

# Spreading the..... Farm Museum Newsletter

**ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM**  
"PRESERVING A BIT OF YESTERDAY FOR TOMORROW"

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## FALL HARVEST DAYS 2023

It has been a few short weeks since the end of the 2023 Fall Harvest Days and we have received many compliments on this year's event. The show wasn't without a few hiccups like the downpour of rain we had on setup day which created lake front property for many attempting to set up and causing ripple effects including the cancellation of the tractor pull and tractor games. The soggy conditions certainly caused visitors to re-plan their routes as they traveled around the park. Despite the setbacks, people enjoyed the event.

We had a few new people join and the Museum would like to welcome them to our

membership. New members include Matt Ballard, Pete Jett, Sarah Jett, Phil Leese, Melissa Savage, Kyle Slifco, Josh Thomas and Bill Wideman. Thank you for becoming members and we hope to see you involved in helping the Museum grow.

Many members and volunteers were seen at the Harvest Days this year helping in some capacity. It could have been selling tickets at the gates, setting up for the show, working in the concession stand, working the breakfasts, operating the sawmill, stuffing wheat shocks into the thresher, providing barrel train rides, staffing the kids activities, organiz-

ing the vendors, shuffling people on the people mover, demonstrating their craft, registering participants, singing the national anthem, stoking the fires on the Baker for the steam whistles, organizing the raffle and selling tickets or one of many more tasks that are required to make this show run. It was good to see everyone pulling together to make the show what it is. So thank you to all who helped out and thank you to the many sponsors for their support. Let's all work together to make the next Fall Harvest Day's even better. It's our 40<sup>th</sup> and it needs to be special. Ideas and help are always welcome.



Museum member Bill Schultz wears many hats. Currently the treasurer of the Farm Museum and a member since 2006, Bill utilizes his "spare time" being involved in many areas. Bill's day job as an Engineering Manager at Stenger Controls in Auburn Hills keeps him busy but he still finds time to serve the public by being a member of his township's planning commission, farming 40 to 60 acres of hay each year, and helping with the family business, Ma-

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - BILL SCHULTZ

**jestic Heart Carriage Rides,** he shares with wife Kim.

Bill originally brought his horses to an event at the Farm Museum, was asked by a member to attend one of the membership meetings and afterword became a member. Giving rides behind a team of horses brought smiles to visitor's faces and people started sharing stories about utilizing horses in earlier days. The ability to answer people's questions and share information about the horses brings joy to Bill and is one of the things he likes about being a

member of the Museum.

Some of the projects that Bill has been involved in are the cleaning of the bull pen area, work on the fender and bed of the Ford truck, cleaning of the "triangle" for farming, working on and in the concession trailer, and most importantly, keeping the books in order. Bill is often seen selling tickets at the door of the fundraising events.

Owning New Hollands, a Farmall M, and a Ford Jubilee, Bill calls blue, green and red his favorite color trac-

tors.

Bill uses his computer skills to the benefit of the Museum by changing typed documents, such as the by-laws, into electronic documents and to bolster the website to keep it from disappearing. Without Bill sharing these skills with the Museum, we could be in much worse shape. Thank you, Bill for your years of dedicated service to the Farm Museum.

## THANK YOU

### S.C.C. 4 - H & Youth Fair

Many people need to be thanked for their dedicated efforts to make the Museum's presence known at the fair this year. First and foremost is member Terry Dunn who spear-headed the efforts to set up a display of a few of the Museum artifacts. Often seen cooking at the concession, helping with the sawmill, or chasing down the bad guys, Terry's efforts should be a model that all members should strive for.

Next on the long list of people to thank is David Bennis. Behind the scenes, Dave made it possible for Museum visitors to enjoy their stroll through the dairy barn. Single handedly, setting up the audio visual equipment for all to learn from, Dave spent countless hours in the barn talking with visitors and sharing information about the Museum.

This years raffle was for a reconditioned golf cart and several people have worked during the fair to sell tickets. Dianne Peasley heads up the committee and had the help of Wayne Coon, Beth Sawdon, Dennis VanNuck and Ken Romack. Thank you to all ticket sellers.

The sawmill set up crew this year included Fred Peasley, Terry Dunn, Ray Theut, Bob Sullivan, Dennis VanNuck, Dennis Derby, Keith Barnhart, Scott Eisele, Mark Schwab, Steven Schwab, Bob Lewandowski, Jeff Wilson and Tommy Wilson. Thanks to all for your help.

A special thank you goes out to Tim McMurtrie and Randy Diamond for help firing the P.H. Steamer on Thursday. Although rain dampened the

event, their help was appreciated.

The sawmill was well staffed this year with helpers. The long list includes Fred Peasley, Terry Dunn, Dennis VanNuck, Keith Barnhart, Ray Theut, Ken Romack, Mark Schwab, Al Burt, Dennis Derby, Casey Chaudry, Scott Eisele, Bob Sullivan, Bob Lewandowski, Steven Schwab, Tim McMurtrie, Randy Diamond, and special helpers Tom Wilson, Kaleb Adams, Micah Adams, Elijah Blankenship and Levi Blankenship.

The morning after clean up crew includes Fred Peasley, Terry Dunn, Dennis VanNuck, Dennis Derby, Scott Eisele, Casey Chaudry, and Keith Barnhart.

Lastly, early in the morning, two members hauled the manure from the 4-H livestock. Fred Peasley and Bob Sullivan should be thanked for their part in helping the 4-H clubs.

## UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

### Membership Meetings

October 17, 2023

November 21, 2023

Reminder there is no membership meeting in December

Keeping in touch with the Museum happenings has never been easier. Information can be found on the Museum Facebook page or on the Museum's web site. As always, please consider joining us at one of our events.

