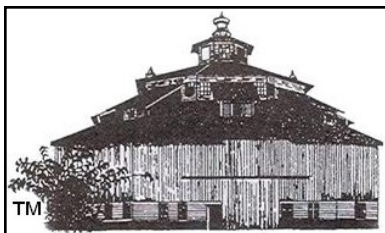


# Thumb Octagon Barn News



## 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 2021

### Executive Committee

**Acting President**  
Dennis Anderson

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**Alert Team Chair**  
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Visit our website  
[thumboctagonbarn.org](http://thumboctagonbarn.org)  
FaceBook  
[Thumboctagonbarn](https://www.facebook.com/Thumboctagonbarn)  
989-665-0081

## “Beyond Normal”

Message from Dennis Anderson, Acting President:

Friends: Here we are well into July and things are really busy out at the Thumb Octagon Barn.

Yes, we are offering Fall Family Days on September 11th and 12th. Activities kick off Friday night, September 10th with our annual fish dinner. Event activities will be in full swing the 11th and 12th. What an overwhelming response we have received for making the decision to move forward. People know what a challenge it is to host the Fall Family Days event and they are responding “Go For It.” Our theme this year is “Farm Family Life”.

Don’t get me wrong, we have a lot of work yet to do before the event. We have some big shoes to fill. We need more volunteers to fill the ranks. We are not there yet, but I want to tell you.....we are going to make it.

We used to talk about the “new normal”. Well, Friends, I am changing the narrative to “Beyond Normal”. If we can continue on the path we are on currently, we will go beyond normal. People are tired of staying at home and they want to come out to take part in the activities.

When we initially started planning for FFDs, we were told by research that 70% return would be a good year following the pandemic. Now we are going beyond that—well beyond.

This is exciting! We are gearing up to go “beyond normal.”

So Friends, we are honored to invite you to the 25th Fall Family Days 2021. I hope to get a chance to meet and visit with each one of you.

Our motto for the past year has been “We-Together Moving Forward” and we are doing just that. Do come for a visit!

## FFD Returns-Full Steam Ahead

A Fall Family Days meeting was held in June at the Munro Building. We were very happy to see so many of our “Friends” returning to the site to offer their support for Fall Family Days 2021. Most all events will be returning. Unfortunately, we will not be holding the Tractor Games this year. Plan on observing the field demonstrations and all the machinery in operation in the out buildings and on the grounds. Over 200 Vendors and many tractors will be on site. There will be lots of food, including the Fish Fry on Friday night and the Farmer’s Breakfast on Saturday and Sunday. We look forward to seeing you then or sooner. Please look for more information on our Website and FaceBook Page.

## FALL FAMILY DAYS SPONSORS 2021

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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 Dennis Anderson, Cass City, MI  
 Raymond E. Baur, Unionville, MI  
 Bay Port State Bank, Bad Axe, MI  
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 Huron County Farm Bureau, Bad Axe, MI  
 J W Hunt, OTC. Bad Axe, MI  
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 Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI in memory of Frank Schwartz  
 Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI  
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 Rosalie Walsh, Ubly, MI  
 Louis & Linda Wehrman, Reese, MI  
 Weiss Farm Equipment, Frankenmuth, MI

### Bronze Sponsors (\$50 - \$149)

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 Walter & Ann Hagen, Bay City, MI

## FFD Bronze Sponsors Continued

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### Certificate Sponsors (\$0 - \$49)

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 Susan J. Gremel, Sebewaing, MI  
 Dolores Merchant, Ocqueoc, MI  
 Eldine M. Parent, Bay City, MI

