Happy Spring, Friends of the Thumb Octagon Barn! 2020 looks to be a very busy year with many projects upcoming.

The crew on Mondays were busy working on the west wall in the Munro Building all Winter. The steel has been covered with beautiful finished pine boards. Now they are working on giving the outside of the kitchen a different look. Great job, Guys!

This Spring you will soon see new gates in the house and barn driveways. The gates will add even more architectural interest and beauty to the site. This project is long overdue and will finally get done.

The really big project for 2020 is replacing the vertical siding boards on the Barn. They will be painted and put on by the Amish. It will be a long process and we hope to have it finished by Fall Family Days. The Barn will be closed on and off during this process. We will keep you updated.

Don’t forget about Spring Clean up on Saturday, May 9, 2020, from 8:00AM until done. The more help we have, the quicker everything gets shined up (see related article on page 2).

Finally, our Annual Meeting will be held on April 14, 2020, at the Purdy Bank Building starting at 7:00PM. There will be elections and the annual reports. The offices of President, 2nd Vice-President and Corresponding Secretary are up for election. The regular meeting will take place immediately following.

I hope that you are well at this time as we all share concerns about the Coronavirus. Please see the notice below. We will keep you informed about future meetings.

Until then, God Bless.

Martin Kubacki, President

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Readiness

A team comprised of Dennis Anderson, Martin Kubacki, Diane Rapson-Gabil, Rose Putnam & Connie Osentoski has been formed to handle the Coronavirus situation as it pertains to our organization. Please see our postings on our website or Facebook page, which is also listed below.

The Thumb Octagon Barn has formed a team to monitor the Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation very closely. We are receiving updates from state and local authorities and will continue to monitor any mandates as they arise. We are aware of the 'fluidity' of the current health crisis and will keep people updated as more information becomes available.
Thumb Octagon Barn named 2019 #1 Landmark of The Year

The readers of the Tuscola County Advertiser have once again chosen the Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum as their Number One Landmark to visit in the Tri-County Area. A special thank you to all the volunteers who continue to work together to create this wonderful site in the Thumb of Michigan.

Spring Clean Up is May 9, 2020-Help Wanted

The Thumb Octagon Barn site and buildings are in need of the annual sprucing up. There is plenty to do. Cora’s Cleaning Crew is looking for a few “good men and women” to help Spring Clean the Purdy Home. It has been several years since the house has had a thorough Spring cleaning. Windows need to be washed, too. We could use four people upstairs and four people downstairs. Please contact Joan Merchant to sign up 989-872-3395 or Rose Putnam 989-444-9574. Please arrive starting at 8AM. Hope you are able to spend the day or even just a few hours.

Light Parades

On November 24, 2019, the Thumb Octagon Barn float was in the Bad Axe Light Parade. Wayne and Karen Lenton, Louis & Linda Wehrman & Rebecca Allen decorated the float, which looked fabulous! Louis pulled the float with the Lenton pickup while all the others road along. Then on November 30, 2019, the float was in the Cass City Light Parade pulled by the Lenton pickup driven by Louis Wehrman and riding were his wife, Linda and grandson, Luke along with Wayne and Karen Lenton. We appreciate all the time and effort by these teams of volunteers to promote the Barn during this very busy and festive time of the year.

Oldsmobile Car Club Tour

Mr. Kimball organized a tour of the Thumb for an Oldsmobile Car Club coming from Detroit. They arrived on site on September 14, 2019 with 12 cars and thoroughly enjoyed their stop.

Too Tall and Tammi Hensely, our host couple, remarked “We love our second family at the Thumb Octagon Barn and meeting all the people that visit.”
This year is our 25th Anniversary celebration of FFD. Who would ever have thought that this great event would turn out the way it has? The 2020 kick off meeting was held on March 10th at the Purdy Bank Building.

As we reorganize each year, it is somewhat routine in getting the budget addressed, confirming committee chairs, etc., but the new energy comes to light when we discuss the possible new demonstrations in line with the theme.

Greg Alexander and Tammy Grifka are working to show how “Farm Livestock” will bring out some new and interesting areas related to farm life.

A 25th Anniversary is always something to celebrate. We will have some special events for all to enjoy!

The second item that was discussed is sponsorships. FFD sponsors, over the years, have given us the start up money we need to make this event happen. Our expenses keep creeping up, as we have said many times, if weather interferes with the visitor count, the loss of this income would greatly affect our forward progress. Included in this newsletter is a sponsor form for your use. Those of you who have helped us in the past, we appreciate your continued support.

