

## Fall Picnic to be held September 18 at Slate Run Metro Park

Come join your friends at our annual Friends of Ohio Barns fall picnic at the historical Slate Run Metro Park on SR 674 south of Canal Winchester.

The festivities will be on September 18 from noon to 5 at the park. Slate Run will host a public tour of the facilities and a small barn tour. Our group will be invited to join in. FOB will do our usual of providing meats and hope that you all bring your usual potluck goodies for all to enjoy.

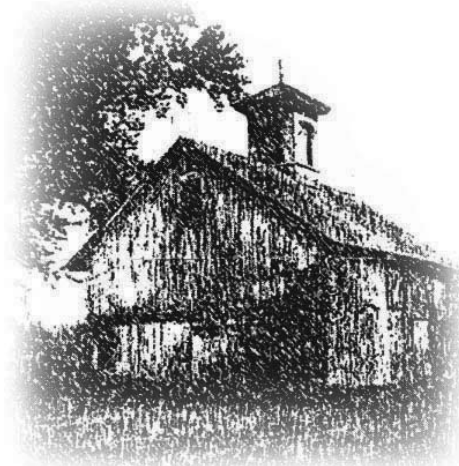
Dan Troth and Tom O'Grady will be helping the folks at Slate Run with their program for the day, so plan to come out and enjoy this beautiful historical farm and park. Come early and spend the day exploring hundreds of acres of wetlands, an abundance of waterfowl, trails through rolling hardwood forests, a large barn, and several historic buildings on this vintage working farm. Check out the timber frame entryway raised by workshop attendees a few years ago.

There will be more info on the parks website soon, as well as directions and info on ours. Hope to see you there!

Background photo: Hundreds of acres of wetlands teeming with waterfowl and other wildlife are a small part of this thousand-acre historic site and natural area. Photo by Tom O'Grady



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs  
P.O. Box 203  
Burbank, Ohio 44214



# The Old BARN POST

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## Barn Conference XI held in Wayne County

The 2010 Ohio Barn Conference was held at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center in Wooster.

The daylong barn tour preceding it gave attendees a good dose of the Pennsylvania influence in the settlement of Wayne County. The tour visited a couple of Pennsylvania German bank barns with overhanging forebays. At least one barn was a Sweitzer barn. A distinguishing characteristic between the two is that the ridgeline of the Sweitzer barn is aligned over the centerline between the two foundation walls, while other German bank barns have the ridgeline aligned over the centerline of the barn floor equidistant between the front and back walls but off center between the foundation walls.

Another interesting experience was visiting the Weygandt Barn with its handmade wooden windlass. A couple of the barns were surrounded by several interesting farm buildings. Historic brick homes, a springhouse, a stone milk house, a converted clay tile hog pen, a couple of log structures, large old trees on the homesites, and a grave-stone or two provide a larger context for the historic barns.

