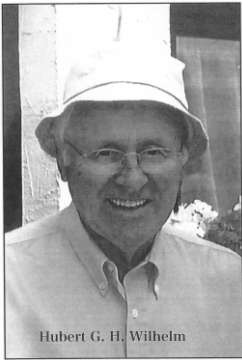
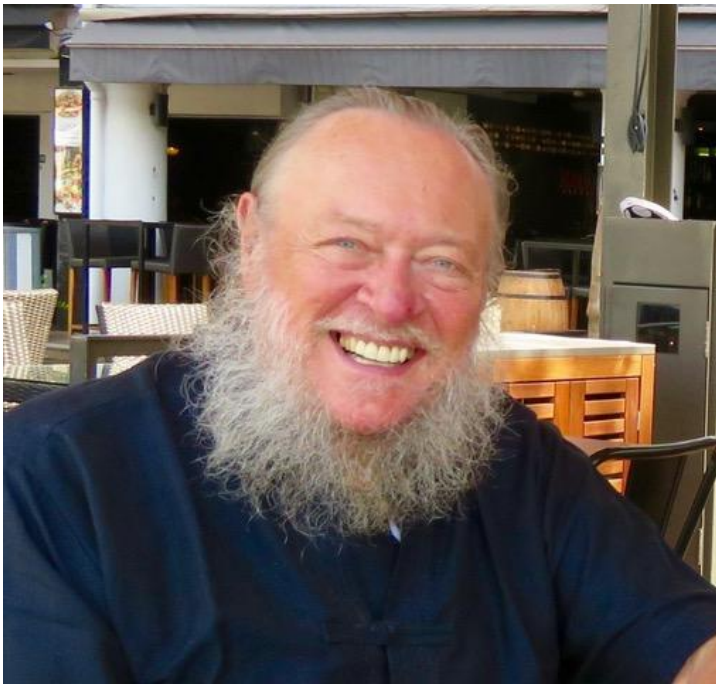


The Hubert Wilhelm Cultural Heritage Educators Award



This award was created by Friends of Ohio Barns to honor *Hubert G. H. Wilhelm* in recognition of his pioneering spirit and outstanding achievement in promoting the appreciation, significance, and preservation of Ohio's historic barns.



Rudy Christian

**Recipient
of the
Wilhelm Award
2019**

Merriam-Webster defines an expert as “one with the special skill or knowledge representing mastery of a particular subject.” When attempting to describe Rudy we can certainly say that description fits. We can all read the bios of Rudy in our conference booklet but they will only skim the surface for they don't come close to defining who he is or what he has meant to all of us in Friends of Ohio Barns. When over a hundred barn lovers met at the beautiful timber framed Liberty Presbyterian Church in Powell, Ohio in 2000 to celebrate Ohio's barns, he was already an “expert” in the field bringing with him his considerable knowledge, skill, and work as a timber framer and a founding member of the Timber Framers Guild of North America way back in 1985, where he also served as its president. Soon after that what is now considered to be our first Ohio Barn Conference he helped gather a group of us together to form Friends of Ohio Barns and also served as our president, guiding us through our early years. In addition to being our expert he has also been a great teacher, inspiring us at every opportunity.

He has helped lead us throughout and what we celebrate today by presenting him with the Wilhelm Award is the gift he has given our organization. That gift is the rare combination of expert and teacher. He has a great respect for our history and the sacrifices made by those who came before us, especially the barn builders. At all times, he has brought with him a great dedication and commitment to helping us preserve our barns. There is a reverence on display for all to see and he shares that passion with us all. He is and always has been ... engaged in the work. That work continues.