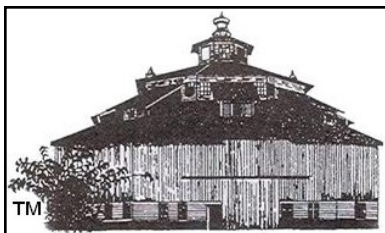


Thumb Octagon Barn News



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 2018

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Music in the Barn Weekend-July 14 & 15

The fun started on Saturday night with country music under the direction of **Ron Kuenzli**, chair of the Music in the Barn Weekend. Ron is a dedicated volunteer who is on the lookout year round for new entertainment. He is very talented at finding just the right music for the dancers, too. Ron spends a lot of time organizing this event, being sure the Barn is ready, setting up the sound system and then staying on task by providing the music. We thank Ron who dreamed for years about having concerts in the Barn and then made his dream a reality. The committee met and offered suggestions for something new. An internet search led us to a really fun group who does more

than dance. The **Dust Stompers** is a Mid-Michigan line dancing group that gives back to the community by performing at local nursing homes, festivals and parades. Under the direction of **Greg Jajo**, this lively group joined in the fun. (See photo below on the right.) Greg also offered instruction for some very innovative new steps. The fun did not end there, **Carol Daugherty**, who is from Applegate, also offered special instruction of dance steps in her own unique style. (Photo on page 2.) Greg Jajo and the Dust Stompers shared that they also learned a thing or two from Carol. Not to be outdone, there were a group of local couple dance groups who were able to take the floor and show us what they could do. Sunday was so very special.

The Barn rafters seemed to vibrate as the **Justified Quartet** sang their hearts out. The ministry of Justified is all about the love and goodness of Jesus, His sacrifice on the cross, His death and resurrection and the joy of serving a living Savior. The crowd of nearly 75 felt they lived up to their ministry. Their music did fill our hearts and souls. Under the leadership of **Tammi Hensley** and **Mary Bell**, those that attended were treated to homemade cookies that were made by Barn members and friends of **Richard Wroblewski**. The ladies spend a lot of time organizing this important part of the weekend. We thank them for all they do. More Music in the Barn stories and pictures on page 2.

Saturday Night was Dust Stomping Fun



Thrivent Sponsorship Poster with volunteers from left: Tammi Hensley, Rose Putnam, Joan Koch, Richard Wroblewski, Mary Bell



Ron Kuenzli, DJ, at the controls of the sound system.



Dust Stompers group performing one of their special dances: Greg Jajo, center

President's Message

As we get closer and closer to **Fall Family Days**, the excitement is building! There are so many activities being planned. The spots reserved for **vendors, crafters and flea marketers** are full. There is so much happening that there is sure to be something for everyone. The site is in great shape due to the efforts of so many hard working volunteers and our wonderful Host Couples. The volunteers who come out every Monday do more than we know to get the job done. Thank You One and All!

On another note, just a quick update on this summer's projects. The **roofs** on the Barn, Garage, Powerhouse and Visitor's Center are done and **look fantastic!** Now we are looking at painting and repairing both the Schoolhouse and the School Museum. **Denny Anderson** with **Emanuel Mullet's** crew are overseeing this project and are hopeful that they can be finished yet this year. Some new electrical wiring has been installed in the Purdy Home that should also be wearing a beautiful white coat of paint before Fall Family Days.

Summer is going fast so don't forget to turn in your raffle tickets. We appreciate everyone's efforts for this important fundraiser.

Also, don't forget to bring out your family to our delicious **Fish Fry on Friday night, September 7th** from 4:00PM to 7:00PM.

Hope to see you all at Fall Family Days.

Martin Kubacki, President

More Music in the Barn Weekend

Richard was instrumental in acquiring a \$250.00 donation from Thrivent Financial to help support this weekend. We thank you Richard for all that you do, including promoting this event throughout the Thumb. **Joan Koch** plays an important role and is always on site to be sure nothing is left undone to assure the success of this event and we thank her for her continued support. **Paul Deo** came forward again this year to be sure the stage was set up and the Barn prepared. We thank those on the **Monday Crew** who helped Paul with this very integral part of set up. Even though Paul has been unable to do much walking or dancing since he injured his foot earlier this year, he did manage to spend a few quiet moments dancing with his wife, Sandy. Please see the photo below.

