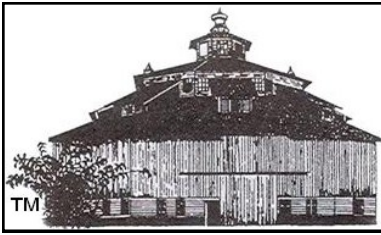


# Thumb Octagon Barn



## 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 2019

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## Music Weekend in the Barn

The Thumb Octagon Barn had its own special "Do You Think You Can Dance" night on Saturday, July 13, 2019. Our own DJ, **Ron Kuenzli**, (Pictured below) provided the music to showcase that we do have great dancers here in the Thumb. All ages were represented. It was so much fun to watch the different styles as each new song was introduced and the dancers performed. **Paul and Sandy Deo** (Pictured on top center) were back once again. It was great to see Paul back in full form after a year's recovery from



Thank you to Tammi Hensley, Carol Caverly, Joan Merchant, Betty Woehlert and Glenda Wilson for serving homemade cookies, lemonade, pop and water.



this fall and Paul mentioned he was happy to be dancing once again. **Jessica Atwood**, (Pictured with Ron to the left) from Kingston who is a member of the **Dust Stompers**, was able to demonstrate some new dance routines for all to learn or join right in. **Carol Daughtery** (Pictured above on the far right) is once again leading the group in her own style of dance.

## Sisters Night Out

The **Dust Stompers** were well represented by a team of sisters, **Lisa Bradley, Diedra Zdrojewski, and Dawn Zaleski**, who are the daughters of **Mary Lou Thick** of Gagetown. They decided that spending time together dancing was a great way to stay close as a family.



## President's Message

Well another Fall Family Days is approaching and everything is coming together. This has been a year for some interesting weather, and it has been hard to get some of our projects completed. We are presently working on the One Room School Museum. We have to replace all the siding with cement board siding, which should last forever. This project should be done by Fall Family Days. The One Room School House will have a new coat of paint and the garage will as well. The

grounds are looking great and the Monday crew has been busy trimming trees and making sure everything is running smoothly. The Friends have purchased a new 17 foot lawn mower, which will cut down the mowing time. The Executive Committee has been working constantly to make sure all buildings are taken care of and finding out new ways to preserve our buildings. Well that's all for now.

Keep healthy and safe.

Martin Kubacki, President

## Welcome

We would like to welcome our new host couple-Greg and Jill Hunter. They are natives of Michigan. Stop by to say "Hello" and learn their story.



## More Music in the Barn

The Sound of Music filled the Barn on Sunday, July 14, 2019. The Sheldon Family from Owosso have been singing Southern Gospel Music and playing instruments for many years. This was the first time they played in a building other than a church and loved the acoustics in the Barn. Sandy, the mom, is a dental hygienist during the week, and has been raising her 4 children since the loss of her husband, Mike, and also still performs with 3 of her children most weekends. Sandy has written



several songs and one that is especially meaningful is "Why Did He Suffer?"

Those in attendance will long remember this wonderful afternoon of song and story.

From the left is fiancé to Chad, Madison; Mom-Sandy; Son-Tyler, a sophomore in high school (15); Daughter-Amanda, recently engaged (25); and Son-Chad, planning for State Police work (22).

## Museum Donations

**Joe & Linda Warack**, Owendale-Silver Tea Set  
**Lon Setter**, Brown City-5 hole Grain Drills  
**Martin & Connie Osentoski**, Cass City-Antique Picture of little girl  
**John Klaska**, Bad Axe-Various Baby items, Framed pictures, and Multiple Kitchen items  
**Nancy Burrows**, Gagetown-Columbia Iron & Forge (Trenton) Anvil, 2 Hammers & 6 Hand Tongs.

**Dwaine & Helen Krause**, Snover-Steel Wheel Wagon with Rack (Pictured below)



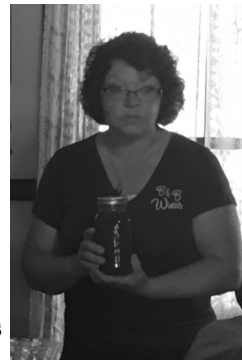
# Tea Party-Jams, Jellies and Preserves

The Purdy Home was in its glory for the Tea Party held on Wednesday, July 24, 2019. Ladies from all over the Thumb were dressed in their finest to enjoy a luncheon that would have made Mrs. Purdy proud. The 23 guests enjoyed a chicken salad croissant, with a special cashew, cranberry salad, lots of varieties of teas and of course great desserts. **Sue Beagle** of Bay City made and



donated the tasty sugar cookies in the shape of a tea pot.