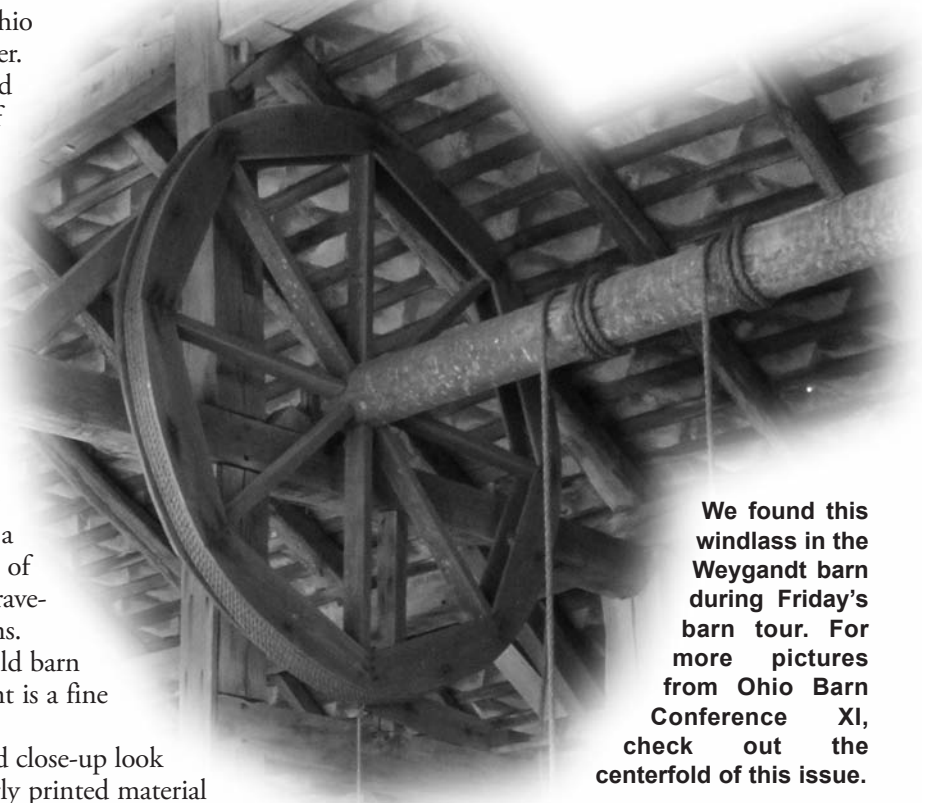
Tour members enjoyed a robust midday meal in an old barn converted to a restaurant. The Smithville Barn Restaurant is a fine example of the adaptive reuse of a historic structure.

Presentations at the conference included a unique and close-up look by Steve Gordon at an old barn and farm, including early printed material and maps and family history associated with a homestead in Butler County near Oxford, Ohio. Steve knows how to put a barn in a context of history, family, and geography.

Pam Gray, the Lady Barn Consultant, daughter of the late Chuck Whitney, Barn Consultant, gave a background on the rich and varied life and times of her father. Paul Locher from the local Wooster newspaper gave a talk on the early Native American history of Wayne County and the Wooster area.

The Junior Barn Detectives gave a report on their accomplishments and plans. Much has been done and more is in store with this group, which formed after the 2009 barn conference. Rudy Christian gave a brief but rich history of timber framing. We had an introduction to the Wayne County Historic Barn Survey and Inventory and got a look at the Inventory Checklist recently developed by Rudy and Carson Christian. This should be a helpful tool in the effort to educate people and promote the heritage of Ohio barns.

The Barn Repair Panel did their annual thing. We heard about National Barn Alliance activities, and Ann Christy from OSU Extension helped us understand



We found this windlass in the Weygandt barn during Friday's barn tour. For more pictures from Ohio Barn Conference XI, check out the centerfold of this issue.

the relationships between barns and tax credits.

Exhibits included Lowell Finley's amazing barn models. These architectural models offered an indoor barn tour at the conference. A display of antique barn building tools is an education in itself. It is a wonder that so many fine structures were built across the Ohio landscape with such a small selection of tools. The Wooster Bookstore offered an assortment of books about barns and farm life, and the Wayne County Barn survey was displayed with numerous photos of area barns. Some wood identification and a lesson in dendrochronology provided a break from presentations, and folks had an opportunity to bid on some interesting items in the annual silent auction.

— Tom O'Grady



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# Many thanks ...

The growing season is upon us! The weather is warming, the crops are planted, and it's time to give thanks and hope for a successful summer.

This office is very thankful for the continued efforts of our board members and for all the hard work they do. That's why we are such

an active organization. I am grateful to the members who actively support our efforts by volunteering time and thought to aid in our success.

I am certainly thankful for the very successful barn conference that was held in Wooster in late April. Notably, thanks go out to the barn owners who graciously opened their hearts (and

doors) to us—Bret and Marcia Urian, Dave Anderson, Clyde and Kathy Miller, The Amish Barn Outlet, The Smithville Restaurant, Carol and Elmer Baer, Bob Weygant, and Chester Martin.

