

Michigan Barn Preservation Network
Barn of the Year Awards

Nominate a Barn of the Year

It's time to seek out barns worthy of consideration for Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Barn of the Year! The awards will include four categories: 1) *Continued Family/Private Agricultural Use*, 2) *Family/Private Adaptive Use*, 3) *Non-Profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use*, and 4) *Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use*. The barn must be used for one of these purposes and must retain its overall appearance, i.e. both interior and exterior barn characteristics. The barn must have been built before 1959 in order to qualify for the competition.

It is not necessary that you own the barn or barns that you nominate. Please fill in as much detail about the history of the barn and the process of the work done on the barn(s) as possible on or with your application. Send *high-quality* copies of photographs or high-quality digital images of all four elevations of the barn, interior images, and images documenting the barn work process before, during, and after with your application. Sorry, these will not be returned. Do not send scanned images as these are often unsuitable for reprint or enlargement. Winners receive a plaque, a free one-year membership in MBPN, recognition by the MBPN at the annual conference, and media coverage.

The criteria that the judges use include the completeness of information provided about the known history of the barn and repair or maintenance work that has been done, quality and completeness of photographs that illustrate the work accomplished, the setting and visual appeal of the barn, the preservation of original materials or sensitivity of changes to the structure that maintain the character, and the "heroic effort" demonstrated by the nominee in preserving their barn. Barns will be ranked by committee members until a consensus is reached within each category.

The deadline for this year's applications is December 31. Applications must be postmarked by that date. Late applications will not qualify for this year's competition, but will be kept for the following year's competition if the applicant so desires. Send applications and photos to:

Barn of the Year Committee
c/o 414 S Burdick Suite 300
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

An application form appears in this issue or you can find one online at www.mibarn.net. Click on the "Recognition" link.

For more details, contact Tom Nehil
tnehil@nehilsivak.com or (269) 345-9211 eves