In keeping with this year's theme of the "Food Industry-Past and Present", the ladies were treated to a special cheese-cake tart with fresh berry jam made by **Barb Murray** of Ubly, who was our guest presenter. Barb is a lady of many talents and owns a business called B & B Brewery. She and her husband, Bob, grow many varieties of berries.



We appreciated the volunteers who willingly gave of their time to make this a very special occasion. Pictured below from the left are **Marilyn Phillips, Tori Pine, Tammi Hensley, Isabella Putnam, Betty Woehlert, and Rose Putnam**. Not pictured is **Jill Hunter**.



## This and That



**Gerald Auten** was presented with a special bear in memory of his wife, **Donna**, by his granddaughter, **Becky Sweeney Stein**. The T-shirt that Donna wore as a volunteer at the Thumb Octagon Barn was re-fashioned to fit the bear.

## Recent Purdy Dining Room Photos

The Purdy Home is quite beautiful. Please stop in during Fall Family Days to see all the displays of family heirlooms and vintage items.



## Alert Team News

### Family & Friends CPR Training

As part of his duties as Chair of the Alert Team, **Norm Parker** worked with Hills and Dales Hospital to set up annual training for emergencies on site for volunteers.

On August 15, 2019, **Norm Parker, Lisa Britt, Carol Caverly, Janet Ellicott and Rose Putnam** attended the class which is an orientation to CPR and choking training and how to use an AED (Automated External Defibrillator). This is not a course to receive a completion card, but to assist until trained personnel arrive. It was well worth the time spent.

# Open House Weekend-July 27 & 28

It was a gorgeous weekend for all the visitors that stopped at the Thumb Octagon Barn to enjoy a tour of the buildings on site. It was quite interesting to learn where the visitors came from and how they heard about the open house. Our furthest visitors came from Toledo, Ohio and a family from Hastings made a special trip just to see the Thumb Octagon Barn.

**Frank and Kelly Haas** from Rhodes, MI, made



their first trip to the site and thoroughly enjoyed touring the Barn and all buildings, especially the Purdy Home.

On Saturday, **Linda and Louie Wehrman** greeted our guests in the Grain Elevator. Linda spends most Mondays keeping the building spick and span. **Jared Sorenson** (pictured on the right) stepped in to help on Sunday.

The Grain Elevator is also featuring many types of foods made from grains and other locally grown crops.



The story of our Cider Mill was told by **Grant Zinnecker** (Above).

**Mark Battel** (to the right) loves to share his passion of gathering sap to make maple syrup with those that

stopped out to visit the Sugar Shack.

**Wayne Lenton** was busy in the saw-mill sharing the story of early lumbering and setting up a new display of wrenches in the gas station on the museum side of the building. **Karen Lenton** was busy helping Wayne.

Music in the One Room School Museum from the player piano operated by **Mary Bell** was



heard on site and the visitors all enjoyed hearing the music and seeing the piano roll move along.

**Beth Brown** shared some new things she learned about the One Room School with families that came to visit.

The porch on the house is always a wonderful spot to rest, visit with neighbors and enjoy some shade where **Tammi, Mary, and Jill, our Host Couple Ladies**, all helped serve lemonade and cookies.

Our visitors were treated to a wagon ride by **Norm Parker** who volunteered all weekend to accommodate our visitors.

## Earlene the Cow

Earlene, the Cow, has traveled all over the State of Michigan and has found a permanent home here at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Earlene is the brain child of **Debbie Kubacki** of Sebawaing. Debbie drew a template of the cow and took it to her husband's uncle, **Earl Schadd** of Filion to make it. Earl was quite handy and made a cow sized replica to teach children a safe way to learn how to milk a cow. Debbie helped, too, by painting the cow. (See related photo and question on Page 8.)

Due to Debbie's innovative idea, she and Earlene were featured in Michigan Milk Messenger published by Michigan Milk Producers Association and Debbie was awarded the 2010 Excellence in Dairy Award.

