



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • August, 2019 • Vol. XVIII, Issue 2

Licking County 20th Annual Ohio Barn Conference recap

So...was it our 18th, 19th or 20th anniversary?? David Wilhelm pointed out that it was our 18th after he did the math from the notes that Tom O'Grady gave him! But, I will set you all straight. We (Friends of Ohio Barns) were just an idea back in 1999. The first Ohio Barn Conference was held in 2000 and we became a 501c-3 organization in 2001. So, it could be 20, 19, or 18 years depending on how one thinks about it. But if you count, as we did, the number of Ohio Barn Conferences (on your fingers like I did) you would come up with this year as the 20th Anniversary of the Annual Ohio Barn Conference. This is our story and we're sticking to it!

Please See RECAP, Page 3



Images by Sarah Woodall

FOB Vice Pres. Dan Troth presents Lightning Rod Award to Thelma Riehle.



FOB president Pamela Whitney Gray and FOB VEEP, Dan Troth, present plaques and go away gifts to out-going board members, Gary Clower and Ric Beck. Beck served several years as president of the organization.



Outgoing FOB president, Pamela Whitney Gray passes the mallet to new FOB Commander in Chief, Caleb Miller.



Image by: Sarah Woodall

Lauren Etler (left) and Sarah Sisser (right) on Ohio Barn Tour 2019.

New FOB Board members

Two new members have come onto the FOB board from Hancock County. Both work at the Hancock Historical Museum and have been involved with the successful Hancock County Barn Tour.

Sarah Sisser, Director of the Hancock Historical Museum is a return member to the board. Lauren Etler is the Special Events & Communications Coordinator at the Museum and she was the recent recipient of the first Barn Conservation Grant awarded by FOB from its endowment fund.

Upcoming Events

Malabar Farm

August 30th through September 2

• • • • •

Hancock County Barn Tour

Saturday, September 14th

• • • • •

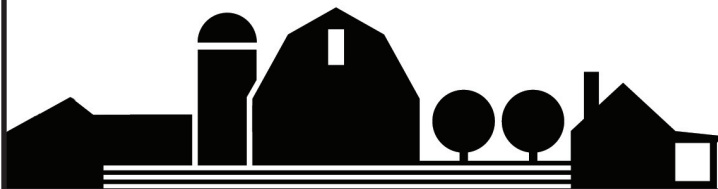
FOB Fall Picnic

Saturday, September 28th

• • • • •

Algonquin Mill Fall Festival

October 11, 12, 13



CALEB'S CORNER

I'd like to take this chance to introduce myself to all who are reading this whom I haven't had a chance yet to meet, and I'd also like to thank the Friends of Ohio Barns' board members for asking me to be the president of this organization. I have the great fortune to spend most of my days working in and on the historic timber framed barns that collectively binds us. Along side my younger brother John, we own and operate JCM Timberworks, which primarily restores and repairs timber frame barns. Our business was created because of timber framing, but it didn't take long for the historic timber framed barns in this state to take a precedence in our lives.

I feel like I'm walking into a perfect storm within this organization — 20 years of members have built an organization with vision, clout, and fiscal responsibility. My vision for the future of this organization is to first maintain continuity in the areas that we are well established in (barn tour and conference), and build upon the educational aspect of our mission statement. I believe we possess the personal, intellectual, and geographical resources to be the preeminent resource for information and education regarding the stewardship and restoration of historic timber framed barns. I believe that by providing the tools and resources needed for barn owners to properly take care of their structures, will increase the likelihood of our beloved barns lasting for future generations. I hope all involved with this organization can see the potential in this vision, and can contribute in any way possible.

-Caleb Miller, President

FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNS BOARD

President

Caleb Miller Holmes County (330) 231-9042

Vice President

Dan Troth Delaware County (614) 989-1122

Secretary

Sarah Woodall Trumbull County (330) 856-9053

JoAnne Hamblin Morrow County (419) 947-1360

Treasurer

Laura Saeger Wayne County (330) 465-7001

Newsletter

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

Members

Pamela Whitney Gray Knox County (740) 263-1369

David Hamblin Morrow County (419) 947-1360

Alan Walter Carroll County (330) 323-3763

Sarah Sisser Hancock County (912) 604-5598

Lauren Etler Hancock County (419) 889-4716

Affiliate

Chris Clower (IT) Trumbull County (330) 989-4528

RECAP, Continued from Page 1

XX was emotionally charged. And that is just fine. The entire membership can enjoy the fact that we have been a growing organization and are still here after 20 years! That is an accomplishment. It happens only with a lot of hard work and dedicated people.