Rose Putnam would like to share to all those reading this article that "You missed a great event and I hope you will be able to make it next year."



Carol Daugherty on the far right teaching a line dance.

Paul and Sandy Deo slow dancing.



Justified Quartet from left: David Potts-Tenor, Carl Ledford-Lead, Mark Jacoby-Baritone & Tim Caldwell-Bass

Fall Family Days 2018

The 23rd Fall Family Days event featuring "The Thumb: Naturally Sweet" is only a few days away and the to do list seems rather lengthy. However, with the dedicated help that we have, as in the past, it will get done.

The grounds will be laid out pretty much the same as last year. However, the tractors will be parked across the ditch. We will be using that space for the **tractor games**, which is a new activity this year. Everyone is welcome to participate in this fun, exciting event. They will begin at 1:00PM on both Saturday and Sunday directly south of the Munro Building.

Another new addition is the late 1800's **Rug Loom**. **Jerry Auten** has been working feverishly to get it operating in time for Fall Family Days. Be sure

to take a look at it on the Barn Loft area.

Our field demonstrations will once again include threshing, baling straw, sugar beet lifting, potato digging and corn binding. The sawyers will be sawing lumber in the **Sawmill** and the **Bay City Shovel** will be filling the **Model T Dump Truck** with dirt.

Back by popular demand are Henry, the broom maker, animals and spinning in the Barn. New this year will be the model of the **Teamwork and Timbers**, put together by local youth, showcasing Timber Barn Framing. With something for everyone, we will have lady's craft projects in the Garage and kid's activities including barrel train rides and kid's old time fun and games in the **Children's Activity**

Tent.

The theme tent area will feature many Naturally Sweet Products that are made from crops grown here in the Thumb.

Our plan is coming together and we are sure you will love it! We are looking forward to seeing you on Saturday and Sunday, September 8th and 9th, and also don't forget the Fish Fry on Friday, September 7th from 4-7PM. As always if you can give a few hours of your time to volunteer, please call Tori Pine at 989-665-2254.

Hope to see you there at Fall Family Days 2018.

Martin Kubacki and Lisa Geiger,
Co-Chairs

Weddings in the Barn

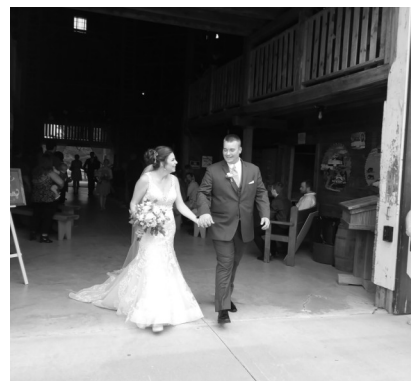


The month of May was very busy with Spring Clean Up and then School Tours, but the most beautiful event was the wedding at the Barn.

Megan Banish and **Brian Binder**, both from Gagetown were joined in marriage on May 19, 2018. (Photo on the left.)

August 18, 2018 was a perfect summer day for the wedding of **Shelby Goodwin** and **Lance Schuette** from Elkton who were joined by 300 friends and relatives. Don't they look happy. (Photo on right.)

Many thanks to **Tammi Hensley** for coordinating these weddings.



Parades

Summer and parades just go together and since the new float has been built our volunteers have been busy promoting Fall Family Days at the Bad Axe, Sebawaing, Munger and Cass City parades. A new idea was presented to give away refrigerator magnets rather than handing out flyers that often get left behind to blow in

the wind. 3000 magnets were ordered



and there are just enough left for the Ugly and Fairgrove parades. On July 29, 2018, Louie and Linda Wehrman pulled the float in the Munger Potato Festival parade. Pictured are the volunteers from left to right: **Andy Witucki, William O'Dell, Kaylee Koch, Kylie Witucki, Keinath Witucki, Joan Koch, Linda Wehrman, Louis Wehrman.**

Tea Parties in the Purdy Home

A special tea party was held at the Purdy Home on June 13, 2018 for the Caseville "Red Hat Hippers." Marilyn Phillips, Tammi Hensley, Mary Bell, Chris Allen, Bev Perry and Rose Putnam were all on hand to be sure these ladies enjoyed their tea. The group was treated to special cookies made to highlight this year's theme of "The Thumb: Naturally Sweet." (The cook-



ies were donated by **Marilyn Phillips**.) Following the tea party, the ladies were given a special presentation by **Mark Battel** (photo on the right) at the Sugar

Shack on the gathering and processing of maple syrup. We are never too old to learn something new as this volunteers tries out the yoke supporting buckets used to haul maple sap from the field for processing.



