



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • July 2012 • Vol. XI, Issue 2

Barn of the Year Winners

Each year, at our annual conference, we are proud to present our Barn of the Year awards in three categories. The Agricultural BOY award this year was presented to The Poorman Barn, built in 1819 in Somerset, Ohio. We don't often have the chance to see a barn with this rich a history. This beautiful Pennsylvania barn, with its cut stone foundation and deep forebay has been in constant use for nearly 200 years. Nick Wiesenberg took core samples from nine of its timbers and microscopic analysis confirmed the original date as well as timbers that were cut in 1854 for the barn's later addition. The original barn was scribe ruled as evidenced by the marriage marks carved into its timbers. It also displays a unique double framing system looking like two barn frames in its interior. The Poorman family is to be commended for maintaining this working barn, one of Ohio's finest, in great condition for several generations.

We are pleased to have awarded Crown Point Ecology Center our Barn of the Year for Adaptive Re-Use. Built in 1910, the bank barn has two unusual interior silos that were for storing silage to feed cattle and horses on the ground level. A hay track enabled storage of hay to its roof and was accessed by tall ladders still found in the barn. The barn has been well maintained over the last 102 years and today serves for program space for "children's educational events, adult enrichment activities regarding the growing of toxin-free vegetables, rain-barrel Spring classes, Dances of Universal Peace and a diverse group of adult gatherings for communicating the care of all life on planet Earth." This barn is a perfect example of how we can find ways to save some of our best old barns and put them to good use for generations to come.

Our third award is for a category we just started last year. As judges, we have received many entries over the years that

continued on page 3



Left: Crown Point Ecology Center Barn in Summit County - Winner of Adaptive Re-Use Award

Above: Chris Norman accepting the Adaptive Re-Use Award for the Crown Point Ecology Center Barn - with Ric Beck, President and Dan Troth, Vice President

Photos by Dan Troth

Carter Family Charitable Fund makes sizable donation to Friends

Ms Juanita Carter of the Carter Family Charitable Fund, recently donated \$2500.00 to the Friends of Ohio Barns Endowment Program. With the assistance of fellow lifetime member, Matt Carter, this donation will put the fund over the \$10,000.00 mark and will now make us eligible to invest this money with the Columbus Foundation, a large non-profit philanthropic organization.

Through the Foundation, we can have a greater return on our investment. Unlike most investments, the Foundation will permit us to withdrawal funds for various projects without penalty. We have been working for several years to reach this goal, and because of this generous gift, we will continue to realize our plans of funding programs that are important to you, our members.

Programs like the state-wide barn survey program that is helping to standardize the compiling of barn information and photos into an easily searchable data base. The Junior Barn Detective program, which helps us educate volunteers to perform basic barn surveys in their area and help identify important barns in need of preservation. The mini-barn educational tool that teaches kids how barns were built, their functions and the importance of saving them for future generations.

Many thanks go to all those folks who have generously donated to the endowment fund. The Board of Directors is very excited to continue building on these programs, and develop others to keep this organization strong!

Thanks again Ms. Juanita and Matt Carter!

—Ric Beck, President
Friends of Ohio Barns

Calendar

Mini Barn Raisings

We need volunteers to help!

August 18th – Trumbull County Antique Tractor Show

August 25th – Vienna Home Days – Trumbull County

September 16th – Cleveland Metroparks

September 29th & 30th – Malabar Farm

October 12th, 13th, 14th – Algonquin Mill

To offer your assistance contact FOB

Annual FOB Picnic

Mark Your Calendars for the Annual Friends Fall Picnic
Sunday, September 9th, 2012 from noon to 5pm at the

Museum of Western Reserve Farms & Equipment

2891 Southern Rd. Richfield, OH 44286-9521

Summit County

<http://ohiofarmmuseum.com>

For more information please go to

www.friendsofohiobarns.org

Friends of Ohio Barns *Board of Directors*

President

Ric Beck Morrow County (614) 738-4302

Vice President

Dan Troth Delaware County (740) 549-1774

Secretary

Sarah Woodall Trumbull County (330) 856-9053

Treasurer

Laura Saeger Wayne County (330) 624-7282

Newsletter

Tom O'Grady Athens County (740) 593-7552

Board Members

Gary Clower Trumbull County (330) 394-2613

Pamela Whitney Gray Know County (740) 263-1369

Paul Knoebel Stark County (330) 882-5027

Larry Sulzer Summit County (330) 657-2135

Jim Howard Wayne County (330) 465-5662

Historic preservation is increasingly recognized as an important first step in any sustainable development. The economic, cultural, and environmental benefits of reusing historic structures are undeniable, and the costs are often less than expected. In addition to the significant reduction in construction costs and waste associated with "recycling" existing buildings, many historic structures, out of necessity, have energy saving features incorporated into their original designs. They were built using materials that, when properly maintained, are far more durable than their less expensive modern counterparts.

