



The Old BARN POST

A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • July, 2018 • Vol. XVII, Issue 2

Recap of Ohio Barn Conference XIX

Carroll County was a beautiful setting for our annual Ohio Barn Conference. And Alan Walter was exceptional in his role as Local Hero. A big “thank you” goes out to Alan from all of us for turning out such a super conference!

Carroll County sports an amazing array of old buildings in the Algonquin Mill complex, the site of this year’s Barn Detective Workshop. Our attendees were met by Mike Mangan, Manager, in the Farm Barn (Art Barn) which is a Pennsylvania German bank barn with a fore-bay built around 1880. Mike told us that roughly 25 thousand people come to enjoy the Fall Festival and they make enough money in those three days to support the complex for an entire year! We followed Mike around to the Farm House with two front doors which was built in the 1870’s. Doug Reed explained that the doors were separate entrances to the public and private areas of the house. Inside the Farm House the Thursday Work Day ladies were busy quilting and weaving rugs. From there we went to the Sauerkraut House and learned that nine tons of cabbage are brought in and shredded to make the famous sauerkraut that sells out by noon on the first day of the Fall Festival. I have eaten that sauerkraut — it is worth standing in line for, trust me. The two-story Log Home was built around 1829 and was moved to the grounds in the 1970’s. Several members noticed that the timbers were well hewn and very square. There was even an old barn loom in the cabin. We passed through the store supply barn and moved on to the Slaughter House that Paul Knoebel is very knowledgeable and passionate about. If you want to know anything about the Slaughter House ask Paul the next time you see him. We then meandered through the Farm Museum to see an incredible collection of old farm machinery and farm implements. Then it was on to the sawmill where Mehl Young explained the workings of the mill. Mehl has years of experience with this sawmill, as did his father. Our group was able to go through the old Print Shop as well as the

Please See RECAP, Page 3



Attendees of the barn workshop on the day before the Barn Tour enter one of the two front doors of the farm house at Algonquin Mill in Carroll County.



Barn tour attendees explore the 1854 Rutledge bank barn with its 1903 addition at the rear.



Another great conference for the record books as we look forward to our 20th year in 2019 in Licking County.

Along the way I have collected several barn T-shirts from events I have attended. I wear them often and continue to be surprised at the number of people who will stop me in a store or on the street, ask questions and express their interest in barns. It is a great way to pass along information about FOB and a little education about barns in general.

Last week I was invited to join Barb Lang and speak to the Ag Leaders of Wayne County. She talked about the historic barn she and her husband, Loren, purchased and the process of moving and restoring it to its present glory. I talked about FOB and distributed our brochures encouraging them to become members.

In my travels over the past couple of months I have discovered two unique barns. The first is a very well-maintained barn located on the longest, continuously-farmed soil in Coshocton County. The sixth generation in this family line takes very seriously the stewardship of this barn. The barn started life, circa 1878, as a ground barn and then was raised to accommodate a lower level for a dairy operation. The constructed earthen ramp is connected to the barn with a bridge. The bay to the right side of the driveway has a drying floor. This a new one for me. About 18" above the mow floor is a second floor with metal mesh stretched over raised joists. A large fan is positioned in the opening to this chamber and forces air up through the mesh to the hay.

The second barn in Mahoning county was a complete but pleasant surprise. This is a pre-Civil War barn. It needs some serious TLC but these two brothers are determined to restore it. It is a scribe rule Sweitzer barn. It has several additions that will be removed to return it to its original state. It is complete with stone foundation and marriage marks. The most remarkable thing about this barn is in the basement. The sleepers span the width of the foundation and extend out under the cantilevered forebay and are each 16" X 22".

While visiting with the brothers they tell me they came home one day to someone camped across the road with a table and umbrella. So, they wandered across to see what was up. They found an artist painting their barn. You may remember I spoke to the Plein Air Society of Ohio a couple of months ago. It was from that talk this artist was inspired to paint this very picturesque barn. And the artist told them about my talk and FOB. The brothers liked the painting so much they purchased it when she was done. I just love it when I see such connections come together.

Watch the FOB website for the details on the October Fall Driving Tour to come out later this summer. You won't want to miss it.

