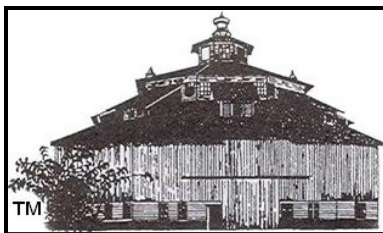


# Thumb Octagon Barn News



## 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.*

Fall 2018

### Executive Committee

#### President

**Martin Kubacki**

#### 1st Vice President

**Dennis Anderson**

#### 2nd Vice President

**Gerald Auten**

#### Treasurer

**Joan Koch**

#### Recording Secretary

**Michelle VanHorn**

#### Corresponding

#### Secretary

**Patti Parker**

#### Purdy Home Chair

**Marilyn Phillips**

#### Museum Chair

**Connie Osentoski**

#### Grounds &

#### Grain Elevator Chair

**Louis Wehrman**

#### Barn/Float Chair

**Paul Deo**

#### Alert Team Chair

**Norm Parker**

#### Past President

**Rose M. Putnam**

#### Visit our website

**[thumboctagonbarn.org](http://thumboctagonbarn.org)**

#### Facebook

**[thumboctagonbarn](https://www.facebook.com/thumboctagonbarn)**

## Fall Family Days 2018

Congratulations on another successful Fall Family Days Event to add to the long list of accomplishments for the "Friends". Everything came together to spell SUCCESS. The weather could not have been any better if we had controlled it ourselves. We had another record breaking year in practically all areas with 17,000 plus visitors on site over a 3 day period. We had help from more than 400 volunteers including 80 high school students from various area high schools.

The efforts of our new advertising chairperson, **Annie Simon**, certainly paid off with extensive coverage on Facebook and our website. The billboard on M-53 and the barn picture advertisement trailer donated by **Jerry Bartnik** and **Marty and Connie Osentoski Realty and Auctioneering** directed folks to us in a Big Way.

Each year Fall Family Days grows in every way and this year was no exception. We

would like to extend a sincere "Thank You" to all those who helped in anyway to make this event possible. Hats off to our Committee Chairs-They sure did another "Great Job." I wish we could name them all but it would take a lot of space to do so.

Special "Thanks" to **Linda Bailey** for organizing the Ladies' Activities. She is stepping down and we will miss her. If anyone would be interested in taking over this activity, please contact Lisa or Martin.

The number of Flea Market Vendors and Crafters was the largest ever. Our new chair persons, **Dana, Ron and Devin Irion** did a first class job. Many of the Vendors have signed up already for next year to secure their place.

The Friday Night Fish Fry, chaired by **Luci Kubacki**, saw a record number of people served-1250! We appreciate the support of the community in both help and attendance. On Saturday and Sunday, the tasty

homemade treats of bean soup, hog kettle popcorn, hot homemade donuts, fresh pressed apple cider, hot pretzels, apple pie, French fries and ice cream were again very popular. Visitors commented as they waited in long donut lines that they were "Donuts to die for." The Farmer's Breakfast cooked and served by the **Caro Knights of Columbus** was enjoyed by 1778 visitors.

Please see the story below about the Tractor Games, our newest event.

Once again, it was a pleasure in co-chairing this event with Lisa and yes, the planning has started for 2019. "Thank you" again to all our good "Friends." Hope you enjoyed the holidays with your families and said a little prayer of thanksgiving for our many blessings over this past year.

Martin Kubacki & Lisa Geiger, Co-Chairs FFD

## Tractor Games

**Tractor Games** were added as a new event this year. There were 12 participants. Trophies were awarded to the winner of each event. Various



games were played such as the slow tractor race and an



obstacle race. Plans are to continue this activity next year and beyond. For more information, please contact **David Geiger** at **989-553-6062**.

## President's Message

Dear Friends,

Another Fall Family Days has come and gone and what a great year. On behalf of the Officer and Executive Committee Members, I would like to thank all those volunteers who helped make this year's event a great success.