Appreciation goes out to our presenters as well—keynote speaker Steve Gordon, Pam Whitney Gray, Paul Locher, Dan Hueston, Bob Weygant, Rudy Christian, Ann Christy, Charles Leik, Paul Knobel, Gary Clower, Larry Sulzer, Nick Weisenberg, Dan Troth, and Fred Cannon.

I can't say enough about the Shishler Center facilities and staff. I think they were the best yet! I have to thank the exhibitors, Barn Again!, Fred Cannon, Christian & Son Inc., Keith Sommer, Joe Irvin, Pat and Lowell Finley, Mike Dowd, Bob Romig, Paul Whipple, The Wayne County Barn Survey, Pam Whitney Gray, and the Wooster Bookstore for some terrific displays.

Finally, gratitude goes out to our lifetime supporters, Jack Shumaker, Bret Urian, and Sarah Werling, and our Barn of the Year winners for Agricultural use—Barb, Loren, and Alexis Lang—and for Adaptive re-use—Bret and Marcia Urian.

Now that I'm done shaking hands and patting backs, it's back to work! We have a busy summer planned, as always. More work is being done in Wayne County for the survey, Paul's mini-barn will start making the rounds, we will start work on next year's conference, and we'll plan the fall picnic. The JBDs will be working on their next workshop, we will be having a face-to-face day-long board meeting to map out our continued growth, we'll be helping with the Upper Arlington barn restoration project with the Timber Framers Guild ... oh, and finding time to live our own lives!

Thanks for your help and suggestions, and as always, tell us how we are doing!

## Upcoming events

### Friends of Ohio Barns Annual Picnic

Slate Run Metro Park, Canal Winchester

September 18, noon to 5 p.m.

Please see the back of this newsletter for more information.

### Upper Arlington barn restoration project

September 17-26

Check out the Friends website for more information.

To sign up for the class, go to [www.tfguild.org](http://www.tfguild.org).

## Upper Arlington barn restoration project slated for September 17-26

Friends of Ohio Barns, the Timber Framers Guild, and the Upper Arlington Ohio Parks and Recreation Department are happy to announce the Sunny 95 Upper Arlington barn restoration project will be held September 17-26. We will be repairing the original 20x30 1860s frame and raising it along with a new 32x48 frame being cut for a four-seasons multipurpose building in north Upper Arlington at the new Sunny 95 park. We will be restoring the frame on the park site, camping, and enjoying the fellowship of timber framers and volunteers from across the country.

Please watch for more information and any changes on our new website, [www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org). You can sign up for the class at the Timber Framers Guild website, [www.tfguild.org](http://www.tfguild.org), and find directions to the park on UA's website, [www.ua-oh.net](http://www.ua-oh.net).

Please plan on stopping by anytime during the ten-day workshop, and be sure to attend the raising on Saturday the 25th!

## Web address changed

Because of the snafus in our old web address through the Ohio State University web domain, Friends of Ohio Barns has decided to move our web address to a private domain.

The new address to access the latest information, pictures, and schedule of events for Friends will be [www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org).

Please make note of it and look for us at this new address!