**Happy barnstorming this summer.
Keep the Barn Doors Closed,
Pam Gray, FOB President**

Are you ready for an adventure?

The adventure is an all-day driving tour beginning in southwestern Ohio and concluding in the northwestern/north central Ohio area. Included in the sights will be barns, historic homes, barns, historic restaurants, barns and some surprises along the way.

You will need a driver and a navigator for this event so you can enjoy beautiful Ohio during the fall season of spacious skies and amber waves of grain. There will be plenty of breaks along the way to stretch your legs. Restaurants have been prearranged and the historic sites will be ready with tour guides who are anxious to share a wealth of information about their region of Ohio.

After you make your reservation for this second FOB driving tour, you will be given all the information needed — departure times and locations, maps and contact numbers in case you are directionally challenged, along with a list of hotel accommodations and approximate meal costs. If you can't meet us at the beginning, you are welcome to meet us along the way.

There will be a maximum number of participants and vehicles; too many will make it a bit unmanageable as far as parking and getting everyone in and out of the sites, and of course being served your meal in a reasonable time.

To make your reservations (**by September 1st**) or to answer questions, please contact FOB board member Dave Hamblin at 419-947-1360 or email Dave at daveh2949@centurylink.net.

Quotable quote

What tremendous icons that ingenuity and ambition can create! Some barns are three centuries old. Those standing today should stand for centuries to come. One owner may only be 30, or 40, or 50 years — only 15 to 20 percent of a barn's life. Therefore, we have a responsibility. Is ownership the right word? Or is it stewardship?

~ Rudy Christian

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

Caleb Miller Holmes County (330) 231-9042

Alan Walter Carroll County (330) 323-3736

Affiliate

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

RECAP, Continued from Page 1

Watneys Station, built in 1902 as part of the New York Central Railroad.

We finished up at The Mill after having a snack of homemade apple butter on homemade corn bread. I learned the secret to making cornbread so tasty. Surprisingly it is not the corn meal that is milled on site that is the secret. If you ask me nicely the next time you see me I just might tell you the secret. Mike Mangan had contracted with Nick Wiesenberg to do a dendrochronology study on the original frame of the Algonquin Mill and Nick found that the primary species used in building the mill was white oak and that the trees were most likely harvested the year after the growing season of 1865. Mike was very happy with the results and seemed genuinely excited about having Nick come back and test some of the other buildings in the complex.

The weather was great. Mike was engaging and full of knowledge about the complex and the apple butter/cornbread was divine. Overall it was a very nice Barn Detective Workshop!

It was a first for Friends of Ohio Barns. We sold out on the Barn Tour two weeks before the end of March! Why? I really don't know the exact reason. Could it have been Carroll County? Could it be Rudy, Ric and Dan? Could it have been all the press we received? Could it be that the Board of Directors has figured out this conference planning stuff? Or could it be that word is finally getting out about our historic barns and that we are losing them at an alarming rate and people just want to come see them before they disappear? What really matters is the end result — we packed the buses and had to disappoint many people by telling them the tour was sold out. It seems there is more interest in our organization and our mission these days and that is very encouraging. And the other result? Word has it that you better sign up early next year!

And we had an outstanding Barn Tour through Carroll County. We started our tour with registration in the Century Farms Barn owned by Don & Robin Warner. This barn was the winner of the 2018 Barn of the Year Award for Adaptive reuse. Rudy Christian pointed out that this barn was “mill ruled” and had two hay tracks yet there was a truss in the middle of the barn! Why? Rudy explained that



Barn Detective, Rudy Christian guides the group through the construction techniques and subtleties of the Davis barn's evolutionary history and its adaptations over time in response to changes in agriculture.

the barn was built in 1937 but the hay baler was invented in 1933 so the barn was built to handle baled hay calling it a “bale hay barn”.

Stop #2 was the Locust Lawn Farm owned by Tom and Laura Rutledge who are fifth generation owners. This bank barn is a great example of stewardship. The roof was raised to make it more useful for the farm owners. Rudy pointed out that there were empty mortise pockets at all the purlins but not on the purlin posts. This is because the roof was raised and new purlin posts were cut to fit the raised frame. The new parts were circular sawn and the old barn parts were sash sawn. This was also a good example of a square ruled barn.