As most of you know, the roof on the Barn, Powerhouse, Garage and Visitor Center are finished. The house is getting a fresh coat of paint and some needed repairs. We just finished filling in and leveling the ditch in front of the Barn and House. **Ron Hoffman**, the inmates from Tuscola County Jail and I put in the culverts, which took a whole day. Then **Bill Shagene** helped to cover them with his equipment. The dirt, 120 yards, was donated by **Atwater Farms**,

Ubly and **Jim & Rita Osentoski Trucking**, Ubly, did the hauling. The project looks great and the grass will be planted in the Spring. All involved in this project deserve a big thanks. It greatly enhances the look of the site and will make grass cutting much easier.

The boys on Monday, once again, did a beautiful job with our summer grounds and maintenance. They are all very loyal and thanks for another year well done. We have many more projects on our list for 2019. I will keep you informed as the winter goes on. As we plan for the future, we will continue to need your support and enthusiasm.

***Have a Healthy and Happy New Year.***

Martin Kubacki, President

## Save the Dates

### 2019 Events

May 4-Spring Clean Up

May 8, 9 & 10-School Tours(More details on back page)

June 9-Volunteer Picnic/Auction

Quilt Show-date to be announced

July 13 & 14-Music Weekend in the Barn

July 24-Tea Party

July 27 & 28-Open House Weekend

August 24-Teamwork & Timbers

September 6-Fish Fry

September 7 & 8-Fall Family Days

## More Fall Family Days

A crowd favorite is the annual Tractor Parade held both Saturday and Sunday afternoons at 3:00 PM. **Martin Kubacki** congratulates all tractor drivers coming through the parade.

There were between 75 and 80 entries each day.



**Frank Franzel** was back once again demonstrating an older type water well, which was typically used on the farm. He is proudly standing next to his retired 1936 IH well servicing truck.



Every year, **Jerry Bartnik** hauls from Leonard, MI, the steam engine used in the sawmill demonstrations.

## Field Demonstrations

One of the reasons the Thumb of Michigan is "Naturally Sweet" is because of the area's sugar beet industry. Shown to the right is **Louie Wehrman** using his 1957 one-row beet harvester, which is mounted on a 1953 Super M Farmall diesel tractor to harvest the sugar beet plot during FFDs. The harvester was designed to harvest beets all in one operation—removing the tops, lifting the beets out of the ground and into a cart, which then can be unloaded into a truck or wagon for delivery to the factory.



**Terry Keinath** is overseeing the harvester cart elevator unloading the sugar beets into a wagon. **Terry** and his wife, **Sandy**, also managed the theme tent for the sugar beet and potato harvesting.

## Veneer Mill

Prior to the 20th Century, there weren't any such things as cardboard or plastic used in packaging. If you went to your town's general store for supplies, most things were packaged much differently than now. If you needed nails, they were in a wooden keg. Molasses, vinegar, cider, sugar and salted meat, fish and crackers were most likely packed in a barrel.



The photo above was taken during FFD in 2017. **Paul Deo**, Snover, on the left and **Andy Witucki**, Bay City, on the right are trimming the bark off a log.



**Andy Witucki** on the left and **Paul Deo** on the right on the veneer mill are demonstrating the Veneer Mill. **William O'Dell** and **Alex Henninger** are piling the veneer.

Produce was most often shipped in wooden crates and wooden baskets. Many fruits, vegetables, and grains were in fact sold not by weight but by volume. The unit of measure would have been the bushel or a peck. That is where the **Veneer Mill** comes in.

Our **Veneer Mill's** first job was to make the veneer that went into bushel and peck baskets. It could have also made strawberry baskets and their crates.

Our mill, at one time, was installed in a factory and powered by an overhead line shaft. It had a long table attached.

As the veneer was cut from the wet log, it was also slit in various widths, typically 1 1/2".

As it progressed down the table, it would have been formed around a mold and stapled into a basket.

The patent on our veneer mill is dated 1888. ***That's 130 years ago!***

We are truly fortunate that it has survived two World War's scrap drives.

We will continue to be it's caretaker to preserve and demonstrate.

