seventy 2017 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.  
Agri-Valley Services, Pigeon, MI  
Atwater Farms, Ubly, MI  
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Ivornia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI  
in memory of Frank J. Schwartz  
Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI  
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Walther Potato Farm, Cass City, MI

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Weiss Equipment, Frankenmuth, MI

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Alpaca Heights, Mary Hagen & James Fligger, Ubly, MI  
Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt & Doran, P.C. Caro, MI  
Lila M. Arroyo, Cass City, MI  
Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI  
Gerald & Donna Auten, Cass City, MI  
Ralph & Theresa Bielawski, Fraser, MI  
Gerald L. Booms, Ubly, MI  
Braden Tire & Service, Bad Axe, MI  
Albert & Ruth Ann Brown, Kingston, MI  
Louise Buehrly, Palmetto, FL  
Charles Busch, Jr., Leesburg, FL  
Caro Moose Family Center, Caro, MI  
Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI  
Clemco Printing, Inc. Bad Axe, MI  
Larry Clerc, Bay City, MI  
Pat Colman, Blackfoot, ID  
In Memory of James Purdy Wilson  
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 Erla, Cass City, MI  
Jon & Charmaine Fahrner, Cass City, MI  
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI  
Bob & Beth Garner, Cadillac, MI  
Melvin & Beverly Hartz, Port Hope, MI  
Ken & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL  
Joanne Herban, Frankfort, MI  
Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI  
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  
Paul Keast & Timothy Bang, Reese, MI  
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI  
Kelly & Company Realty, Cass City, MI  
Pat & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI  
Kitten Little Smith, Cass City, MI  
Marvin & Carolyn Klein, Cass City, MI  
Tim & Debbie Kubacki, Sebawaing, MI  
Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebawaing, MI  
Ken Martin Electric, Inc., Cass City, MI  
McDonald's Food & Family Center, Bad Axe, MI  
Harvey McIntyre, Ubly, MI  
J. McLeod Realty, Inc. Caro, MI  
Marie Myszkier, Albuquerque, NM  
in memory of Arnold & Dorothy Myszkier  
Gail & Duane Osbourne, New Baltimore, MI  
Chuck & Sharron Patterson, Lapeer, MI  
Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI  
Jim & Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI  
Ena Reintjes, St Clair Shores, MI  
Gretchen Rodammer, Auburn, MI  
Gerald & Jane Schember, Goodells MI  
Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Hgts., MI  
Marjorie Schwartz, Gagetown, MI  
Ron & Margene Scott, Brown City, MI  
Sherman & Associates, Farmers Insurance, Caro, MI  
Barbara Stickle, Cass City, MI  
Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI  
Ken Sweeney, Ubly, MI  
Thompson Chevrolet Inc. Ubly, MI  
Tom & Lila Thompson, Caro, MI  
Thumb Electric Co-operative, Ubly, MI  
Thumb Hardware & Appliance, Inc., Elkton, MI  
Thumb Insurance Agency, Cass City, MI  
Thumb National Bank, Cass City, MI  
Thumb Two Cylinder Club, Ubly, MI  
Dave & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI  
Tuscola County Farm Bureau, Caro, MI  
Tuscola County Republican Party, Caro, MI  
Ubly Motor Service, Ubly, MI  
Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI  
Dr. Fred & Carol Walton, Deckerville, MI  
Ken & Margaret Watson, New Hudson, MI  
Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI  
Helen Weber & Frank O'Donnell, Ferndale, MI  
Jerry & Barb Weber, Winter Park, FL  
George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
Andrew & Ashleigh Witucki, Bay City, MI  
Richard & Vera Wroblewski, Sebawaing, MI  
Rose Wunderlich, Leesburg, FL

### Certificate Sponsors (\$10 - \$49)

Terri & Jack Beith, Linden, MI  
Karen Boomer, Lapeer, MI  
Melvin J. Gay, Saginaw, MI  
in memory of Bob Hirn.  
Bonnie Gaeth, Owendale, MI  
Susan Gremel, Sebawaing, MI  
Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI  
Alvin & Barb Hutchinson, Cass City, MI  
Ruth Leen, Carsonville, MI  
Tom & Denise Patrick, Fostoria, MI

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.**



Our 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Family Days sponsor plaque features **The Purdy Grain Elevator** located across the ditch on the Northeast corner of the Thumb Agricultural Museum. One can see the complete collection of all our plaques through the years and can be found in the Barn on the North side next to the Welcome Center.

