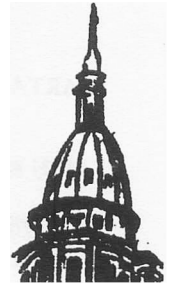


MICHIGAN STATE
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SPARTAN SENIOR

A newsletter for Michigan State University Retirees

LANSING AREA LOCAL EDITION February 2011

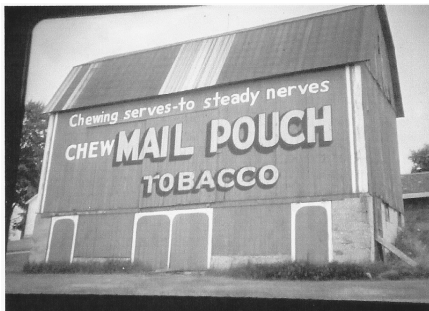
Barn Talk
Delights Full Barn



Jack Worthington

We gathered, eighty-five or so, for our January meeting (the 10th) at the Credit Union out in the snows north of town. Despite temporary lighting problems, the gathering was enthralled by Jack Worthington's (Ret. Extension) slide show of aging barns around our beautiful state. Why are they left to disintegrate or bull-dozed for housing estates or ripped apart for barn lumber? Answer: a century ago farmers outnumbered urban dwellers 9 to 1, but now the ratio is reversed. Hence many fewer barns are needed to store animal feed or the animals themselves.

Jack showed us canny builder secrets with close-ups of construction methods, as well as samples of various barn architectures: domed and mansard roofs, cathedral-like interior spaces, barns-turned-into-houses. About the lighting problem: we had scurrying Association officers, credit union helpers, and even Jack's wife Barb trying to extinguish all the lights so the slides could show with clarity the skill of the photographer. That was accomplished about ten minutes into the show to the relief of an almost-capacity crowd of intrepid retirees.



A Barn

Donuts, coffee and tea were available and ingested with gusto (I think I saw president-emeritus Gale Arent take the last donut). Lots of good conversation as well.

Our presenter is an old friend to many in the Association (and of your editor) and in retirement is on the Board of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. Barn lovers may contact the president at stephenstier@gmail.com (from the MIBarn Fall newsletter).

Birders Needed

Are you interested in birding? Do you love wild birds and bird watching? Would you be interested in meeting other bird watchers? Are you interested in finding information on seeds to attract birds, building bird houses, and web links to home pages on other bird watchers? Please volunteer to work with other MSU retirees who are bird watchers.

Contact: MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Building, Michigan State University, 1407 S. Harrison Ave, East Lansing, MI 48824-9902. Tele: (517) 353-7896. E-mail: msura@msu.edu Website: www.retirees.msu.edu

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Website: <http://www.retirees.msu.edu>

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	John Forsyth	517-332-6683

Come to Meetings and Listen

February 14: Lori Strom, Coordinator of the MSU Family Center, will speak on "Healthy Aging through Volunteerism," lifting up some projects in the community that you can volunteer for, but also about being a caregiver when there is a family crisis.

March 14: Brent Bowditch, Assistant VP for Human Resources and **Renee Rivard**, Director, Assistant VP for Human Resources. They will give the annual health benefits update.

April 11: Brad Walker, Radio Reading Services and **Susi Elkins**, Content and Community Engagement Manager, MSU Broadcasting Services. We will hear about the need for volunteers to read for the Radio Reader program and how WKAR radio and TV are involved in the community.

May 9: Annual Luncheon at Kellogg Center. Big 10 Room C. Speaker TBA.

(Ron Smith, vice president.)

Presidential Message

by **L Patrick Scheetz**

Discover Passions and Cultivate Creative Talents



Patrick Scheetz

After years of paying your dues, and making a living to support yourself and your family, it is time for pursuit of your passions. No? You thought retirement was a time to hang up the spikes, curl up in an easy chair, and rest for the remainder of your lifetime. No way!

According to the dictionary, passion is any powerful or compelling emotion or feeling, such as love or hate. Yes, there are definitions of strong amorous feelings or desires; love; ardor too. But for our purposes, the definition of passion is a strong or extravagant fondness, enthusiasm, or desire for anything, such as a passion for music, ancestry, archeology, or whatever tickles your fancy.

Here are examples of passion: everyone could see the passion in his efforts when helping others, a controversy has stirred passions in government, her musical performance is full of passion and originality, he spoke with passion about preserving old farm barns, computers have always been his passion, she developed a passion for writing, or he has a passion for literature or reading.

So tell us about your passions? What did you discover when you retired? Would you share your activities and joys with us? What stirs your passions, interests, and enthusiasm? What keeps your positive juices flowing? And may we share your responses with other MSU retirees in a future newsletter and on the MSURA website? Send your replies to: msura@msu.edu or mail to the MSU Retirees Association, 22 Nisbet Bldg, MSU, 1407 S Harrison Ave, EL 48823. Thank you.

