



MI BARN

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

“Preservation Roads”

2014 Annual Conference, Meeting and Bus Tour a Great Success



This year's 19th Annual MBPN Conference on March 7th and 8th once again rallied the faithful to a cause we share:

appreciating, preserving, and rehabilitating Michigan's barn, farmstead and rural heritage. Barn enthusiasts from around the state gathered at the at the Kellogg Center on the Michigan State University (MSU) campus in East Lansing for a bus tour and to hear presentations, break bread together, see exhibits and share stories about preserving and re-using America's iconic rural structures.

As usual, the Barn Tour on Friday proved a popular event. This year, a full busload of guests visited two unique facilities in Oakland County—the Ellis Barn and park center and the Van Hoosen Barn at the Rochester Hills Museum. Jan Noyes of the Parks and Patrick McKay from Rochester Hills Museum welcomed the tour at their respective venues, and lunch was provided. Presentations and videos in-route on the bus added depth to the tour, which celebrated these important preservation destinations. Thanks to the Oakland



Ellis Barn, Springfield Twp., Oakland County

Photo by Tom Nehil

County Historical Commission and a new volunteer group, the Oakland County History Corps, for providing superb hospitality and valuable information to all.

At the banquet on Friday evening, the Barn of the Year Awards for 2014 were announced, with recipients receiving handsome metal display signs for their properties, denoting the award. An Exhibit Hall filled with interactive displays, and morning and afternoon sessions with presentations from experts in a variety of fields completed another successful confer-

ence (see sidebar below for information on a few of the presentations).

The MBPN would like to express its thanks and appreciation to all who helped make the Annual Conference and Bus Tour a showcase for our organization and a call to action for barn preservation throughout Michigan!

—Keith Kehlbeck,
Newsletter Editor/Coordinator

Board Visits Chippewa Nature Center

The MBPN Board met in April at the Chippewa Nature Center in Midland, Michigan. Located near the confluence of the Pine and Chippewa Rivers, the Nature Center offers a Visitor Center, trails, the Homestead Farm and Log Schoolhouse, walking programs and pre-registered field trips and workshops on topics such as birding, kayaking, traditional skills and fly-fishing. Programs are available for youth, adults, and families. Annual events include Maple Syrup Day in March, the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour in April, Native Plant Sale in May, Homestead Sundays (June through August), the Fall Harvest Festival and Bio Blitz (held alternating years in September), and the Nature Art Show and Sale in December. On-site trails are open to the public year-round, dawn to dark daily. Visit www.chippewanaturecenter.org or call 989-631-0830 for current trail conditions and updates.

The MBPN Board thanks the Chippewa Nature Center for its hospitality, and particularly Manager of Historical Programs, Kyle Bagnall, who provided an overview of the Center's programs for us at the meeting.



Photo by Keith Kehlbeck

MBPN Board in front of the Sugar Shack at the Chippewa Nature Center.

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President's Message

MBPN immediate Past President Brad Brogren began a "President's Award" to acknowledge and thank individuals who have supported the MBPN in exceptional and valuable ways. This year, I was happy to be able to present the award to Janine and Chuck Saputo during our annual conference (see photo). For many years, the Saputos have generously shared their special skills and enthusiasm with the network, and we are grateful for that commitment and their gifts of time and expertise.



Steve Stier

Janine has been a tireless and energetic mentor to barn preservation-related projects in Oakland Township for many years. Over the last four years, Janine and Chuck have teamed up, Janine being the chair and Chuck doing technical support for our Communications Committee. Chuck has spent a great deal of time using his expertise to bring MBPN communications into the digital age. As our webmaster, he has implemented "Constant Contact," allowing for MBPN news email updates to our membership. Most recently, for easier mobile connection to our website, Chuck has implemented an "app" (that's short for "application" to those, like me, who may sometimes feel more technically challenged). A few months ago, Janine stepped down from chairing the committee because of job related commitments. Several other board members are attempting to take up her perceptive, capable, and essential work for the Network...which leads me to the second part of this message.

It's due to the dedicated work of folks like the Saputos—as well as an active, dedicated board and volunteers—that our organization has been growing and becoming more effective. Overall, we believe that barns in Michigan have a significantly better future because of our efforts. This growth in programming and effectiveness comes with a greater workload for all involved. Consequently, we have come to the realization that our tasks for running a growing MBPN are increasing at a faster pace than the recruitment of volunteers to do those tasks. Until now, a handful of active volunteers have tried to fill this gap, but we realize that the pace is not sustainable.

