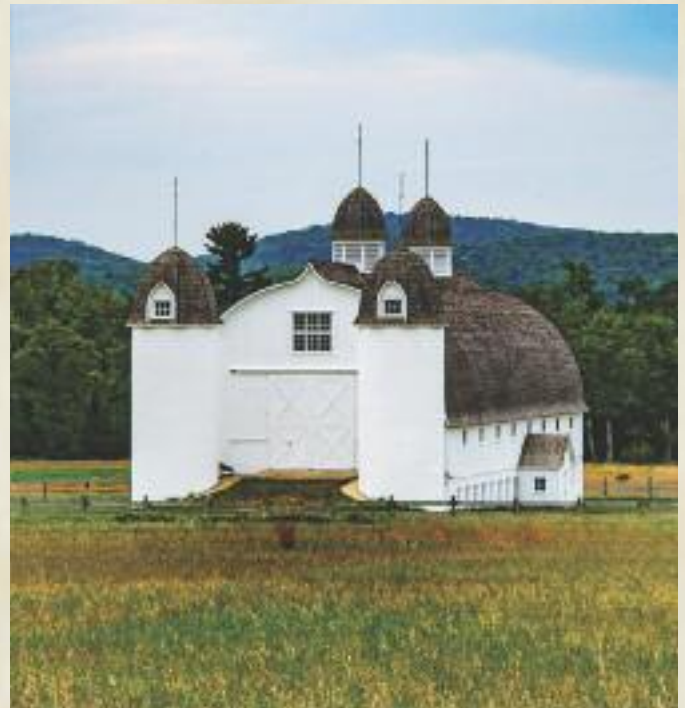




The Dan and Deb Smith Farm, near Fowler, in summer



The D.H. Day Farm, Leelanau County

Photos by Jim Mulvany

Summer Dreams

Summer wheat fields always tend to bring a distant red barn into the highlights. This is the Dan and Deb Smith farm near Fowler, Michigan on July 2, 2021, one week before harvest. We older barn lovers remember the waving fields of grain. New varieties of winter wheat are genetically changed to grow with short straw only 18 or 20 inches high. That makes wheat that will withstand wind and weather and stand straight for harvest. It is too bad, however, that it's so short we no longer have "waving fields of grain." Note the tall rye heads that somehow found a ride along with the wheat seed source. A very careful look might reveal a summer wash drying on the line in front of the barn. There is nothing like going to bed on fresh clean sheets that dried in the summer wind!

For me, summer is just not complete without a trip to Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore and beautiful Leelanau County. But no trip there is complete without checking on the D.H. Day Barn on M-22. If you have ever been to the dune climb in the Sleeping Bear Dunes then you have seen the D.H. Day farm. Its unique barn is one of the most photographed barns in Michigan.

The original D. H. Day farm, was comprised of 400 acres, was also known as Oswegatchie after the New York community where his

father was born and the Oswegatchie River where D. H. Day played as a boy. The farm is just south of Glen Haven and has a large white barn and several out-buildings that stand as a landmark of the agricultural heritage of this area. Day grew hay and corn to feed his 400 hogs and prize herd of 200 Holsteins. The buildings were built in the 1880s and 1890s. Out-buildings were used as a hog barn, creamery, and bull barn. Architectural symmetry defines this farm.

The farm can be seen from the top of the Dune Climb or from along M-109. The property is privately owned, so please do not trespass.

Look upon this beautiful barn as monument to the many farm families that tried to sustain a farm on the deep sandy soils of the north country. It is still privately owned and well maintained. Other old barns in the area show signs of the late 19th century, when potatoes were a big crop in the area. The accompanying photo was taken on May 5th of this year. Take some time this summer and fall to explore the wonderful variety of Michigan's farmsteads, to revel in the many historic barns that have survived...and to re-dedicate your support of efforts to save others. You won't be disappointed!