—ANDREW GORRELL

Barn of the Year Winners, continued from page 1

had not found an adaptive re-use and were not being used for agricultural purposes. Nevertheless, they were being well maintained by their owners and kept from decay and destruction. They realized the value and history the barns represented. We felt they too should be recognized and we therefore cre-

AGRICULTURAL USE: Barns are judged on their continued agricultural use, physical condition and the efforts made to preserve them.

ADAPTIVE RE-USE: Barns are judged on their present day use, the completed restoration work, aesthetics and their significance, exposure to and accessibility to their surrounding community.

STEWARDSHIP: Well maintained barns that do not meet the above categories but serve a family function such as storage or an entertainment structure not readily accessible to the public.

Friends of Ohio Barns gained three new Lifetime Members at the 2012 Barn Conference. Beryl Beckett, long time volunteer and supporter of FOB and Larry Sulzer, founding member and FOB board member were presented with Lifetime Membership plaques. Raymond Friend was not present to receive his award.

All plaques are hand made from old barn siding by FOB Veep, Dan Troth.

Send in your entries to Dan Troth, 7591 Perry Road, Delaware, OH 43015 or email him at dtroth@columbus.rr.com. Deadline for submissions is March 31st.



Photo by Dan Troth

Above: Oyster Barn – Winner of the Barn Stewardship Award

Left: Joan Hochstetler and Jane Conrad accepting the Barn Stewardship Award for the Oyster Barn – with Ric Beck and Dan Troth



Photo by Dan Troth

ated the Stewardship award. The Oyster Barn, near Alliance, is a marriage of two barn types, the very early period double crib log barn and the tree bay timber framed barn. It is a double forebay with an overall length of 57 feet. Its original logs are 18-20" in diameter. At some point the log barn was converted, a floor was added and a scribe ruled hewn timber frame was built on top of it within ten or twenty years of its original construction. We need Nick to do dendrochronology on this barn to determine when the log structure and the timber frame were actually built but judging from the evidence, it was all completed in the early 1800's. We once again applaud their efforts to preserve these early icons of Ohio's agrarian past.

Friends of Ohio Barns is already looking for entries for our 2013 Barns of the Year.



Photo by Tom O'Grady

Above: Poorman Barn near Somerset in Perry County – Winner of Agricultural Use Award

Right: John, Jason and Jim Poorman (left to right) accepting the Barn of The Year Award for Agricultural Use – with Ric Beck and Dan Troth



Photo by Dan Troth

Ohio Barns of a Different Sort

Traditional Ohio barns are of three general types. The New England three bay barn, sometimes with a basement, but always with a side entry; the Pennsylvania bank barn with an overhanging forebay and a side entry; and the southern barn or transverse barn, often with a hayhood but always with a gable end entry. There are innumerable variations on these themes but they generally have the same basic design. All of these barn types have untold variations associated with shed attachments, additions, bridges, ramps, cupolas, dormers, ventilation, windows, roof systems and many other features. But, these three barn types prevail, especially in eastern Ohio.

A feature of most timber frame construction is the bent, a transverse framework that carries lateral as well as vertical loads. The bent is commonly built with two or three upright timbers and a horizontal timber tying them together at the top with corner braces.

But, once one decides that there is some rhyme and reason to all of these barns, one begins to find exceptions to the rules. One can only imagine how many different types of barns graced the Ohio landscape before they began to disappear in such great numbers over the last fifty years. There are some exceptions that still stand in different parts of the state.

The double crib log barn is a well known exception but, covered with siding many appear to the passerby as a three bay side entry English barn or a Pennsylvania German bank barn with the overhang. The less common round barn and octagonal barn are the most obvious other exceptions to experienced barn enthusiasts. Some are of wood, some brick and some are

made of stone.

A small barn owned by the National Park Service in Ross County has a nearly square footprint. The Clark barn or the Hopewell Mound Group barn built before 1848 is 24 feet by 26 feet. It was built of oak on the ground with a single room and no drive door entry for wagons. It is of square rule construction with all mortice and tenon joints labeled with marriage marks. All timbers are hand hewn including the 4" by 6 1/2" braces which are built on a four foot brace layout. The roof is constructed of pole rafters half lapped and pegged. The original barn has a much later shed addition wrapped around three sides with circular sawn timbers.