To be sure that the milking mechanism worked properly, Earlene was first milked at a family reunion.

Earlene has been serving as an educational tool during School Tours and Fall Family Days. Please stop to see Earlene and answer the question posed on Page 8. A story board is being developed and will be on display soon.



## Fall Family Days

Fall Family Days has evolved into a major event every year for the Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn and an enjoyable weekend that area folks look forward to. Always the weekend after Labor Day in September, this 24th annual event will be held September 7 & 8 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Our delicious Fish Fry will be held September 6 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Last year's attendance broke all previous records and we are predicting another record crowd.

This year we are featuring the Food Industry-Past and Present. Our theme tent will have many interesting displays on how food is processed and preserved. So, stop by and take a look!

As in the past, we will have crafters, antique dealers, and a flea market. Activities include live music, animals in the barn, spinning demonstrations, horse drawn wagon rides, children's activities and

house tours. Food service will be provided in the Munro Building and popcorn, pretzels, homemade ice cream and pie, and of course everyone's favorite donuts will be for sale as well.

Visitors will also get to see many engine displays, tractors, antique equipment and more. There will be a working saw mill, threshing, baling, blacksmith shop, sugar shack, apple cider mill and a working grist mill and elevator. These exhibits offer educational and entertaining examples of yesteryear. This is a chance for seniors to reminisce and for the young to gain a greater appreciation of early rural life.

So, circle September 7th and 8th on your calendars, and join us for a weekend of fun, education and good old-fashioned neighboring!

See you there,

Lisa Geiger and Martin Kubacki, Co-Chairs

## Community Outreach

The Thumb Octagon Barn float has been traveling a lot this summer. The season started on May 25th, when the float went to the Bad Axe Memorial Day Parade driven by Louie and Linda Wehrman and Wayne and Karen Lenton. Then on June 15th, it traveled to the Michigan Sugar Festival in Sebawaing driven by Byron and Janice Arnold.



Those attending the Cass City Freedom Festival Parade on July 6th enjoyed our float driven by Louie and Linda Wehrman pictured above. Then they were off again with Wayne and Karen Lenton to the Ugly Homecoming Parade on July 14th. On Sunday July 28th, the float found it's way to the Munger Potato Festival driven by Andy Witucki.

Ron and Tammi Hensley were busy handing out the Fall Family Days magnets in Bad Axe, Sebawaing and Cass City.

The weather cooperated and all parades had sunny and bright weather. We would like to say "Thank you" to all the volunteers who have taken time to promote our Agricultural Museum and Fall Family Days.

### Correction

The correct identity of the center person is Richard Sylvester not Mark as first published in the Summer 2019 edition.



## FALL FAMILY DAYS SPONSORS 2019

**The following businesses and individuals are sponsors who provide the financial backing and/or goods to cover the cost of putting on Fall Family Days. We thank each and every one who became a FFD sponsor and encourage all to show their appreciation by patronizing those businesses that support the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.**

### Gold Sponsors (\$250 & up)

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## Special Donations

**Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items to be used on the site.**

**Ward Stephen Hamlin, Jr. & Karen Hamlin donated in memory of Edith & Perry Fritz. (Edith is the sister of the Purdy Brothers.)**

**Donation in memory of Jeanine Roe & Donald Kruse, Owendale Class of 1953.**

**Donation in memory of Lyle Krohn, given by Dick & Norma Wallace, Cass City, MI.**

**Donation In memory of Randall Adamczyk given by Nancy Barrios, Cass City, MI.**

**Robert & Susan Darmofal, Toledo, OH donated in memory of deceased Darmofal and Pisarek Family Members.**

**Franco Flooring in Harbor Beach donated a floor mat for the new kitchen floor in the Munro Building.**

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Will you be the first in your family to come up  
with the answer to this question?

Why is this cow that is displayed in our Dairy  
section of the Barn called a Michigan cow?



#### Next Meeting :

The general membership meeting will be  
held on August 27, 2019 at the Munro Building  
on site starting at 7:00 PM  
FFD Meeting will immediately follow the gen-  
eral membership meeting.

#### Newsletter

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

#### Benefactors -The following made a donation to the Thumb Agricultural Museum since our last newsletter through August 11, 2019.

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