

Good news for two central Ohio barns



Photo courtesy of the Perry County Tribune

Scheduled to be burned for a fire-training exercise, this 150-year-old barn was recently purchased by Columbus Metro Parks and will be the centerpiece of Glacier Ridge Metro Park northwest of Dublin. Moving and rebuilding the hewn timber frame structure will cost only slightly more than constructing a new building, according to the project manager.



Photo by Jeff Hinkley, Columbus Dispatch

This century-old bank barn with a slate roof was moved down a country road in Perry County near the village of Glenford. After safely removing the bees and barn swallows, the barn — measuring 46 feet long, 30 feet wide and 46 feet high — was pulled by a tractor to its new home where it will be used as, of all things, an old barn.

Newsletter photos by Tom O'Grady unless otherwise noted



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs

P.O. Box 203
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The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • October, 2003 • Vol. II, Issue 4

Dawes barn rehab begins with workshop

A fine sunny day greeted twenty-some Friends of Ohio Barns volunteers who showed up for the barn workshop at Dawes Arboretum in Licking County on an early September Saturday morning.

The old barn is over a hundred years old and has been through some tough times. It seems to have weathered the elements just fine but it has had a much harder time surviving some of the "improvements" it has suffered over the years.

An addition put on about a century ago had some later changes made to it that challenge all reason. To add the convenience of a minor walkway, it seems that a number of major support posts needed to be removed. Beneath the weight of the

heavy slate roof the entire addition had begun to fall. The rest is history.

Saving this barn will require that the addition be removed for now. Volunteers immediately busied themselves with the erection of scaffolds.

Joe Jenkins came down from Grove City, Pennsylvania to give lessons and guidance on the removal and salvage of slate. Luckily, it was the good green slate and most pieces have many more useful years of service left in them. Jenkins also demonstrated the art of replacing individual slates and gave a couple of options for doing so to repair this barn's roof.

Some volunteers went to work on the construction of slate crates which will be used for moving and storing the slate. Other volunteers cut timbers and erected cribbing beneath the floor in the addition to support it during the restoration period.

Although no one became an overnight expert with this workshop experience, everyone learned some important lessons regarding scaffolding, slate removal and storage, cribbing and sawing wood.

— Tom O'Grady

Joe Jenkins demonstrates slate replacement and removal techniques at the Dawes Arboretum barn workshop.



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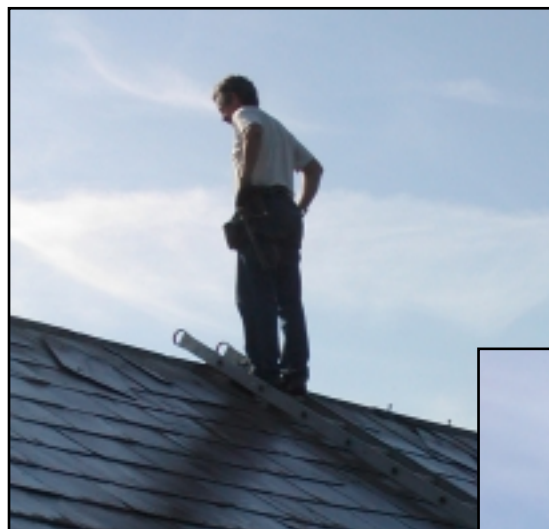
A day at Dawes: FOB's first barn workshop



Above: The Dawes barn before work began. The addition on the left (beginning at the split in the siding) is targeted for removal.



Susan Ramser of Danville lowers slate from the roof with a rope and a sling.



Above: Putting up scaffolding was the first lesson of the day. Having the right equipment for the job is essential.

Left: Joe Jenkins surveys the slate removal job.

Below: Butch Shock of Brinkhaven basks in a morning's accomplishment.



Contact FOB for information about the November workshop to be held at Dawes Arboretum.



Left: Ric Beck of Columbus builds a slate crate with plenty of supervision from Gary Wechter of Canton and Paul Knoebel of Stark County.