## Museum Donations

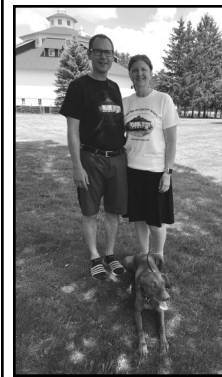
Ray Fibranz, Cass City, MI-2 shirts, Hard Hat & Linkville Elevator photo  
 Tony Grifka, Ubly, MI-77 Oliver Tractor  
 Dan Haines, Kingston, MI-Sauerkraut Pounder  
 Audrey Halas, Royal Oak, MI-Spinning Wheel  
 Mildred Oberski, Ruth, MI-Latal Babbitt, Block & Tackle, Cross Cut Saw, Hay Car, Drill,  
 Rope & Die Set  
 Julie Reinbold, Reese, MI-Garden Cultivator, Horse Drawn Cultivator & Shovel Plow,  
 Walking Plow, Slush Scraper, Sugar Beet Side Lifter  
 Tim Snyder, Otter Lake, MI-Fanning Mill, Grape or Apple Press, Cross Cut Saw,  
 Corn Sheller

## Host Couples

We would like to welcome back, **Too Tall (Ron) & Tammi Hensley** along with Willow, Gypsy and Lotto. This is their 10th season at the Barn and they have become a part of the Friends family. Congratulations.

The Monday work crew is very happy, too, to have their cook back. If you would like to share in the fun and food, we invite you to come out on Mondays. There is always something to do.

We would also like to welcome **Marty and Christine Boote** as host couples. Marty and Christine came out at the end of May for a couple of weeks to see if hosting at the site would work out in their new life change. They recently sold their home and are now living in and working remotely from their motor home. They were able to help the weekend that the Hensley's had to leave for a family wedding. They enjoyed their stay and said they will be back as time permits.



(Photo to the left) Marty and Christine with Daisy, their Vizsla Hungarian pointer. She's a beautiful, red dog.

Daisy wasn't sure about all the kittens that seem to show up on site, though.

**Greg and Jill Hunter** will also be back this summer to help out.

## Parades

Saturday morning, July 3rd started out a bit cool, but it was perfect for participating in the Cass City Freedom Festival parade. With the help of **Wayne & Karen Lenton, Louie & Linda Wehrman and Ron & Tammi Hensley**, the Thumb Octagon Barn parade float looked very patriotic with the addition of flags and flowers. Wayne Lenton pulled the float with his red pickup. Ron, Tammi and **Rose Putnam** handed out Fall Family Days magnets to the record number of viewers in the crowd. (Photo on the left)

On Sunday, July 4th, the float was once again proudly presented to the crowd at the Gagetown 4th of July Parade. (Photo on right) **Marty & Connie Osentoski** pulled the newly designed Souvenir Trailer and **Joan Koch** offered her support.



## Antique Car Club Visits the Barn

It was a perfect drive from the Tri-Cities on Saturday, June 5,



2021, to visit the Thumb Octagon Barn for the Cars of the Past Touring Club with eight antique and two modern day cars. Their mission is to promote the driving of antique cars, which they have been doing for nearly 30 years. **Jack Hill, Dean Rockwell, Marty Boote and Rose Putnam** were on hand to give the group of 20 members tours of the Barn and the Purdy Home, which they thoroughly enjoyed. This was not the club's first time at the Barn and they will be back again soon. For more information call director, Robin Reinke at 989-513-0590.



## Spring Clean Up

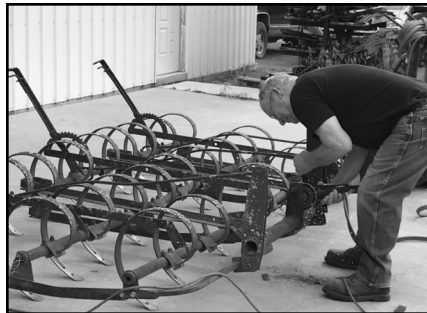
The official one day Clean Up in May was cancelled due to COVID restrictions this year, but that did not hinder the job of getting things cleaned up at the Barn. Volunteers spent blocks of their time on different days throughout the Spring to be ready to open on May 15th. There was a lot of dust and debris in the Barn from the replacement of the siding in 2020. The museum buildings needed a good cleaning and equipment needed to be repaired. Photo to the right is **Jerry Meredith** who is repairing the harrow used to weed the garden plot. The food plots are planted, watered and weeded. The potatoes have blossomed and look really good despite the drought conditions.