Next we drove over to Todd & Kim Davis's Cattlecreek Farm. Winner of the 2018 Barn of the Year Award for Agricultural Use it is another fine example of a barn that was adapted to fit changing farming practices. The original gable roof system was pushed up and converted to a gambrel roof to increase hay storage. This barn is a show case for stone joinery and stone craftsmanship. The foundation is a real work of art. It is nice to see such a high quality barn still being used for agricultural purposes! Caleb Miller wins the gold star at this barn for suggesting that the reason the wall was made from slanted boards is because the builder might have

used the cut offs from the sawmill to save lumber. Do you agree with that Rudy?

Lunch at the Mount Pleasant United Methodist Church was prepared by Donna's Deli and was served by the United Methodist Ladies group. Nancy and her associates managed to get through tripping several breakers in order to serve us hot soup. Not sure any of our attendees knew about the chaos behind the scenes so my hat goes off to Nancy for a job well done!

The Carroll County Home or Carroll County Golden Age Retreat was our sixth stop. It featured a very uncommon barn as it has a gambrel roof on a timber framed building. It was built especially for baled hay. Rudy thought that this barn might have been the last timber frame barn built in Carroll County. There were hay tracks and a hay ladder in the long part of the building but only a hay ladder in the “T” part of the building. This barn had an uncommon queen post queen rod system.

Last, but not least, was the Scott and Debbie Druhot barn. FOB awarded the Druhots the 2018 Barn of the Year Award for Stewardship for this exceptional barn. This Sweitzer barn was built around the 1820's and is scribe ruled. Scribe ruled means that the timbers go together only one way and the joinery is marked with

