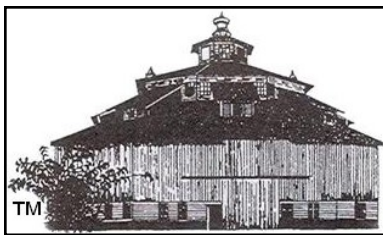


Thumb Octagon Barn News



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 2022

Executive Committee

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Visit our website
thumboctagonbarn.org

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Thumb Octagon Barn
Agricultural Museum
989-665-0081

President's Message

From Dennis Anderson:

Do you remember "Show & Tell" when you went to school? Beginning in elementary school the teacher would ask you to bring something from home, usually a toy or other item, to share and talk about in class. I am sure the teacher had an educational purpose in mind for doing "Show & Tell" besides scaring the day-lights out of us in class. The traditional assignment seemed to follow one through all of elementary school, high school and even in college. Only by then it was called demonstration speeches.

We brought back the General Meeting concept at our July board meeting. So to be clear, a general board meeting is a board meeting with an informal agenda and refreshments at the end. People are welcome to attend all of our board meetings but the general meeting seems to appeal to the membership. One of the important agenda items in the general meeting (You got it!) is "Show & Tell". When you think about it, that's what we are all about at the Thumb Octagon Barn. We "Show & Tell" about our rural agricultural history.



Our first volunteer for "Show & Tell" was Ron "Too Tall" Hensley who so elegantly demonstrated a cream separator from our milking display in the barn and at the same time sharing the story of how we get chocolate milk. "Too Tall" brought to life stories from our childhood memories. He has been with us for 11 years doing daily tours in the Barn for our visitors. Over time he has researched not only the Thumb Octagon Barn but many of the artifacts on display there. Hey, I can remember my father telling us with great conviction that "chocolate milk comes from brown cows." Yes, I shared this story with my family but now I know the rest of the story.... Thank you "Too Tall" for bringing back those memories.

Our next general meeting will be August 9th, 7:00PM, in the Munro building. We do normal business, but quickly get to the refreshments and an opportunity to visit. It may be that you have an item for "Show & Tell". Bring it along.

United States Flag Donated

A United States flag that was flown over the United States Capitol was received from Honorable Lisa C. McClain. She was personally thanked by Rose Putnam following the TEC Annual Meeting held at the Thumb Octagon Barn on June 11, 2022. We are so very proud to have the privilege of flying this flag.



School Tours 2022

**The School Tours Mission Statement:
Today...Everyday...Educating...Improving...
Working...To Save History for Tomorrow's
Future!**

"This year over 1,147 students were registered and 397 chaperones/educators attended the three day event. 153+ volunteers worked 1, 2, and/or 3 days and/or helped in some way in the planning/ implementing of School Tours 2022! These people could have chosen to be anywhere else and yet they chose to be at the Thumb Octagon Barn School Tours 2022 helping" reported Diane Rapson Gabil, Chairperson.

Our volunteers were asked to give a quote from their experiences:

- **EVERYONE WAS HAPPY!**
- **EVERYONE HELPED OUT**
- **KIDS HAVING FUN AND LAUGHING**
- **SQUIRREL FELL INTO SOUVENIR STATION**
- **FAITH FAHRNER, OUR NURSE, GOT A HUG FROM A STUDENT AFTER HER PRESENTATION!**
- **A STUDENT WAS MAD BECAUSE HE DIDN'T GET CHOSEN TO GET THE WOOD DURING THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL PRESENTATION. JIM WARE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL MUSEUM, HAD THE STUDENT PLAY THE PLAYER PIANO. THEN HE WAS HAPPY!**
- **SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS LIKED EVERYTHING!**
- **AT THE ONE ROOM SCHOOL, A BOY WANTED TO LOOK AT THE PADDLE TO SEE IF HIS GRANDPA'S NAME WAS ON IT!**
- **PAROCHIAL SCHOOL CHILDREN SINGING 'JESUS LOVES ME' WITH DULCIMER IN HOUSE WAS SPECIAL!**

- **LITTLE GIRL SAID SHE DIDN'T KNOW THAT PAPER WAS MADE FROM WOOD!**
- **NOLA AUERNHAMER HELPED BUD INBODY IN THE DAIRY, THEY HAD A GREAT TIME WORKING TOGETHER!**
- **KIDS DRESSED IN COWBOY BOOTS**

The weather played an important role this year! It was perfect and all on site enjoyed this special feature.