Fall Family Days 2020 will be the weekend after Labor Day, September 12th & 13th and the Fish Fry on September 11th. Our next meetings are scheduled for May 19, 2020, July 14, 2020 & August 25, 2020 at 7:00PM in the Munro Building.

Remember—there are three things that make FFD a success: VOLUNTEERS-VOLUNTEERS-VOLUNTEERS. We could not function without the help of all who come together to make this weekend happen. So please think about it-young and older—we need you!

Hope to see you all at the May 19th meeting and please consider bringing along a new volunteer.

Martin Kubacki and Lisa Geiger, FFD Co-Chairs

---

**Fall Family Days 2020**

**2020 Theme—Farm Livestock**

Our theme for 2020 is...

**Farm Livestock**

---

**Updated 2020 Project List**

- Complete barn loft displays
- Barn vertical siding painted and replaced
- New barn doors-front and back
- Finish Rail Fence & reseed grass in front ditch
- New gates-driveway of barn and house
- Finish signage on museum items
- Finish wood siding on Munro inner wall
- New aesthetic roof over kitchen serving area
- Repair leaks on Munro Building roof
- Entrance light on Munro Building
- Repaint souvenir trailer
- Install LED lights all over the site
- Sawmill improvements
Special Donations
Following is a list of memorial donations, acknowledgements and items donated for use on the site.

Donation in memory of Earl & Doris Schember given by Richard & Vera Wrobleski, Sebewaing, MI “It’s wonderful having served at the Barn with folks as dedicated as Earl & Doris. I taught her three children, Pam, Tim & Randy. Oh, so many years ago.”

Donations in memory of George Gray given by Louise Buehrly, Palmetto, FL, Bert Curry & Sandy Keller, Caro, MI and Ann Jewell, Frankenmuth, MI

Donation in memory of Ike, Evan & Bill Perry given by Ann Jewell, Frankenmuth, MI

Donation in memory of her Dad, Franklin Koch, given by Karen Heck, Elkton, MI “My Dad loved Fall Family Days. All of the volunteers do a wonderful job. Thank you.”

Donation in memory of Pat Hester given by her son & daughter-in-law, Brad & Beth Kitchin, Mesa, AZ

Note with a new membership and donation. “I am a nephew of Mike & Stella Pisarek (owners of the Octagon Barn site for many years). I spent many days at the Farm in my youth.” Thank you, Ed Darmofal. Toledo, OH.

Donation in memory of Dolores Hartman given by Evelyn Schadd, Filion, MI

Donation in memory of Franklin Koch given by Ronald & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI

Donation in memory of Bill Hacker given by David & Nancy Barrios, Cass City, MI


R. Scott Brundage made a donation and included the following note. “I am proud to support an exceptional organization. I am the Grandson of John Crawford Munro” John & George Munro were the original builders of the Octagon Barn & Purdy Home.

Donation in memory of Jerry Schley, Dearborn Heights, MI was given by his sister-in-law Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI and niece, Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI. Jerry and his wife, Mary Ellen, were faithful Friends and supporters of the Barn since the very beginning of our organization with donations and being FFD Sponsors for all these many years.

Museum Donations

Ontario 16 hole Grain Drill by Ramon & MaryAnn Waltz, Mason, MI

Framed poster of 1930 Thumb District Plow Match by Dan & Jean Creyts, Charlotte, MI

1930’s Montgomery Ward Catalogue, Hat Stretcher, TG Muck Plow and Breaker Plow by Martin & Connie Osentoski, Cass City, MI

Desk Hutch by Nancy Watkins, Ovid, MI

Scythe (over 100 years old) by Dan Bristol, Caro, MI
Benefactors

The following made a donation of $10.00 or more since our last newsletter through February 29, 2020.

Anonymous Donors
Kay Ardis, Dimondale, MI
Beth Brown, Sebewaing, MI
John & Suzi Brundage, Marshall, MI
Louise Buehrly, Palmetto, FL
Leonard A. DeFraine, Harbor Beach, MI
Karl & Marilyn DeSimpelare, Unionville, MI
Linda Devine, Cass City, MI
Helen & John Dombruski, Clinton Twp, MI
Delores Garety, Cass City, MI
Richard & Loraine Enos, Akron, MI
Ronald & Tammi Hensley, Lehigh Acres, FL
Mike & Jan Holik, Caro, MI
Orrin (Bud) & Mary Inbody, Snover, MI
Joe & Debra Jenness, Cass City, MI
George Kuruzovich, Palmetto, FL
Pat Kuxhaus, Longmont, CO
Ron Leader, Caro, MI
Mark & Betsy McKelvey, Chicago, IL
Kenneth & Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI
Paul & Michelle Van Horn, Deford, MI