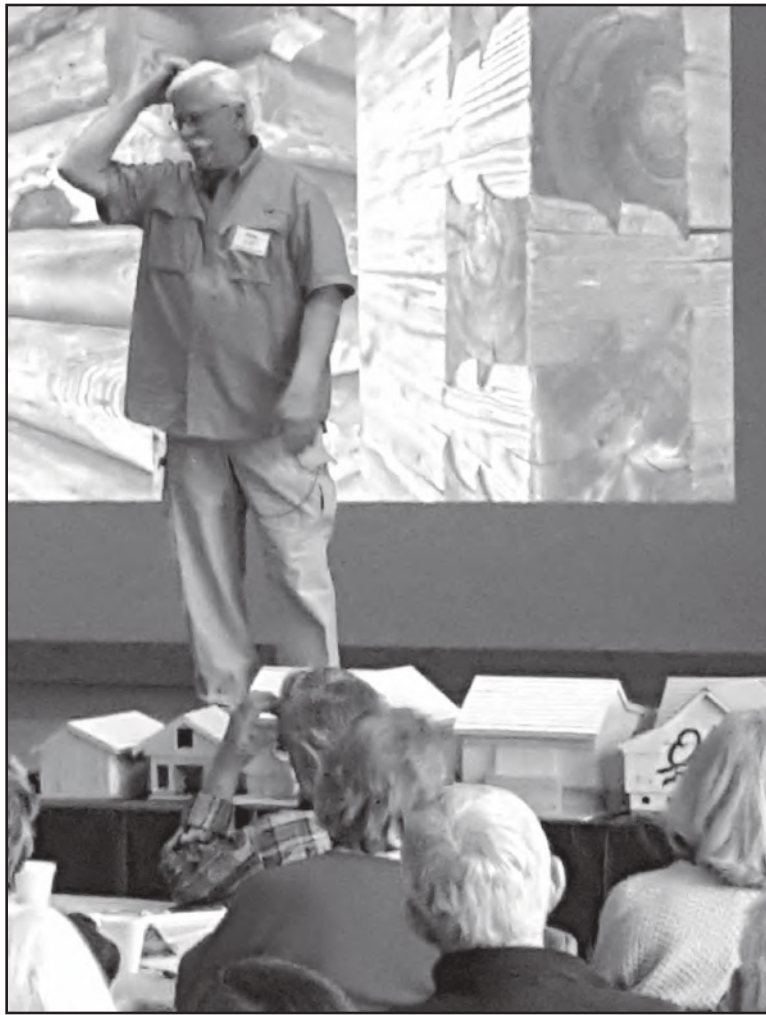
Please See RECAP, Page 4

RECAP, Continued from Page 3

marriage marks or carpenter marks to make sure the correct parts go in the correct places. Being a Sweitzer barn is not what makes this barn uncommon. What does is the major major minor roof system. No typo! In a major major minor roof system, Rudy explained that the smaller “minor” rafters in between the larger “major” rafter system were under-story trees and could possibly be 100 years old making them very strong and very heavy. Scott and Debbie also allowed us to go through their 1839 stone house. A spectacular property and one that is for sale if you are interested.

We were so very fortunate to be able to have our Ohio Barn Conference in the beautiful building at FFA Camp Muskingum. The facility was perfect and it was a treat to have a conference in a timber frame building that Rudy had designed. Todd Davis and crew did a wonderful job of keeping us all caffeinated and well fed. It was certainly a beautiful setting.

Doug Reed was our keynote speaker again this year. We love having Doug come all the way from Pennsylvania to entertain us with his extensive knowledge of log crib barns and other wooden structures. Doug says “the way to learn is to study the old buildings”. And learning is what Doug is doing a lot of these days by travelling all over the world in search of these old buildings that will tell him a thing or two. Doug took us on an adventure through time and around the globe with his photographs depicting old style buildings and exceptional joinery on some impressive log barns. If you have come to know Doug then you know that log crib barns are his passion and he lights up when he talks about them and especially when he touches them. Log structures have been around since about 7000 BC and Doug explained that ideas were exchanged, techniques were perfected, and new innovations seemed to have moved from region to region but exactly how and by whom are some of the questions still to be answered. I was in awe of the pictures of such intricate joinery on the some of the barns. “Tulip” joinery? Tulips with saber toothed tiger fangs? Double tulips with fangs? I can’t remember all the terms he used but I do remember the pictures and that I was really amazed at the intricacy of the joinery and I marveled at how



Doug Reed and a member of the audience scratching their heads trying to figure out how someone could cut these “tulip” joints on this log barn and make them look so good!

they could have even been cut and put together. I can truly appreciate Doug’s passion for finding out more about these amazing structures. I am sure that we will hear from him again.

Rudy Christian and Laura Saeger continued our international theme by delivering a very interesting presentation on their travels in Myanmar and the buildings they saw there. I found it interesting to hear how the people erected their buildings every year after the river receded so they could farm the fertile grounds. Only poles were left in the ground during the monsoon season making it quicker to erect their “barns” in the dry farming season. In fact, there are few permanent buildings and the ones that are permanent are mostly religious buildings. It was plain to see that Rudy and Laura thoroughly enjoyed their time in Myanmar and learned many old traditions. I think I would have liked the sociable task of “picking out the stories” as much as Laura — really a task of picking out stones from the crops but much more rewarding and embracing than the act itself.

Amy Rutledge gave a bit of the history

of Carroll County and a great description of all that Carroll County has to offer in festivals, programs, and the like. Amy was also a docent on the #1 bus and she had stories to tell as well as information on the fracking industry and its effect on the community. Amy graciously got us back on our time schedule and we managed to get to lunch on time! During lunch Ric Beck conducted our Annual Member Meeting. Pam Gray and Dan Troth presented our final recipient of the Lifetime Member Plaque — and Kaiser Werling happens to be not only the youngest Lifetime Member but also the youngest member of Friends of Ohio Barns. Better start working toward your application for Board Member, Kaiser, and work on your presidential abilities for down the road! After Ric’s member business Dan Troth took to the mic and relayed all the updates on House Bill 12 and where the girls are with fulfilling their commitment of making the barn the State of Ohio’s official structure. Keep tuned and be prepared to storm the capitol building when Dan sounds the horn!

Please See RECAP, Page 5



Is Ric Beck trying to convince Alan Walter to become a board member? Maybe, but not sure Alan is buying it. Gary Wechter walks away smiling knowing what is in store for Alan if he accepts.