**Terry Keinath** is shown above with the sprinklers that keep the potato & pickle field and garden plots watered.



Dan Orton (Photo above) from Holloway Fire Protection was out to check and re-charge all the fire extinguishers on site.



Repair work has started on the Purdy Home.

The yard and fields needed mowing and trimming. Photo below: **George Pettinger** is mowing with our newer mower. It really gets the job done a lot faster.



**Norm Parker** has the AEDs back on site with new batteries.



DJ's Portable Toilet Rentals and Septic Service was out to get the portable toilets freshened up.

A new device was designed and installed by **Lew Martin** to better open the gates at the Visitor Center.



## New One Man Lift in the Elevator

A really unique item has been added to the Grain Elevator. It's called a One Man Lift. The photo on the right shows Louis Wehrman standing on the base of the lift. This lift was donated by **Johnny and Maria Berhaar** of Fairgrove. It was in a barn they purchased that was previously owned by the Mantey Seed Corn Processors in Fairgrove and was used for many years for the processing of seed corn. The farm was originally owned by Fritz Mantey. **Louis Wehrman, Wayne Lenton, and Ron & Neal Coltson** removed and reassembled the lift this past Spring. The mechanism is fascinating to watch in operation. Stop in to see for yourself.



## Benefactors

**The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through and including June 30, 2021.**

Lee Ann Anderson, Caro, MI  
 Kay Ardis, Dimondale, MI  
 Carolyn Baldwin, Vassar, MI  
 Jim & Rhea Bartels, Saginaw, MI  
 Tom Barton, St. Clair Shores, MI  
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 Karen Diamond, Lapeer, MI  
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 Esther English, Armada Twp. MI  
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 Duane & Gail Osbourn, Macomb, MI  
 Annette Pinney, Cass City, MI  
 Mike & Drucilla Pisarek, Cass City, MI  
 Jim & Barbara Prill, Grosse Pointe Wood, MI  
 Bill & Rose Putnam, Cass City, MI  
 Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI  
 Robert Rolston, Gagetown, MI  
 Ron & Margene Scott, Brown City, MI  
 Marlene Sieradzki, Deford, MI  
 Janet Blondell Stahl, Tillamook, OR  
 Henry & Ann Tschetter, Rockford, MI  
 Ronald Woytalewicz, Metamora, MI  
 Rose Wunderlich, Leesburg, FL  
 Tom & Pat Young, Upper Sandusky, OH

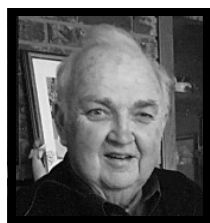


## Museum Donation

**Edna McLachlan**, Cass City, donated these two pressure cookers. The one on the left was purchased by Edna at the Ace Hardware in Commerce Township in the 1960's. She purchased the one on the right in the late 1970's from Micky Marshall, Cass City at a garage sale. They are on display in the Purdy Home. We thank you for your donation!



## IN MEMORIAM



Our dear friend, Lowell McDonald, of Bad Axe, passed away on January 1, 2021.

Lowell gave his total support to the Thumb Octagon Barn like many other organizations in his community. He was a generous financial supporter and always helped set up the lunch line during Fall Family Days and at our Annual Auction and Volunteer Picnic. He provided whatever we needed and loaned us a lot of his equipment. Luci Kubacki who worked for Lowell at McDonald's Foodland in Bad Axe, said "He was such a people person. He would offer a treat when people would do things for him. He always went 100% in whatever he did." He will be greatly missed by the "Friends at the Thumb Octagon Barn" and the surrounding communities.