Photos: Lew Martin in the Blacksmith Shop is explaining his craft. Visiting and petting the animals (courtesy of the Schumitsch family) and the hatching of the baby chicks are the children's favorites. Even girls get to cut wood at the Sawmill with the help of Wayne Lenton. Pressing the apples, as demonstrated by Sheila Babcock, is always fun.

Small Straw Bales Needed for School Tours 2023 - and Beyond!

We need 175 straw bales donated/consigned from local farmer(s) to be used at some of the stations for School Tours so the students get the 'feel and smell' of rural America in the early 1900's. Delivery to the Thumb Octagon Barn site needed in early May of each year. Contact Diane Rapson Gabil, School Tours, chairperson: 989-392-1080, drapsongabil@chartermi.net Thanks In Advance! School Tours 2023 are scheduled for Wednesday, May 10th, Thursday, May 11th, and Friday, May 12th. Check the website in September 2022 for more information and registration - thumboctagon-barn.org

School Tours Continued



In the photo on the left, by the sign, Liz Schumitsch is holding the baby goat (pictured above) that was born the previous day. We were all so excited to have experienced this event. However, the goat was born premature to a first time mother. Sadly he passed later that day.

Diane Rapson Gabil: "THANK YOU TO EACH ONE OF YOU! You made a positive memory in the lives of all who attended School Tours 2022. I feel it was one of the most successful School Tour events over the last 20 years I have been doing them." This photo was taken on Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Not all 153 volunteers are pictured.



Mobile Medical Response team members Kevin Johnson and Kathi Carson were on duty during School Tours just in case there was a need. Thank you both for your service.



In keeping with this year's theme, many classes were able to enjoy touring the newly remodeled 100 year old Purdy Home.



Enjoying sitting on a tractor.

Learning how to use a hand water pump.



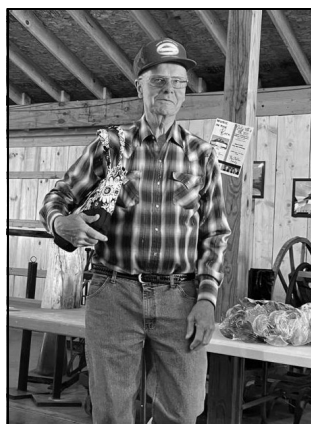
Counting! How many cows are surrounding the barn?

Rusty, the horse, and his "dad", Craig Haag, were back!



The dulcimer is a very interesting instrument and the kids are fascinated.

Volunteer Picnic and Annual Auction



Sunday, June 12, 2022, was a very special day for all volunteers of the Thumb Octagon Barn. It was a time to celebrate and enjoy each other's company without a job commitment. Nearly 200 people were in attendance for the picnic luncheon followed by the Annual Auction. Marty and Dave Osentoski volunteered their time to run the auction. "Thank you both!" There were many, many choices of handmade items and desserts and candy. Three 50-50 drawings were also held. Louis Wehrman (photo above) is shown modeling a hand sewn bag.

Dennis Anderson is holding a very delicious looking angel food cake. Marty Osentoski did not have trouble getting bidders for all



the homemade goodies. Pictured on the left are Rose Putnam, Joan Merchant and Joan Koch who helped clerk the auction. The picnic was planned by Tammi Hensley. Much fun was had by all.

Potatoes Planted

On May 9, 2022, Walther Farms employees arrived with equipment and in no time at all had the potato plot planted which will be used for demonstrations during FFD. Thank you!



We would like to thank Jim Osentoski of Ubly, MI for his generous donation of gravel for the Barn site.

Spring Clean Up

Saturday, May 7th, was the scheduled date for clean up. Many hands were on deck to spruce up the site for the seasonal reopening and the upcoming School Tours. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help.

Kubota Tractor and Loader Donated



The mowing crew's job and many other work site projects just got a lot easier with the very generous, anonymous donation of a Kubota L6060 tractor with a LA1055 front loader. Pictured is Louis Wehrman getting instructions from Mark Laethem of Farm Depot in Caro, who delivered the tractor. This diesel 60Hp tractor will now be able to lift the 3 mower decks with great ease. The tractor's main use during the summer is to keep our site mowed. It does have a three point hitch that can be used for a variety of things, which will come in handy during Fall Family Days.

Thank you to our Generous Donor! We appreciate your support.