The Southern Sweet Tea and Desserts" Tea Party was held on June 20, 2018. The ladies attending enjoyed a chicken salad luncheon followed by special



homemade cut cookies, pecan tarts, homemade cheese cake just to name a few. Theresa Bristol-Miller brought along a gallon of honey lemonade that was enjoyed by all. "The Les Chapeau Rouge" Red Hatters from Sebewaing were part of the sold out event. Our guest presenter was **Theresa Bristol-Miller**, (Pictured top right.) is the Beekeeper of Circle T Apiary, who specializes in honey. Theresa shared some very interesting information about the health benefits of honey. Thank you once again to **Tammi Hensley, Mary Bell, Betty Woehlert and Rose Putnam** who volunteered their time. (Bottom right from left: Tammi Hensley, Betty Woehlert, & Mary Bell.)



The "Summer Picnic" Tea Party held on August 22, 2018, was so much fun. The house was decorated with red and white checkered table covers and there were bugs everywhere-plastic of course. Three plastic snakes found their way in each room, too. The group enjoyed sliders, potato salad and more. Our guest speaker was **Don Beavers**, Historic Guide at the Sanilac Petroglyphs Historic Park. Don provided a list of parks in Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties along with links to Tourism Councils and Organizations.



Volunteers: **Marilyn Phillips, Glenda Wilson, Betty Woehlert, Mary Bell and Tammi Hensley.** Missing is **Rose Putnam.**



Don shared where all the roadside parks are located and harbors, marinas, private campgrounds and facilities, too. Then came the best part of his presentation with very interesting information about the Sanilac Petroglyphs themselves. For more information you may visit the Sanilac Petroglyphs to see and hear Don on Wednesdays to Sunday from 10AM to 5PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day located 1/2 mile S of Bay City Forestville Road on Germania Road.

Open House Weekend

The 6th Annual Open House Weekend was held on Saturday, July 28th and Sunday, July 29th. Both days were filled with many new visitors to the site from all parts of the State. Most all of the buildings were open for the weekend. Visitors flocked to the One Room Schoolhouse to hear **Beth**



Brown tell tales of one room schools. (Photo on the left) We could hear music coming from the One Room School Museum as **Mary Bell**, (pictured below) one of our host couples, learned how to load the piano rolls on the player



piano. She did a bit of singing too. **Louie and Linda Wehrman** were

in the Grain Elevator on Saturday with all kinds of information on how corn and corn syrup is used in many food products. On Sunday, **Jared Sorenseon** was a first time host in the Grain Elevator and learned that visitors loved to talk about food. **Mark Battel** was busy sharing the story of maple syrup and **Lew Martin** was hard at work in the Blacksmith Shop. The sawmill was a buzz with the chatter of **Wayne Lenton, Paul Deo and Dennis Anderson** sharing the story of early lumbering. **Paul VanHorn, and Norm Parker** were busy shuttling visitors to be sure they were able to take in all the sites.

The Purdy Home was quite busy with guests learning about the interesting lives of the Purdy Family from grandson, **George Wilson**.

(Pictured below are Vic Woehlert and Paul VanHorn.)



Also assisting in the house were **Glenda Wilson, Joan Merchant, Betty Woehlert and Rose Putnam**.

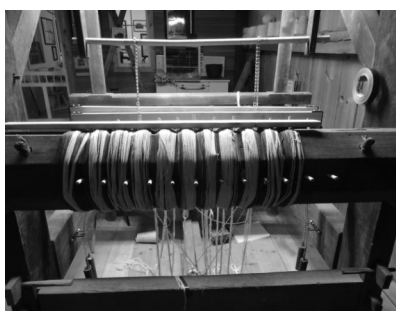
Tammi Hensley played a key role as greeter to direct the over 123 visitors.