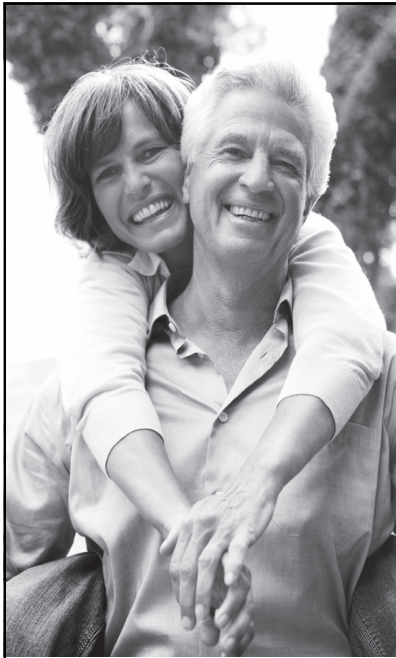
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If your Newsletter is Late

This is a note to all subscribers who get the newsletter through the mail. We work very hard to get the copy to the printer on time and proof it as soon as it is printed.

After that, the newsletter is out of our hands. Many times there are delays at the printer and more often at the Post Office.

We try to announce meetings and speakers several months ahead. If the notice gets mislaid or if the newsletter is late, you can find the information on our website <http://www.retirees.msu.edu>. Or you may call the MSURA office at 517-353-7896. **(Stephanie Barch).**



A Wise Man Said

A wise man once said “I don’t believe that God put us on earth to be ordinary.” Actually most people don’t think they are ordinary, they truly believe they are extraordinary. What about you? Have you done a kindly deed lately, given someone a friendly smile, comforted someone in their sorrow, helped the needy with willing hands. A small service is a true service that can change a person’s life now or forever.

Our knitting group is doing this, one small item at a time. There are many more who do not knit with us but who have given money and yarn in abundance. It’s their way of being extraordinary.

Through my fourteen years of MSU knitting I have been privileged to have met some of MSU’s finest and those serving the needs of those less fortunate in the Lansing community. I feel truly blessed to have been associated with such extraordinary persons.

If you would like to help in any way please call Rosemary Pavlik at (517)882-2030. Our knitting group meets every other Tuesday from 1:00pm- 4:00pm in room 27 of the Nisbet Bldg. Hope to see you there.

@ @

Michigan 4-H Workers Reunion

Larry Johnson writes to tell us that May 18-20, 2011 is the tri-annual Reunion at the Michigan 4-H Foundation’s Kettunen Center for everyone formerly associated with Michigan 4-H as employees. Invitees include county and state staff of whatever title who had an affiliation with the 4-H Youth Development Program during their careers. Extension agents/educators/assistants/associates with 4-H responsibilities, support staff, on-campus specialists, program leaders, and all spouses/guests are all welcome.

Highlights include updates on MSU Extension, 4-H Programs, Michigan 4-H Foundation, and Kettunen Center. 2011 marks Kettunen Center’s 50th anniversary, so we can celebrate its success.

Rooms have been reserved in the Red Oak and White Pine facilities. Built into the agenda is ample time for fellowship with colleagues and friends.

Help us build the mailing list. Send names and addresses of persons you think may not be on the mailing list as former workers. Contact for the event is Larry Johnson at Johns153@msu.edu or 616-396-1426. Look for letters and registration materials this March.

Membership Really Makes a Difference


We’re glad to be members of MSUFCU. They offer great options for managing our money and help us to achieve our financial dreams. One of the best options is Senior Class. When we turned 55 we took advantage of:

- Free Checks and Money Orders
- Free Travelers Cheques
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Senior Class at MSUFCU. One more reason to join today.
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 Lansing • 200 E. Jolly Rd.
 653 Migaldi Ln.
 Okemos • 1775 Central Park Dr.
 Auburn Hills • 3265 Five Points Dr.



**MSU RETIREES ASSOCIATION
22 NISBET BUILDING
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
EAST LANSING, MI 48823**

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

Second Nomination for Volunteer of the Year

The Awards Committee of your association is ready to receive nominations for the Spartan Senior Volunteer Award. This is the only annual award presented by MSURA. It is a significant achievement award in the retirement community of the university.

Answer these questions in the order indicated, and submit your answers by e-mail or by postal mail as instructed below.

MSURA Spartan Senior Volunteer Award Nomination Format:

Name and address of this MSU Retiree or Retiree Spouse nominee.

Where has the nominee been active as a volunteer? (This award emphasizes not only service to MSURA and to MSU but also service in other organizations and "person to person" helping roles.)

List specific volunteer responsibilities and activities (include leadership roles, accomplishments, length of service times, etc.) Describe your perspective on how this person's work has brought significant benefits meriting special recognition.

Name address and phone number of you, the nominator.

Nomination deadline is: April 1, 2011. Send your nomination to Gale Arent, 1595 Heritage Glen Circle, Dewitt, MI 48820 - arent@msu.edu.

The award is given only once to any person. Occasionally, two well-qualified persons have received the award in a single year. Past recipients are: Ruth Jameyson, Walker Hill, John Roetman, Clella Dickinson, Russell Hill, Pat Ralston, George Dike, Don Gregg, Erling Jorgensen, Harold Davidson, Rosemary Pavlik, Lorraine Demorest, Velmer Oakley, Fred Graham, Charlie Downs, Stephanie Barch, Judy Bukovac, Dick Reid, Gary Stone, Mary McCartney, Fred Kletke, Nancy Craig and Jerry Hull.