**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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Gagetown, MI  
Permit No. 3

## We're on the Web!

<http://www.thumboctagonbarn.org>

**Dave Eicher  
Web Manager**

### 2017 Upcoming Events

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

## Special Donations

Bad Axe Pest Control, Alex Peyerik spent 2 and a half hours working on wasp nest removal and donated the labor and material in the amount of \$500.00.  
Cass City Oil & Gas donated 112 gallons of LP gas for FFD.  
Laurel Sytsma, White Cloud, MI donated a 32 x 48 inch quilt square of the Thumb Octagon Barn.  
Sapa Extrusion, N. Liberty, IN, Kevin Courtney donated aluminum seats for picnic tables & benches.  
Extrusion Aluminum Corp. Jeremy Baylis donated aluminum for benches.  
Donation in memory of Todd G. Toner given by Daniel Toner, Cass City, MI  
Donation of a set of desks from St. Agatha Catholic School donated by Donna Lieterman Burke & Clyde Lieterman,  
Donation honoring Edith Purdy Fritz, sister of James Purdy given by W. Stephen (Steve) & Karen Hamlin, South Haven, MI  
Correspondence – On behalf of the Striffler, Benkelman Family Reunion, I'd like to thank you all so much for your hospitality and the use of your lovely facility. We felt completely welcomed and cared for. Fran Burdsall, Gloucester, MA  
Karen Collier Currell, Mayville, MI donated two one room country school history books that are entitled, "The Country School Houses of the Mayville School District" and "Country Schools of North Branch."  
DJ's Portable Toilets & Septic Services donated their services for the cleaning of the portable toilets during our Concert Weekend in July.  
Donation in memory of Shirley Wagg given by Dan & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI  
Donations in memory of Leota Anthes given by Ed & Patricia Martin, St. John's, MI & Janet & Darrell Schultz, Charlotte, MI  
Donation in memory of Kay Marie Goebel, 58, Richard Stacer's sister given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown

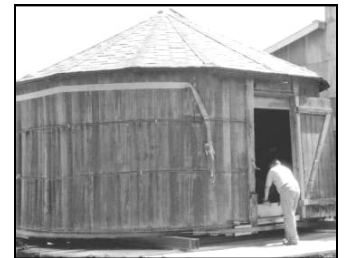
## MUSEUM DONATIONS

*PLEASE NOTE: When donating items for our museum, please be sure to fill out a Museum Donation Form so that we will have the items in our records and can acknowledge your gift in our newsletter.*  
Curtis Cleland, Ubly, MI has loaned a 1928 50hp Baker tractor to our Museum.  
Harold & Catherine (Weeder), Karl Evans & Arlene Thomas Marlette, MI donated a horse harness, drive belt, foot warmer, plow point, hay pulley, steel tractor lugs and hand drill & bits.  
Stan Rokita donated in memory of Rick Rokita, Monroe, MI a Merchants Size #2 bail press.  
Shelley Corsini, Bad Axe, MI donated a grain scoop.  
Janet Gill Alma, MI donated a tool box of old tools.  
Ray Spaulding, Cass City, MI donated an early 1900's baseball uniform.  
Patricia Allen, Deford, MI donated a meat grinder and a waffle iron.  
Fred Kapa, Caro, MI donated a drill press, 1900's pipe threader, a dent puller, a bench vice and files.

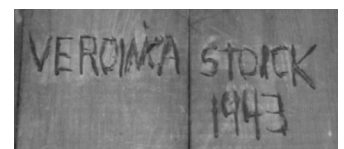
## Grain Elevator Building

Linda & Louie Wehrman, Co-chairs

Last year the Wehrmans were excited about the redwood, tongue and groove granary that was donated by **James & Veronica (Stoick) Haines** of Vassar. Much work has been done and displays have been arranged so that it too is part of the entire Grain Elevator experience. The new floor and ramp make it possible for easy access. Stop by and take a look during FFD.



The granary (circa 1920) has just arrived at the barn site and has been placed on the platform by Anthes Brothers movers. It is quite an amazing structure as you look at its size and condition. Be sure to look up as that is quite a view.



Veronica Stoick left her mark in the granary. Be sure to look for it when you visit during Fall Family Days.