



Spreading the.....

Farm Museum Newsletter

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

FARM MUSEUM LEADERSHIP

As per the bylaws of the Farm Museum, the election for the board of directors was held at the November general membership meeting. This year, the BOD was reduced from eight to six members. With Bill and Kim Schultz both not seeking

reelection, the three current members due for reelection, Fred Peasley, Linda Taylor, and Yvonne Markel along with nominees Kyle Slifco and Matt Ballard were placed on the ballot. The three incumbents, Fred, Linda and Yvonne were

reelected to the BOD. After the general meeting adjourned, a BOD meeting was held to elect officers, Retaining their seats were president, Fred Peasley, vice president, Terry Dunn and secretary Linda Taylor. No treasurer was elected.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - RAY THEUT

Ray Theut has been a member of the Farm Museum for around fourteen years and has been a great asset to the Museum. He is seen at many of the Museum events such as fall harvest days, pumpkin fest, the pancake breakfasts, and many other events. Still working hard as an employee of Hess Asphalt Paving, Ray manages to make time to volunteer at the Museum whenever he is

needed.

Growing up on a farm and working on the farm chores and with the machinery is the big reason that Ray became a member. Being able to work with all of the great people involved with the Museum is what keeps him coming back. Ray was instrumental in the repair of the cooling system on the Museums Rumely and is often seen driving it around the

grounds pulling a people mover.

Ray is the "jack of all trades" type of guy as is evident in his hobbies and his help at the museum. Whether it's cutting grass at the family farm, working on his equipment or spending time at the museum, Ray is always lending a helping hand. During Fall Harvest Days, Ray can be found helping thresh the wheat by feeding the thresher, operating the tractor, or one of the many tasks involved in that operation. If not at the thresher, he can be found in the sawmill helping on many of the chores in that venue.

As witnessed by Ray's involvement, he really enjoys all of the events at the Farm Museum but most of all; it's the camaraderie of the people that Ray calls friends; the fellow volunteers at the Museum that keeps him involved. The Museum is lucky to have a friend like Ray who unselfishly helps keep the wheels churning. Thank you, Ray, for all of your involvement.

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THANK YOU

Equipment Storage

November 11 was a work day at the Museum where the equipment that normally is displayed out side around the Museum is moved into storage for the winter. Many members and volunteers turned out for the day to help in the many tasks. In addition to the equipment placed into storage, firewood was cut and split for use in the steam tractors. Thank you to all who gave a bit of time to help with these tasks.

People Mover

Thank you to Ron Charney for continuing to promote the Farm Museum by pulling the people mover in Santa parades in Yale and Avoca.

Firewood Donation

Thank you to Port Huron Township and supervisor Bob Lewandowski for the donation of wood to be used for both the firewood for the steamers and logs to be cut into lumber

during demonstrations of the saw-mill.

Breakfast with Santa

Thank you to all of the members and volunteers who helped to make the breakfast a fun time. Unfortunately, the breakfast was not well attended for a variety of reasons but those in attendance enjoyed the opportunity to visit with Santa, participate in craft activities and a good meal.

Bill & Kim Schultz

Long time Museum board members Bill and Kim decided to step aside in their roles as leaders of the Museum. Bill served as a board member since 2012. Starting as a trustee from 2012 to 2016, then as secretary from 2017, vice president in 2019, and treasurer from 2020 until 2024. Kim served as secretary in 2016 and as board member trustee in 2017 and from 2021 until 2024.

Thank you both for your long years of service to the Museum. We have all benefited from your time served and hope you continue to help out at the Museum.

Pumpkin Fest

By all accounts, the 2024 pumpkin fest was a huge success. Many visitors to the Museum enjoyed a ride to the field where they picked a pumpkin or walked the corn maze. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make the three weekends enjoyable to all.



UPCOMING & PAST EVENTS

Membership Meetings

January 21, 2025
February 18, 2025
March 18, 2025

Board Meetings

January 8, 2025
February 5, 2025
March 5, 2025

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.

Board Meeting Notice

The January BOD meeting will be held on January 8 rather than the first Wednesday of the month.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Now is the time to start scheduling your activities for spring. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny will be held on April 13 and volunteers are needed to help with the many tasks. Please contact Yvonne Markel if you are able to help out.

Sleigh Days

As always, sleigh days will be held in February or March and is totally dependent on snow conditions. Watch Facebook or the website for details and announcements.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The Museum and its members would like to welcome a few new members including Mark Casey, Christian Gunst and Tom Ballard. We look forward to meeting and working with you to make your membership a rewarding experience.

Welcome!

Work Days

Interest in helping out, contact Fred or Terry for details.

THE FRANKENMUTH WOOLEN MILL

Not long ago I was listening to WJR radio and an interview with the owner of the Frankenmuth Woolen Mill and found it particularly interesting as we were planning a Thanksgiving time trip to that area. Upon searching the internet, I came up with the website: www.wool-bedding.com and found the address of the business and information about the company and its long and interesting history in the town of Frankenmuth.

Established in 1894, by Franz Ranke and associate George Grueber, the mill was the first

woolen mill in Saginaw County producing horse blankets, mittens and socks for lumbermen and wool comforters. The mill grew substantially by producing army socks during World War 1.

Through the years, the company has changed hands a few times but continues to use the same equipment purchased in 1894 and uses the same process to produce the custom wool bedding along with other items. The opportunity to see this machinery heightened my interest.

In the back of the retail store, behind glass, is the operating

woolen mill. Driven by overhead line shafts, the machines, although not operating during our visit, are visible as is the wool washing station in the basement. Several claw foot bath tubs serve that purpose. The line shaft, still in use, is driven now by a large electric motor and the belts, now guarded by steel structures, can be seen winding throughout the room. I would have enjoyed seeing it in operation during my visit. Maybe next time I will try to arrange a group tour which is available. Meanwhile, I'll just imagine the belts spinning the pulleys to drive the huge machines.

MBPN CALENDAR

The "barns in the moonlight" photograph of the dairy and horse barn at Goodells County Park, by the late Mike Sexton, was selected for publication on the 2025 Michigan Barn Preservation Networks annual calendar. The MBPN website states they are "committed to the rehabilitation of traditional barns for agricultural, business, public and residential uses. Our work raises awareness and aids in the continuing presence of barns in our communities and on the landscape."

Copies of the calendar will be available at the January membership meeting on a first come basis or can be purchased through the MBPN website at

<https://mibarn.net/store/>

The Farm Museum thanks the MBPN for including "our barns" on the calendar.

The St. Clair County Farm
Museum Presents:



Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

Sunday, April 13th

9 am - 1 pm

Egg hunt with breakfast

Kids crafts

Raffles

Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,
Sausage, Drinks

Location:
Goodells County Park
Community Center

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

www.stclaircountyfarmmuseum.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



WE'RE ON THE WEB
STCLAIRCOUNTYFARMMUSEUM.ORG



Find us on Facebook



**S T . C L A I R C O U N T Y
F A R M M U S E U M**

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Museum Board

Fred Peasley, President
Terry Dunn, V. President
Linda Taylor, Secretary
????????, Treasurer

Keith Barnhart
Yvonne Markel
Melissa Wilson

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
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