

Exhibits and Displays



The log cabin was moved to the museum in 1999 and has since been used as a display about the first settlers. Next to the building is a "kitchen garden" that is surrounded by a handmade twig fence.

The inside of the Farm History Building is filled with tools, machinery and displays about farm life. At one end is "Grandma's Kitchen" while the other end looks like the inside of a barn. In-between, learn about dairy farming in Michigan, poultry farming and local historic sites like the Bangor Elevator.



Scattered throughout the museum's grounds are educational display signs. The interactive displays have visitors matching sawdust to the machines that made it or trying to identify antique tools that are no longer used. One of the more popular signs is "The Outhouse" which tells the compelling history of the toilet's predecessor.



In December of 2006, a 100 year old barn was moved to the museum to be restored and used as our Cultural and Educational Display building. Once completed, the barn will house exhibits, have a program area and facilities like restrooms and a kitchen.



The Michigan Flywheelers Museum is governed by a nine member Board of Directors. Monthly membership meetings are held on the second Sunday of the month annually except for September.

2009 Officers & Directors

President: Pat Ingalls of Bangor, MI
Vice President: Larry Weniger, of Grand Junction, MI
Secretary: Lorrie Getman of South Haven, MI
Treasurer: Jeanne Folkert of Allegan, MI

Directors: John Bury of Bangor, John Campbell of South Haven, Erik Cantrell of Olivet, MI, Dave Myers of Paw Paw and Jim Schlachter of Hartford, MI.



"The Wooden Nickel Gift Shop"

Special Events

FARM HISTORY DAY

Second Friday in May
SWAP MEET

Second weekend in June **ANTIQUÉ ENGINE & TRACTOR SHOW**

Starts the Thursday after Labor Day

MAILING ADDRESS:

Michigan Flywheelers Museum
 64958 M-43 Hwy.
 Bangor, MI 49013

Michigan Flywheelers Museum



06285 68th Street
South Haven, MI

"Preserving the Past for the Future"

A 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to the restoration and preservation of antique flywheel engines & tractors.



Open Wednesdays,
 Saturdays and Sundays
 from Memorial Day to
 Labor Day and by
 appointment.

— How it all began —

In 1984, the Van Buren Flywheelers began as an antique engine and tractor show in the parking lot of the local fairgrounds in Hartford, Michigan. Born out of the love for old engines and tractors, Tim, Fred and John Krizan, the founders, nursed a small show into one of the largest in the state. As the show became larger, it soon outgrew the fairgrounds and in 1995, the club purchased 80 acres of property in Geneva township, east of South Haven.

At this same time, the club decided to legally obtain its 501 (c)(3) classification, so, at the suggestion of a lawyer, the club reorganized, re-named itself and has rapidly grown into an organization with more than 450 members and an agenda many would be proud of!



In its continued strive to educate, the museum began its "Farm History Day" in 2000. At the first event, a huge crowd of students turned out to watch museum volunteers, who were dressed in period costumes, demonstrate skills like blacksmithing, making shingles and making soap. Students were

taken on a hay ride, watched a plowing demonstration and seemed to enjoy participating in the "hands-on" activities like churning butter and dipping candles. By 2008, attendance was at an all-time record high of 1,200 and many new exhibits had been added.

Other goals for the museum include creating an "Old Towne" area with businesses and trades that were typically found at the turn of the 20th century, renovating an 100 year -old barn into a educational display building and establishing an endowment fund that would provide financial stability.

Other things to see ...



- Handbuilt Log Cabin
- Abbert & Sons Farm Machinery Repair Shop
- Old Towne Jail
- Farm History Building
- Migrant Worker Home
- Sawmill
- Shinglemill
- "Rustin Piece" cemetery

— The Museum expands—

A big step for the museum was to establish regular hours for tours. In 2004, the facility opened for self-guided tours on weekends during the summer. This was expanded in 2007 to include Wednesdays.

The museum is also open for special events like its main fundraiser - the "Antique Engine and Tractor Show." Hundreds of collectors from all over the nation attend this four day event which is held the weekend after Labor Day. Packed full of interesting and family-oriented activities, visitors can step back into time as they watch the huge steam traction engines power the sawmill, enjoy musical entertainment, eat corn steamed by a steam engine and see the hundreds of antique flywheel tractors and engines that are on display.



Other events include a Swap Meet in June.

Museum Information



Contact information: (269) 639-2010
e-mail: michiganflywheelers@yahoo.com
www.michiganflywheelers.org

Admissions and donations are used solely for the operational, maintenance and expansion expenses of the museum.

Would you like to join the Flywheelers?

Memberships are available for as little as \$20 per year! Receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to our tractor show and meet all kinds of interesting people.

Lifetime memberships are also available. The monies from these are dedicated to the development of the museum.

Contact the museum at anytime for more information.



We hope you stop in and visit the Michigan Flywheelers Museum where we work towards preserving our very important American farming history.