

Network Celebrates 10th Anniversary

"Old Barns, New Beginnings"

March 11 and 12, 2005

Kellogg Center, Michigan State University

A jam-packed agenda awaits the crowd expected for the 10th anniversary of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network. The positive response to the two-day 2004 conference convinced planners that a similar format for 2005 was in order.

The completed agenda and registration materials will be mailed in January and posted on the MBPN website, www.mibarn.net. You can participate in one or both days of the conference which kicks off at 8:30 a.m. Friday. Buses board at 9:30 a.m. for the day-long tour of barns in the greater Lansing area which have been restored for home, business, or educational uses. Lunch will be at the newly-restored barn on the grounds of the Woldumar Nature Center. The 188-acre nature center occupies part of the Gladys Olds Anderson dairy farm in Delta Township. The barn was built in the 1930s.

After free time to catch your breath, conference events continue with dinner at

5 p.m., followed by a speaker and or a film festival of, you guessed it, barns!

Saturday will keep barn lovers on the go with exhibits, concurrent workshops, and the benefit derived from the rich exchange with others who share their interest. Presenters will offer expertise and lessons learned in converting barns to new uses, safely salvaging barn wood, maximizing tax benefits and assessments, insuring rehabilitated barns, appreciating antique hay cars, and coordinating projects that involve moving barns from the path of urban sprawl.

In celebration of 10 years of barn preservation in Michigan, the Network invites anyone who has undertaken any kind of barn-specific or related endeavor to participate. Bring an exhibit, strut your stuff, or sell your wares. Have a barn that needs a home or that you're proud of? Bring pictures and post them on our Barn Board.

For more information about, or to participate in the 2005 conference contact: Vera Wiltse at (989)-465-1216 or (989) 772-0911, ext. 302 or vera@wiltse.com or www.mibarn.net.

Contractors' Guides Available — FREE

Thinking about fixing your barn, but don't know who to call or how to begin? Wondering whether making repairs is better than starting over?

The MBPN has just published a new directory of some 30 individuals or companies engaged in barn rehabilitation or related trades, stonework, lightning protection, silo work, and design for adaptive use.

In addition, the directory provides a wealth of information on tax incentives in Michigan

for historic preservation, property tax relief under the Mathieu-Gast Act, questions to ask when considering a contractor, conducting barn surveys, creating easements, and much more.

The directory was printed and published by the MBPN with support from Michigan State University's Museum and Extension. It is available at no charge by contacting the MBPN's Mt. Pleasant office. Donations of \$2.00 to assist with the cost of mailing are appreciated.

Nominations Due Jan. 13 for 2005 Barn of the Year

Barn preservation for investment, satisfaction, nostalgia, and long-range planning is taking hold. People see what can be accomplished and the added value found by restoring these extraordinary structures.

Celebrating barns and honoring those who save them is what the Barn of the Year Award

is all about. You can nominate your barn or another for this award which is presented at the annual conference in March. Complete the form on page 5 and send it or a photocopy, with color photographs by Jan. 13 to Keith Bruder, 10520 Willis Road, Willis, MI 48191 (734) 461-2498.



Flumerfelt Barn Moves to Cranberry Lake

There are 77 homes now, where the Bill Flumerfelt barns once stood. Gone too, are many of the old growth oaks, for which the Oakland County subdivision, Century Oaks, is named. Daily Oakland Press reporter Jose Juarez wrote as the project began many months ago, "...where manicured lawns meet the scrub at the farm's edges, seven diesel scrapers are lined up, waiting to level the farm's rolling hills..."

Thanks to the hard work of people with heart and vision, one of the three barns lives on, moved board by board from West Gunn Road to Cranberry Lake Farm Historic District, north of Rochester. The district is part of the township-owned Cranberry Lake Park, a 213-acre natural park.

Volunteers from the Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) dismantled the barn earlier this year, excited that they were saving this treasure, including the board bearing Mr. Flumerfelt's name and the birth date of the barn, 1879, scrawled in his own hand.

Silverman Companies, a development group, donated the barn along with a cash gift to help defray the cost of saving the barn. A second barn was used for replacement pieces for the 1879 barn. A third barn was not able to be saved. In addition to donated labor and the developer's gift, support came from the Oakland Township Historic District Commission's endangered structure fund, the township park board, the historical society, and private donors.

