



Summer/Fall 2016 - No. 77

MI BARN

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



Venema Barn



Geers Farm

Photos by Ruth Stahl

The Place to Be for Color and Barns: Michigan Barn Preservation Network's Fall Barn & Color Tour



Saturday, October 8, 2016
Evergreen Resort, Cadillac, Michigan

What would fall be without color...and barns? Next month, MBPN members have the opportunity to experience both with the annual fall barn tour, hosted this year by Ruth Stahl and our friends up north. Ruth and her husband Ivan have been members of MBPN for six years and have attended conferences and tours. Ruth noted, "I am a planner by nature, so planning a barn tour in an area I know well is fun for me." The Stahls were awarded the 2016 Michigan Barn Preservation Network Barn of the Year award for Commercial Agricultural Adaptive Use for their event barn.

The program

Friday, October 7 - Arrive & Evening Social

5:30 pm - Join the board for dinner at the Resort.

We will order off the menu, but need to know if you will join us to insure seating. Please let the MBPN know you are coming for dinner by no later than October 2, 2016.

7:30 pm - 9pm - Social & Program

Appetizers and water will be provided; the resort bar is adjacent to our meeting room where soft drinks or alcoholic beverages may be purchased.

Program: Michigan's Quilt Barn Trails - Elsie Vredenburg

Saturday, October 8 - Barn Tour

8:30 am - Departure from Evergreen Resort

Visit eight barns at seven sites throughout Osceola, Missaukee, and Wexford Counties (see below). The tour will end at approximately 5:00 pm when we return to Evergreen Resort.

Registration: \$60 for members and \$80 for non-members. Non-member cost includes a one-year individual MBPN membership. Please let us know if you have dietary needs for meals. Register online with PayPal: Mibarn.net, or mail a check along with name/s address, email and phone to:

MBPN, PO Box 614, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0614

Headquarters:

Evergreen Resort, 7880 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49061 located one mile south of Cadillac, Michigan, just outside the city limits on Mackinaw Trail, right off the US-131 Business Route

Rooms are available at a rate of \$99 (+15% state, local and resort taxes) for our attendees, as long as rooms are available. Call 231-775-9947 and mention Michigan Barn Preservation Network when reserving.

Resort website: <http://www.evergreenresortmi.com>

Email: info@evergreenresortmi.com

—Vera Wiltse, MBPN Program Chair

See Tour Highlights Page 2

Tour highlights:



These sites were picked because of the history of the homesteads, visual appeal of the barn or homestead, and how the barn has been adapted to use today. It is the adapted use that is significant to insuring continuing care and a future life for these barns.

The **Venema Barn** is an Osceola County landmark for travelers along M115. A nearby cemetery has a field-stone headstone shaped as an ogee roof suggesting that “Pioneer and Master Barn Builder” Andrew Holligbaugh built a number of this area’s ogee roof barns.

Geers Farm is an agri-tourism destination where we will visit two barns. This farm has a year-round custom sawmill and seasonal pumpkin patch.

Clam River Farm’s gambrel roof barn was built in 1928 to replace an 1874 structure that burned. This barn was one of the first in the area to be constructed of dimensional lumber. Owner Rich Herweyer remembers watching the barn being built as a boy. The quilt block installed on this barn copied Rich’s mother’s quilt.

The BARN “Born Again & Raised New” is the name given to Keith and Becky Dick’s Barn which was built from a previous barn on their land. The BARN was created from the older structure with a goal of building a place of “fun, fellowship and relational healing.”

Springhill Farm was established in 1899 and the original barn was built in 1901. It was destroyed by a spontaneous combustion hay fire in 1936, and the barn we will visit was immediately begun with the help of the community.

Stahl Event Barn is a part of a Centennial farm owned and operated by 4th & 5th generation family members. The barn, built in 1901, began conversion to an events site in 2012. Two weddings were held there in 2013; nearly 30 events will be held in 2016.

“**Floral Hall**”, the **Octagonal Building** at the Northern District Fairgrounds. Fairgrounds is an area landmark built in 1908 to provide room for exhibitions of “mechanical and mercantile displays.” The building is currently being reconsidered by Wexford County Commissioners.

Ready for an extraordinary experience in the heart of Michigan’s beautiful north? Mark your calendars now and register for what should be a fantastic event!