So, if you are reading this, you have some interest in the preservation of traditional barns. What about you? Will you help us achieve our goals by volunteering to help out? It may be as simple as encouraging a neighbor to become a member. Or you may have interest in helping out with the multitude of tasks it takes to keep MBPN growing and successful. We need your help. Give us a call!

Best Wishes
Steve

P.S. This will be my last column as MBPN President. After four years, I am handing the gavel to our friend Tim Wiles, who is eminently qualified to lead us in the coming months. Thanks for all the support you have given me during my terms as President. I look forward to continuing to be active in helping promote our shared cause.

www.mibarn.net

We Need Your Help



The MBPN is a volunteer organization, in the sense that its officers and committee chairs give of their time and expertise to advance the cause of the Network. If you are interested in serving on a committee or helping with our strategic planning process, please let us know by contacting MBPN Secretary, Julie Avery at (517) 927-1948 or by email at Averyj@msu.edu.



Scan our QR code with your smart phone and visit the MBPN website!

Notes from '14 MBPN conference presentations



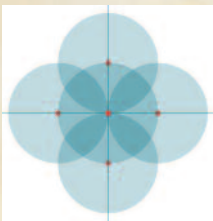
No conference is complete without scholarly presentations, and the 2014 MBPN Annual Conference had a diverse and skilled lineup of experts who provided exactly that for attendees. This year's presentations included:

- Round Barns in Michigan and the Midwest (Keith Bruder)
- 5 Circle Geometry from Cathedrals to Barns and Restoration Techniques (Rick Collins, Trillium Dell Timberwork)
- New Uses for Old Barns: Achieving the Vision (Jackie Hoist)
- Adaptive Re-use Considerations (panel presentation moderated by Chuck Bultman)
- Learning from Vintage Photos (Steve Stier)
- Rehabilitation Tax Credits (Robb McKay, State Historic Preservation Office)
- Michigan Silos: Their History and Construction (Ina Hanel and Tammis Donaldson)

Additionally, short afternoon sessions were presented with artist Gwen Gutwine, author Wendy Lange, a do-it-yourself sill replacement project by Mark Thomas, and mini-grant projects of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lake Shore by Kim Mann. Thanks to all of our presenters for a fascinating day of discussions!

While space prohibits summaries of all of these great presentations, the following are recaps of Rick Collins' presentation on 5 Circle Geometry and Steve Stier's on Vintage Photographs.

Barns, Cathedrals, and Circle Geometry



Rick Collins' talk was on the daisy wheel centered on, just that... the center, a point in the ground, or a compass on a sheet of paper or dividers on a piece of wood. The daisy wheel is also known as 5 circle geometry. Rick is interested in how the carpenter of the past (mostly the master carpenter of early America, the UK, and

Europe) used pure geometry and specifically the 5 circle geometry to design and lay out a building, whether a common house, barn or a cathedral. To augment his interest in geometry, Rick studied with Laurie Smith of the UK who has extensively studied the relationship of design and building to the 5 circle geometry in medieval English buildings. Rick showed examples of how the 5 circle geometry was used in the Ely cathedral in England and the Garfield Barn he has just finished work on in LA Fox, Illinois. One can see how the floor plan, building section, and elevations are determined by the circles, points, chords, arcs, tangents, intersections, and squares created by the 5 circle geometry. But it is more than design or layout of a building.

The 5 circle geometry is a guide to proportions, relationships and harmony of a building. It is fascinating! I hope to investigate a couple of barns I worked on. Stay tuned!

—Tammis Donaldson



Photo by Tammis Donaldson
Garfield Barn, LA Fox, Illinois.



Learning from Vintage Photographs

For some time, I have enjoyed collecting vintage photographs of barn raisings and farmstead and barn scenes. It has been said that a picture is worth a thousand words, and it seems that is true. Photographs are primary source material and can be unique and reliable documents informing us about times past. The level of clarity in many old photos is remarkable, and by using a magnifying glass, a tremendous amount can be learned from the small details revealed. Usually, the photos are meant to record lives of the people in the images, but the surrounding foregrounds and backgrounds also reveal methods, materials, and tools used in construction and farming. It is fun to guess related details, such as the season and the time of day the photo was taken.

Through the second half of the 19th Century, photography was relatively expensive, done by professionals with bulky equipment and used to record only important occurrences or events. Farm scenes from this era almost always show the family (usually several generations) with some stock or horses, the family buggy and buildings. More often than not, the barn in such pictures is shown instead of the house.

Barn-raising photos are a special favorite of mine. I have studied every inch of them with a magnifying glass and have identified many revealing details. One day, as I studied the faces of the community gathered at a barn-raising, I noticed that all of the faces had wonderful expressions of pride in the results of their efforts. When I studied such photos, I always thought that I was looking into the past. This time, another more moving thought came to me. It seemed that the faces were looking at the future directly through me. They were saying, "We have built this barn to last. What will you do to maintain it and take care of it?" Something to ponder as we continue to work towards preserving Michigan's historic barns!