—Jim Mulvany, MBPN Calendar Chair

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President's Message

Our Endowment

About 2007, our Board of Directors first talked about establishing an endowment. In the Spring of 2018, we took that initial step with an investment of \$25,000 placed with the Capital Region Community Foundation. We chose this Foundation because of its reputation and the fact that it has worked successfully with statewide organizations. Since that time, contributions from board members and other MBPN members, investment appreciation, and earnings have brought this fund up to more than \$97,000.



Tom Irrer

As a quick refresher, the formula in our endowment provides that we can only remove four percent of the fund value per year. In these early years of our endowment, our Board has opted not to take any withdrawals, but instead has decided to let our investment grow. Prudently managed, money contributed to our endowment can ultimately provide funds to the Michigan Barn Preservation Network in perpetuity.

Have you ever talked with a person who regretted saving a barn? I have never found anyone who regretted saving a part of history. In fact, the only regrets that I have heard are that some wished that they could have done *more*—or that they could have done it sooner. All who have put in the effort and money to preserve rural history feel a sense of accomplishment and pride. This makes them happy, and it demonstrates to others what is possible. In the same way, those who have contributed to our endowment feel a sense of pride and satisfaction. They know that their investment will promote the appreciation, preservation, and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads, and rural communities forever.

After establishing our endowment, we did a feasibility study about conducting a major campaign to dramatically build our endowment's principal sum. Then the onset of Covid-19—and now the Delta Variant—have caused us to be hesitant about starting a major campaign. We will continue to plan and will keep you advised. Stay tuned while we watch the Delta Variant, and be safe out there!

—Tom Irrer

Are You Receiving Our E-News?

In between print copies of our newsletter, Julie Avery and the Communications Team puts out informative electronic newsletters ("E-News") with short updates and announcements. Through our internal HubSpot database management tool, we have tracked the readership numbers of these E-News blasts, and they are read by over 50% of the recipients...a great number! If you aren't receiving our E-News, go to our website (www.mibarn.net), where there is a link on the homepage to sign up. You don't have to be particularly online-savvy to receive an informative and useful addition to our communications efforts. We hope you'll read our E-News...and encourage others to do so, as well!



www.mibarn.net



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



MBPN Welcomes Newest Board Member

We are pleased to announce our newest board member—Kristine Ranger. Kristine will fill a vacancy on the Board and brings a wealth of experience and talent to our ranks. In her own words, here is how she describes herself:

“I am my father’s daughter, born on his birthday, and am the only child of eleven to pursue a degree in Agriculture and Natural Resources. I was raised on a diverse farming operation, which greatly influenced my career choice, but I also worked at our sawmill while growing up in a small “Podunk” town in northeast Michigan called Barton City. My homestead in Alcona County is sandwiched between Alpena and Oscoda and I never knew about the Shore to Shore equestrian/hiking trail that starts there, but this summer I hope to be crossing the state over a series of long weekends.

In my spare time I enjoy camping, gardening and landscaping my five acres, reading, making jewelry, giving riding lessons, restoring my old farmhouse and barn and repurposing antiques and junk! I also have two Red Heelers who demand lots of my time and think they rule the roost, but my real roosters usually set the record straight.

I have three children. My oldest is a Naval Aviator, but since receiving his Executive MBA last year he will transition into civilian life within the next year. He and I have purchased investment property together in Lansing, which he ‘allows’ me to manage.



Kristine Ranger

My oldest daughter is a Fisheries Biologist living her dream on Kodiak Island, AK and will get married here in Clinton County this fall. My youngest is pursuing her PhD in History/Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto and dreams of becoming the Head Curator at the US Holocaust Museum in D.C. Both of my daughters were US Fulbright Scholars while enrolled in their Masters programs so I have had the luxury of traveling abroad with them and cannot wait to go again!!”

A comprehensive description of her credentials (taken from her Learning Connection biography) includes that, in the past 40 years, she has coached start up and growth phase businesses and organizations in people skills, team and leadership development, organizational development, business planning, and HR systems and practices. Her consulting focuses on developing high performing work teams; family/farm succession planning; human resource management; and organizational health, culture and strategy.