RECAP, Continued from Page 4

John Davis, our engaging docent on bus #2 for the barn tour, was getting ready to head home after lunch when I grabbed him and said he needed to stick around for the Barn Detectives as he would not be disappointed. And he wasn't. We never are! Rudy and Dan, with the photographic help from Laura, managed to delight the audience once again with their comical interpretations of the barns and structures that we all saw the day before. The day before was filled with discussions on "diffuse and ring porous" wood, major major minor rafter systems and complex joinery so a little light hearted and funny commentary is a great way to revisit the tour and engage us all after lunch!

Ric Beck led the Barn Repair Panel that included Rudy Christian, Doug Reed, Dan Troth, Mike Wengler and Caleb Miller. Several examples of strange and not thoroughly proper repairs were shown and discussed as well as some very well-done repairs. It has been awhile since we have had this type of presentation and will probably do so again if the membership thinks it is worth doing. Let us know what you think as the presentations and schedule we put together for the conference is for your viewing and listening pleasure.

And what a way to finish up this year's

conference.....Lauren Etler and her emotional (at least at the end) delivery of her experience with our first undertaking of the Barn Conservation Grant Program. Lauren and her husband, Nate, had been awarded the grant last year at the conference in Holmes County. Their story, as told by Lauren, was impressive as to what they had to do before they even got the repair that the grant was for! These two are very passionate about what they are doing to restore the barn and the house that have been in Lauren's family for some time. Many people have been to see their restored barn through the programs that Lauren and Sarah Sisser put together for the benefit of the Hancock County community. I don't think there was a dry eye in the place when Lauren started to thank Friends of Ohio Barns for our part in helping them accomplish their dream and a dream that so many people will benefit from. That is what we want to do. No, not make people cry but to encourage and support them in helping us to save our historic barns. One barn at a time.

Take away? Sign up early next year and don't miss our 20th Ohio Barn Conference in Licking County. We will be working hard to put together a great program for this big milestone anniversary!

By: Sarah Woodall

New FOB Board Members

We, the Friends of Ohio Barns Board of Directors, have elected two new board members: Alan Walter and Caleb Miller.

Alan Walter, a life-long resident of Carroll County served as FOB's point person in the set up of the 2018 Barn Tour and Ohio Barn Conference. Alan disassembled, re-located, and re-raised an 1876 timber frame barn in 2015.

Caleb Miller is co-owner of JCM Timberworks, in Killbuck, Ohio. A traditional joiner, Caleb specializes in historic barn restoration and new timber frame construction.



Alan Walter



Caleb Miller

VEEP Champions Ohio's Historic Barns with Testimony at Ohio Capitol

My name is Dan Troth. I've been working with Ohio's hand-hewn barns for over 30 years and currently serve on the board of directors of the non-profit, 501c3, Friends of Ohio Barns. Our mission for these past 16 years has been to promote a greater awareness of our historic barns and to promote their conservation, stewardship and, when necessary, their adaptive re-purposing. We sponsor workshops on barn repairs and since 2000 have held an annual Ohio Barn Conference in various counties and have led bus tours that have taken us inside over 100 of the finest barns Ohio has to offer. Our 19th conference will be held the last weekend of April in Carroll County.

The pioneers who settled Ohio's wilderness represented a great cross section of immigrants from England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, and the rest of Europe, all coming to America and then migrating to the fertile land of Ohio in the hopes of discovering a better life. That ethnic diversity led to the greatest variety of barn styles in the world.

Here they discovered virgin forests whose trees they felled to build their barns. Today we still can find 60 and 70-foot-long beams in our pre-Civil War barns. The barn was, without question, the most important structure on the farm. Everything of value: their livestock, their tools, their horse drawn planting and harvesting implements, and all of their crops were gathered in their barn and protected from the weather. Barns were precious, a fact that was well known at a time when nearly 75% of us were involved in farming.

Today there exists no greater symbol of that agrarian past than the historic barns that dot our landscape. Unfortunately, these icons are an increasingly endangered species. As the demand for antique barn beams, reclaimed timbers and antique flooring has skyrocketed, the number of barns has plummeted. The barns are being torn down for their beautiful timbers and are shipped out of state at the rate of over a dozen a week: to California, Texas, Montana, Colorado, the Carolinas, and every other state where they DON'T have



Photo submitted by Dan Troth

Dan Troth (right) testifying in support of proposal initiated by students from Westerville High School. This inspired testimony was effective as the bill passed the house with a unanimous vote.