David Wilhelm was our keynote speaker for the 20th and he delivered a very heart felt speech in how he was brought up by his father Dr. Hubert Wilhelm. He spoke of his father's love of barns and history. He told us stories about spending his summers going to courthouses all over the state of Ohio and pouring through the 1850 Census. David shared some of his father's favorite quotes such as "all work is honorable", "all people, regardless of rank, have dignity", "be more than you appear to be". These are all great quotes and should be considered by us all on a daily basis. "Great stuff" it is Dr. Wilhelm. Thank you, David, for bringing him back to us in such an honorable and pleasant way.

We were very fortunate to have Chris Klingemier come from Trumbull County to explain the architectural aspects of historic houses and from where they came. Chris is extremely knowledgeable about these houses and can walk in to one that has been completely re-worked and explain how it had originally been built and why. According to Chris "the objects remain to tell the story" meaning that if we take the time to look then we can understand the how and why.

There could not have been a better anniversary than our 20th to help four girls from Westerville celebrate such a fantastic accomplishment as getting a bill passed through the Ohio State legislature, to declare the "barn" as the new Historic Architectural Structure of the State of Ohio! Adriane Thompson, Anna Borders, Sarah Gellner (absent was Rachel Kaufman) and their teachers Debbie Pellington and Caley Nestor Baker stopped in to show us their presentation on how they fulfilled their dream and we awarded them with a special plaque to hang in their school. I must add that our VP Dan Troth assisted the girls along the way on behalf of FOB and made the beautiful plaque to show our appreciation for their effort. Adriane, Anna and Sarah are very well spoken young ladies with considerable



Image by: Tom O'Grady

Genoa Middle School lawmakers: teachers Debbie Pellington and Caley Nestor Baker join students, Adriane Thompson, Sarah Gellner, and Anna Borders. FOB VP, Dan Troth, at rear, testified at the Ohio statehouse in support of the passage of the bill making the barn Ohio's Historical Architectural Symbol. Absent from the image is Rachel Kaufman, the fourth team member who helped make the Ohio Barn one of the great symbols of the state.

energy and it is obvious that they all have a very bright future!

Dan was busy this year with making awards and certificates for many presentations. David Wilhelm stayed in order to help present our most prestigious award, The Wilhelm Award, named for his father, Hubertus, to our very own Rudy Christian, founding member and first president of Friends of Ohio Barns. The emotional event included Tom O'Grady and Caleb Miller making their own introductions on how Rudy has affected them as well as Dr. Wilhelm, especially as in Tom's case. Rudy was overcome with emotion and that just tells me (and as we all know) that he is very passionate about what he does. And what he does is teach us all about the barns and the barn builders in such a way that we are all passionate about them as well. It was a much deserved award. Having David there to help present the award to Rudy was simply icing on the cake.

Dan had plaques to make for retiring board members Ric Beck and Gary Clower. Both have been on the board for many, many years and have brought so much to the organization that they will be missed by the board. But they tell me

they will still be available. Dan also made certificates for the new President's Award to be given by the current president to someone in the organization that has stepped up beyond the call of duty. This year Pam awarded Kendal Taylor, Judy Hendershot and Beryl Beckett for their years of service in handling the Silent Auction for so many consecutive years at the barn conference. What they do takes a tremendous amount of work and helps free up Laura and me to handle many other conference details. And then there was the passing of the mallet from Pam to Caleb. Thank you Pam for three years of being president!

We finished up the day with the Barn Detectives, Rudy and Dan, as well as a very interesting talk from Tom O'Grady about the ancient mound builders, Ohio's first farmers. Fascinating that these mounds were built by people with primitive tools yet they were mathematicians, engineers and astronomers, as well as farmers. Building mounds to help plot how the moon travels on an 18.6 year cycle is amazing. I wished I had the time to stick around Licking County for another day to go see these mounds. I will definitely go back.

Please See RECAP, Page 8

The Crawford Barn

The old Crawford Barn, built in the 1890's, was disassembled, relocated, reconstructed, and repurposed a hundred years later in the late 1990's for the Longaberger Company in Licking County under the guidance and direction of Rudy Christian.

Building guidelines prevented the crew from using all of the original timber in the construction of the frame so it was recycled into pieces used in building staircases, railings, window frames and many other needs in the repurposed structure. The barn was reconstructed with restrooms and kitchen facilities and other features required by code.