—Vera Wiltse, MBPN Program Chair and
Ruth Stahl, Event Coordinator



Clam River Farm



The BARN



Springhill Farm



Stahl Event Barn



Floral Hall

*Photos by
Ruth Stahl*

Focus on Contractors: The Barn Roofer

Not long ago, I came across John Reurink installing a new roof on a barn in our neighborhood. He is from the Ionia area, and his sons manufacture metal roofing cut to the nearest inch and in a variety of colors. He usually works alone, but has help for the more difficult jobs. This year, he has already installed roofs on more than 20 barns. He has no connection with MBPN, but always has enough work to keep busy. He does not work during January or February. I gave him an MBPN hat and some flyers and newsletters, as I thought that anyone so actively involved in

barn preservation deserved something. I don't think that he has ever been to any of our functions, but it seems to me that he deserves recognition for his barn preservation efforts. I would estimate that he has installed roofs on over 400 barns in his career.

Do you know of a barn contractor who should be recognized for their work in barn preservation? If so, let us know! Email Tom Irrer at: tomirrer@mintcity.com

—Tom Irrer, MBPN Treasurer

Annual Meeting and Conference Comes to Coopersville

Earlier this spring, the MBPN faithful gathered, trying a change of pace and holding this year's MBPN Annual Meeting and Conference on May 6-7, 2016 at the Coopersville Farm Museum, Coopersville, Michigan. On Friday, the popular annual barn tour began at 8:30am and concluded at 5:00 pm in time for a dinner and annual meeting of the membership. The awards program—with Barn of the Year announcements—followed lunch on Saturday. Ms. Piggies BBQ catered this year's meals, and was a crowd pleaser.

An important part of every annual conference is sharing pertinent information and trends. Although there were no breakout sessions this year, four speakers addressed the attendees on Saturday.

In the morning, Curtis TerHaar, Coordinator of Park Planning and Development for Ottawa County, presented restoration challenges and successes from several renovated barns owned by the county. The title of his presentation was "The Barns of Ottawa County Parks."

As Ottawa County has acquired properties for their park system, some came with traditional barns. Attendees learned how and why the county has worked to preserve and repurpose these barns.

Next, Jim Mulvany entertained the group with a presentation entitled, "Changing Times—Changing Barns." A great slice of history...and attendees won't forget the joke about the Three-legged Pig!

Following lunch—which included door prizes, a live auction, and the Barn of the Year presentations (see pages 4 and 5)—Ina Hanel presented an expanded silo presentation. Ina has continued her research on silos and included information from a well-known researcher and presenter on silos who has retired and deposited his collection with Central Michigan University's Clarke Historical



A great turnout in an interesting setting!

Photo by Keith Kehlbeck

Library. The presentation included everything you've ever wanted to know about silos...and more!

Concluding the day's festivities, Past President Steve Stier talked about Dutch barns in a presentation entitled, "Dutch Barns in Western Michigan." Steve has researched the barns in Western Michigan built in the Dutch style and shared that research in photos.

A few entertaining quotes from the presentations follow below. All in all, a good time had by everyone in attendance!

—Keith Kehlbeck, Newsletter Editor

Quotes of Note

"This is my fourth year doing this, and it's been a lot of fun and you meet a lot of really nice people. I've had a good time with it. This is my last year, so somebody else is going to take it over. I'm not sure who that's going to be yet, but they are lucky people. It is a fun job." **Jerry Damon**, speaking about the Barn of the Year Awards.

"Ottawa County Parks actually started in 1929, and the Road Commission ran these parks. Commission ran these nine different parks that were developed...about 412 acres of property. 1987 is actually when the Parks Commission was formed to upgrade and set direction for the parks going into the future. The first reason we got into the barn business is that we have barns, and our long-range plan includes a goal to promote understanding and appreciation of the natural and cultural history of Ottawa County. And people came. When we improved one site, for example, the parking lot was full of cars. Not only did they like the old red barn, but they even liked the newer part. It became a destination and a landmark, for weddings and other events." **Curt TerHaar**

"How'd I get interested in Barns? I had a number of things...I grew up on a farm with a barn. We had a lot of fun in the barn. During World War II one of the things I used to do is jump off the beams. We used to do that. We got really good at it. We'd go get my mother's used oil tablecloth that she threw away, and roped all four corners and jumped. Knocked the wind out of me a few times!" **Jim Mulvany**

