

# Ohio Barn Conference IX

to be held March 29, 30, 31  
in Springfield, Ohio

Register now for the 2008 Ohio Barn Conference. This year's theme is adaptive reuse, and the conference will feature demonstrations, speakers, displays, the Barn Detectives, and much more, as well as the annual motorcoach barn tour.

Find registration information as well as conference schedule and details inside this issue of *The Old Barn Post*.

And don't forget to nominate your favorite barn for the Barn of the Year award! A nomination form is also included in this issue.

**Background photo: This Upper Arlington barn—the last in the city—is scheduled to be dismantled, relocated, and adapted as a community building this spring. Friends of Ohio Barns' participation in this project will be one of the topics addressed during the members' meeting at Barn Conference IX.**

Photo by Ric Beck



FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs

P.O. Box 203  
Burbank, Ohio 44214



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# The Old BARN POST

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## The Barn

It is just a memory now. The new young owner bulldozed it twenty years ago. I guess one can't really blame him. Not having a farm background, he little realized how important it once was or the impact that the old barn had had on so many lives. Then, too, in its rather unbecoming state, it probably did not fit with his concept of utilizing the old place as his private retreat.

Perhaps if he had known ... Maybe an inkling of appreciation could have stopped the big belching yellow monster from terminating its existence. It appears that no one ever took the time to explain to him just a few of the many real life happenings that graced its 100-plus year tenure. Why were the timber surfaces so rough and all marred with axe marks? What kind of individual would expend the time and energy to carve beams out of the then-nearby forest? Or for that matter, how did he know how to wind up with such a sturdy, square, weather-tight edifice for the farm animals and crops?

Sixty years ago it was still a fine old typical four-bay Pennsylvania barn with a large attached full-height straw shed. The original three-bay hewn portion was still standing tall, but as is often the case, the newer skimpier-sawn additions were sitting on inadequate foundation work. As I recollect, that was going to be fixed "someday." Meanwhile, don't put any heavy machinery on it.

Speaking of machinery, I'll bet he never knew that his barn once throbbed with life. He would have had to be there to feel the structure's rhythmic throbbing as the old thrashing machine labored tirelessly

to digest the steady flow of sheaves that had been stored in the mow atop the loose hay. It may have sounded strange to him, but thrashing time in that barn was actually a very important step in my life, and I suspect in that of other farm boys. We were given the responsibility of working alongside the men in the mow on thrashing day, breaking only for lunch, and it pretty well "separated the men from the boys." Then there was the special feeling of following the thrasher along to neighboring farms.

The structure also creaked and groaned as the hayfork lifted the loose hay up, over, and into the mow. It groaned even louder one time when the individual on the hay wagon inadvertently latched the hayfork onto the wagon's loose floorboards. The reaction time of this then eight-year-old kid learning to drive the tractor pulling the hay rope was, as one might expect, not

quite up to what his older brother on the rising hay wagon expected.

The new owner probably never climbed up the mow ladder and over the top of the 12 x 10 tie beam, worn smooth with the years, over which the lifted load of hay slid. Maybe if he had understood the source of the patina on that old oak beam he could have mustered some respect for the structure.

Respect. Could being drilled in how to treat kerosene lanterns in a barn help develop respect? It may have a lot to do with learning what trust is also. Yes, that old barn was far more than a mere building. It had a life of its own to share. Let's remember to tell those who have not had the firsthand experience of knowing one how it was and what it can be. Be a barn's best friend; speak up and let others know.

— Paul Knoebel



Charcoal drawing by Paul's late mother, Marie Knoebel.

# Changing times

The new year has arrived, and with it a new set of challenges! We will be faced with a variety of changes this year ... the environment, fuel costs, and housing, to name a few. The condition of our valued barn structures will also change this year. Some, not for the better.

**Random Thoughts**  
Ric Beck  
*Friends of Ohio Barns president*

We, as individuals or groups, must adapt to these changes if we are to flourish. Our barns are no different. That is why adaptation is the theme for the ninth annual Ohio Barn Conference. We will convene in Springfield, Ohio, this March to discuss adaptive re-use for our beloved Ohio barns. We realize that as much as we would like to preserve our barn icons where they currently stand and use them as they were designed, changes in farming, economics, and land use has made that very difficult.

Along with conference favorites, the day long bus tour, the Barn Detectives, and local historians, we will focus on adaptive re-use of barns in the area, ideas for barn re-use, and panel discussions by our experts to help you with your barns. We will also discuss an upcoming project that will help a local community save its last known working barn and adapt it into a community building on park land. It should be exciting!