2004 Barn Conference shaping up

Friends of Ohio Barns is teaming up with the Greene County Agricultural Society, Greene County Extension Office, Greene County Convention and Visitors Bureau, Barn Again!, the National Barn Alliance and the Ohio Historical Society to put Ohio Barn Conference V on the map.

Set for April 2 and 3 in the southwest part of the state, Friends of Ohio Barns is looking forward to hosting the conference at the Greene County Fairgrounds Assembly Hall in Xenia.

Conference activities will vary somewhat from years past. The two-day event will start with the barn tour on Friday, April 2. Again, two chartered busses will ferry tour members out to view some magnificent structures in the region. The lunch stop will be a real treat with a stop at the

famed Young's Jersey Dairy for a hot meal, some of their famous homemade ice cream, and a tour of their 1869 dairy barn. Always a crowd favorite, planners expect the tour seats to fill early.

Saturday will be at the Assembly Hall on the Greene County Fairgrounds. We will once again be having locally and nationally renowned speakers giving presentations on barn maintenance, stewardship, and adaptive reuse. We hope to have local historians discuss area settlement and farm life, and will attempt to get the "Barn Detectives" to enlighten us with their conference "finds."

Barn Conference V also plans to host a trade fair of local and regional artisans and craftsman. If you want to take part in the trade fair, please let us know on our website.

Please consider coming for a long

weekend as there is an abundance of things to see in the Xenia area besides terrific barns — such as, a five covered bridge self-guided auto tour in Greene County, the historic Clifton Mill (one of the largest operating grist mills left in the country), and the villages of Yellow Springs and Xenia with old world charm and down home hospitality.

Xenia offers a variety of lodging from the Holiday Inn to the campgrounds at the fairgrounds and in between. There will be discounted rates for conference attendees.

Prices for the conference, lodging, and bus tour will be posted soon on our website, as well as in upcoming newsletters, so stayed tuned and plan on joining us for another great conference!

— Ric Beck

Ohio's first countywide barn survey conducted

Ashland County is the first in Ohio to attempt a comprehensive census of their historic timber frame barns. The daunting task of organizing survey teams was led by Noel Watson and Bob Desanto of the Ashland County Historical Society.

In August "Friends" president Rudy Christian was the guest speaker at the planning meeting. Eighty volunteers representing 12 townships were divided into teams.

Each team had a driver, writer, spotter, photographer, and township navigator. These volunteers drove the back roads, took photos and recorded details concerning barn conditions, roof and frame types, siding types, foundations, and decorative features. Each barn will have a set of photos and a survey form keyed to its location on a map. A database will be produced to serve as a template for other counties.

The "windshield" survey of barns will be completed October 29. The results will be featured in the next issue of the Old Barn Post. Reports from teams echo a recurring theme — they are having a great time looking at barns and making new friends while generating a sense of pride for our agricultural landscape and the signature architectural masterpiece of Ohio — the barn.

— Laura Saeger

FOB's non-profit status granted by IRS

On July 24, Friends of Ohio Barns received its non-profit, 501(c)(3) determination from the Internal Revenue Service. We are very grateful to Attorney Ron Holtman for his patience and hours of professional effort on our behalf, to Fred Cannon for helping enable this organization our first year, and to the Michigan Barn Preservation Network, whos board members shared all their information and past experience to help us grow.

Membership is crucial

Friends of Ohio Barns is an all volunteer membership-based organization trying to do something helpful for the long term benefit of Ohio's barn heritage. We cannot overstate the importance of a strong membership supporting FOB's efforts.

Everything we do costs money— this newsletter, the annual conference, barn workshops, and education booths at heritage festivals, fairs and other events statewide. Board members must dig into their pockets to attend board meetings and travel to events around Ohio to represent the interests of FOB. We're lean. We're mean. But we need your financial support to sustain the efforts. Please join! Annual membership fees are \$40 for individuals, \$35 for seniors or students, \$60 family, or \$400 lifetime.

"We require from buildings, as from men, two kinds of goodness; first, doing their practical duty; then that they be graceful and pleasing in doing it."

John Ruskin

The Seven Lamps of Architecture

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