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COVER PAGE

**MICHIGAN BARN PRESERVATION NETWORK
announces Awards for 2016 Barns of the Year**

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) announced their 2016 Michigan Barns of the Year Awards at the 21th Annual Conference and Meeting, held on May 6 and 7 at Coopersville Farm Museum, Coopersville Michigan.

This is the 20th year the network has presented “Barn of the Year” awards. Including this year’s awardees a total of 72 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.

Six 2016 Barns of the Year have been recognized.

Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use

- Eastmanville Farm Barn, Coopersville Michigan, Ottawa County, Owner: Ottawa County
- Meadow Brook – North Barn, Rochester, Oakland County, Owner: Oakland University

Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use

- Stahl event Barn, McBain Michigan, Missaukee County, Owner: Ivan and Ruth Stahl

Continued Family / Private Agricultural Use

- Pleasant View Ranch Barn, Posen Michigan, Alpena County, Owner: Sharon Wyman

Family / Private Adaptive Use

- Sanson Barn, Clifford Michigan, Tuscola County, Owner: Kenneth and Esther Lux
- Ledy Barn, Moran Michigan, Mackinac County, Owner: Rick and Clarlyn Ledy

Honorable Mention

- Nelson Family Horse Barn, Coopersville Michigan, Ottawa County, Owner: Deron and Rebekah Nelson

Please see photographs and details for each awardee in the following pages.

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting appreciation, preservation and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities.



Award Details and Photographs

Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use
Eastmanville Farm Barn, Coopersville Michigan, Ottawa County
Owner: Ottawa County Parks



(Jessica Vanginnoven communication director for the Ottawa County Parks department accepts the Barn of the Year Award for Ottawa County Parks and Recreation at Coopersville Museum as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference)

Long before the modern welfare system, Michigan's original constitution required each county to set up facilities to provide for its less fortunate residents. These farms became places where otherwise able-bodied people lived free of charge and helped raise crops and livestock.

Such was life on the Eastmanville farm (now owned by the Ottawa County Parks and Recreation). The barn was built in the 1920's and was operational until the 1990's. Today the parks system is restoring the barn as part of the park system. Plans are now being organized to define the future use for this beautiful structure.



Award Details and Photographs

Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use
Meadow Brook North Barn, Rochester Hills Michigan, Oakland County
Owner: Oakland University



(Stephanie Duval and Tammis Donaldson of Ekocite Architectural accepting the Barn of Year Award for Oakland University's Meadow Brook North Barn at Coopersville Museum as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference.)

The Meadow Brook North Barn is on the campus of Oakland University; this site was originally the estate of Matilda Dodge Wilson wife of Douglas Dodge. Little information remains about the Oakland University barn's beginnings. As a utilitarian building, the barn had few records. Matilda kept very detailed accounts of the farm and its buildings, except the barn.

In March of 2015 work began on the barn. Oakland University was very fortunate to have assembled a team of professionals each with a wealth of experience and related proficiencies. Ken Brock, principle of Brock & Associates Inc. was retained to conduct the all encompassing preservation/rehabilitation. Ms. Tammis Donaldson provided architectural services as Principle of Ekocite Architecture. Launch Pad Services handled the hand painted signage. Work was completed in 2015.



Award Details and Photographs

Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use Stahl Event Barn, McBain Michigan, Missaukee County Owner: Ivan and Ruth Stahl



(Owners Ruth and Ivan Stahl accept the Barn of the Year Award for the Stahl Event Barn at Coopersville Museum as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference.)

This barn story is about four generations of the Loeke/Stahl family, who have cared for an 80 acre homestead since 1882. The barn was built in 1901 measuring 45 x 64 feet and is approximately 40 feet high with four bays. The original foundation was fieldstone of various sizes.

Ivan discontinued the dairy operation in 1997. After looking a various uses for the barn, it was decide that there was a need for an event space in Missaukee County. The conversion process began in 2002. By 2014 the barn was hosting gatherings, and in 2015 it hosted 20 weddings.



Award Details and Photographs

Continued Family / Private Agricultural Use
Pleasant View Ranch Barn, Posen Michigan, Alpena County
Owner: Sharon Wyman



(Sharon Wyman and her sons accept the barn of the Year award for the Pleasant View Ranch Barn at the Coopersville Museum as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference)

Built between 1899 and 1911 by James Garner, as a gambrel roofed rectangle: approximately 36' x 53', 40' high, on a 2' thick stone foundation. The barn has always been a hard working structure that housed livestock. It is still protecting cattle today. Since the Wyman's have owned it, many champion Herefords have been either born or cared for in this structure. These Herefords have participated in shows all over the country.

The Wyman's goal has always been to maintain originality as much as possible without compromising safety. This old Northern Michigan gem has been serving its original purpose of housing cattle for over 100 years.



Award Details and Photographs

Family / Private Adaptive Use
Sanson Barn, Clifford Michigan, Tuscola County
Owner: Kenneth and Esther Lux



(Ken and Esther Lux accept the Barn of the Year Award at Coopersville Museum as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference.)

Built by a Scottish immigrant Alexander Sanson who came to the Koylton Township in 1862, he built a log cabin, and began farming and lumbering at that time. He and his family expanded the operation to a large farm and livestock production. He sold the farm in 1916 when his son went into politics.

The barn is 33' x 115', the center field stone section is 30' x 55', the end wooden structures are 30' x 35'. The center section was a hog barn, one end was a grain storage area, and the opposite end had many uses.

Ken began the restoration of the barn in 2014 and continues working on the interior today.



Award Details and Photographs

Family / Private Adaptive Use
Ledy Barn, Moran Michigan, Mackinac County
Owner: Rick and Clarlyn Ledy



(Clarlyn and Rick Ledy accepting the Barn of the Year Award at Coopersville Museum, as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference).

The barn was built in 1908 by the Herman Kaminsky family. It is 93' x 32' with three defined areas. The left end is a tool shed along with housing for chickens and pheasants. The main barn is separated with a drive through section, hay storage on each end. The annex on the right side housed horses, pigs and goats.

The Ledy's have made many improvements to the barn; the annex has been turned into a Gourd Barn Shop. She teaches gourd art classes and sells artwork from her studio. Each year in September they host a community-wide barn dance, along with informative, historical activities, and a craft sale.



Award Details and Photographs

Honorable Mention For New Traditional Barn

**Nelson Horse Barn, Coopersville Michigan, Ottawa County
Owner: Deron and Rebekah Nelson**



(Deron, Rebekah Nelson and family accepting the Honorable Mention Award at Coopersville Museum, as part of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Annual Conference).

This 32' x 48' horse barn was raised in 2012. It is covered with 1' vertical pine planks and battens strips. The inside is traditional timber frame construction; all joinery is mortise and tenon with 1" oak pegs. Most of the timber used in the frame was harvested from wooded lots in the Coopersville, Fruitport area.

The barn owner, cut and assembled the frame himself, he also did the design work. The frame was raised on a single day in 2012 all by hand.