As you consider signing up for this year's event, notice that the costs haven't increased. It's the board's way of adapting to economic change, by hopefully providing a useable product to you and keeping the costs down. There will also be a questionnaire provided with your conference packet that will ask for your input in how Friends of Ohio Barns can better serve. Please take time to review it and be ready to ask questions during our members' meeting on Saturday.

Change ... it is inevitable, but it doesn't have to be stressful if we learn to adapt to it. We hope that this year's conference will illustrate that concept. I look forward, as always, to meeting and talking to you. Come on, spring!

# News briefs

## Early registration for FOB's annual Ohio Barn Conference

Register early for the upcoming Ohio Barn Conference IX and take advantage of price discounts! The costs for this year's conference haven't changed, so if you sign up early, you get an even better deal.

## Barn of the Year information needed

Do you know about an outstanding barn in your region? If so, drop us a line and get it nominated for the annual Friends of Ohio Barns "Barn of the Year Award" The deadline is March 20.

Nominations will be judged in two categories: agricultural use and adaptive use (non-agricultural). Nominations should include photos, current owner's name, location of the barn, current use of the barn, history of the barn including age and builder if known, and information on repairs and who made them, if known.

Nominations may be mailed to Dan Troth, 7591 Perry Road, Delaware, Ohio, 43015. The award will be presented at the Conference on Saturday, March 29.

## Barn Repair Panel returns to 2008 conference

The Barn Repair Panel will assemble once again to answer questions about your barn during the Saturday afternoon session. This is your chance to get some free advice from some of the best in the business! Please bring questions and pictures to share with us, and we will do our best to help. Better yet, send in your pics on a disc, and we will be able to project them for all to see and learn from! Send CDs to Ric Beck, 7215 Kimberly Ct., Westerville, Ohio, 43082.

## Silent auction items needed

Friends of Ohio Barns is once again encouraging everyone to bring silent auction items for the Saturday evening sale. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference, keeping your fees low. We hope you can contribute an item or two—something handmade, collectible, store bought, or something interesting you've found in your travels.

The more you bring, and the better the items, the more exciting the auction gets! If you can't find anything to bring, at least come prepared to make someone else bid a little higher before walking off with the prize!

## Board of Directors elections

Friends of Ohio Barns is seeking candidates to fill board positions of members whose terms are expiring. Responsibilities include participating in the annual conference, attending board meetings and conference calls, and representing Friends at festivals and events with the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to help save a part of Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.

If you are interested in a board position, please send a short biography with your goals and ideas to Friends of Ohio Barns, P.O. Box 203, Burbank, Ohio, 44214, or e-mail friendsohio-barns@aol.com.

# FOB to help adapt Upper Arlington's last barn

Friends of Ohio Barns is excited to be a part of giving a Central Ohio barn new life.

The city of Upper Arlington, like many communities in the 1800s, was primarily farming country. Today only one of those original barns remains standing, a testament to a bygone era. With the help of Upper Arlington's park system, the Upper Arlington Historical Society, Upper Arlington citizens, Friends of Ohio Barns, and The Timber Framers Guild, this early-to mid-1800s structure will soon be relocated to a public park and made available for recreational use.

I was aware of the old barn for years, both because I work in the city and because I had the opportunity to meet the last farm family in this upper-middle-class community. After the last of the family died last year, the home was auctioned off to people who intend to raze both the house and barn to build a new home.

The Historical Society and I were able to impress upon the new owners the significance of this barn, and they were gracious enough to donate it to the city to be ultimately used as a four-season facility on some new park land in Upper Arlington.

The barn was originally constructed on the Legg family farm in an area that is now a private school. The 20 x 30 hewn barn was later purchased and moved to the McCoy family farm (its current location) when the original McCoy barn burned down. Over the years, the barn has undergone several additions, according to city records. It was used as recently as the mid-1960s to house cattle and sell eggs to local residents. The new footprint is 36 x 48, with evidence that some salvaged timbers from the burned structure were used for the additions.

The Historical Society and the city will embark on a fund-raising campaign, administered through the Upper Arlington Community Foundation, to relocate and restore the barn. Friends of Ohio Barns and the Timber Framers Guild will also play a major role in all restoration phases of this project.

As part of the barn's restoration, a record recounting the barn's history will be installed for public viewing. Tim Moloney, park director, said, "When people come in,



Once used to store hay and later to house cattle and sell eggs to local residents, the Legg barn may have a future in the recreation field. Upper Arlington has already begun a fund-raising campaign to relocate the structure.

Photos by Ric Beck

they will know what went on in (the area that is now) Upper Arlington 150 years ago."