The nearly square barn is included on the 1848 drawing by in the first Smithsonian Publication, Ancient Monuments of the Mississippi valley by Ephraim Squier and Edwin Davis. The extensive earthwork on the Mordecai Hopewell farm gave the Hopewell moundbuilders their name. This unique Ohio barn may have offered a bit of shade to Squier and Davis as they surveyed and mapped this historic moundbuilder complex.

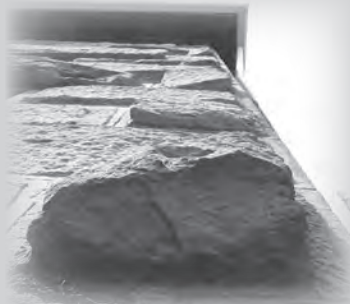
The Baumberger-Kindelberger stone Barn in Monroe County is part barn and part pyramid. There is nothing like it in Ohio. Built from stone quarried on the farm in 1883-84 this is a monstrous structure with a timber frame interior. The stone grapple used to lift the massive stones into their place is leaning against the wall inside the barn and carved into the keystone above the arched doorway. A stone house with a monitor roof overlooks the barn from the hilltop.

continued on page 7

Baumberger-Kindelberger



Above: Image from family photo album including Mr. Kindelberger, builder of the stone barn.



Above: A view up one of the corners of the barn at the roughly dressed stones.



Above: A view of some of the extensive timber framing inside of the stone barn.



Above: The keystone in the arch over the basement entry with an image of the stone grapple used to lift the stones into place. Every stone, including the keystone, have a centrally located hole for the stone grapple.



Left: Stone barn with hipped slate roof. A covered bridge entry is visible to the left and a straw shed addition is on the right side. A much more recent milking parlor is in the foreground. The rough hewn stones were set a few inches apart from each other to allow for ventilation throughout the barn. The arched doorway provides entry to the basement where an automatic manure clean out system was installed more than 70 years ago. The stones stacked in the left foreground are part of a very extensive water collection system.

Credits:
All other photos by Tom O'Grady

Another Amazing Ohio Barn Conference



Photo by Dan Troth

Above: David Snider, of Somerset in Perry County, speaks to conference attendees about the character, temperament and moral fiber of the settlers who came to clear the land and farm the ground around the barns we still see standing in Ohio's rural landscape.

That is my best adjective to describe the 13th annual Ohio Barn Conference, held in the beautiful Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and near the villages of Peninsula and Hudson.

Amazing weather - Rain had soaked the landscape for a few days

Wingenfield discussing how they utilize their rented park land to niche farm in an urban setting - in a national park! Mr. Kelsey described the unique program, its challenges and successes, and it was refreshing to see a program that promoted agricultural living and stewardship of the farm buildings still in the park. Charles Leik from the National Barn Alliance talked, too, of a positive future for barns, barn organizations, and barn educational tools for the younger generation. It was groundwork for future collaborations with barn organizations to work together for the preservation of our barns.

You can't have an Ohio Barn Conference without the Barn Detectives, and they didn't disappoint! Rudy and Larry Sulzer

always provide an educational and humorous review of the barns we saw on the Friday tour. It is a great way to learn...thanks, fellas!

By the end of most conferences, you are ready to get out of there, and don't always give the last speaker his/her due...not the case here! David Snider held the audience together with his mixture of history and humor describing the influx of settlers and their farming endeavors in an area described as the best damned farm ground on God's footstool.

Amazing support - We were treated to a wonderful conference because of the tremendous work of our local "search committee". Jim & Kendal Taylor, Judy and the ring leader, Denny Hendershot, raised the bar for future volunteers to help put conferences together...they were beyond amazing. But fear not future heroes, they are working on a checklist book that will make your journey much easier!

We were treated to this year's Barn of the Year recipients and witnessed in pictures the support they give to the stewardship of their barns. We also had a near record silent auction donation of just over \$1300.00 for items large and small!

Finally, with the hard work of the board and conference volunteers, our conference finished on time for the 1st time in a very long time. All in all, a pretty amazing weekend!

—Ric Beck



Photo by Dan Troth

Above: Charles Leik from the National Barn Alliance and the model timber frame the organization set up at the conference.

only to bathe us in sunlight for the Friday bus tour. We were witness to some beautiful sawn cut barns with interesting joinery and even sliding pocket type drive doors. We were treated to a couple English type ground barns, prevalent to the valley area, which were restored or repaired to continue to serve their owners. We witnessed one of the most unusual and massively trussed barns we've seen...a barn built by a bridge builder! Rudy Christian, our fabulous tour guide, threw out this assertion based on the heavy trussed wall systems within the three floors! A great lunch stop and catered food topped off the day, because as we woke next day, the rain and cold had returned...