"The Homestead Act of 1862 was very important, because you began to have a lot of farms being developed. If you go to the MSU library on the fourth floor, there is a set of periodicals called Carpentry and Building (first issue 1869, last issue 1910). It's a

periodical where builders could write into the editor and say, 'How do you do this?' In the next issue a builder would say, 'This is the way I do it.' There's a tremendous amount of history of barn building in those carpentry and builder magazines." **Jim Mulvany**

"There's nothing more exciting perhaps, as eye-opening, when you come to a conference to give a talk and you get introduced to somebody and another whole door opens. I was kind of finished with silos, but apparently I'm not...I have done more research and in some ways, this is the presentation I should have given two years ago. It has a little bit of a broader view. It looks at Michigan silos, but it also looks a little bit outside the state to get a sense of how Michigan fits into the bigger picture. The silo is a unique product of the twentieth century, but there is also a lot of history that impacts it, including the concept of storing food by the Native Americans and the Mexicans with their grain bins and teepees, corn storage by the Germans in North America, and the French, who contributed to the beginning of the modern silo movement in this country." **Ina Hanel**

"The first Dutch immigration to the United States was early in the 1600s, and most of you know the story about the Dutch in Long Island and Manhattan, but they also were mostly farmers and they settled the area up the Hudson River Valley. That's where what we call the New World Dutch Barns are all located. In 1968, John Fitchen did one of the first scholarly studies of barns in the United States, and he actually visited over 70 barns in New York and a couple in New Jersey. Another barn historian, Greg Huber, did a second edition of his work. Fitchen actually delineated 12 different configurations of Dutch barns, and out of the 70 barns that he looked at, he identified common features, namely that most were squarish. Unlike traditional old world Dutch barns, American barns or Michigan barns are generally longer than they are wide." **Steve Stier**

20th Annual Barn of the Year Awards

A highlight of any Annual Conference and Meeting is always the coveted Barn of the Year awards.

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 year.

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.



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



Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use
 MeadowBrook-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





Continuing 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



Family / Private Adaptive Use 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



Photos by Tom Nehil and MBPN

Granary Barn Raising Demonstrates the Potential for Preservation

Have you ever attended a barn raising? Wondered what to expect? Worth your time? About 25 people thought so when MBPN held a barn raising for MBPN members Tom and Lori Brubaker of Bruce Township, Macomb County, Michigan on Saturday, July 16 as a hands-on MBPN Workshop. It was a day project to reconstruct the timber frame of the Granary Barn MBPN deconstructed last October and sold to the Brubakers.



Photo by Janine Saputo

July 16th dawned a gray day, but the barn raising was in full swing by 11am with about 25 people working on the barn framing and spectating. They hailed from all over southeastern Michigan. Steve Stier from Empire and Tim Wiles from Brighton led the group. It turned into a gorgeous summer day for an outdoor project like this.

Several people showed up at a critical moment when more hands were needed to raise one of the very heavy barn side structures. A man and his wife and child arrived and the husband hurried over to add his strength to the lifting. Later we found out that he and his family thought the Brubaker's property was part of a garden tour held a week before. He stumbled on a barn raising and joined right in! (Lori Brubaker's flowers and gardens are beautiful.) Volunteer workers assembled the framing using the architectural drawings by Tammi Donaldson and Stephanie Duval, raised it into place by hand without a crane, and secured it with wooden pegs made onsite using traditional methods and equipment.

The Brubakers were most generous with their farmstead facilities, served snacks under a spectator tent, and offered a gourmet lunch in their other restored barn. They were most pleased to host MBPN experts to resurrect the timber frame of this old granary on their newly constructed foundation. Former granary owners Peter and Linda Andersen also attended. Brubakers agreed to include their barns in the Romeo Historical Society Barn Tour set for Sunday September 17.

MBPN realized \$530.00 at this event from registration, dues and donations. MBPN sincerely thanks the Brubakers, and all the volunteers for a very successful MBPN Barn Workshop.

—Janine Saputo



Photo by Marilyn Irner

Strategic Planning Committee gathers to set organizational goals.

Strategic Planning Leads the Way for MBPN's Future

The officers of the MBPN recently completed an update of the MBPN's Strategic Plan.

Among many details and goals articulated in the updated plan are the Network's MISSION, which is: "promoting appreciation, preservation, and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads, and rural communities." The VISION for the MBPN is identified as: "The Michigan Barn Preservation Network is making a difference in the preservation of Michigan barns.