Bids are going out for the documentation and dismantling of the frame this spring. Friends members will be invited to participate in this project, so keep watch on our website for the latest information. This is a terrific opportunity to save a valued icon of days past and a good chance for other communities and barn owners to see how barns can find new use and new life.

— Ric Beck



## Preliminary schedule for Ohio Barn Conference IX

### Friday, March 28

Barn tour; conference registration opens after tour

### Saturday, March 29

7:15 a.m.	Registration opens; continental breakfast
8:15-8:30	Welcome, opening remarks
8:30-9:30	Alexander Greenwood, featured speaker on adaptive re-use
9:30-10:15	Barn Detectives
10:15-10:45	Morning break (bookstore, wood identification, and exhibits)
10:45-11:45	Steve Gordon on historic documents and barns
11:45-12:30	Wood identification, old and new
12:30-1:30	Lunch (FOB year in review, Barn of Year Award)
1:30-2:30	Rudy Christian on adaptive re-use projects
2:30-3:30	Annual meeting (new programs, annual report, questionnaire, officer elections)
3:30-4:00	Afternoon break (submit wood ID forms, bookstore, exhibits)
4:00-5:00	Barn Repair Panel (photo submissions and audience questions)
6:30	Dinner, silent auction, award presentations, live music

### Sunday, April 1

8:00-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast at George Rogers Clark State Park
9:00-10:00	Jim Campbell and Rudy Christian on the Hertzler Barn project
10:00-Noon	Tour of Hertzler Barn and Hertzler House

## Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors

<b>President</b> Ric Beck	Delaware County	(614) 898-9461
<b>Vice President</b> Bob Rowland	Ashland County	(419) 368-3803
<b>Secretary</b> Nancy Rowland	Ashland County	(419) 368-3803
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Gary Clower	Trumbull County	(330) 394-2613
Paul Knoebel	Stark County	(330) 882-5027
Larry Sulzer	Summit County	(330) 657-2135

Please provide historical information, if known, date of building, name of builder, type of barn, repairs or modifications, etc. This history can also include verbal anecdotes or family recollections.

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Please send photos of the barn to:

Dan Troth  
 7591 Perry Road  
 Delaware, OH 43015  
 Or e-mail photos to: dtroth@columbus.rr.com

Please supply your name and contact information so the nomination committee can follow up as needed:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone and/or e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nominations for 2008 Barn of the Year are due by March 10**

Nominations received following March 10 or throughout the year will be considered for the awards in 2009. Barn of the Year awards will be presented at the annual conference scheduled for March 29, 2008.

**Thank you for participating!**

**Friends of Ohio Barns**  
**P.O. Box 203**  
**Burbank, OH 44214**

***Sign up early for Friday barn tour!***

Sign up early for the barn tour on the luxury coach buses, as we have limited seating (100 seats) for what is always a highlight of the conference. We are anticipating great media coverage by Champaign and Clark counties and Springfield, so you can't say we didn't warn you. The first fifty to sign up will be able to have their pictures taken, singly and as a group, with our president, Ric Beck.



**Above: This hand hewn timber framed octagonal barn will on Friday's tour during the 2008 Ohio Barn Conference.**

**This hewn 1852 barn, built when Abraham Lincoln was a lawyer in Illinois, will also be on the tour. Participants will learn how hay was lifted into the mow using the hay track and forks.**

*Photos by Dan Troth*



**Friends of Ohio Barns participated in the raising of the Hertzler Barn at George Rogers Clark Historic Park near Springfield last summer. The barn will part of Sunday's program.**

**Below: With its new roof, it is ready to be sided. (Photo by Ric Beck)**  
**Left: Hertzler Barn with new siding. (Photo by Jim Campbell)**



**Keynote speaker to address adaptive reuse**



**Alexander Greenwood**

"The best way to protect our historic buildings is to find a new purpose for the structure," states Alexander Greenwood, keynote speaker for this year's Ohio Barn Conference.

Greenwood, whose topic will be "Adaptive Reuse Strategies for Barns," has co-written two books about these magnificent icons of agriculture: Barn: The Art of a Working Building and Barn: Preservation and Adaptation.

Greenwood came from Abington, Pennsylvania, where he grew up in Bucks County investigating the stone houses and barns dotting the region's landscape. He worked as a restoration carpenter before studying historic preservation at the University of Pennsylvania.

In 1980, Greenwood partnered with Elric Endersby to form the New Jersey Barn Co. in Princeton, NJ, where they specialize in saving and relocating threatened historic structures.

Greenwood will also share examples of successful (and not so successful) barn conversions.