### Pumpkin Fest

Pumpkin Fest is scheduled for four weekends in October. See the flyer on page 3. New this year is a corn maze where youngsters of all ages can wander about, then take a ride to pick a pumpkin.

### Volunteer Incentive

We are rekindling the volunteer incentive that was started at the Fall Harvest Days this year where we had two members step up to the plate to volunteer their time to help out. The rules enter the raffle drawing are as follows:

Any current member who, has not helped out in some capacity at the Farm Museum this past year or a new member who signs up at pumpkin fest and, helps out in some capacity for at least two hours will be en-

tered into a drawing to receive a "swag bag" of Steiner gear. There are eight bags available to win.

Rules,

1. Must be a current member who has not participated in the past year, or, a new member who has not helped out this year.
2. Must work for a minimum of 2 hours at Pumpkin Fest.
3. Must check in at the registration table to be entered into the drawing.
4. Drawing will be held the last Sunday of Pumpkin Fest.

### Breakfast With Santa

Breakfast with Santa will be held on December 3 from 10 am to 1 pm. See flyer on pg. 3

### Membership

Reminder: it's time to renew your membership and please provide an email address.

The St. Clair County Farm  
Museum Presents:



## Fall Pumpkin Fest and Corn Maze



**2023**

Take a wagon ride to the farm's pumpkin patch,  
pick a pumpkin, try to not get lost in the Museum corn maze

Corn Stalks, Indian Corn,  
Stroll through the Sunflowers & Gourds  
museum buildings For Sale



Concessions available

Cost:

\$4.00 per ride  
To pick a pumpkin

\$4.00 per ride  
To the corn maze

October 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29

Saturdays & Sundays 12 noon -5pm

**While Supplies Last**

Find the Farm Museum at:  
Goodells County Park  
8310 County Park Drive  
Goodells, Mi. 48027

[www.stclaircountymuseum.org](http://www.stclaircountymuseum.org) 810-325-1737

The museum is a 501c3 non-profit, charitable organization operated by volunteers.



Please consider joining to help us preserve the heritage of the farming communities of rural St. Clair County

## St. Clair County Farm Museum's Breakfast with Santa



When: Sunday December 3, 2023

Where: Goodells County Park Community Center  
8264 County Park Dr, Goodells

Time: 10am to 1pm

Cost: Adults 12 and up \$8.00

Children 11 and under \$5.00

Pancake breakfast with eggs, sausage,  
and beverage.

Santa, Crafts, Bake sale & Basket raffle

## REVISITING THE PAST

## MICHIGAN'S COAL INDUSTRY - PART 3

This is part three of the story of coal production in Michigan. Part two can be read in vol. 3, issue 3 of the newsletter.

The number of mines in the Saginaw Valley continued to grow and by 1919 Saginaw County had 17, Bay County had 10, Shiawassee and Eaton Counties each had two and Tuscola, Genesee and Eaton Counties each had one. Along with the growth of the fledgling coal industry, safety remained a large concern as it was reported that in 1919 there was a decrease in mining accidents but that year there were still a total of 252 accidents, with three of

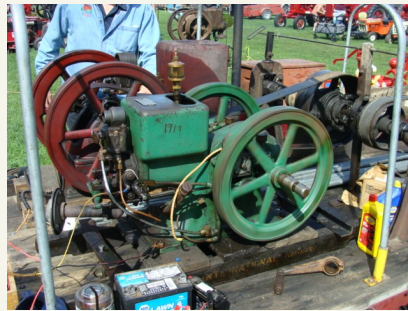
those fatalities.

Mining work was difficult and working conditions underground were poor. Lighting was provided by lard fueled lamps and air quality was poor even with ventilation shafts providing air. Worker often lay on their bellies in wet mud or water covered floors while maneuvering through the tunnels. Shafts were supported with timbers as miners chipped away at the veins of coal and loaded it into iron cars pulled by mules. Despite these conditions, the average miner could harvest 2.5 tons of coal per day.

Spanning nearly 90 years, Michigan's 160 coal mines

managed to produce over 46 million tons of bituminous coal. With the advancement of transportation modes for coal resources, Michigan could not compete with areas like the Appalachia range and Wyoming which had a greater abundance of coal and thicker and more concentrated beds. By 1930, most of the state's mining ceased operation with the last coal mine in the Saginaw Valley closing in 1952. Geological surveys show that there remains some 300 million tons of coal buried below the surface which may never be mined.

# FALL HARVEST DAYS REMEMBERED





WE'RE ON THE WEB  
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



## ST. CLAIR COUNTY FARM MUSEUM

8310 County Park Drive  
P.O. Box 202  
Goodells, MI 48027

810-325-1737  
sccfarmmuseum@gmail.com

### Museum Board

Fred Peasley, President  
Terry Dunn, V. President  
Linda Taylor, Secretary  
Bill Schultz, Treasurer  
Keith Barnhart

Wayne Coon  
Yvonne Markel  
Kim Schultz  
Melissa Wilson  
Bill Zegelian

The mission of the St. Clair County Farm Museum is to provide an understanding of our heritage, add to our areas cultural base and enhance regional tourism. This is achieved by acquiring, preserving and presenting agricultural and domestic equipment and related artifacts in structures and settings which will portray the origin and evolution of farming and rural living from when the area was first settled until about 1960.

The museum is a 501c3 charitable non profit organization which is operated entirely by volunteers. The museum always welcomes new volunteers to join us in achieving our mission. An agricultural background is not a requirement to become a member. Please join us at our meetings on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Community Building at Goodells County Park.

St. Clair County Farm Museum  
P.O. Box 202  
Goodells, MI 48027

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE