



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • July, 2017 • Vol. XVI, Issue 2

ReCap of 2017 Conference in Holmes County

So once again we lucked out with the weather for the entire conference! Well, when it counted anyway. We had a beautiful day at Ivan and Mary Miller's Historic Stutzman Farm for the Barn Detective Workshop on Thursday afternoon. Rudy led a very well presented talk on how to perform a survey complete with slides and short stories plus a few Rudyisms. The Barn Survey Program is very important. We need to convince communities to get out there and document their historic barns using the survey handbook so that at some point it can be uploaded to a search engine of sorts. But I am getting ahead of myself. We had 30 people show up and with cookies and coffee in hand we looked through Mr Miller's barn, filled out our survey sheets and compared notes at the end of the day with lively discussion. All in all a great day!

Still not raining on Friday for the barn tour — hooray! We had our usual hiccup first thing in the morning when the crew showed up to rip up the hotel parking lot! The hotel manager completely forgot that we needed the parking lot for members to park cars and for bus loading! But Kent made some calls and we were good to go. Thankfully there were donuts so I could feed my panic attack. We are very appreciative to Kent and the Comfort Inn Millersburg for allowing us to stage our Friday morning registration and the barn tour on their premises.

Our first stop was the Shreiner Barn at Harvest Ridge which is a beautiful example of a Pennsylvania forebay bank style barn. Harvest Ridge is the Holmes County

Please See RECAP, Page 4



Photos by Ann Krause

Pam Gray and Dan Troth with the new Lifetime Members. From left to right: Barb Lang, Dave Hamblin, Chuck Bultman, Mike Wengler and Rick Secrist.



Paul and Phyllis Knoebel showing off the picture award that FOB presented Paul for his dedication to FOB and the mini barn in particular.



THE END . . .

of April 2017 marked the presentation of the XVIII Annual Barn Conference and Tour in Holmes County. If you happen to miss this year's conference and barn tour, you missed a great one! A tremendous THANK YOU goes out to Barb Lang for all her work and knowledge of the local area. As well as, to the board members who seem to have this conference thing down to a science. Attendance for the Thursday workshop on Barn Surveys was almost double of past years. There was a very long waiting list for the Friday barn tour and the buses were packed to the gills. The bus docents were very knowledgeable and informative. The number of people at the conference was up, also. The lineup of speakers delivered on a very interesting day. Kudos go out to our Silent Auction girls for their efficiency. The items were enticing and the funds raised for the endowment fund was up from past years. Do you sense a pattern here? Let's keep it going!

THE BEGINNING . . .

and so begins another year. By May 7th your board members and Alan Walter, our local hero, were in Carroll County starting the planning for the XIX Annual Barn Conference. Alan has already proved to be a great asset as he had venues and barns lined up for us to preview. It was a very productive day of planning.

May, 8th I was on the road presenting the first FOB barn talk of the year in Roscoe Village to the local historical society. The following week was Canton and the Plain Township Historical Society is a very active group.

If you happen to hear of a group wanting to learn more about barns, give me or one of our board members a call and we will make sure someone can get there to put on a program. We can't miss even one opportunity to get out there and talk to people beyond our range of membership. I am also pleasantly surprised at the interest in barns and the desire of people to tell their own barn stories.

THE PRESENT . . .

following in the previous president's footsteps, I am off on a world tour . . . well, not quite but a well-deserved vacation to Iowa and north to Winnipeg, Canada, and a northern loop around the great lakes and then home. That is unless I find something else of interest, like maybe a list of unique barns to hunt down.

THE FUTURE . . .

fall picnic at Rus-Men Farms on Saturday, October 21st promises to be fun and interesting. Mark your calendars now! Looking forward to seeing all of you and catching up on summer activities.

Wishing all a great summer!

And remember to "Keep the Barn Doors Closed"

— Pam Gray, President

Quotable quote

"I stood in the loneliness of an abandoned New England barn and felt the presence of the great American past."