Catholic Mass

May 21, 2022 was a special day at the Thumb Octagon Barn. A Rural Life Mass and the Blessing of the Seeds was held with nearly 200 people in attendance. Bishop Robert Gruss of the Saginaw Diocese was the principal celebrant. Fr. Stephen Plaxton from Holy Family Parish in



Sandusky was MC. Choir members and musicians came from several parishes in the Thumb. Altar servers pictured on the left are Loryn Nowiski, Amelia Capling and Lexy Roggenbuck who are from Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic School in Harbor Beach. The Sandusky and Caro Knights of Columbus served a luncheon following the Mass. Theologian Tim Streiff gave a presentation about how living in a rural area helps people stay in touch with God and all of creation. The event was a celebration involving people from the whole rural Thumb area sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of Saginaw.

Bus Tour

On Saturday, June 25, 2022, a bus arrived from Oakland University with students from the "Upward Bound" program. Their goal is to: *Provide participants with the skills and motivation necessary to complete a program of secondary education (high school) and to enter into and succeed in a program of postsecondary education (college).*



Thumb Electric Co-op Annual Meeting Held at the Thumb Octagon Barn

On June 11, 2022, Thumb Electric Cooperative held their annual meeting at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Mitch Hirn, Marketing and Communication Specialist of TEC, reported "400 people attended. Members were very interested in the fiber internet coming to our rural area. The Chevrolet Bolt owned by TEC and the Ford Lightning from Moore Motor Sales were a big hit." The children's entertainment included face painting, balloons, and bucket rides. The families also enjoyed tours of the Barn and Purdy Home.

Members were greeted at the gate (pictured below) by a huge sign attached to a TEC vehicle. Center photo shows Ron "Too Tall" Hensley "clowning around". Pictured on the far right is Jonathan Findlay running his first annual meeting as President.



Fall Family Days Is Right Around The Corner!

Plans are underway for the 26th annual Fall Family Days at the Thumb Octagon Barn. The Purdy Home is 100 years old this year and has had a lot of special attention. It looks spectacular. We hope that you will take time to see it all spruced up. We are very excited that the horse-drawn wagon rides will be back this year. All the vendor spots are filled and there is a long waiting list. We are preparing for a large crowd and have all the popular foods ordered. The volunteers and vendors will be ready to serve your favorite choices. There will be animals in the

Barn and goat milking behind the ditch. Our crops are growing since we were able to keep them watered during the dry spell. They will be ready for the field demonstrations. There is something special for all age groups. Please stop by on Saturday, September 10th, or Sunday, September 11th, from 8AM to 5PM. The annual Fish Fry will be held on Friday, September 9th, from 4PM until 7PM. Look for more updated information on our website at thumboctagon-barn.org or on our Facebook page at Thumb Octagon Barn Agricultural Museum.

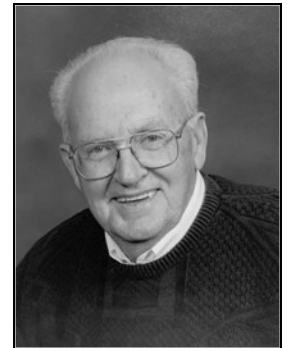
Memorial Service for Margaret Sergeant



On Saturday, June 18, 2022, a celebration of the life of Margaret Sergeant was held at the Thumb Octagon Barn. Margaret was a very special person to many as evidenced by the memories shared by friends. We would like to thank all the people who worked to make this celebration so beautiful and thoughtful.

We are sure Margaret would have approved. We will miss you very much, Margaret, but you will never be forgotten.

In Memoriam—Bruce Earl Brown



Bruce loved working in the sawmill and organizing items in the tool shop. He knew where everything was located. Bruce was always willing to do any job that needed doing. He was very friendly with a ready smile for everyone and made sure the guys had a pop or water while working. He will be missed by all.

Memorial Donations

In memory of Fred Haley from Ivernia Schwartz, Michelle, Brenda, Theresa

In memory of Dean Toner from Ivernia Schwartz, Michelle, Brenda, Theresa and Willa Vargas

In memory of Bev Rockefeller from Janice Winter, Nancy Fillion, Emilie Heleski and Evelyn Schadd

In memory of Margaret Sergeant from Elaine Granquist, Mary Ann Hirn, Richard & Cathy Stacer, Glen Craig, Mr. & Mrs. John Sting, Dennis & Joyce Anderson, Doug & Ardis Monroe, Dick & Norma Wallace, Joan Merchant, Kathy Toner, Diane Rapson Gabil, Lorna Gray, Lynn & Jim Prime, Janice Winter, Peggy Hellwig, Marvin & Katherine Webber, Sally Jo Brauer, Mary Brauer, Gail Osbourn, Martin & Luci Kubacki and Bill & Rose Putnam

In memory of Duane Osbourn from Mary Ann Hirn and Gail Osbourn

In memory of Jerome Kolar from Martin & Luci Kubacki

In memory of Charles Pardee from Beverly Monroe

Benefactors

The following made a donation of \$10.00 or more since our last newsletter through and including June 1, 2022.