The gigantic Crawford Barn may be the finest example of a repurposed barn in the state of Ohio. It is no longer owned and operated by the Longaberger Company and it is rather tragic that it doesn't get more use and appreciation that it so largely deserves.

Hats off to Rudy Christian and all the timber framers and workers that recycled this piece of Ohio heritage for the benefit of future generations.



Images: by Tom O'Grady

The enormous, historic Crawford horse barn which was relocated to the former Longaberger Homestead near Frazeesburg, east of Newark, Ohio.



Reconstructed horse stalls and brick floor in bottom level of historic Crawford Barn.



The two bus-loads of barn tour participants gathered for a group photo in front of the Crawford Barn at the end of the tour. Past President, Ric Beck and departing President, Pamela Whitney Gray present the Barn of the Year Award for Adaptive Reuse to the Crawford Barn. Bill Weaver, a former teacher and principal for the Licking County Schools accepted the award on behalf of the community.



Upstairs venue in repurposed Crawford Barn. Plenty of elegantly designed space for almost any purpose up in the loft portion of the old timber framed barn, accessible by elevator or stairway.

Barn of the Year Awards

Agriculture Use Award

Graham Barn

Thomas & Michael Graham Farms



The recipient for agriculture is the Graham Barn. This 54' X 140' barn is a replacement for two horse barns that burned in one fire in 1927. The current barn has 3 levels which are used for cattle, hay and machinery storage. Friends of Ohio Barns certainly appreciate that the Grahams honor and respect the workmanship of the past by caring for this structure!

Stewardship Award

Montgomery Barn

**Mary L. Montgomery Estate
Executor Rebecca Smart**

The Montgomery barn was chosen for Stewardship because it displays the progression of barn construction through the decades. Not only were new barns added to the operation but the old ones were used and maintained as well.



Adaptive Re-Use Award

Crawford Barn Longaberger Homestead

The Crawford Barn was located on Sharon Valley Road in Newark and owned by George W. Crawford, who came to Newark in 1879. The family continued ownership of the barn until the 1990s when the barn's future was in doubt. The significance of the barn was recognized by the Licking County Historical Society but was beyond their means. Longaberger approached the Crawford family about purchasing the property. Instead, it was decided to give the barn to Longaberger, who would ensure its survival and preservation by moving it to his new Longaberger Homestead outside of Frazeyburg.



Tour Hancock County's Historic Barns – September 14th

The Hancock Historical Museum will host Hancock County's 5th Historic Barn Tour on Saturday, September 14th from 10am-4pm. The event will feature five historic barns in the southern portion of the county. Tickets are required, and may be purchased in advance at a reduced rate, or day-of. Children 16 and under are free. The tour is self-guided and guests may start at any barn and proceed in any order. In addition to the barns, each property on the tour will feature a variety of activities throughout the day, including demonstrations by JCM Timberworks, live music with classic country band, "East of Cheyenne", food trucks, children's activities, and more.

The Hancock Historical Museum's Historic Barn Tour began in 2013, with Friends of Ohio Barns Board members lending their assistance to the program that inaugural year, and every year since. The tour was the first of its kind in the region and exceeded every benchmark for success, with more than 700 people in attendance in the first year. The tour was designed to engage the rural community in the Findlay-based Hancock Historical Museum's programming and events, and to highlight the county's rich agricultural heritage. In addition to these primary objectives, this multi-faceted event was instrumental in bringing awareness to the importance of historic barns to the cultural landscape and increasing heritage tourism in northwest Ohio.

In the years since, the Historic Barn Tour has become a family favorite in Hancock County, moving to a different part of the county each time. The tour is on a biennial schedule, and attendees anxiously await the event every other year. At the 4th Historic Barn Tour in 2017, nearly 1,000 people attended, with guests from as far away as Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Georgia. That year, the museum kicked off the tour with an exclusive "Breakfast in the Barn" at the 150 year-old Glick-Etler Barn. More than 200 people enjoyed a hearty country breakfast at the barn, while hearing the story of its preservation. The Glick-Etler Barn received FOB's first-ever Barn Conservation Grant in 2017. This year, Breakfast in the Barn will take place at the Metzger Barn, winner of FOB's Barn of the Year Award for Stewardship in 2015. The breakfast will be held on tour day, from 7-10am. Tickets for the breakfast are limited, and must be purchased separately and in advance.

The success of the Hancock Historical Museum's Historic Barn Tour has snowballed into many additional projects and opportunities for the preservation of the area's agricultural heritage. In collaboration with the University of Findlay, the museum received a grant from the Ohio Humanities Council in 2014, shortly after the inaugural tour, to record and interpret the oral histories of Century Farm owners in Hancock County. The museum has held Farm-to-Table Dinners in local historic barns, and hosted bus tours of Hancock County's expanding Barn Quilt Trail. In 2014, the Historic Barn Tour received the Ohio State Historic Preservation Office's Public Education and Awareness Award, and in 2018 the event was presented with the Scenic Ohio Award. Museum staff have been asked to speak to other rural communities in the state of Ohio about the success and implementation of the tour.

Perhaps most importantly, the tour has directly led to the preservation of historic barns in Hancock County and the conservation of the local cultural landscape. To be featured on the tour is a mark of prestige among area landowners and farmers, with many of them investing tens of thousands of dollars to prepare their properties for the showcase. The owners also have the opportunity to learn more about their historic barns from FOB Board members who visit the properties in the months leading up to the tour to assist museum staff with their research and preparations for the event. In 2017, more than \$40,000 was invested in the maintenance and preservation of the six, historic barns featured on the tour in the six months leading up to the showcase.

Tickets for the Historic Barn Tour and Breakfast in the Barn may be purchased on the Hancock Historical Museum's website at www.hancockhistoricalmuseum.org, beginning August 14th. More information about the activities on the tour and a map of the properties will be available on the website in late summer.

-Sarah Sisser, FOB Board Member and
Executive Director, Hancock Historical Museum

FOB Fall Picnic in Sandusky County

FOB Fall Picnic scheduled for Saturday, September 28th at the Creek Bend Farm/Wilson Nature Center in Lindsey, Ohio just northwest of Fremont in Sandusky County. We will gather at 11:30, eat at noon and tour two off site barns at 1pm and we will be showing the Barn Raisers at 5pm. Public is welcome. Details to follow via email as we get closer.

Malabar Farm Labor Day Event

It's been 25 years since the Big Barn at Malabar was replaced after a catastrophic fire leveled the historic German bank barn. Twelve professional timber framers worked for three months to recut the barn pieces, and with the help of 100 volunteers from the Timber Framers Guild the new frame was hand raised in front of a crowd of thousands of interested on lookers over Labor Day weekend in 1994. Friends of Ohio Barns in partnership with the Timber Framers Guild is cooking up another event to take place over the Labor Day weekend August 30 - September 2nd at Malabar to commemorate the anniversary. Hands-on demonstrations featuring traditional tools are being developed and a Barn Dance is scheduled to be held Saturday evening, August 31st in the reconstructed historic barn across the lane from Louie Bromfield's Big House where Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall were married. Stay tuned for our schedule of events and help celebrate the anniversary of the rebirth of one of Ohio's greatest barns!

By: Laura Saeger

Quotable quote

"Any jackass can kick down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one."

– Sam Rayburn

As related by David Wilhelm

Licking County Barn Tour Recap

Two packed tour buses of Friends of Ohio Barns enthusiasts were treated to the history of barns of Licking County during the annual outing. The first stop of the day was the Alan and John Deeds barn. Although the barn had seen many additions over the decades, the group huddled inside the original core 20'x40' barn frame to escape the morning drizzle. Through keen observational skills, the barn detectives declared that the original barn had been a Sweitzer-style likely dating to about 1838 which was converted to a gambrel roof in the early 1900's with an installation of a hay track. Ever the optimist, Rudy pointed out that a rainy day is the perfect time to assess problem areas of a barn because rain infiltration (of which there was much) causes inexorable deterioration of the beams and absolutely needs addressed.

The next stop was just up the road in the same fertile valley at the Mary L. Montgomery Estate (executor Rebecca Smart). The group hiked to the barn farthest up the hill which happened to be the "new" barn on the premises (circa 1915).

Please See BARN TOUR, Page 8



Photo by Tom O'Grady

A rainy day greets Barn tour goers but doesn't slow them down an iota as they approach the Deeds Barn in Licking County.

