

MI BARN

PROMOTING APPRECIATION, PRESERVATION, AND REHABILITATION OF MICHIGAN BARN, FARMSTEADS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network

The MBPN had its beginnings in 1991 when Extension professionals organized regional barn rehabilitation workshops across Michigan to encourage people to preserve traditional barns. More than 800 people attended, some for practical reasons and others because they love barns. A group formed the Network in 1995 as a nonprofit organization. The first annual conference was held in 1996 at Michigan State University during the Annual Agriculture and National Resources Week. Quarterly meetings of the Board of Directors are held around the state, often at interesting barns. Meetings are open to fellow barn-lovers. MBPN has inspired people in other parts of the country to form similar organizations devoted to the preservation of barns in a county or state, or focused on a particular style of barn. A National Barn Alliance has also formed and hosts an annual conference and awareness-building initiatives.

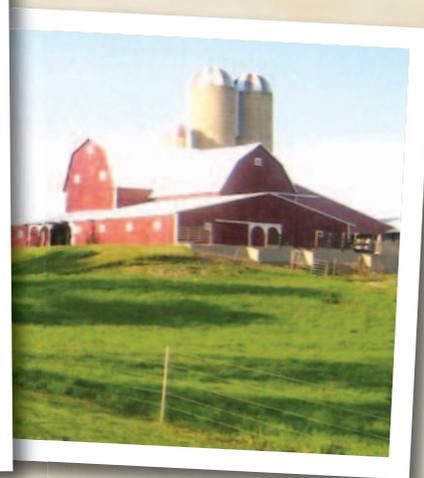
Facts and Figures

- 12-member board of directors, leads the volunteer organization, 4 elected each year for a 3-year term.
- 8 standing committees: executive, awards, budget & finance, communications, membership, nominating, programs, and technical assistance.
- Revenues come from memberships, conference registrations, sponsorships, fundraisers, and gifts

Programs and Projects

- **Annual Conference** held the second weekend of March, with Ag & Natural Resources week at Michigan State University (MSU). Programs include a barn tour, workshops on barn repair, history, tax issues, maintenance, moving/rebuilding, adaptations, barns as art, and more. A popular exhibit area draws contractors, collectors, artists, and craftspeople. Live and silent auctions raise funds.
- **Fall Mini-Conference** in partnership with other groups around the state.
- **Barn of the Year Awards** presented at the annual conference recognizing exceptional work done to preserve traditional barns.
- **Pride of Ownership Certificates** given by board members show appreciation to individuals who keep farmsteads in good repair.
- **Contractor's List** maintained online at the mibarn.net website identifies resource people for a multitude of barn needs.
- **Quarterly Newsletter** featuring educational articles, photos, coming events, and news for and by barn lovers on wide variety of topics.

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Why Your Support is SO Important

Traditional barns, some more than 200 years old, are dying each and every day for a multitude of reasons – urban/commercial/highway development, neglect, lack of maintenance, of alternative uses or adaptability, changing agricultural practices, severe weather, and competing demands on scarce financial resources.

Make a difference by getting involved, wherever and however you can – as a member, a volunteer, and an advocate for a barn near and dear to your heart. Give a membership or gift that demonstrates your love for barns or for someone special to you. Sponsor awards, speakers, signage, communications tools, and donate items to, or make purchases at, the annual conference auctions. Lead a survey to document remaining barns and farmsteads.

MBPN members are often asked how many barns are left in Michigan, where certain types of barns might be found, where to go to get inside a 'real' barn, and even where to find a barn in which to hold a wedding or to move to a new location. Adaptive reuse can be critical to giving new life to an old barn. Become a barn advocate. Help save Michigan's irreplaceable heritage.



Did You Know that Barns...

- ... can be moved intact, in sections, or disassembled. The technique depends on the size and condition of the barn and distance it must travel.
- ... can be adapted to fit the needs of modern agriculture.
- ... can become offices, homes, workshops, conference centers, galleries, dance/art studios, restaurants, kennels, museums, schools, churches, and much more.
- ... make a rewarding career. There is a great need nationwide for barn repair and restoration professionals.
- ...are increasingly desirable. The MBPN gets inquiries that begin, "Can you tell me where I can find property that has a good barn?"
- ...date back hundreds of years in Europe. Barns in this country date back to the 1700s and may also reflect the ethnicity of their builder or owner, intended use, local topography, and natural materials available in the area.
- ...are often regarded as being "cathedral-like" both because they are similar in design to the great cathedrals but create a feeling of being in a spiritual place.

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- **Website** offering a wealth of information and Facebook for ongoing networking.
- **Technical Assistance** provided to address best course of action for barns in need of repair. (The MBPN does not recommend specific contractors.)
- **Workshops** on-site at barns around the state give people hands-on experience in making a variety of repairs.
- **Mini-grants** (usually \$250) awarded to members to host a workshop, organize a barn tour, or carry out a barn-related project. (Competitive basis).
- **Speakers Bureau** participants share their knowledge of barns with groups throughout the state.
- **President's Award** honors an individual who has made an outstanding contribution toward barn preservation.
- **Traveling Exhibit** provides an eye-catching, six-panel presentation of information about and examples about barn preservation. It is available for placement at events around the state.
- **Model Barn-Raising** features a quarter-size model of a Midwest barn which can be raised on-site to teach timber-frame construction for career awareness, general education, and enjoyment.
- **Networking connects** those who have a barn they cannot keep and those who want a barn.
- **Barn & Farmstead Survey** work is done in collaboration with volunteers around the state to document barns and farmsteads in their area.

Membership Form

Fieldstone	Annual/one person	\$30	\$ _____
Mortar	Annual/two people	\$40	\$ _____
Cupola	Lifetime/two people	\$1000	\$ _____
Non-profit Affiliate			
	Annual/two representatives, website listing	\$50	\$ _____
Contractor/Business			
	Annual/two representatives, website listing	\$100	\$ _____

The MBPN does not maintain an office. To contact any board member, visit www.mibarn.net for a listing of names and phone numbers. A copy of the newsletter may also be requested from any board member.

Send form and check or money order to:

MBPN, P.O. Box 614, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0614

Company or Non-profit Name

Membership Names

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____