From 2002-2005, she served on the leadership team that designed and implemented the first multi-channel “Buy Local” campaign in Michigan that increased sales of fresh Michigan products by 100%. Her efforts resulted in the highly popular Farmers Market at the Capital, a Farmers Market at Henry Ford Hospital, and several Farm to Chef and Farm to School programs that still exist today. She also consulted in the development of the MSU Product Center for Ag & Natural Resources and became a certified Ag Innovation Counselor, helping numerous agripreneurs with new product development, business planning and marketing initiatives. Recently, her food system consulting work has focused on rural economic development and the launch of a NE MI Food & Farming Network.

We are thrilled to have her as an MBPN Board member!

—Keith Kehlbeck, MBPN Communications Chair

MBPN Board Meets in Person



Photo by Keith Kehlbeck

The MBPN Board of Directors met on June 5th at the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. The Museum has been hosting a barn exhibition for a while, and it was nice to see it (and each other) in person. The Ella Sharp Park has some beautiful grounds, and Rachael Veramay gave the Board a tour of the Museum and their barns that are not normally open to the public.

It was good to get back to in-person meetings again. This board meeting was quite significant as we discussed our endowment. John Cauley, of Cauley Coaching & Consulting, LLC, reviewed the feasibility study related to the endowment campaign. This campaign has been somewhat on hold for a year due to the pandemic, but expectations are high, and the feasibility study was referred back to the Endowment Committee for further review. The Board also reviewed the different



Photo by Julie Avery

John Cauley reporting about the MBPN Endowment feasibility study.

method of passing out the Barn of the Year awards, and received reports from active committees, including Technical, Communications, Membership, and Calendar. Due to continued Covid concerns, we will forego the membership meeting for this year, but members will be encouraged to attend the barn tour in Hadley on September 25th (see article elsewhere in this newsletter) and upcoming also in September, Fall Family Days at the Octagon Barn in Gagetown on September 10-12 (where we hope to exhibit Teamwork & Timbers).

The next MBPN Board meeting is currently scheduled for early October. The continuing energy and activity of the MBPN and its members—even during a challenging time with Covid—represent a positive direction for MBPN. Stay tuned for additional developments!

—Vera Wiltse, Program Chair

2021 Barn of the Year Winners Presented

Each year, Michigan barns and their owners have been recognized for their efforts in preserving icons of our state's agricultural heritage. The barns these individuals have saved inspire others throughout the state to also become barn stewards, and we thank all of those who participated in this year's Barn of the Year program.

Earlier in the year, we were pleased to announce the five (5) barns that received the prestigious award this year. Each was profiled in our spring newsletter (which you can find archived under "Resources" on our website www.mibarn.net), but as a reminder, the 2021 recipients are pictured below.

Covid restrictions and concerns have postponed formal presentations that normally occur at our annual conference and tour, but in the

meantime, we wanted to recognize these exceptional examples of barn preservation, by bringing their awards to each recipient. One such visit occurred in early June, when Jim Mulvany, Tammis Donaldson, Linda Anderson and I traveled to Plymouth to present the Barn of the Year Award to the Salem Area Historical Society for its efforts in preserving the Dickerson Barn. The 1830 barn is the oldest still-existing barn in Washtenaw County. The Historical Society was instrumental in saving the barn from demolition, having it dismantled, moved, reassembled and restored at its Old Stone School site--now a Michigan Historic Site. We recently received this photo with the Barn of the Year sign proudly hung over the doorway--and out of the reach of potential vandalism.
continued on page 5



Concordia Hills Barn—Farwell, MI (Isabella County)



Eisenmann Party Barn—Palmyra MI (Lenawee County)



Dickerson Barn—Plymouth, MI (Washtenaw County)



Yellow Horse Farms Barn—Pellston, MI—(Emmet County)



Leelanau County Poor Farm Barn—Leelanau County Historic Preservation Society—(Leelanau County)

Photos provided by Keith Anderson



Keith Anderson and Tammis Donaldson present the 2021 Barn of the Year sign



The preserved Dickerson Barn

Photos by Jim Mulvany

continued from page 4

Thanks to our board members and volunteers for stepping up during “Covid-times” to show our continued appreciation to these outstanding stewards of our rural heritage!