-Eric Sloane (born - Everard Jean Hinrichs) 1905-1985

Membership Dues to be Increased Starting July 1st 2017

Why, you ask? Good question. Our membership dues have been at the same level since the organization started offering memberships! That has been a long time. Fifteen years? It has been a topic of conversation at many of our yearly Face to Face board meetings and we have always just gone back to not making an increase after much debate. Well, this past Face to Face meeting we had a very frank discussion about our dues structure and how it might not possibly sustain the organization. We had to make a couple really hard decisions regarding membership dues and conference fees. The bottom line is that we have to increase dues and conference fees because the expenses that we incur with processing the dues have increased. PayPal takes their cut with every transaction and rightly so as they offer us an easy way to collect the dues and fees. So we set a new dues schedule and we felt that it really wasn't a significant hardship. We raised each membership level by \$5.00. That means Senior dues will be \$40, Individual will be \$45 and Family will be \$65, however we left Organization at \$100.00. What we also did was eliminate the Lifetime Membership. Dan charges a Lot of money to make those plaques and we just could not afford his fee anymore. Not really but really. There is a high cost to making those plaques but most importantly if we cannot keep money flowing in with membership dues then eventually we will not be able to turn out our newsletters or have an operating cushion. Many of our regular members have turned Lifetime — I am sure it is because of the beautiful work that Dan does. So, as of July 1, 2017 the dues will be increased and the Lifetime Membership will be omitted. The other change we made was to increase the conference fees for the same reason, processing fees, \$5 per category. We felt it was a very minor increase but needed an explanation. If you have any questions or comments please email us at friendsohibarns@gmail.com.

— Sarah Woodall

FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNS BOARD

President

Pamela Whitney Gray Knox County (740) 263-1369

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

Ric Beck Morrow County (614) 738-4302

Gary Clower Trumbull County (330) 720-6671

David Hamblin Morrow County (419) 947-1360

Sarah Sisser Hancock County (912) 604-5598

Affiliate

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

Meet FOB Member Ann Krause

What a joy, and a relief, to have Ann Krause take on the task of taking pictures for the Barn Tour and Conference this past April in Holmes County. A Joy because she has an artistic eye and can capture unique scenes. And a relief because I didn't have to chase after Ric and Dan to capture the BOY winner pictures and the sign presentations; which left me time to herd the film crew from site to site before the buses arrived and help keep the tour on track!

Ann Krause has been a member since January of 2016 and I got to know her a bit during the conference in Butler County where I convinced her that she should write an article for *The Old Barn Post* about her first barn tour. And she did. And it was an entertaining article from a "newbie's" perspective. What I like about Ann is that she is very enthusiastic about barns now. Yes, I know we all are, but it is really invigorating to witness new eyes seeing the old structures and the resulting new love for our historic barns.

Ann has a family, but they haven't been to a conference yet. I am not sure why but I am guessing that she is working on making that happen one of these years! She did bring her husband, Tom, on the Fall Driving Tour in 2016 where she introduced him to Ric and Dan in order to discuss barn conversions. Ann is full of life and has a dream of someday living in a barn. I believe she told me that last year. Or maybe I just picture her living in a barn adapted into a house? She has totally embraced our organization: she confessed to me that she read every newsletter on our website once she found them!

I am grateful to have Ann as a member of Friends of Ohio Barns. For many reasons: She is enthusiastic, helpful, artistic, friendly, engaging, and willing to lend a hand. Plus she takes really good pictures. I hope to have them up on the website for everyone to see.

Thank You Ann!

— Sarah Woodall



Photo by Sarah Woodall

Ann Krause, our photographer extraordinaire!

Ohio Barn to Become Official State Historical Architecture Structure?

The official Ohio fossil is the trilobite. The official native fruit is the pawpaw. The Adena pipe and the cardinal are the state artifact and the state bird. Maybe one day soon the barn will be Ohio's official historical architectural structure. A bit of a mouthful but an important step in highlighting Ohio's rich cultural heritage and agricultural legacy.

Legislation that designates the barn as the official historical architectural structure of the state was brought to State Representative Anne Gonzales (R-Westerville) by students from the Westerville City Schools Gifted Education Program. "I believe this is an important piece of legislation to cherish and preserve the architectural relics that are such an important part of our rural heritage," Gonzales said.

House Bill 12 has passed the Ohio House of Representatives and is now an issue for the members of the Ohio Senate to consider. If the bill is passed by the Senate, it will have to go to the Governor for his signature to make it official.

House Bill 12 works to emphasize the importance of preserving these historic structures which populate Ohio's rural countryside. The barn was the most im-



Students from Westerville High School presenting proposed legislation at Ohio Statehood Day in Ohio Statehouse in March 2016.