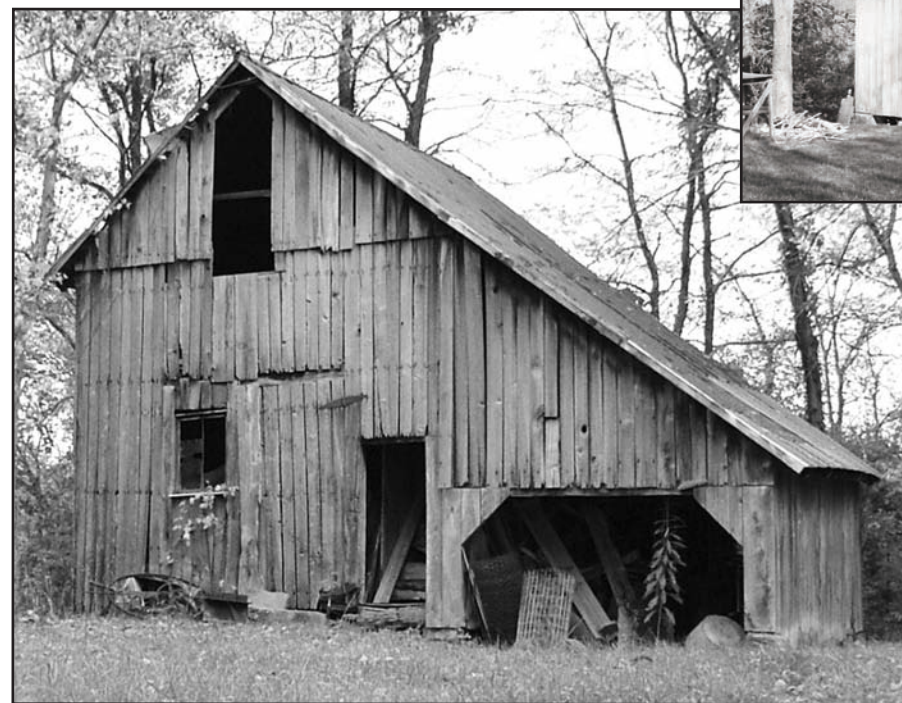
*One hears a lot about the rules of good husbandry; there is only one—leave the land far better than you found it.*

— George Henderson

## Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors

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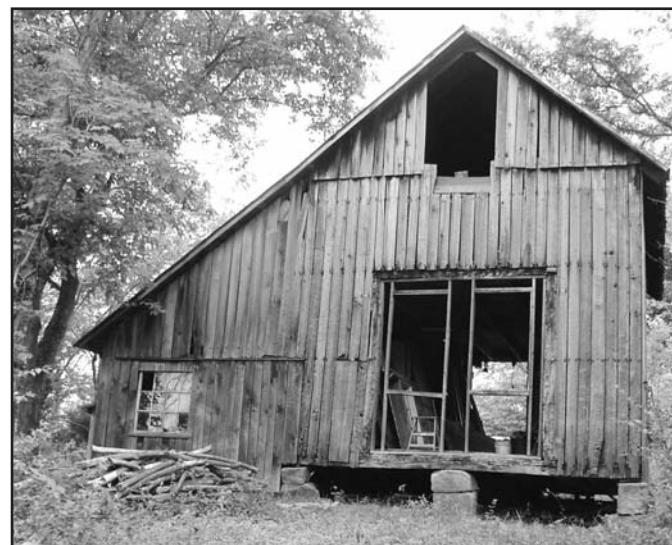
## New life for old granary



An old Athens County granary constructed of hand-hewn timbers will hopefully see another century of use. Long in need of some attention, it recently got its roof patched and some new siding, doors, and windows. Repairs and new framing for windows and doors were made from rough-sawn poplar obtained from an Amish sawmill in Morgan County. An old window, salvaged from a century-old home demolished a decade ago by Ohio University, was installed on the first floor in the rear.

Until a new roof is affordable, salvaged tin was used to do remedial repairs. Some new rakes were installed, and the ends of some purlins were reinforced to help secure the metal roof.