Individuals and communities are engaged in barn preservation in their areas, and the MBPN is considered to be the 'go to' resource about traditional Barns."

For an updated version of the organization's Strategic Plan, contact our Board. Thanks to all who participated in this important exercise in strategic management and visioning.

—Julie Avery, Communications Director



Michigan Honey Festival a Great Success: Teamwork & Timbers Frame Barn Delights

The Michigan Honey Festival was another success, and we had well over 500 hundred more people in attendance than in recent years (over 2000 attendees in total). And, it may come as no surprise to members of the MBPN that the top children's activity was the T & T Barn!!!! We had many people stopping and saying that they had never seen anything like that before and that their children enjoyed it. Tim (Wiles) was a busy guy and did a super job. We really enjoyed having the barn at the festival and hope we can have you back at next year's event.

The money raised at this year's event is going to the Veterans Farmer Coalition. They are starting a beekeeping program to train homeless vets on a new career path. We have a new homeless

shelter in the Thumb that houses only vets and the maximum time they can stay there is two years. We are hoping to get 5 out of the 10 trained to do something with bees. This is a national organization and they are just getting started in Michigan. I will be installing a new bee hive at the facility in Akron (just north of Caro). What's cool is the facility was originally a barn..

Thanks again for making the Honey Festival a success.
—Melissa Jaskiewicz, MBPN Member

President

Michigan Honey Festival

We are an Educational 501(c)3

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

President's Message

I am Clare Koenigsknecht, your new President, and I look forward to leading the MBPN in its 21st year. I have been a member of our organization for 19 years and have attended most of our Annual Conferences.



Clare Koenigsknecht

As with any vibrant organization, the MBPN continues to evolve and improve. For example, after 20 years of everyone traveling to the Kellogg Center at MSU in East Lansing, we changed the location of our Annual Conference. This year our Conference was held at The Coopersville Farm Museum in Coopersville, Michigan. The Museum was a perfect setting for our organization. Entering the Museum, we walked through a concrete stave silo. Inside the building was an assembled frame of a timber frame barn and many farm related displays.

In the Coopersville area, we were surrounded by rolling hills of farmland with many unique barns. Our West Michigan members had less travel time, and they invited some of their friends to the Conference. The Friday barn tour was well planned and enjoyed by all who attended. Once again, the barn tour was a sellout. Friday evening's Annual Meeting and Saturdays' sessions were also well attended and received.

A future MBPN Annual Conference could be coming to your area soon!

What's next? We recently had a Strategic Planning Meeting to discuss the direction of the Network, and you will see more about those plans in this newsletter. Suffice to say that the future includes new board members, committee members, and contractors.

Thanks to those who have made MBPN a great organization over the past 20 years. With our help, the best is still to come.

Yours,
Clare Koenigsknecht



MBPN Board gathers for its July meeting.

New Board Members

Please welcome the newest members of the MBPN Board, Steve Rademacher and Keith Anderson, who attended the July 23rd Board meeting in Coleman, MI at the home of Vera Wiltse. We look forward to working with you to promote Michigan barn preservation!

Check out the next newsletter for extended bios and background on all of our Board members.



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www.mibarn.net

Share, reuse, recycle this newsletter

Jerry Damon Leaves the MBPN Board

After serving two terms on the MI Barn Preservation Network Board, Jerry Damon has stepped down to focus on other volunteer work. Jerry joined the MBPN board in 2011. He is a man of many skills and interests who can always see the big picture while understanding the details and recordkeeping that make a difference. For the past several years Jerry has coordinated and grown MBPN's Barn of the Year program. He helped to coordinate our spring barn tours and worked on the annual calendar. Jerry also has contributed to planning for the Michigan Barn & Farmstead Survey Project. Jerry has been an active member of the board, jumping in to take responsibility for tasks including chairing the awards committee.

Jerry and wife Carole moved a barn and transformed it into a beautiful and modern barn-home. This home is a very "green" building. Jerry did the research to make it happen and has shared that experience at our annual conference and during one of MBPN's barn tours.

Jerry has also served as a board member with the National Barn Alliance. One of his efforts with the NBA was to survey all states to learn about barn survey work across the country. While we say good-bye to Jerry as a board member, we know that he will continue being involved as an active member of the network and with some of our committees.

Thanks Jerry!

—Julie Avery and Vera Wiltse



Photo by Keith Kehlbek

An intent Jerry Damon prepares a presentation for the 2016 Annual Meeting and Conference.