As you’ll see below, the media is taking note of our efforts to recognize barn preservation excellence.

—Keith Anderson, MBPN Awards Chair

Barn of the Year Presentations Gain Media Attention Throughout Michigan

Presentations also garnered media and community attention, as exemplified by coverage of the Dickerson barn plaque presentation in the Washtenaw County Historical Society’s *Impressions* Spring 2021 Edition and in *The Ville*, a monthly magazine for Northville, Michigan.

Other presentations in the North Country earlier this summer went smoothly and were well-received by the award recipients. Photos and stories of those events will be shared in future editions of the newsletter.

Thank you all for your on-going support of Barn of the Year. This is the first year we are presenting these awards on the site of the awarded barns—both a unique and somewhat neat idea. While we don’t have the assembled conference to participate, it has proven to be a special moment for the people who have strived to save and protect these barns.



Celebrating Great Michigan Barns— Presenting Certificates of Appreciation

Recognition for preservation excellence is not limited to the Barn of the Year recipients. Those Barn of the Year applicants not selected for awards are presented *Certificates of Appreciation*. These 11 x 14 framed certificates designate the owners as having a “Great Michigan Barn” and are awarded the certificate in recognition of their efforts to “faithfully rehabilitate and maintain” their historic barn.

There are six such awards for 2021 and seven remaining from 2020 when travel and socializing proved highly problematic. The information regarding these excellent barns is as follows:



Certificates of Appreciation—2020

Houghton County

Owner—Michael Messner

Messner Farm Barn

Chassell, Michigan

Address: 39898 N. Entry Rd., Chassell 49916

Huron County

Keim Family Barn

Brian & Lisa Keim – Owners

Bay Port, Michigan

Address: 243 N. Bay Port Rd., Bay Port 48720

Kalamazoo County

Melody Hill Stinson Barn

Margie Stinson – Applicant/Owner

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Address: 5181 Texas Dr. Kalamazoo 49009

St. Joseph County

Covered Bridge Farm Barn

St. Joseph County Parks – Owner

Jaymes D. MacDonald, Director – Applicant

Three Rivers, Michigan

Address: 56705 Covered Bridge Rd.,

Three Rivers 49093

Lapeer County

Goose Lake Farm Barn

Debra Gardner – Owner

Lapeer, Michigan

Address: 3291 Lum Rd., Lapeer

Muskegon County

Helsen Barn

John Helsen – Owner

Ravenna, Michigan

Address: 4500 Sullivan Rd., Ravenna 49451

Leelanau County

Ruby Ellen Farm Barn

The Rex Dobson Ruby Ellen Farm Foundation – Owner

Peggy Core (Board Secretary-Treasurer) – Applicant

Traverse City, Michigan

Address: 5946 S. Center Hwy, Traverse City 49684

Certificates of Appreciation--2021

Kalkaska County

Owner/Applicant Steven J. Brown

Barn name: “Trails End Barn”

Location: Kalkaska, Michigan

Address: 4820 Hwy. M72E, Kalkaska 49646

Clinton County

Owner/Applicant: Margaret Sheffer

Barn name: “Hattie & Emmet McCrumb Barn”

Location: Portland, Michigan

Address: 13165 Clintonia Rd, Portland 48875

Genesee County

Owner/Applicant: Bob & Jeneil Applegate

Jeneil Applegate

Applicant Address: Linden, Michigan

Barn Location: Grand Blanc, Michigan

Address: 2457 E. Grand Blanc Rd., Grand Blanc 48439

Washtenaw County

Owner: Rick & Alyssa Valdez

Applicant: JDS Historical (Dean Sutton—810-588-7979)