—Steve Stier

Barn of the Year Awards for 2014



At this year's Annual Conference and Meeting the Michigan Barn Preservation Network announced its 2014 Barns of the Year Awards. The conference honored six Barns of the Year in the categories indicated below.

This is the 17th year the network has presented "Barn of the Year" awards. Including this year's awardees a total of fifty-five barns from across Michigan have been recognized for their unique qualities and/or preservation efforts.

The Barn of the Year program annually honors existing Michigan barns that exemplify outstanding character in our state. Nominated barns must have been built before 1957 and be in-use for one of four purposes. Barns must retain their overall appearance -- both interior and exterior barn characteristics. Nominations are open to the public, reviewed and determined by MBPN Awards Committee members and awarded to the barn owners at the MBPN annual conference each spring during MSU's ANR Week.

ference each spring during MSU's ANR Week.

MBPN congratulates all the awardees on their outstanding contributions to the preservation of Michigan's rural heritage into the future. MBPN is a Michigan statewide volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation, preservation, and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities over the last 18 years.

—Jerry Damon

Note: We are already looking forward to the 2015 Barn of the Year Awards. If you wish to nominate a barn in one of the above categories, visit our website www.mibarn.net and Facebook (www.facebook.com/mibarn) for more information.



Continuing Family/Private Agricultural Use
Bauer Barn, Fowler, Clinton County.
Owner Clare Koenigskecht



Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use
Cherry Basket Farm, Omena, Leelanau County.
Owner: Tom and Marsha Buehler





Continuing Family/Private Agricultural Use
 Markley Barn, Bryon, Shiawassee County.
 Owner: Randy and Denise Markley



Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use
 Cottonwood Barn, Dexter, Washtenaw County.
 Owner: Laura and Dan Waitz



Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use
 The Van Hoosen Barn, Rochester Hills, Oakland County.
 Owner: City of Rochester Hills

Photos by Tom Nehil and Janine Saputo *Continued on page 6*

Barn of the Year, *continued*



Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use
Tower Barn, Lowell, Kent County. Owner: Fallasburg
Historical Society

Photos by Tom Nehil and Janine Saputo

Save the Date: 2014 Fall Conference and Tour to Visit Michigan's Thumb



The Fall Michigan Barn Preservation Network Barn Tour will take place on Saturday, October 11th.

This year we will be having a self-driving tour.

If families want to stay at a particular site longer, it is their choice. Highlights will

include the Thumb Octagon Barn and Purdy House, a past Barn of the Year owned by the Hecht family and a double gambrel barn on a working horse

breeding farm. Plans are also in the works to have the new Thumb Quilt Barn Trail on the agenda. Details will follow in the next newsletter. Stay tuned!

—by Keith Kehlbeck

MBPN Welcomes Newest Board Member



Tom Irrer

The Board recently welcomed its newest member, Tom Irrer. Tom's passion for farming and the land are evident in his biographical information below.

Welcome aboard, Tom!

I have always lived at the same address except when I attended MSU and Purdue. After college I farmed first with my father Norman, then with my wife Marilyn, and then with our youngest son Doug. Now Doug has taken over the operation and management of our farm, Stony Creek Essential Oils Inc. My great grandfather purchased 190 acres in 1890. Now we farm about 2000 acres devoted to the production of Peppermint, Spearmint, and Wormwood Oils. We have built most of the specialty equipment required for our farming operation in our farm shop. The farm currently uses one large old barn for equipment storage and another old barn for the storage of 100 tons of fertilizer.

I have served on our local school board, and on the local board of the old federal Land Bank. Currently I am on the board with the St. Johns Area Community Fund. Marilyn has spent over 30 years on the Bengal Township board. Marilyn and I built a new Victorian style house a few years ago and we are hoping that our successful farm business can someday be operated by the next generation.

—Tom Irrer

2015 MBPN Calendar

Due to the popularity of its recent calendars, the Michigan Barn Preservation Network calendar committee is making plans to publish a calendar for 2015. Each month will feature a photograph of a Michigan barn. The criteria for picture consideration include the following: photos need to be in

color, with horizontal orientation, 4x5 or larger, and from a 35mm digital camera. Permission for use of the photo needs to be obtained from the barn owner. Information about the family owning the barn and its history—including anything special about the barn—needs to be submitted with the photo. The committee would like photos taken of barns in all four seasons. The deadline for submission is August 1, 2014.