Photo by Dan Troth

Friends of Ohio Barns annual Ohio Barn Tour poses for photo op in support of the Ohio Barn Bill (HB 12) at Scott and Debbie Druhot's classic Sweitzer barn, with scribe rule framing, in Carroll County. The Druhot barn was winner of the annual FOB Award for Stewardship.

Please See TESTIMONY, Page 7

Awards at the 2018 Ohio Barn Conference in Carrollton



All photos by Sarah Woodall

VP Dan Troth and President Pamela Whitney Gray stand in front of Robin and Don Warner in the Century Farms Barn for the 2018 Barn of the Year Award presentation for Adaptive Re-Use.



Ric Beck (left), Rudy Christian (rear), and Pam Gray (right) present Todd Davis with the 2018 Barn of the Year Award for Agricultural Use.



Ric Beck (left), and Dan Troth and Pam Gray (right) present Scott and Debbie Druhot with the 2018 Barn of the Year Award for Stewardship.



Kaiser Werling, FOB's youngest Lifetime Member, accepting the Life membership plaque from VP Dan Troth, as President Pam Gray smiles.

TESTIMONY, Continued from Page 6

barns. They're after the elephant tusks. We're trying to save the elephants! If we are unsuccessful in our efforts we will all be the lesser for it.

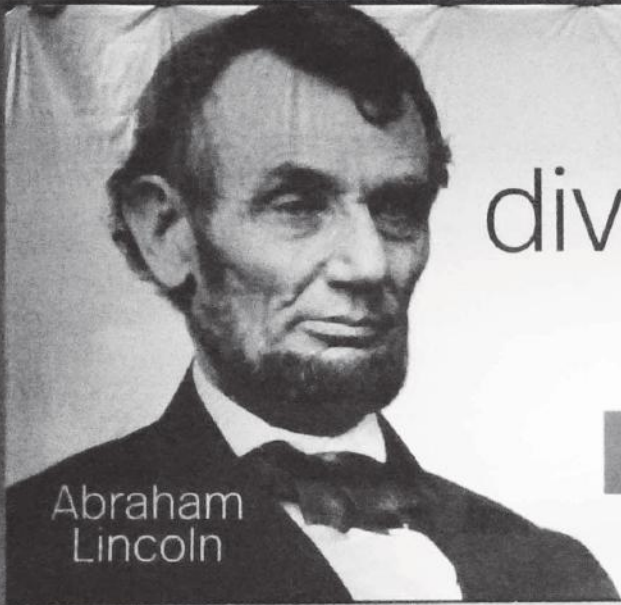
Anthropologist Margaret Mead once said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." I believe these young women and their teachers are one such group. They have worked over the last three years to bring us to this point, here in this room today and soon before the entire Ohio Senate, where you will have a unique opportunity to make a difference:

the chance to call attention to the beauty and significance of Ohio's remaining historical barns. Ohio has done a great job in recognizing the contribution of scientists, inventors, presidents and astronauts to our national fabric. It's high time the collective contribution of Ohio's farmers, in helping to build this nation, be recognized and celebrated. We led the nation in agricultural production in many areas in the 1800's and continue to play a major roll to this day. Our success is inextricably linked to our agrarian past.

We owe it to those who came before us, to the communities that came together

in support of one another and raised these barns. And most importantly we owe it to future generations. Our history matters. Barns represent the courage, the back-breaking work and the resilience of those on whose shoulders we stand today. In passing this bill you will bring a heightened awareness to their significance and their plight and that will go a lot further in their preservation than you may now realize. It is a way to honor and pay tribute to them. We owe it to future generations for these barns tell Ohio's story, and it is our story. Who we are is what we leave behind.

BAF NES



Abraham
Lincoln

A house
divided...cannot
stand.

CIVILITY *is in you.*

PassItOn.com

In the backcountry of Tuscarawas County, on the way to the Annual Ohio Barn Conference and Barn Tour, this billboard came out of the darkness at a wide curve in the road. It seemed an appropriate American message in the spring of 2018.

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