Cranberry Lake Historic District is home to nearly a dozen structures dating from the 1840s and is listed on the National Register

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Outstanding Barn Needs Immediate Taker

Urban sprawl is claiming barns all over Michigan at a sickening rate. When we think of sprawl, however, we often think of malls, subdivisions, box stores, and highways. Rarely do we think of huge high schools being built in rural settings.

As Howell Public Schools prepares to start construction in March on a new complex on what was a beautiful 120-acre farm, an outstanding dairy barn and other farm buildings face demolition. To the schools' credit, it is trying to find a taker for these buildings to give them a chance at new life.

"I am a tree-hugger, barn-lover kind of person," says Associate Superintendent for Business Rick Terres, "Allowing this barn to be

From Cattle To Kids

A Mattawan Brick Barn is Home

When, in 1999, Russ and Angie Hayward saw the big 1930-era dairy barn nestled among trees on what had been a large Mattawan-area farm, they thought of two things: size and affordability. The couple needed space and plenty of it for their growing family.

They purchased the 6,000 square-foot, brick, round-roof barn on W. Q Avenue, and after many months of cleaning away the debris from the years it housed cattle and hay, began the process of converting it a home. Today, with the recent addition of six-month old twins, the occupancy level is at 13. The oldest of the Hayward's three biological children is 21. They have become adoptive parents to eight more.

"We bought the barn out of necessity," Angie says, knowing that they would continue adopting children. The couple has done most of the work themselves. For now, however, they have had to ease back the remodeling. Still, converting the barn to a home has allowed them to have a kitchen, dining room, living room, mud room, bath/laundry, three bedrooms, a master bath,

destroyed will be a last resort but we are running out of time."

The 1929 dairy barn measures 36' x 100' and is well constructed and in very good condition. It is a plank-framed basement barn with a self-supporting gambrel roof. The walls and roof are supported by shawver-type trusses. The main floor is 1"x 10" tongue and groove, and all siding is 1"x 6" tongue and groove. There are 56 pairs of 2"x 8" rafters gusseted at the peak and gambrel supported by three layers of 2"x 12" forming a plate atop the post portion of the trusses.

A taker for the barn must be found before January 10. It is located in Livingston County's Marion Township. Contact Terres at 517-548-6230 for more details.



Mattawan's Hayward Barn House. A work in progress.

and a garage on the milking parlor level; three bedrooms, a tv room, bathroom, and family gymnasium in the haymow, and with the addition of a loft, two more bedrooms. The Haywards have preserved the glazed tile silo for future use.

Located in an area mushrooming with expensive homes, Angie says there are mixed reactions to what they have done. "We have million dollar homes near us now and some don't see what we see in having a barn house," Angie says. "Others like the barn being here and even draw sketches of it."

ReinBARNation

Barns can enjoy new lives at a fraction of the cost of new construction. When giving new life to an old barn, check the credentials of experts and get multiple opinions. A Barn Contractors Guide is available from the MBPN.



Hay barn Available

50' by 60' and 25' to peak Pegged timbers. 40' beams, 16" square.

Stone foundation • Built circa 1911
Steve and Ann Olen
231-796-7781

Big Rapids • Call before noon or in evening.

Su04

Disassembled Barn

Approx. 400 linear ft. 12"x2x8

Approx 400 linear ft. 12"x8x8 hewn timbers
Approx. 300 linear ft. 12' 10" logs hewn on one side - Misc. siding and 4"x4" brace timbers.

Ted McKissack
3178 Shimmons Rd. • Auburn Hills, MI
248-373-5195

besquire@netquest.com.

W05

Barn on a timeline!

Circa 1921 to 1929. Plank frame approx. 30 x 100
3 cement stave silos (2) 18' x 36' (1) 12' x 30'
Wright Road • Howell, MI

Tom Anderson
Irish Construction Co.
517-548-3440

Cell 313-779-0824

W05



For Sale:

Wood stave silo

Circa 1900 12'x30' with roof in good condition.

Luke Sandborn
12321 Keefer Highway
Sunfield, MI 48890
(517) 566-8865
luke.S@centurytel.net

W05

Standing Barn for Salvage — Timeline

4 handhewn beams 31' long 10"x8" • 2 beams 40' long • several 6"x 5" beams 10 to 12' long
• several 6" beams 8 to 10' long • flooring is 2' cut, 16" wide, 10.5' to 13' long

Nina Jackman
15550-29 Mile Road, Ray Twp. MI 48096
(Macomb Co.)
586-752-3781

W05

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