**Paul Deo**, Veneer Mill Chair

## All About the Food and More FFD Fun



It takes a lot of electric roasters to cook the scalloped potatoes for the Fish Fry under the watchful eyes of **Luci Kubacki**, Fish Fry Chair.

Kettle Popcorn is a crowd favorite served up by **Ray Caverly**, Gagetown and **Mark Lynn**, Kingston.



The long donut lines do not deter visitors from getting one of their favorite treats.

Pretzels are a new addition to visitor favorites. Our super volunteers from left to right are **Jacilyn Geiger**, **Wendy Schulte**, **Jodi Geiger**, and **Randy Schulte**.



The Lemonade Stand near the One Room School is a great spot for visitors to get a fresh, cold drink. Our special crew of volunteers are **Jenna & Joslyn Bartnik**, **Candy Horne** and **Lisa Britt**.



**Dean Hutchinson** is demonstrating the extraction of honey from a bee hive.



Announcing activities is **Dave Jaroch**, (left) who was joined by **George Wilson**, (right) grandson of the original

owners, James and Cora Purdy, who is sharing personal memories of life on the Purdy Farm in his younger days.



On the left, Thumb Area Students are performing a one room school house rendition of "As Flags Go By" under the direction of **Beth Brown**.

Music filled the air all weekend under the leadership of **Ron Kuenzli**. On the right are The Tom and Jerry Show from Cass City.





## Community Outreach

There is nothing like a parade and on Saturday, July 14th fun was to be had at the Uby Homecoming Parade. The day was sunny and bright for the many visitors to town. Below is **Martin Kubacki** having a lot of fun greeting parade goers and handing out refrigerator magnets promoting FFD.



The float then made it's way to Elkton's Autumnfest on September 1st.

Labor Day, September 3rd at 11:00 AM found our float at the 72nd Michigan Bean Festival Parade in Fairgrove. This event has been a local favorite. Is free bean soup a draw? You bet it is.

When cold weather hits the area, the parades still go on. To the right is our float turned into a light show by the hands of **Wayne and Karen Lenton, Rebecca Allen and Louis and Linda Wehrman**. The light rain falling as the parade started in Bad Axe did not deter Wayne, Karen, Rebecca and her son, Will, from enjoying the parade.



On Saturday, December 1st, the float arrived at the Cass City Christmas in the Village event. Once again, there was rain, but it stopped for the parade and then started up again following the parade.

Thank you to the volunteers for all of your time and efforts.

We look forward to more events in 2019.

## October Wedding

October 20, 2018 started out as a beautiful, sunny day with lots of white clouds in a bright blue sky for the wedding of **Robin Wildman** of Gagetown and **Dennis Van Poole** of Bay Port. Then dark clouds rolled in to bring rain, then sleet. The wind picked up and by 4:00 that afternoon came pouring rain. The wedding was just starting when the rain turned to snow. This was a record setting day at the Thumb Octagon Barn. The whole wedding party were real troopers



and all went well for the happy couple.

Robin shared that she always wanted to have her wedding in her hometown in a location that was special to her and her family. Even though the weather was so inclement, the guests kept coming. **Gene Bucholtz** who was handling security for the event was so kind and helpful to all the wedding guests. Umbrellas were shared by many who were unprepared. The inside of the barn was a beautiful setting with a lot of warm wishes for the newlyweds.

## Chemical Bank Cares Day

On Monday, October 8, 2018, Chemical Bank closed their doors statewide for employees to volunteer throughout their local communities. A team of seven chose the Thumb Octagon Barn as their project. We were fortunate to have: (Photo starting from the left). **Bob Wolak, Jen Wymore, Michelle Wright, Jen Eyer, Danielle Wise, Carolyn Westerby & Nicole Sweeney**. Several ladies



helped **Marilyn Phillips** prepare the Purdy Home for the winter months while other volunteers raked leaves, pine cones, and black walnuts on site and were assisted by **Jack Hill** driving the mower with the trailer. A pizza lunch was provided by Chemical Bank for all volunteers on site that day.

We would like to thank **ALL VOLUNTEERS** that helped prepare the grounds for winter.

