



MI BARN

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



Photos by Keith Kehlbeck

Join Us! 2023 Annual Conference and Member Meeting

March 4th at MSU's Kellogg Center in East Lansing

It's once again time for MBPN members to gather at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing for a day filled with informative presentations, food, camaraderie, and networking among Michigan's barn preservation community. Saturday, March 4th is the day—and the Lincoln Room is the place to be! This year's theme: "Hands-on Work of Barn Preservation."

A backbone of the Michigan Barn Preservation Network over the years has been its cadre of "hands-on" barn preservationists. It seems only fitting, then, that this year's Annual Conference and Member Meeting will focus on those skilled practitioners who make so much of our preservation efforts possible.

The 2023 MBPN Annual Conference will feature five presenters who have each spent many years doing the actual hands-on work of barn preservation. These five represent hundreds of years of accumulated experience and knowledge of barn construction and preservation.

Two working barn repair contractors will show and talk about some of their most interesting barn repair jobs. Chad Stitt and Roger Bateson both have family-operated businesses. Dan Deitz of Deitz House Moving Engineers, Michael Schmitt of Schmitt & Sons Stonework, and retired barn repair and timber framing contractor Ken Brock of Legendary Timberworks round out a stellar group of presenters who will keep the audience riveted with shared observations on the past, present and future of barn preservation.

—Steve Stier and Keith Kehlbeck

Additional information on the Conference Presentations

Chad Stitt started his own business *American Heritage Barn Preservation* in 2016 after growing up working with his dad, grandpa, uncles, and cousins. Chad will tell about some of his most challenging barn repair jobs and his guiding approach to barn work. "Our mission is to preserve agriculture and family legacy with honesty and integrity."

Roger Bateson of *RJS Complete Barn Service* has spent 20 years specializing in historical barn restoration including foundations, roofs, siding and painting. Roger will show his different methods of timber repair.

Deitz House Moving Engineers have been moving buildings, big and small, all over Michigan for more than 70 years. They have moved dozens of barns in the most dramatic ways while saving barns throughout the state. **Dan Deitz** will tell us how they make it look easy.

Michael Schmitt, Stone Mason, of *Schmitt & Sons Stonework* will share his experiences in rebuilding lime-mortared stone foundations in the traditional way. Michael has extensive background in traditional authentic stone masonry, focusing on historically correct methods and materials, splitting stone by hand, and using traditional lime mortars.

(continued on page 2)

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Scan our QR code with your
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MBPN website!



President's Message

Barn Success Stories

Barns are the iconic image of rural America. They represent the positive qualities of what we view as the "American Character": strength, honesty, security, and family stability. Everyone enjoys seeing traditional barns on our rural landscape, and Michigan is blessed with a wonderful range of preserved barns (as represented in this year's Barn of the Year nominees).

Barn preservation—and barn success stories—don't happen in a vacuum, however. Individuals are needed for the work of preservation to succeed. Those individuals include people like our members, who share stories, help us through memberships and donations, and who attend our events. The other key component of barn success stories is based on the skills of contractors and businesses that do the essential work on barns throughout the state. I am excited about the program that Steve Stier has put together for our Annual Conference. Five experienced barnworkers will showcase their hands-on work in the preservation of these iconic landmarks.

I enjoy seeing success stories about the work that barn owners and barn craftsmen have accomplished. I am sure that these presentations will provide many feel-good moments for all who attend. Bring your questions to this group of barn experts. Bring a friend or family member to spend the day with like-minded preservationists and barn lovers. Encourage them to join our Network with a membership, if they haven't already done so. Tell them about our Endowment program. Show them this newsletter and direct them to our exceptional website: www.mibarn.net.

Most importantly, we hope that you will take the time to join us in East Lansing on March 4th. You won't be disappointed, and perhaps the presentations and the camaraderie will inspire you to create your own Barn Success Story!

—Tom Irrer, MBPN President



Tom Irrer

(continued from page 21)

Ken Brock of *Legendary Timberworks* is a MI residential licensed builder and Timber Frame Guild instructor, with a career of providing complete full-service barn restoration, new builds in timber frame, building lifts, moves in-whole and via disassembly, reassembly, foundations, doors, siding, windows, painting, design, consulting, and engineering. Ken will reflect on a career of timber framing and barn repair and consulting. Ken will share his thoughts on the past, present and future of barn preservation and what the next generation of barn repair contractors will have in store.

Current plans call for presentations throughout the day, lunch, a live auction, and the 2023 Barn of the Year Awards to be presented (see additional information later in the newsletter). We hope you can join us for an important kick-off to what we hope will be a productive year.

A block of rooms is being held at the Kellogg Center, for those who wish to stay the night. Call 800-875-5090 for information. The Block Name is: MI Barn Preservation.

We hope to see you on March 4th at this important membership event!

The MBPN Annual Conference and Member Meeting Has Something for Everyone!