Location: Ann Arbor, Michigan

Address: 2891 Gale Rd., Ann Arbor 48105

Ottawa County

Owner/Applicant: Jerry & Karmen DeYoung
Barn name: *DeYoung Barn*

Location: Hudsonville, Michigan

Address: 2138 Riley Rd., Hudsonville 49426



Photo by Steve Stier



Photo by Kristine Ranger

Kristine Ranger presents to the Applegates

On June 23rd Richard Harvey and Steve Stier traveled to the Trails End Farm near Kalkaska MI. Steven Brown, barn owner, had been awarded a “Great Michigan Barn” Citation for his barn rehabilitation and his continued care and use of the barn as a semi-private museum of early 20th century tractors and farming equipment. The photo is of Richard Harvey, MBPN Board of Directors and Technical Committee member, presenting the Citation to Steven. New board member Kristine Ranger also made the extra effort to present a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob and Jeneil Applegate in Genesee County.

In my experience, having delivered four of these last year, the recipients have been pleased and proud to be recognized for their efforts in preserving a Michigan Barn. We thank them for their preservation efforts!

—Keith Anderson, MBPN Awards Chair

With a Little Help from Friends

This barn is located on US-31 heading toward Elk Rapids. Steve Stier and I have been working on it, encouraging the county to do something to help in its preservation. Thanks to Steve and the county, things are starting to happen at the barn. The first step was to remove the plant life around the barn. This was done by a hardworking group from Youth Work Industries. I met with them at the site and talked to them about the barn. They asked me questions, too, such as, "Why not just demolish it?" Yikes! However, they are happy with the answer we gave which was to emphasize the importance of saving local history, a landmark, and an antique barn. I thanked them for their work and they were grateful. Just one more way to get our message out and to educate youth!

—Tammis Donaldson,
Technical and Communications
Committees



Photo by Tammis Donaldson

Youth Work Initiative participants learn about barn preservation...and provide great help at a barn near Elk Rapids

Brunson Barn—Now and Before



The Brunson Barn today

Photos by Keith Anderson

While passing through Sleeping Bear National Park recently, I had occasion for a brief stop to see the Brunson Barn. You will recall that we awarded it the Barn of the Year distinction last year--2020. I marveled at its almost miraculous transformation from its drastic, almost catastrophic, condition before its restoration. It now stands as a lone sentinel, but a key component, in the efforts to rehabilitate and maintain buildings within the Port Oneida Rural Historic District of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

—Keith Anderson, MBPN Awards Chair



The Brunson Barn... before



**MICHIGAN
BARN
PRESERVATION
NETWORK**

P.O. Box 614
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Summer 2021 No. 94

www.mibarn.net

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Historic Hadley Mill Museum Programs Offer Summer/Fall Escapes for Barn Enthusiasts

Barn enthusiasts in Hadley, Michigan are planning some exceptional barn-related events this summer and fall. We hope you can participate...

Join us at the Historic Hadley Mill Museum in Hadley, MI where you'll see beautiful rolling farmland with small town charm! Farms, Barns and Yarns

- Date: Thursday, September 2, 2021 at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm)
- Location: Hadley Township Office * 4293 Pratt Road, Hadley
- Farms, Barns and Yarns presented by "Barn-man" Jim Mulvany
- Register on Eventbrite at Hadley Historical Society

You're invited to attend a presentation by the MBPN as part of the Hadley Homestead Harvest Event. Come learn about various architectural features that identify and time date Michigan barns and how changing agricultural practices over the years have guided farmers to adapt their barns' useful purpose. Every barn has a story to tell, so be prepared to laugh and treasure the interesting lives of our ancestors who worked so hard and loved the land so much."

Later in September, Hadley is planning another ambitious event: the Hadley Homestead Harvest Day. We hope that you'll consider attending:

—Keith Kehlbeck, Newsletter Editor

Tickets for the FARM HOP are available on Event Brite... we hope to see y'all down here in Hadley for our event.