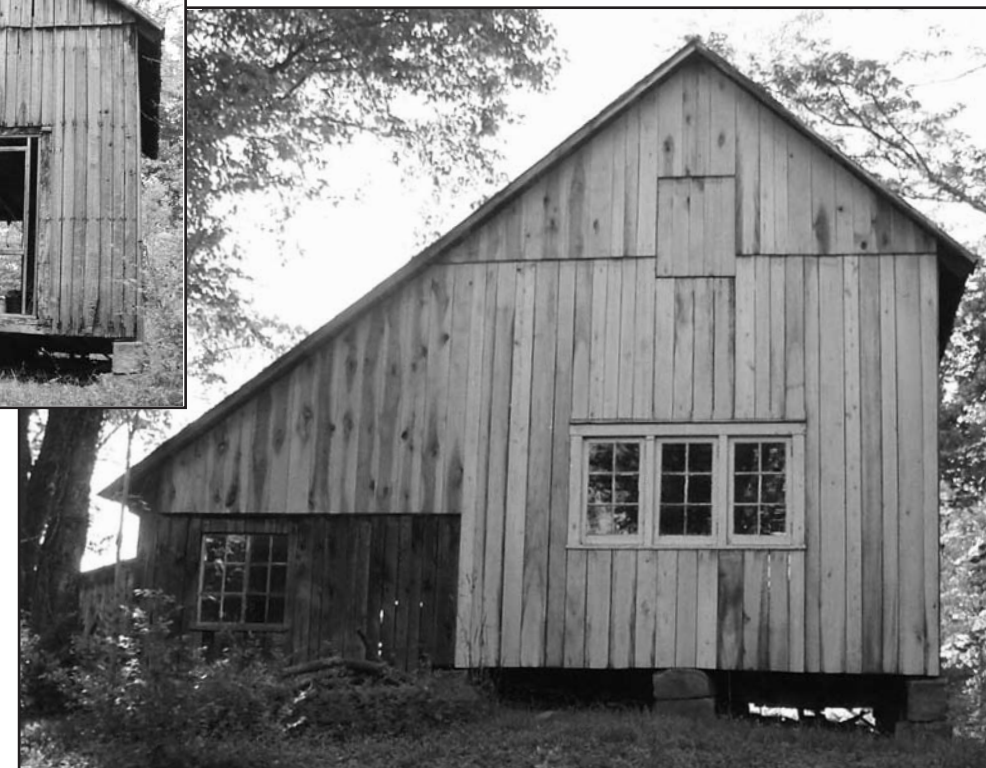
The old timber frame barn on the farm was constructed of sawn material. Built considerably later, it has been gone for more than thirty years. The hand-hewn granary remains solid and is now being kept a lot drier.



Photos by Tom O'Grady

Counterclockwise, beginning top right: Front of granary after repairs; front before repairs; rear before repairs; rear after repairs. Notice the 100-year-old window salvaged from a demolition project and installed in the back of the granary.

*Send in your photos of old, refurbished, relocated, or unusual barns. Every barn has a story, and we'd like to know yours!*