Ron Hensley, Curtis Bell and Vic Woehlert were kept busy doing tours in the Barn or where needed. **Dave Babcock**, saw many new faces at the Cider Mill as did **Byron Arnold** in the Powerhouse. The busiest location was the front

porch of the Purdy Home with guests sharing stories while enjoying lemonade and homemade cookies. It was a perfect summer weekend reminiscent of **old time neighboring**.

The open house weekend was first offered back in October of 2013 as part of a joint effort with all nine museums and historical societies in Tuscola County. With the distance between locations, the venue was changed from the same weekend to each museum choosing their own dates. It is a pleasure to work alongside these like-minded historians to share our local rural histories.

To learn more about these museums, please visit the website at [http://www.thumbtourism.org/historical/HistoricalSitesAndMore/TuscolaCountyHistorical Consortium](http://www.thumbtourism.org/historical/HistoricalSitesAndMore/TuscolaCountyHistoricalConsortium)



During Open House Weekend, our visitors were also learning about rug making from **Gerald Auten** (photo on left). Gerald has been very dedicated spending endless hours repairing and learning how to weave rugs with our Rug Loom. This loom was donated by Bob Good and Bob MacKey on 10/19/2010 and has sat forlornly waiting to be put back in commission. Look for the continuing story in our next newsletter.

Museum Donations



Carl & Alice Vollmar: Oliver Tractor 60 and Grain Cart—pictured on the left. Horse drawn potato lifter. Shiller corn sheller, and sugar beet lifter.

Beth Brown: Sheet music

Janet Kranz: Books for School Museum & Drill press.

Lynn Schriber: Pulleys for Line shaft

Bob & Barn Wood: Hand Bilge Pump

William McCarthy: Sawmill belts

Ron & Tammi Hensley: Bowls for house, shoe soap, hair tonic bottle, metal tray & molding for Sawmill

Clyde Leiterman: Desk

Benefactors

The following have made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through August 18, 2018.

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Special Donations

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

Donation in memory of Charlie Carpenter was given by Robert and Edna McLachlan, Cass City and Jon & Char Fahrner of Cass City. Charlie was a farrier and demonstrated his skills during several Fall Family Days.

Donation in memory of Betty Koch was given by Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI

Donations in memory of Clyde Leiterman were given by Donna Burke, Perrysburg, OH, and the Norma Rabideau Family of Gagetown including Norma, Rick, Randy, Debb, Tammi & Shelly.

Donation in memory of Larry Virgil Peters was given by Robert & Edna McLachlan, Cass City.

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Next Meeting

The general membership meeting and the FFD wrap up meeting will be held concurrently on October 9, 2018 at the Munro Building starting at 7:00 PM.

WANTED: 1930's-1940's era appropriate area rug for the Purdy Home parlor. Please contact Marilyn Phillips at 989-225-6303.

Newsletter

Database and labels.....Dave Eichler
Editing & Mailing.....Margaret Sergeant
Newsletter Coordinator & Layout.....Rose Putnam

Teamwork and Timbers-August 25, 2018

As summer starts coming to an end, we automatically think of school starting for our children. However, school started early this year for 14 students who participated in the **Teamwork and Timbers** project in the Barn. This is an educational project of the **Michigan Barn Preservation Network** that is hosted by local organizations statewide. (Please see their website mi-barn.net for more information.) Two new teachers, **Jared**

Sorenson and **Paul Deo**, (pictured above) came forward to share the story of building a timber framed barn. We were very fortunate to have Paul's experience as he has actually built a timber framed barn, which is a dying art. The day started with classroom material learning about all types of wood and why that particular type of wood was used for either timbers, the siding or flooring. Then the class shifted to the vocabulary and tools used during timber framing. They also learned about the ash bore and what it has done to our ash



trees. Lunch followed which was served by **Tammi Hensely** and **Rose Putnam**. Of course homemade cookies were the best part. Then the fun began with the building of the 9'x12' barn kit. Four teams were formed to build the four sides of the barn. Each team member then had to come up with their new nickname as a member of a lumbering crew as was done years ago. Can you guess what PJ stands for? (Peanut Butter and Jelly, of course!) With the help of **Norm Parker, Dennis Anderson, Nick Roth** and **David McArthur**, the timber kit was unloaded then all material was identified and then put together. Does this sound easy? It took a lot of teamwork to assemble the kit to produce the finished product.



Pictured to the left are the hard working team members. Please visit the model dur-

ing Fall Family Days.