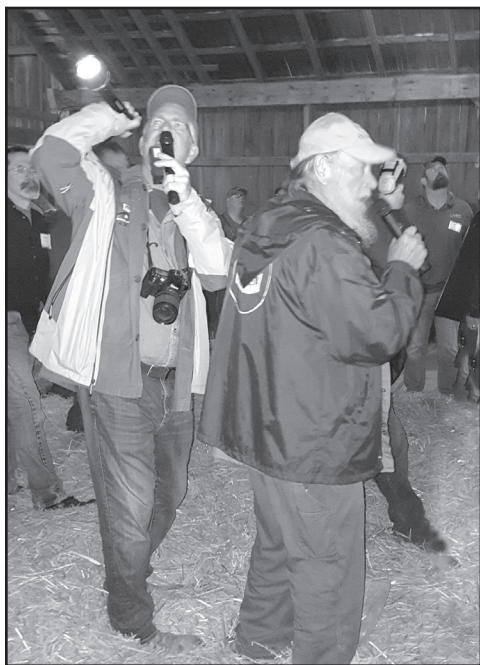


Photo by Sarah Woodall

Flashlight and measuring device in hand, FOB Veep, Dan Troth (at left) draws attention to a somewhat obscure and confounding detail while Rudy Christian (at right) posits a likely explanation. That's why we call them the Barn Detectives.



Photo by Tom O'Grady

The crowd makes its way past the big sycamore tree and the interesting collection of barns on the Montgomery estate.

BARN TOUR, Continued from Page 7

Rudy was willing to go out on a limb and declare that it was one of the last timber frame barns to be built in the area because it was built as a gambrel roof structure and was constructed from a combination of housing style timber framing and mill style (meaning that the sawmill was sufficiently accurate in their cutting that the timbers were true to size throughout their length). Next was a hike back to the original farm barn which was a spectacular survivor — still having pole rafters supporting the roof, an impressive swing beam and hand-wrought strap door hinges. After the group relocated to the unique basement which had been chiseled out of conglomerate stone accretions (deposited by the Illinoian glacier outwash 200,000 years ago according to Joe Steiger), the barn detectives declared that the basement had been dug after the barn had been built. The barn was originally a ground barn as evidenced by the white oak floor joists which had originally been in direct contact with the earth. Rudy pointed out the knottiness of the wood and stated with high certainty that they were not tree trunks, they were tree limbs. The virgin forest trees grew with such tight spacing that their limbs were mostly oriented vertically instead of horizontally. Rather than have to cut down more trees to make floor joists the pioneers used as much of each tree as possible.

A hot lunch at The Virtues Golf Club recharged the group and everyone was pleased that the rain had ended by the time lunch was over. The first afternoon stop was the Thomas and Michael Graham farm where we were treated to what Rudy jokingly called a “peg less timber frame”. It was made of posts and beams

Please See BARN TOUR, Page 9

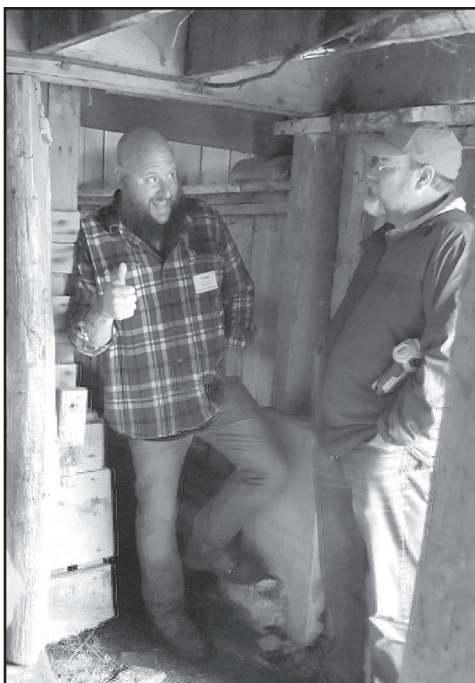


Photo by Sarah Woodall
Caleb Miller (left), new FOB President, confers calls tour goer, Mike Wengler into his office to explain how barns work, and why.



Photo by Sarah Woodall
FOB Veep, Troth shines a light on barn construction methods. Dan's flashlights contrasts the marks of a scoring axe and a broad axe on a hand hewn timber in one of the Montgomery barns.



Photo by Sarah Woodall
The scalloped pattern on a hewn timber created by the combination of the scoring axe and the broad axe.