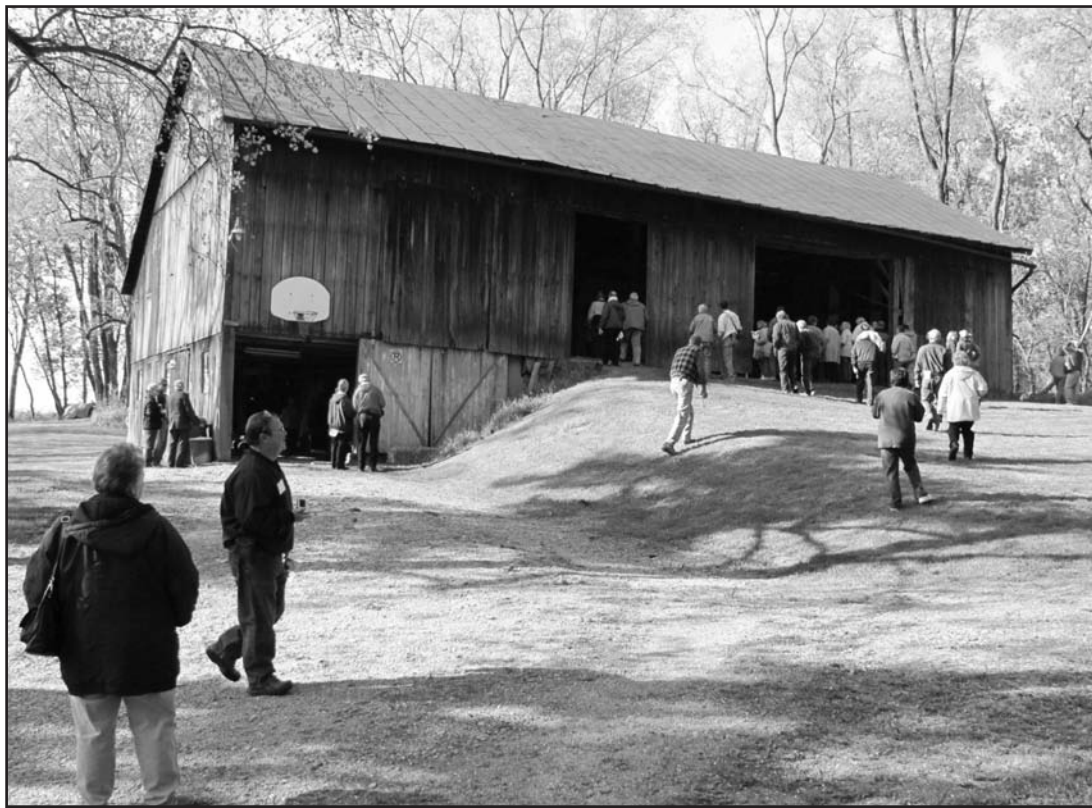


# The JBD/mini-barn connection

It was great having all but two of the 14 Junior Barn Detectives who attended last fall's workshop show up at the recent FOB conference in Wooster. Again this year we had one of the barns on Friday's barn tour designated as a "JBD-needy" barn. Barn #2, belonging to Mr. Anderson, was a structure which he "rescued" over 30 years ago. Through a multitude of timely and ingenious repairs, he has kept it standing straight and looking attractive. It is now only used for lumber and seasonal farm equipment storage.

The building is somewhat unique in that it is basically a ground barn, but many years ago someone tacked on one large bay of a traditional bank barn with a lower level. This was a fine example of someone taking the time and concern to maintain the barn but not expending a lot of resources in overhauling it. Somewhere down the road someone with sufficient resources could decide to restore or modify it.

The Saturday afternoon JBD session went quickly with a lot of comments and discussion from the alert audience. A record 48 individuals returned their JBD input/evaluation sheets. A few



The Anderson Barn was chosen as the "needy barn" by JBD for tour.

Photos by Tom O'Grady

new program ideas were presented, and from the responses received it appears that they are worthy of serious consideration. It looks like members want another JBD workshop, this one to again take place in the fall and most likely located somewhere west of I-71 and Columbus. We will be looking for a host site in the near future.

It was announced that this year we intend using the kids' mini-barn primarily at larger events where it has the potential of drawing a significant number of barn owners to our fine FOB display and resource materials. The plan is to get as many JBDs as possible from the event's surrounding area to staff the display and talk with these barn owners. This cuts down on volunteer travel distance and gives the JBD person an opportunity to meet the folks asking for information and resources.

The idea is to make available to JBD folks a much smaller version of the kids' popular timber frame mini-barn—a mini-mini-barn that they can keep and have available for whenever they have opportunity to show how a timber frame barn goes together, or comes apart, or falls apart—fraternal organizations, historical societies, 4-H groups, classrooms, local festivals, farm sites, grandchildren—wherever the opportunity to support timber frame barn preservation arises. We envision a semi-accurate barn model that would fit on a table when assembled and would easily fit into a wheeled large suitcase when disassembled.

Now for an update on the status of the search for a new Junior Barn Detective (JBD) name that does not have the word "junior" in it. We now have a list of 38 suggested names, and it is still growing. This is not one of our higher priorities, but rest assured, we have not forgotten.

— Paul Knoebel



Paul Knoebel introducing JBD concerns in the Anderson Barn.

# Hubert Wilhelm receives education award

Dr. Hubert Wilhelm, professor emeritus of cultural geography at Ohio University, recently received an Inspiring Practices Award from Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area.