# Rug Loom Update

On October 19, 2010, the Loom was donated to the Barn by **Bob Good** and **Bob McKay**. Bob Good had purchased the loom about 20 to 25 years ago. The Loom has been sitting idle for 8 years and some wanted to scrap it. The Loom goes back to the 1860 's and **Gerald Auten** felt he could take on the restoration. So in May of 2018 restoration work began. Jerry felt he needed help and reached out through our newsletter. **Dorothy Warner** from Sandusky called and Jerry went to see her loom to see what was missing from ours. Dorothy saw our need and donated 248 heddles, the wires that run the strings. Some steel was needed to adjust some warping. **Minute Man Metalworks** in Bad Axe donated the steel. Jerry took lumber to **Ray Caverly** to saw the sizes needed to assemble the racks. **Car-**



Gerald Auten demonstrating the operation of the loom.

**rie McDougle** from Marlette, donated 20 spools of warp, which are the strings to make the rug. Reed, which is the wood bar that packs the rug together was needed. **Twisted Warp and Skeins** in Merrill, Michigan ordered the reed from Canada along with 10 spools of warp. **Dale Blunt**, co-owner, also donated 6 spools of warp.

By mid-August, Jerry had 30 rows on the first rug with a few bad spots. His goal was to present the first rug to **Louis and Linda Wehrman** during FFD. It took over a two week period of time to complete it. Jerry took the rug to his sister, **Kathy Warner**, Vassar, to embroider on their names and date. On 9/7/2018, the rug was accepted by Louie & Linda with the very

special IH logo. (Photo below.)

**Ron Hoffman** also donated his time to help with the restoration.

Since that time, Jerry has made 3 more rugs. This is quite amazing. With his ingenuity and donations the cost has only been just over

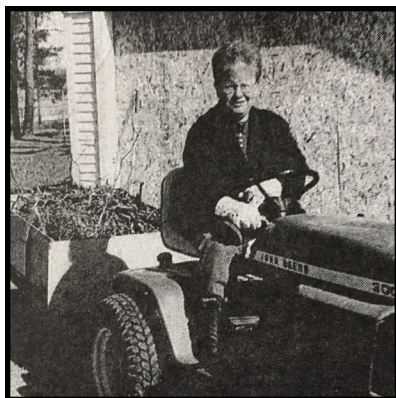
\$200. During FFD, many families came by to take their turn at the Loom. This was a challenge for those youngsters whose legs were too short to push the pedal to run the heddles. Plans are to have Jerry demonstrate during our 2019 Quilt Show. Come and watch Jerry or take your turn at the Loom.



## In Memoriam

On September 25, 2018, the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn lost a very good friend, Donna Auten. Many of you may know her as the wife of Gerald. They were married for over 63 years. Donna was more than Jerry's wife. She was the mother of four wonderful daughters and grandmother to seven beautiful granddaughters and great-grandmother to five, too. She loved her family most. Graced with all these girls in her life she loved to collect dolls.

Donna was a homemaker, worked at Walbro, volunteered at church and



brought fun to their annual camping trips. Donna even took time to help at the Barn. This photo of Donna appeared in the Spring 2001 edition of the Thumb Octagon Barn Newsletter. Donna was helping during Spring Clean-up.

The Auten's love of square dancing was showcased during their 50th Anniversary at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Much fun was had by all.

Later in life as Donna's health declined, her family still brought her to Fall Family Days and she so enjoyed being there.

Donna will be missed.

Donations in memory of Donna Auten. It should be noted that the family requested donations be given in Donna's memory to the Cass City United Methodist Church, Heartland Hospice and the Thumb Octagon Barn. Following is a listing of donations given to the Thumb Octagon Barn.