Weddings

Mackize LaJoy & Ryan Dillon
June 29, 2019

Michelle Bachman & Macy McCraken
September 14, 2019

Sarah Ellicott & Johnathan Hudson
September 27, 2019
Annual Meeting Notice and Amendments to By-Laws

As required in our by-laws, this is the official notice of our Annual Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 14, 2020 at the Purdy Bank Building in Gagetown at 7:00PM. The following proposed amendments to the by-laws will be presented for a vote. We encourage your attendance. Thank you and hope to see you there.

Add Article IV-Activities

ARTICLE IV

Activities

No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Article VI-Financial Responsibility

Add Section 4. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes described in section 501(c)(3).

Article VIII-Nominations and Elections

Section 1. Change meeting in November to December.

Section 1. At the regular meeting in December, the presiding officer shall appoint a nominating committee of at least three (3) members. At the annual meeting, the nominating committee shall present a slate of one (1) or more nominees for each office. Nominations may also be made from the floor.

Article IX-Duties of Officers-Recording Secretary

Section 5. Letter a. Add to end of sentence: unless otherwise assigned.

a. record and transcribe accurate minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the organization and Executive Committee unless otherwise assigned.

Section 6.-Corresponding Secretary-Letter b.-Add e-mail addresses

B. see that a list of members’ names, addresses, e-mail addresses and telephone numbers be maintained.

a. Article XIII-Meetings

Section 3. Letter b.-Add and or via e-mail

Members shall be notified of the date, place and time of the upcoming annual meeting via the quarterly newsletter and/or via e-mail prior to the meeting date.
In Memoriam

Victor Woehlert of Decker died suddenly and unexpectedly on January 29, 2020. Victor was a dedicated volunteer and Friend of the Barn for many years. He helped park buses during School Tours, drove a golf cart transporting folks wherever and when needed during Fall Family Days and was a regular on Mondays mowing lawns. He helped right along with his wife Betty in the Purdy Home. Betty said, “Victor was willing to help anytime we needed him. He was there to help with whatever we asked him to do. He was greatly appreciated by Cora’s Cleaning Crew”. Victor had a wonderful sense of humor and sometimes it was hard to tell if he was joking or not but then he would smile broadly and you knew he was joking. We can still hear him saying, “Yea, Yea!”

Donations in memory of Victor Woehlert
were given by the following:
Dennis Anderson, Cass City, MI
Byron Arnold, Unionville, MI
Gerald Auten, Cass City, MI
Diane Rapson-Gabil, Essexville, MI
Lorna Gray, Vassar, MI

Joan Koch, Cass City, MI
Martin & Luci Kubacki, Ubly, MI
Joan Merchant, Cass City, MI
Norm & Patti Parker, Cass City, MI
Marilyn Phillips, Caro, MI
William & Rose Putnam, Cass City, MI
Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI
Ralph & Pat Zinnecker, Deford, MI

Recycle Today for a Better Tomorrow

2019 FFD Recycling Report
Did you know that we recycled:
• 474 pounds of cardboard
• 51 pounds of plastic bottles
• 58 pounds of metal and aluminum cans during FFD in 2019?

We would like to thank James Pettinger for coming forward to fill in for Ron Hoffman who was our dedicated, number one recycler for many years.

Joe Clark (right) stepped in to help put the vinyl recycling signs on the newly cleaned over 90 barrels that are now in use during FFD and other events to collect bottles and cans. Vic Woehlert, (left) helping with recycling, too.
**Raffle Update**

*We are diligently gathering donated items for our annual raffle held during FFD. New and interesting items attract more raffle ticket buyers. Have you made something special that would add interest? Items over $50.00 in value are suggested.*

*Please contact Sherry Kappen*

989-670-6034

---

**More from FFD 2019**

**Senior Bus arrives on site!**
The Montrose Area Seniors had a trip planned to the Thumb on Friday, September 6, 2019. They had called ahead about the Fish Fry, but had no idea what they were actually coming to and were mighty surprised to see all the activity and people at our Fish Fry. They all enjoyed their meal and wished they could have stayed longer but will plan on coming back this year for Fall Family Days. They were leaving just as the rain started. Whew!

**New Opening Dates for 2020**

Season Opening Dates are May 23, 24 & 25 and then closed again until June 17, 2020.

The Barn will be closed for repairs on and off all summer, please check our website or Facebook page for updated information.