Photo by Tom O'Grady

portant structure in the Ohio landscape for the state's first one hundred years. When agriculture was the number one industry in Ohio and the majority of Ohioans lived in rural areas a sturdy barn was a symbol of a strong economy. The barns also serve to identify to people who settled Ohio and converted the primeval forests into the pastoral landscapes of the early 20th century.

The Westerville students testified in the Ohio Statehouse in support of the passage

of the bill. "It is great to see these students get involved in the legislative process and learn how our government works," Rep. Gonzales said. "Their goal with this bill is to preserve these historic structures and pay homage to Ohio's rich agricultural heritage, and I'm proud to help do my part in the Ohio House."

The bill passed 94-0 and now goes to the Senate for further consideration.

— Tom O'Grady

2017 Friends of Ohio Barns Barn Conservation Grant Winners

Friends of Ohio Barns is happy and proud to award the first Barn Conservation Grant to Lauren and Nathan Etlar of Hancock County. The Pepple family were on the 2015 barn tour, and a part of the upcoming Barn Raisers documentary.

Taken from their proposal... "The Pepple family purchased the three acre property with a historic house and barn in Jenera Ohio on October 3, 2013 with a goal of restoring the buildings to their original glory. In September 2016, Lauren (Pepple) and Nathan Etlar were married on the property and have made this work-in-progress our home. This property holds a special place in our hearts; my great, great grandfather built the house in 1853 and the barn shortly thereafter. A breathtaking solid eighty foot beam spans the west wall. We seek to fulfill our mission by preserving the past to inspire the future to edu-

cate a new generation on the importance of local history and instill an appreciation with the stories our barn can tell.

Since 2013, the Pepple family has worked to restore the home by fixing plaster, refinishing the original white oak flooring throughout the whole house, reviving woodwork and paint, reinstating porches and running new electric. Due to many years of neglect, the property was extremely overgrown and the civil war era barn was showing signs of its lack of love. Our dedication and pride for this property has resulted in a wave of community feedback and support along with a general appreciation for our local history. With these same strides, our mission is to restore the barn to its 1860's splendor and share it through educational programming and programs through the Hancock Historical Museum. "

Having met the family and seeing the barn, I felt confident the Etlar family would be a great test subject for our initial launch of the project. They have been nothing but gracious and understanding as we have worked through wording of the grant and the specifics of documentation. Our hats off to the Etlar family for the dedication to barn conservation and stewardship. The people on Hancock County will get a chance to see the results of the grant work this September, as the barn will be showcased in the Hancock Historical Museums first 'Breakfast in the Barn' before their Historical Barn Tour. Future events are sure to be on hand for this barn via the Museum, giving more Ohioans a chance to view and appreciate the stewardship of Lauren and Nathan.

— Ric Beck

RECAP, Continued from Page 4

Claude Ruston Baker and Claudia Rozuk. This barn was on the tour for the conversion value and we awarded Rusty and Claudia with the FOB Barn of the Year Award for Adaptive Re-Use for turning this barn into an unbelievable piece of artwork and a place for musicians to gather and jam. Rusty is as friendly as they come and will welcome anyone that just stops by to come in a take a look around.

The weather went from good to bad on Saturday but that was Okay because we were all cozy in the Barn at Flying Ridge Hunt Club for the Conference. Mariangela Pfister from the Ohio History Connection was our Keynote Speaker and she delivered a very interesting presentation on federal and state historic rehabilitation tax credits and how the applications are managed. Mariangela has worked for the historic preservation office for 30 years and is very happy to answer any and all questions regarding the tax credits, just call her office! Dan Troth and Nick Wisenberg put together a presentation on the Allen barn at Carriage Hill with Nick's expertise in dendrochronology. It did take a while for Dan to get his slides loaded into the new program that he was using but it came together well. Nick has done a lot of

work analyzing barn beams to determine the age of barns and Dan, well, you know Dan, is very enthusiastic about any and all barns! Dan and Rudy did their Barn Detective slide show and new members were probably surprisingly entertained by the comedic side of the barn tour.