Dennis Anderson, Cass City, MI  
Lester & Beverly Auten & Family, Cass City, MI  
Mark & Diane Battel, Cass City, MI  
Robert & RuthAnn Bostick & Family, North Branch, MI  
Annie Breckenridge, Deford, MI  
Duane & Janet Caister, Elkton, MI  
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI  
GST Administrative Staff, Marlette, MI  
Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI  
Bruce & Paula Gardner & Pauline Hulbert, Cass City, MI  
George & Lorna Gray, Vassar, MI  
Peggy Helwig, Owendale, MI  
Dorothy Hill, Snover, MI  
MaryAnn Hirn, Cass City, MI  
Ron & Mae Hoffman, Bad Axe, MI

Bill Hollingsworth, Merrill, MI  
Orrin Inbody, Snover, MI  
Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI  
Joan Koch, Gagetown, MI  
Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI  
Mike & Diane Lowe, Deford, MI  
Jerry & Carol Mathewson, Caro, MI  
Beth & Lowell McDonald, Bad Axe, MI  
Carl & Shirley McIntosh, Williamston, MI  
Bob & Edna McLachlan, Cass City, MI  
Joan Merchant, Cass City, MI  
Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI  
Duane & Gail Osbourn, New Baltimore, MI  
Marty & Connie Osentoski, Cass City, MI  
Ron & Mindy Parrott & Family, Grand Blanc, MI

Marilyn Phillips, Caro, MI  
Dennis & Linda Powell, Cass City, MI  
Paul & Kristy Powell, Freeland, MI  
Jim & Lynn Prime, Fairgrove, MI  
Rose Putnam, Cass City, MI  
Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI  
Schutte Farms, Elkton, MI  
Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI  
Daniel & Beth Walz, Sebawaing, MI  
Jim & Joan Ware, Cass City, MI  
Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI  
Janice Winter, Cass City, MI



# The Devil is in the Details

The purpose of this article is to bring attention to the 3<sup>rd</sup> phase of the Octagon Barn maintenance program. The windows are done and the roof is on so what remains is the shiplap siding. The problem is the siding has deteriorated beyond simple repair due to water wicking up from the drip cap. We have been studying the situation for some time now and everything points to replacing the shiplap and drip cap on the barn. Our goal is to continue the plan that maintains the historical integrity of the barn and address the “devil in the details” as I call it. I could not think of a better title for this article. The devil here is moisture, the nemesis of any wooden historical building.

While we have reliable documentation describing the restoration of the Octagon Barn specific details are at times left to speculation on how the barn was built which includes the specific details of the function and purpose of the shiplap and drip cap.

From the very beginning Mr. Purdy had a

dream of building an “air castle” based on an octagon barn he visited in Iowa. While he sought a barn with functional purpose, his idea was to build a barn with curb appeal requiring considerable detailed work. We see this thinking in every building he built on his farm i.e. the house, garage, powerhouse and the octagon barn itself. The Munro Brothers, who Mr. Purdy hired, were known for their work in doing such detailed construction.

Where the vertical shiplap meets the horizontal siding on the Octagon Barn is the drip cap that serves two functions. First is the decorative function. The drip cap is the line you see in any barn photo. It gives the barn a cosmetic appeal providing the visual effect you see where the two siding meet above the windows. One can visualize what the barn would look like if we were to change the original plan. Second the purpose of the drip cap is to shed water out and away from the barn as it runs down the shiplap. Over time the condition of the drip cap has changed and water has not left the building. The angle of the drip cap has moved, buildup of calk and paint

has blocked the drip cap and the water has wicked up the shiplap. Research tells us the drip caps were usually made from cedar and were tilted 7 degrees to allow the drip to occur. We find no evidence of flashing being used behind the drip cap to prevent water from wicking up the siding. Now realize this detail worked for many decades but time takes a toll on any building.

So our plan is to maintain the same look but install a metal flashing behind the drip cap to prevent this from occurring again. We plan to use western red cedar for the shiplap and drip cap and install it as it was done originally but with one addition and that is flashing. We will do a mock up and test run to insure we maintain the cosmetic appeal of the barn and keep the devil out of the details.

We are obtaining estimates and checking on the availability of materials and remain open to any new ideas but this is where we are leaning today.