Our dear lady friend, Lenora F. Kautz, of Harbor Beach, passed away on May 9, 2021. Lenora was a farm girl at heart and moved back from Detroit to the family farm in Huron County where she loved to drive tractor.



Lenora mentioned that she had driven the combine last Fall before she left for Florida. She loved airplanes and volunteered at air shows in Florida. She also volunteered at the annual School Tours and Fall Family Days as a tractor driver for the shuttles. She also loved the Purdy Home and spent her free time giving tours of the house when not on tractor duty. She was a special lady and always had a kind word for anyone she met. We will certainly miss Lenora's smile.

### Special Donations

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

Donation in honor of Edith (Purdy) Fritz and Dr. Perry Fritz D.D.S., sister and Brother-in-law of Mr. James Purdy, original owner of the Octagon Barn. Donation given by Karen & Steve Hamlin of Escanaba, MI. Karen is the granddaughter of Edith (Purdy) Fritz

Donation in memory of Lowell McDonald given by Duey & Karen Holz, Filion, MI

Donation in memory of her late husband, Kenneth Musser, given by Arlene Musser, Kawkawlin, MI

Donation in memory of her niece, Janet Hesseltine, who loved coming to Fall Family Days, given by Ivernia Schwartz, Gagetown, MI

Donation in memory of Erma Maust given by Ron & Arloia Lutz, Sebewaing, MI

Donation in memory of John Lantz given by Mary Beth Lantz, Saginaw, MI

Donation in memory of Scott Kelley who contributed and supported many organizations in Cass City. It must run in the family because his sister, Sharon Cummins known as the doughnut lady, also supports the community by volunteering. Donations given by Ena Reintjes, St. Clair Shores, MI and Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI

Donation in memory of Ted Reintjes, a Covid-19 victim who loved seeing and doing everything that you could at FFD. His wife Vickey said, "He just loved every single part of it." Donation given by Margaret Sergeant, Gagetown, MI

Donation in memory of Mike & Stella Pisarek, one time owners of the Octagon Barn given by niece Terry Townsend, Galena, IL

Donation in memory of Agnes Zawilinski given by Marie Leonetti, Harrison Twp., MI

Friends of the  
THUMB OCTAGON BARN  
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Non-Profit Org.  
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### What is it?

This wrench was donated in 2007. We did not know what it was and marked it with a sign that said "What is it?"

**John Walczy** of East Tawas who visited in July with friends from Bay Port was able to identify it as a **Ford Model A & T Spring Lifter Wrench** with Google Lens. We thank you for your help! Please visit the Garage on site to view this tool and other interesting items.



### Next Meetings :

The Executive Committee meetings will be held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Munro Building until further notice.

The next Fall Family Days meetings are July 20 & August 17, 2021 at 7:00 PM at the Munro Building.

### Newsletter

Database and Labels.....David Eichler

Editing & Mailing.....Margaret Sergeant

Newsletter Coordinator & Layout.....Rose Putnam

Photos.....Connie Osentoski & Rose Putnam

### Teamwork and Timbers returns to the Barn

We would like to invite boys and girls ages 10 years and up for a fun, hands on experience. This project teaches the history of building a timber framed barn and how to build one in a teamwork environment. The program is Saturday, August 28th from 9AM-3PM. Lunch is provided on site. Cost is \$10 per person. **Please contact Rose Putnam for more information. 989-444-9574**

### CPR RERESHER

Norm Parker, Alert Team Chair, is looking for those interested in taking a CPR class and able to be on call while on site at the Thumb Octagon Barn. The class (not a certification) will be held on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 from 6PM-8PM at the former Baker College Bldg., which is next to the Cass City Post Office. **Please call Norm Parker to sign up. 989-912-5227**

### Missing Dresses

The one room school program committee is looking for two missing blue dresses. These are very special as they were hand-made by Donna Auten and used for many of the one room school programs. If anyone knows where they may be, **please contact Gerald Auten. 989-872-2778**