As a young post-war immigrant from Germany in the early 1950s, Wilhelm's introduction to the American landscape inspired him to pursue a career as a professor of cultural geography. This pursuit brought him to the heart of Ohio's hill country to teach settlement geography at Ohio University, where he worked to unravel the history of the American story by studying the characteristics of the built environment in the former wilderness of southeast Ohio. The artifacts of buildings and land use helped him unlock the mystery of its many and varied stories, which he enthusiastically imparted to many students from many places during his career.

Dr. Wilhelm's research and investigation of the various cultures from New England, Pennsylvania, the coastal plains, the post Revolutionary War south, and returnees from the west coast, all of whom brought their cultural baggage and institutionalized these characteristics as artifacts of Ohio's landscape, inspired him to dub Ohio as "America's Cultural Hearth." His research on settlement patterns and origins of immigrants into the Ohio country

in the nineteenth century has been instrumental in understanding Ohio's cultural landscape. This information is the basis of telling the stories of the Ohio hill country.

Wilhelm's legacy is marked by his love of "ground truth," and his infectious enthusiasm has inspired many to learn more about the people who used local resources and cultural traditions to build the foundations of Ohio's economy.

His work earned him the nickname "barn guy" as his research and teaching helped unfold the stories of the barn builders who constructed these magnificent symbols of Ohio's agricultural history. Wilhelm spoke at the Ohio Barn Conference in Wooster the year Friends of Ohio Barns was founded.

Dr. Wilhelm was recently presented the Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area education award at his Cincinnati home,

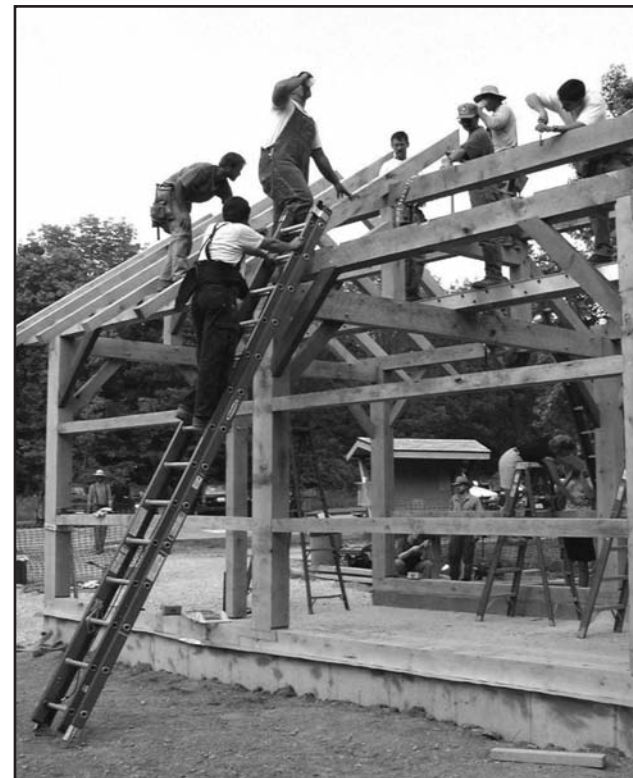
where he and his wife recently moved to be closer to family. Grateful for the visit from the organization's representatives, he encouraged them to return, saying, "Please come again. We need an infusion of Appalachia."

Wilhelm received the Heritage Education Award for his many years of research and teaching.



Photo by Tom O'Grady

Tim Traxler (right) from Ohio's Hill Country Heritage Area presents the Heritage Education Award to Hubert Wilhelm with his wife Connie (left) and their daughter Susanne.



Photos by Tom O'Grady

Slate Run Metro Park and Living History Farm will be the location of this year's Friends of Ohio Barns picnic September 18 from noon to 5 p.m. (See article on the back of the newsletter). Left: The entryway to Slate Run's historical farm being raised by timber frame workshop attendees in 2002. Above: Completed timber frame entry at Slate Run, 2004.