Amazing presentations - A great crowd of approximately 100 enthusiasts eagerly awaited the start of Saturday's presenters... and boy were they rewarded! Starting with our Keynote speaker, Scott Carlson, who simply "hit one out of the park" with his talk about trees, timber framing, and tradition. An unsolicited standing ovation after his speech said it all!

Great talks continued with Darwin Kelsey and the Countryside Initiative Farmers Panel of Alan Halko, Daniel Greenfield, and David



Photo by Dan Troth

Above: Tour group hearing about the current use of the Canal Corners Barn in Summit County as a theatre.



Photo by Tom O'Grady

Left: Members of the annual FOB Barn Tour explore the Fay farm and barn.



The once stately sides are gray and decomposing,
And the former lofty roof is now collapsing.
Exposed are beams, hand hewn from the hardy oak tree,
Joined with mortise and tenon joints so precisely.
All made back when the adz, auger bit and hand saw
Were employed to fashion lumber out of the raw.
Dead silence now emanates from the gaping doors
Wherein once the farmer performed his daily chores.
Frisky horses then snorted and stomped in the stalls
And restless cows mooing resounded off the walls,
While in their stanchions, awaiting the squeezing hand,
Then standing motionless at the farmer's command.
Empty is the loft wherein children loved to play,
Giggling and jumping in the crispy, fresh-cut hay.
Gone is the harvest of timothy and clover
That nourished the livestock when winter took over.
Rusty and idle are the fork, trolley and tracks
Which once hoisted the rich bounty of aching backs
Up to the mow when hay reaping was at it's peak.
Hence, never more will strained ropes twang or pulleys creak.
Time and the elements will forever erase
This somber sight from our earth's ever changing face.
But the memory of this barn when in it's prime
Is etched in my sad and mournful mind for all time.

—Louis Kopocs
October 3, 2011

Brown-Bender



Above: Three story Brown-Bender barn in Cuyahoga National Park in Summit County.



Above: The upper doorway on the left side of the image is the entry to third story threshing floor. It was accessed by a ramp and bridge which no longer exist.



Left: The horizontal truss system visible in this image supports the third story floor where teams of horses and wagons were driven into the barn. The truss system is reminiscent of that used by bridge builders and would have been very helpful supporting the weight of loaded wagons and teams of horses moving around on the floor above.

Right: Framing above the third floor is still open for interpretation. It may be that the trusses were used for support to enable the teams and wagon to turn around inside the barn and exit going forward instead of having the horses back out across the bridge with the wagons still attached.



Left: A little extra support in the framing used in the Brown-Bender barn.

Right: A three story wooden silo entirely enclosed within the Brown Bender barn. Lower right is the not uncommon backboard and hoop found in many an Ohio barn.



All photos by Tom O'Grady

The Brown-Bender barn, in the Cuyahoga National Park in Summit County, appears to have been built by a bridge builder rather than a traditional barn builder. The threshing floor was accessed by a bridge that entered on the third floor of the barn. But it is the truss system below the third story threshing floor that is reminiscent of those used in building railroad bridges at the turn of the last century. Other unique timber framing features also help set this barn apart from traditional building styles. An interior wooden silo is yet another of the less common characteristics of traditional Ohio barns, although others may be found in northeastern Ohio. The backboard and basketball hoop attached to it, however, is found in many a barn, regardless of who built them.

The Goll Woods barn in Fulton County has a triple jetty outshot feature similar to what French settlers in the area may have had on their farms in the Alsace-Lorraine, a section of

Germany bordering France and heavily influenced by French culture. Built with a hipped roof at some point it was replaced with a gambrel roof enabling storage of a greater amount of hay.

A three bay bank barn with a basement, standing along a gravel road in the Shade River watershed in Athens County, has the year 1873 carved beneath the gable on one end. More importantly, the three bays are framed with four bents of a different color. They incorporate large X's that go from the barn floor to the roof and serve as canted purlin posts on the upper end. The tops of the X's appear to be connected by a tie beam or girts. Closer inspection is required to investigate how the large X's intersect.

By the time western Ohio was settled in the latter half of the 19th century barns were being built that incorporated tech-

continued on page 8

Singin' on the Ohio



Canal Corners Farm and Market at the corner of Canal Road and Tinkers Creek Road presents The Lantern Theatre Production of "Singin' on the Ohio", The Adventure of a Lifetime, written and directed by Eric Schmiedl. This production will be held in The Big Red Barn on Saturdays and Sundays at 1pm and 3pm from June 23rd until September 16th. See this story about a young girl from Cleveland, Ohio traveling the entire length of the Ohio-Erie Canal in 1845 in the big barn at canal Corners. For more information www.canalcornersfarm.com

Hopewell-Clark Barn



Above: The central portion of this structure is the original 24' X 26' Hopewell-Clark barn. A later shed addition was built around three sides with circular sawn timbers. The central doorway is the original entry. Large doors to left and right are drive bays built into the shed addition.