RECAP, Continued from Page 3

We started out the Conference with our Barn Detective Workshop at the McDonald Barn in Hebron. Brent and Jill graciously allowed us to come take a look at their barn. The original owner, Ken Lees, and his son, Roger Lees, were there as well. Ric pointed out the peculiarities of the barn telling that it appeared to have been intentionally built as a livestock barn. The roof was raised for hay stor-

age but not by a significant amount. We discussed the order of repairs to be done to the barn. Ric says start with the roof, patch the holes, and fix the gutters. What kills barns? Water, water, water. Caleb said start at the bottom and work your way up. If you don't have a solid foundation then you have nothing. The important thing to remember is to figure out all the repairs and make a priority list and go from there.

The most important thing to remember? Fix your barn!

Many thanks go to Howard Siegrist and Joe Steiger for being our Local Heroes for Licking County and many thanks go to Bill Weaver and Craig Montgomery for being our docents on the barn tour! And many thanks to all our members who came out to support another Ohio Barn Conference!

-Sarah Woodall, Board Member

BARN TOUR, Continued from Page 8

but was nailed together with no timberframe joinery with the exception of sliding end dovetails on the tie beams. Double purlin construction allowed for a huge free span for the hay track in the 54'x140' behemoth.

The Crawford Barn at Longaberger Homestead was the final stop of the day and was simultaneously jaw-dropping and tear-jerking. It was gloriously and lovingly preserved with no expense spared by Dave Longaberger and certainly merited receiving the Adaptive Re-use award. However its future is uncertain as the Longaberger Company has struggled through bankruptcy. The barn is the only double purlin, canted purlin barn that Rudy has ever seen. Rudy pointed out where modern building codes required that new rafters, floor joists and extra beam bolsters had to be installed but also showed how the salvaged materials had been incorporated into windows, railings, etc.

Ironically the best weather of the day occurred after the obligatory group photo as the buses were traveling back to Newark with the sun shining directly in the drivers' eyes! Everyone was hoping the sun was an omen that brighter days are ahead for the Longaberger barn.

By: Alan Walter, FOB Board Member



Above: The 2019 Barn of the Year Award for Agricultural Use presented to the Graham Oaklawn Farm of Muskingum County. Left to right are Mrs. Gerald Graham, Gerald Graham, Mike Graham and Tom Graham, with FOB board members Pamela Whitney Gray, and Ric Beck.

Photo by Sarah Woodall



Left: It's not always just about barns. Two inspired individuals showing the group how to get the most out of a barn tour on a rainy day at the Graham Barn on the old Colonel Crawford farm.

Photo by Tom O'Grady

FOB board member named the 2018 Emerging Professional of the Year by Ohio Museums Association

Since being named Executive Director of the Hancock County Historical Society in 2013 at the age of 26, Sarah Sisser has been responsible for overseeing the operations of an extensive campus that includes nine buildings, and programming that reaches more than 20,000 people, including more than 4,000 schoolchildren.

During the past five years she has raised and managed more than \$1.2 million dollars in capital improvement projects, including the construction of a transportation annex, a learning institute, an interactive government center, and an agricultural exhibit center. She has collaborated with community partners, both public and private, to leverage funding and create programming that reaches diverse audi-



ences across the state.

The success of programs like the museum's Historic Barn Tour — a self-guided tour of historic barns across Hancock County — is a beautiful example of connecting the public to local history through meaningful, and popular, programming. During the tour's 4th year in 2017, nearly

1,000 people took part, including guests from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Georgia.

Sarah's community involvement, at both the local and state levels, has increased the visibility of the Hancock Historical Museum, and a result, attendance at programming has nearly tripled.

As Pat Williamsen, of the Ohio Humanities Council noted, "Sarah is an exemplary model of a modern museum professional whose charge is to be more than a steward of the past. Sarah excels at making history relevant for contemporary audiences."

The Ohio Museums Association is proud to present the 2018 Emerging Professional of the Year to Sarah Sisser.

Rudy Christian Receives Wilhelm Award

David Wilhelm (left) and FOB board member Tom O'Grady (right), present first FOB President, Rudy Christian, with the Wilhelm Award. The Wilhelm Award was named in honor of David's father Dr. Hubertus G.H. Wilhelm, long time professor of Ohio and Cultural Geography at Ohio University, in Athens. Hubert Wilhelm scoured the 1850 Ohio census and taught us who we were as Ohioans in that era and who built Ohio, its cities and industries, and its small towns, farms, and barns. He helped us to know who the barnbuilders were. The Wilhelm Award is presented on occasion when a recipient has created a body of work in the world of Ohio barn heritage measuring up to a standard worthy of the recognition. Congratulations and thanks to Rudy Christian!

Image by: Sarah Woodall



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



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