Patricia Allen, Deford, MI
 LeeAnn Anderson, Caro, MI
 Bernard & Patricia Billingsley, Sanford, MI
 Linda & Raymond Borowicz, Alma, MI
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Elizabeth Lambert, Kingston, MI
 Evan and Whitney Laurie, Cass City, MI
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<p>Anderson, Tuckey, Bernhardt, & Doran, P.C., Caro, MI Lila M. Arroyo, Cass City, MI Bob Ashmore, Owendale, MI Gerald Auten, Cass City, MI Timothy Bang, Reese, MI Paul Beres, Lenox, MI Gerald Booms, Ubly, MI Albert & Ruth Ann Brown, Kingston, MI Beth M. Brown, Sebewaing, MI Ray & Carol Caverly, Gagetown, MI Barbara Chambers, Troy, MI Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI Toby & Kathy Guinn, Decker, MI Keny & Laura Hazard, Leesburg, FL Henry Tschetter Brooms, Rockford, MI Neal Hentschl, Harbor Beach, MI In Memory of Charles J. Busch Jr. by Rose Wunderlich, Leesburg, FL Terry & Sandra Keinath, Reese, MI</p>	<p>Liz Lambert, Kingston, MI Russ & Gerry Leavitt, Bay City, MI Harvey McIntyre, Ubly, MI Pisarek Brothers, Gagetown, MI Barbara Prime, Fairgrove, MI Diane Rapson Gabil, Essexville, MI Judy Ann Rau, Reese, MI Dave & Penny Turner, Mayville, MI Al & Lori Seurnyck, Pigeon, MI Joanne E. Herban-Snow & Fred Snow, Frankfort, MI Rebecca Strauch Vollmer, Lansing, MI Leon & Sue Swartzentruber, Ubly, MI Thumb Electric Cooperative, Ubly, MI Ken & Margaret Watson, New Hudson, MI Marvin & Alice Webber, Kawkawlin, MI Marv & Mary Wilcox, Clifford, MI George & Glenda Wilson, Gagetown, MI Andrew & Ashleigh Witucki, Bay City, MI</p>
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FFD Certificate Sponsors (\$1 to \$49)

<p>Karen J. Boomer, Lapeer, MI Diane Burseson, Reese, MI Russ & Bonnie Coones, Unionville, MI Bonnie Gaeth, Owendale, MI Melvin J. Gay, Saginaw, MI Susan J. Gremel, Sebewaing, MI Rosanne D. Heme, Bay City, MI</p>	<p>In memory of Pat Hester by Jim & Judy Brown, Cass City, MI Connie Latuszek, Midland, MI Ruth Leen, Carsonville, MI Mary MacNeil, Kawkawlin, MI Tom & Denise Patrick, Fostoria, MI Barb Stickle, Cass City, MI Jerry & Barb Weber, Winter Park, FL</p>
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Memorial Block Purchased

The Bad Axe Historical Society recently held a fundraiser. Shelley Corsini of Bad Axe purchased a paving block in the name of the Thumb Octagon Barn as a donation. Thank you, Shelley!



Next Meetings :

The Executive Committee and Regular Membership meetings will be held the second Tuesday of each month at the Munro Building in the summer and fall months and at the Purdy Bank Building in Gagetown in the spring and winter months. Fall Family Days Meetings: July 19th & August 23, 2022 at the Munro Building on Site.

Newsletter

Database and Labels.....David Eichler

Editing.....Grace Janowski

Newsletter Coordinator & Layout.....Rose Putnam

Photos.....Connie Osentoski & Rose Putnam

Wind Storm Hits the Thumb Area

On Thursday, June 16, 2022, a storm with high winds came through Michigan and caused a lot of tree damage along its route. The Thumb Area was hit pretty hard. A huge limb was partially torn off a tree on the south side of the Purdy Home. There was great concern that it



would hit the house and do serious damage. A call was made to Kap-pen Tree Service and within an hour they arrived. **Craig Swiderski** was able to climb the tree and cut the limb himself. We thank **Kap-pen Tree Service** for their prompt service during this very busy time. **Dennis Anderson** assembled a crew to clean up. **Martin Kubacki**, **George Pettinger** and **Ron "Too Tall" Hensley** along with **Dennis** came to clean up the mess under the walnut trees in front of the Barn. We thank them also for their prompt response to get our site cleaned up and ready to receive visitors.