We are also looking for sponsor for each of the twelve months. The cost of a business card size ad that will appear on the month that is sponsored is \$200. Sponsors will receive a quantity of the calendars upon completion. Calendars are used as a promotional item for the MBPN and its sponsors, and they are distributed at no cost, other than postage, if mailed.

If you are interested in submitting a photo for the 2015 calendar or in becoming one of the sponsors, please contact the project chairman, Dan Creyts at 517-322-0315. Evenings are the best time to call. Photos and sponsorship information can be sent to: 7775 Davis Highway, Charlotte, MI 48813.

—by Dan Creyts



2014 MBPN Members

The following are the individuals (and organizations) who are paid members of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network, as of the date of publication of this newsletter. If you received this newsletter, but do not find yourself on the list, please contact Vera Wiltse at vera@wiltse.com. As a courtesy, the spring newsletter is being sent to an expanded list of individuals who have supported the organization in the past. After this newsletter, only paid members of the Network will receive the newsletter mailings. Thanks to all who support the MBPN!

Ron & Jill Albert
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 Alpine Township Historical Commission
 Keith & Linda Anderson
 John and Margaret Ansted
 Robert and Jeneil Applegate
 Kay Ardis
 Jan Corey & Doyle Arnett
 Julie Avery
 James Balfour
 Johanna & Ron Balzer
 Richard Barnes
 Jeremy Beadner
 Todd Bechtel
 Todd Beckel
 Jean Bemish
 Tim Bennett
 Bev Berens
 Ron Bernard
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 Gary & Nancy Bishop
 Basil & Coralene Bloss
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 Ellie Freed
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 Robert Garvey
 Valerie Reed and Dave Geary
 Gerald Goffin
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 Robert Graboske
 Judy Grant
 Michael and Ina Hanel-Gerdenich
 John Hansen
 Roger & Marcia Hansen
 Tina Hansen
 William Hayward
 Charlene and Royal Heins
 Mary Dee Heller
 Ed & Ruth Helwig
 Don & Debbie Hense
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 Stefan & Kristi Hiltbrunner
 Beverly Hoisington
 Chris & Debra Honea
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 Peg & Case Hoonhout
 Michael Horton
 Carol Hurlburt
 Tom & Marilyn Irrer
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 John & Bonnie Jansen
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 Tom Johnson
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Upcoming Events

The MBPN conducts workshops around the state to teach barn owners and others how to repair their favorite barns. Here are some upcoming workshops:

May 24, 2014: Barn Repair Workshop, hosted by The Community Farm of Ann Arbor (www.communityfamofaa.org). MBPN President Tim Wiles, Barn Rehabilitator, will conduct a timber frame repair workshop from 9am to 5pm, at the Community Farm, 1525 S. Fletcher Road, approximately 2 miles south of I-94 Exit 162, between Ann Arbor and Chelsea. The workshop will cover: an overview of framing on a timber frame barn, focus on sill repair, learning a new skill (hands-on repair work on the mid-19th century barn at the Community Farm), and learning about the Community Farm, one of the older cooperative ventures using biodynamic farming principles. Registration is \$10 for MBPN members, \$40 for non-members (includes a one-year membership in MBPN). To register, send name, telephone number, and payment to: Community Farm of Ann Arbor, 1236 S. Fletcher road, Chelsea, MI 48118 (checks payable to MBPN). The number of hands-on participants is limited, so register early (and by May 22, 2014). For more information, contact Ina at 734-717-9079 or ihanel@aol.com.

June 19-21: Barn Restoration Workshop, hosted by Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (SBDNL) at the Schmidt Barn, located on Norconk Road, three (3) miles south of Empire,

Michigan off of M-22. This year marks the 18th year of the partnership between the MBPN and the SBDNL, in developing a series of "hands-on" workshops. The park and the MBPN are providing the skilled labor to put on this workshop. This year's workshop will focus on total barn repair from installing siding, building large and small doors, repairing wood floors, loft repair and stair construction. The course is set up so participants receive training of all techniques. The workshop begins on site at 9:00am each day, and there is no cost to participants. Tools and materials will be provided. Participants should wear boots, gloves, and bring a sack lunch for each day that they attend.



Photo by Steve Stier

Schmidt Barn, focus for the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Workshop.

Participants can sign up for any number of days. Workers are not required to be skilled in the building trades, though experience will be helpful and appreciated. Campsites will be provided for those volunteers who wish to camp for those days they are signed up for the workshop. Interested parties should contact the park historical architect, Kimberly Mann at 231-326-5135, ext. 501 to sign up for the workshop. To sign up by email: Kimberly_mann@nps.gov.