Dennis Anderson, Barn Chair

## Fall Family Days Raffle Prizes and Lucky Winners

1. \$750.00 -Donated in Memory of Pat Gibbard and Green Acres Farms, Akron. Won by Matt Tacky, Essexville, MI
2. Queen Size Quilt-Donated by Ruth Ann Brown and Thumb Thimble Quilt Guild. Won by John Kotenko, Bay Port. MI
3. 40” Samsung Smart TV-Donated by \*FOTOB. Won by Sue Beck, Lenox, MI
4. \$300.00 –Donated by \* FOTOB. Won by Albert Brown, Kingston, MI
5. John Deere 4020 Pedal Tractor-Donated by Tri-County Equipment, Sandusky. Won by Agnes Zawilinski, Cass City, MI
6. Samsung Tablet-Donated by \*FOTOB. Won by Jason Strahan, Sebewaing, MI
7. Case I-H Red Stake Wagon–Donated by Osentoski Farm Equipment-Pigeon and Bad Axe. Won by Tom Fredell, Flushing,
8. Milwaukee Drill/Impact Tool Kit-Donated by \*FOTOB. Won by Maurice Phelps, Caro, MI
9. \$100-Menard’s Gift Certificate-Donated in Memory of Pat Gibbard and Green Acres Farms, Akron. Won by Janet Barden, Kingston, MI
10. Handmade Periwinkle Belly Blanket-Donated by Betty Woehlert. Won by Cal Gray, Caro, MI
11. \$100.00 – Donated by \*FOTOB. Won by Tom McDonald, Saginaw, MI
12. Leather and Vera Bradley Purses-Anonymous Donor. Won by Tim Jones, Decker, MI

\*Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn

## Museum Donations Gerald Auten, Museum Records

Oak table for the Purdy Home-**Gene & Jeannatte Brede**, Bad Axe

Rocker for the Purdy Home-**Pat Curry**, Caro

Show Cases for the Munro Building-**Joe Gehring**, Harbor Beach

Hay fork and bean bags-**Keith Iseler**, Port Hope

Quilt Rack made by the late **William “Gale” Goodall** and Cass City Historical Throw Blanket-**Ruth Jaster**, Caro

Kerosene lantern-**Terry & Sandy Keinath**, Reese

Grain rake, School desk, Hay trolley, Cream separator, Cast iron stove, Canvas & burlap bags, Canner, Churn, Lye soap,

Wooden clothes dryer, Eveners & Whipple trees-**Allan Kundering**, Sebewaing

Draft horse harness-**Jeff Tompa & Ed Linton**, Chesaning



## Benefactors

The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through November 16, 2018.

Kay Ardis, Dimondale, MI  
 Raymond Baur, Unionville, MI  
 Jack & Terri Beith, Linden, MI  
 Albert & Ruth Ann Brown, Kingston, MI  
 Beth Brown, Sebawaing, MI  
 Kim & Cindy Brown, Columbiaville, MI  
 Diane Burleson, Reese, MI  
 Jim & Jan Collin, Lakeport, MI  
 Richard & Lori Corl, Colorado Springs, CO  
 Gerald Deeg, Sebawaing, MI  
 Daniel & Marlene Erla, Cass City, MI  
 Fred & Faith Fahrner, Owendale, MI  
 John & Deb Forshee, Caro, MI  
 Donna Gehrls, Sturgis, MI  
 Eriic & Carrie Gillett, Marlette, MI  
 Robert Gillmore, Cato, NY  
 Walter & Ann Hagen, Bay City, MI  
 Robert W. Harcourt, Alger, MI  
 Diane Hoag, Cass City, MI  
 Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI  
 Patrick & Nancy Kendall, Bay City, MI

Russ & Gerry Leavitt, Bay City, MI  
 Peter M. & Marilyn Leiterman, Gagetown  
 Joyce Loeffler, Gagetown, MI  
 Kim Alan Loeffler, Gagetown, MI  
 Mark & Betsy McKelvey, Chicago, IL  
 Ken & Theresa Micklash, Cass City, MI  
 Vera E. Milz, Troy, MI  
 Janet Muntz, Cass City, MI  
 Charles Pardee, Lake, MI  
 Tom & Denise Patrick, Fostoria, MI  
 Bryan & Janet Phillips, Dearborn, MI  
 Tori Pine, Unionville, MI  
 William & Deborah Posak, China Twp.  
 Donald R. Ramaut, Clinton Twp., MI  
 Muriel Reynaert, Lexington, MI  
 Robert & Nancy Rolston, Gagetown, MI  
 Susan Scott, Saginaw, MI  
 Jerry & Mary Ellen Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI  
 Kim Strunz, Caro, MI  
 David & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI

## In Memoriam

**John F. Liverance**  
 St. Clair Township



**John** (far right) was known as the "Potato Man" at the Thumb Octagon Barn. For many years his passion was to manage the handling of 2500 pounds of potatoes donated by Bill Johnson of Hampton Farms. Under his direction, the many young volunteers came to help keep ahead of the 600 lbs. needed for the Farmer's Breakfast, the 500 lbs. needed for the Fish Fry and the remaining potatoes needed for French fries. We will miss his ready smile and love of life.

## Special Donations

Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site.  
 Donation in memory of Gladys Toner given by Willa Vargas, Bellevue, NE.  
 Donation in memory of Gene Booms given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI  
 Donation in honor of Wayne Lenton given by Curtis and Mary Bell, Carthage, MO,  
 Donation in honor of Georgia M. Brauer given by Sally Brauer, Troy, MI  
 Donation in memory of Louis Walsh given by Rosalie Walsh, Ubly, MI  
 Donation in memory of Charlie Mackay and also for the new Barn roof given by Jim Mackay, Kalamazoo, MI.

Donation in memory of Florence Swackhamer given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI  
 Donations in memory of Richard Easton were given by Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI; Jon & Char Fahrner, Cass City, MI; Edna & Robert McLachlan, Cass City, MI; Joan Koch, Cass City, MI & George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
 Donation in memory of Barb Otulakowski was given by George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
 Donations in memory of Stan Otulakowski were given by Mary Ann Hirn, Cass City, MI & George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI  
 Donations in memory of John Liverance were given by Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI, Ronald & Margery Stange, Vassar & SEMCO Energy, Port Huron.

## This and That

**Martin Ku-backi** had the pleasure of presenting **Margaret Sergeant** with a special recognition award for her years of service as editor of the



newsletter since 1994. Margaret is spending more time tending her flowers and beloved cats. However, she has not fully retired and is still making time to edit the newsletter before publication, which is very valuable and then labels and mails the newsletters. She also manages our membership information. Thank you, Margaret, for all you do!

Congratulations to **Cheryl Smith** of Columbiaville who won the basket of souvenirs during our Open House Weekend, which included a Family Pass for 4 to Fall Family Days next year. Cheryl sent a very nice thank you note and we look forward to meeting Cheryl and her family next year.

Friends of the  
THUMB OCTAGON BARN  
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### **A Very Special Thank You**

To all the businesses that made a special donation for FFD that enabled the Friends to save considerably on expenses. Many have been donating for years and we appreciate their continued support throughout the years.

#### **Next Meeting :**

The general membership meeting will be held on February 13, 2019 at the Purdy Bank in Gagetown starting at 7:00 PM

#### **Newsletter**

Database and Labels.....Dave Eichler  
Editing & Mailing.....Margaret Sergeant  
Newsletter Coordinator & Layout.....Rose Putnam  
Photos.....Connie Osentoski & Luci Kubacki

### **School Tours 2019** **Diane Rapson-Gabil, Chair**

Dates: Wednesday, May 8th; Thursday, May 9th; Friday, May 10th

Time: Beginning at 8:30AM each day. Most groups spend about 4.5 hours on site; longer or shorter guided tours are available dependent upon the age or transportation needs of the groups.

Theme: Food Industry: Past & Present

Attendees: To date 562 students are signed up and 186 chaperones. We are looking to register about 1,400 students preschool through 8th grade.

Stations: Will be over 25 stations for the preschool through 8th grade students to participate.

Register on web site: [thumboctagonbarn.org](http://thumboctagonbarn.org) click on 2019 School Tours and Registrations

Questions/concerns: Contact **Diane Rapson-Gabil**, School Tours 2019 chairperson **989-392-1080**