Log Cabin Catering took care of us all day with donuts, coffee, lunch and whatever we needed. Did you try the Tomato Basil soup? It has to be the best I have ever had! After lunch we split into two groups and those that love quilts stayed inside to listen to Barb Gabriel deliver a presentation on the Barn Quilt Movement throughout Ohio. We would like to thank Loretta Coblentz, who owns the Barn Inn in Millersburg, for bringing in some lovely quilts to show. Others went outside to see how the Miller brothers were doing on hand hewing the walnut log. John and Caleb, of JCM Timberworks in Millersburg, worked hard throughout the day to finish the timber for the Silent Auction. It had to have been a lot of work but John and Caleb made it look easy! John Stitzlein was the high bidder and took the beautifully hand hewn walnut mantle home although I am not sure how. Fred Krift finished up the day with a talk about

his Nutwood place and the spectacular round barn that adorns the property. It was easy to see the love and affection he has for the property, the history and the old barn. Fred allowed FOB to stop at his place in 2016 for the Fall Driving Tour so those folks had seen this barn in person. It is encouraging to see folks like Fred take on historic properties and engage in the preservation and rehabilitation of the old structures on those properties.

We, of course, had the silent auction and thanks to all of you that brought items and/or bought items! During the Annual Meeting Paul Knoebel was presented a special award for all his time and effort with the Mini Barn. Paul spent many hours with kids raising that barn and our hats go off to him for his dedication to the art of timber-framing and to Friends of Ohio Barns. Our first Barn Conservation Grant was awarded to Lauren and Nate Etlar to help them preserve their barn in Hancock County. And Dan was very busy making Lifetime Award plaques for Dave Hamblin, Ken Noffsinger, Brian Piergiovanni, Rick Secrist, Mike Wengler and Chuck Bultman. It was, yet another, great conference in a great location!

— Sarah Woodall

Friends of Ohio Barns
Annual Members Meeting
Barn of the Year Awards



**Agriculture
Use**

Sam Erb Farm

**Owned by
Sam Erb**

**Stewardship
Shreiner Barn**

**Owned by
Holmes County
Fairgrounds**



Adaptive Re-use

**Legends of
Music Barn**

**Owned by
Claudia Rozuk &
Claude Ruston Baker**

Barn of the Year Award Winners



Above: Friends of Ohio Barns presented Sam with the BOY award for Agricultural use.

Right: Kathy Schlabach accepting the BOY award for Stewardship on behalf of the Shreiner Barn with Dan Troth and Ric Beck on her left. Photos by Ann Krause



Ruston Baker accepting the BOY award for Adaptive Re-Use for the Legends of Music Barn.

Local Heroine of Holmes County

I believe our local heroine from Holmes County possesses super powers. Wonder Woman has nothing over her. She handles a fulltime job while assisting her husband on their large dairy farm and raising their daughter with all the activities that come with a teenager. On the side she enjoys her hobbies of comedy and freelance writing. Not to mention that she was getting their own barn ready for tour day. A very busy woman without the added responsibility of answering to my every beck and call. She was most helpful with local knowledge of people and places. She did some of the writing for the tour book and when it came to barnstorming we not only had fun but she ferreted out barns that were the cream of the crop for our edification and enjoyment. Yes, you all know I am talking about Barb Lang. She deserves the cape of a super heroine.

— Pam Gray



Photo by Ann Krause
Lauren and Barb Lang accept the FOB supporting plaque. Barb was our Local Heroine for Holmes County.

Upcoming Events

Indiana Barn Foundation
Annual Meeting,
Friday, July 21 barn tour; Saturday,
July 22 annual meeting.

~~~~~  
Malabar Farm Heritage Days,  
Saturday & Sunday September 23rd  
and 24th

~~~~~  
FOB Fall Picnic,
Saturday, October 21st, 11:30-
4:00pm, Rus-Men Grain Farms,
Galion, Ohio

~~~~~  
Algonquin Fall Festival,  
Friday, Saturday, Sunday, October  
13th through the 15th.

# 2017 FOB Fall Picnic Scheduled!



This fall FOB Board Members Dave and JoAnne Hamblin have organized the picnic to be held at the Rus-Men Grain Farms located in Galion, Ohio on Saturday, October 21st. That is the Crawford County area for those of you who do not know where Galion is located!

Russ and Mendy Sellman are a seventh generation farm family. They produce row crops on the land that their ancestors settled in the 1830's. They grow beans, corn and wheat plus plenty of hay for their cattle. They also sell naturally raised beef through their wholesale market and we will be able to enjoy burgers made from their operation. Mendy helped her Grandfather build one of the barns on the property without plans of any kind! There will be two barns plus the 'original' barn for us to look through.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21st, 2017 for another Friends of Ohio Barns Picnic! More information will be sent through email and posted on our website as the summer rolls on.

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



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