Left: National Park Service architect recording measurements of the barn. Note the 4" X 6 1/2" hand hewn braces built on a four foot layout.

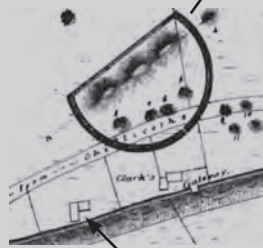


Left: hand hewn beams morticed into hewn post with marriage marks.

Right: 4" X 6 1/2" hewn braces pegged into center post. Marriage marks are on the reverse side.



1848 Squier and Davis map of the Hopewell Mound Group. From the original publication.



Hopewell-Clark Barn



Above: View of the Hopewell-Clark barn from the rear. Shed addition wraps around the barn from the front left around to the front right and includes two drive bays.



Left: 4" X 6 1/2" hand hewn brace morticed into an 8" X 8" beam with marriage marks (Roman Numerals) indicating the structure was built with scribe rule framing.

All photos by Tom O'Grady

niques and features of each of the traditional types. In north-western Ohio many of the barns are accompanied by a second standing right next door. It is almost more common to see these twin barns than a solitary structure in that vast flat region. One of the barns had a threshing floor. The extensive and very productive farmland reclaimed from the Lake Plain region of Ohio apparently required substantial storage for the harvest.

According to Dr. Hubert Wilhelm, a cultural geographer from Ohio University, many of the barns in the western part of the state are hybrids. Wilhelm did extensive work on the establishment of early settlement patterns and architectural styles found associated with various cultural groups throughout the state. Early settlers migrated to designated regions such as the Connecticut Western Reserve, the Virginia Military District, the Ohio Company purchase and other subdivisions and they took their pattern of land use, architectural traditions, and other cultural characteristics with them. In the latter part of the 1800's, when the Great Black Swamp had been drained and the western till plains were settled, the barn building tradition had evolved somewhat. The next generation of barn builders may have been made up of members with different cultural backgrounds. West of Ohio one is hard-pressed to find the pure

Goll Woods Barn



Above: Goll Woods barn with three outshot jetties. Jetty on the far right has been incorporated into a room with siding continuing to the base. The former hipped roof has been raised to a gambrel to accommodate more hay storage.

Photo by Tom O'Grady

Northwestern Ohio Barns



Above: One of the many twin barns of Fulton County in northwestern Ohio, this is a gambrel roofed New England three bay ground barn with its companion.



Above: The three bay New England barn on left was built first. Typically, one of the two barns is significantly older. The younger barn with the gambrel roof was needed to store the abundant harvest of this most productive farmland in Ohio.

Right: Two straw shed storage attachments on the rear side of the three bay barn with threshing floor in Fulton County.



Above: As the farm grew more prosperous additional space was needed.

Photos by Tom O'Grady

examples of New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern architecture that one finds in the eastern half of Ohio, America's cultural hearth.

No doubt there are many other examples of unique barn construction in Ohio that differ from the expected traditional styles. It is not always obvious from the outside. Many have

long since departed the scene. Only continued efforts to conserve and protect the legacy of Ohio barns will allow these uncommon and exceptional structures to be discovered so that others may learn from and enjoy the heritage of these important cultural resources.

—Tom O'Grady

Shade River Watershed Barn



Left: A three bay bank barn with a basement alongside a county road near the Shade River in Athens County.

Right: The bent on end wall of the barn with timbers extending from the floor to the purlins.



Right: Date beneath one of the gable ends of the barn.



Left: Portions of two central bents and one end wall. Note the rear of the waste wall (used to keep grains within the threshing floor area for collection) running across the mid-height of the image. A doorway has been cut into the waste wall.

All photos by Tom O'Grady

New Lifetime Members



Above: Beryl Beckett, long time member and volunteer, receives Lifetime Member plaque from Ric Beck and Dan Troth



Above: Larry Sulzer, board member and founding member of FOB receives Lifetime Member plaque

Photos by Dan Troth

Please recycle this newsletter. Share it with a friend.
Printed on recycled paper, of course.



Presort STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Mount Vernon, OH
Permit #800

FRIENDS OF OHIO BARN
P.O. Box 203
BURBANK, OHIO 44214

