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**CRANE ORCHARD FIELD TRIP HIGHLIGHTS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S OCT. 14 PROGRAM**

OCT, 1, 2015 -- A field trip to Crane Orchards, 6054 124th Ave. in Fennville, will highlight Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society's next monthly program on Wednesday, October 14, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

Rob Crane and sister Rebecca will overview the past, present and future of this 4th-generation family enterprise, with Rob talking about the orchard operations and his sister discussing the restaurant/bakery side, which in 2014 added a bar offering fruit wines and hard cider run by another sister Laura and her husband Scott Bale.

Program attendees may park in the restaurant lot. Rob's orchard talk will be presented on the outdoor patio, so attendees are reminded to dress appropriately. The restaurant/bakery portion of the program will be indoors, and in case of inclement weather, the entire meeting will be indoors. After the meeting, wine and cider may be purchased at the bar.

Originally cleared and planted as a fruit farm in the 1880s, the 200 acres of gently rolling hills touching Hutchins Lake became Crane Orchard in 1917. Today it's considered one of the finest "u-pick" orchards in Michigan, with more than 17 varieties of apples, 10 varieties of peaches and sweet cherries available. The fall of 2002 saw the first corn maze for visitors to get lost in, which continues offering a completely new and different maze design every year. Hayrides around the farm also celebrate autumn weekends.

This month's program is sponsored by S-DHS members Janie and Jim Flemming in memory of Holland's Fran Vorys, S-DHS Life Member, Museum exhibit sponsor and longtime supporter of the Society's newsletter, who died earlier this year.

For general information about the Historical Society, its History Museum in Saugatuck, Old School House History Center in Douglas, programs, social activities and volunteer opportunities, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.



Laura (Crane) and husband Scott Bale show the Crane restaurant's recently added fruit wine and hard cider bar, featured in the Historical Society's October 14 field-trip program.