MBPN Annual Conference & Member Meeting March 4th 2023 MSU's Kellogg Center, East Lansing

Tentative Schedule

March 4, 2023

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, East Lansing, Michigan
Lincoln Room

9:00am Welcome and Announcements (Coffee and Donuts)

9:10am Annual Membership Business Meeting

10:15am Presentations

Chad Stitt – American Heritage Barn Preservation
Roger Bateson – RJ's Complete Barn Service

12:30 **Lunchtime** for fun and networking...
and the MBPN Annual Auction Benefit

1:45 **2023 Barn of the Year Presentations**

2:30 Presentations

Dan Deitz – Deitz House Moving Engineers
Michael Schmitt – Schmitt & Sons Stonework
Ken Brock – Legendary Timberworks

4:15pm Wrap-Up

To register for this year's Annual Conference and Member Meeting, please copy and fill out the following form and send with your check (or go to our website, www.mibarn.net to register and pay via PayPal)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

Number of Attendees _____
(\$65 per member, \$105 non-member)

Dietary Restrictions? _____

Please mail registrations
(must be received by February 22nd) to:

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

Checks should be payable to MBPN. Registrations may also be made on our website, www.mibarn.net (using PayPal).



Presenting the Barn of the Year Award to the Conley Family for their work on rescuing the Old Stone Porch Barn in Ionia are (L-R) Keith Anderson, Awards Committee Chairman, Warren & Sharon Conley, and President Tom Irrer.

2023 Barn of the Year Nominees On Our Way to the “Second One Hundred”

It's that time of the year when we announce our most prestigious awards: the Michigan Barn of the Year Awards! The Awards are presented annually to honor barn owners who have made the extra effort to maintain or restore historic barns. The program honors existing Michigan barns and supports our ongoing mission to preserve our agricultural heritage.

This is the 27th year the Network has presented Barn of the Year Awards. Over the past quarter century, a total of over 100 barns from across Michigan have been recognized for their unique qualities and/or preservation efforts. This year's bountiful crop of nominees will allow us to begin honoring our “second one hundred” exceptional barns.

The categories in which awards are presented are for barns or farmsteads in use for:

- Continuing Agricultural Use
–Family (Private), Non-Profit or Commercial
- Adapted to Other Uses
–Family (Private), Non-Profit or Commercial

Barns have been judged for (1) completeness of information presented in the application, (2) sensitivity and integrity of repairs or modifications, (3) visual appeal, (4) creativity, (5) thoroughness of work and (6) effort expended to repair and maintain.

Nominated barns must be in-use, either for continued agricultural use or adapted for other uses. Barns must retain their overall appearance—both in their interior and exterior barn characteristics. Nominations are open to the public, reviewed, and determined by MBPN Awards Committee members. A near flood of entries at the January 15th deadline has resulted in a perhaps record number of applicants for Barn of the Year: Eighteen (18) submissions for consideration for the 2023 Award.

The Barn of the Year Awards Committee is comprised of the following volunteers, who spend many hours looking at the nominations:

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| • Ina Hanel-Gerdenich | • Tom Nehil |
| • Keith Kehlbeck | • Rose Putnam |
| • Mara Lancaster | • Nicole VanBlaricum |

Each year, a guest judge is invited to join the Barn of the Year Committee in selecting the Awardees for that year. The individual is selected from among the awardees from the previous year.

This year we are pleased to announce that Patrick McKay, Museum Director of the VanHoosen Museum of Rochester Hills, has accepted our invitation to serve as Guest Judge in the selection of 2023 Barn of the Year among the 18 applicants.

The buildings of the VanHoosen Museum received the *Historic Farmstead Preservation Award* last year. The main barn of the VanHoosen Farmstead was the featured cover photo and story of last year's calendar as well.

We are pleased to welcome Patrick McKay and look forward to his insight and experience in evaluating the diverse group of barns in the mix for this year's award.

As always, we are grateful for the committee's loyalty in this annual process. Their participation and input ensures that this program's success is an integral part of MBPN's continuing influence on preserving the barns of Michigan.

The list on page 5 shows the 2023 nominees. To find out which are chosen, you'll want to attend the annual conference on March 4th, at which time the winners will be announced and awards presented. We hope you can join us!

—Keith Anderson, MBPN Awards Committee Chair



A Bumper Crop of Barn of the Year Nominees

The following—in no particular order, but with name, category, owner(s), and location—are the 2023 nominees for the Barn of the Year Award:

“Trails End Barn”

Continuing Ag - Family
Owner: Steven J. Brown
Kalkaska, MI
Kalkaska County

“Loudenslager Barn”

Continuing Ag - Family
Owner: Jane Loudenslager
Applicant: Marilyn Loudenslager Thelen
Burr Oak, MI
St. Joseph County

“Ebers Family Farm”

Continuing Ag - Family
Owner: Fran Rollert
Applicant: John Ebers
Comstock Park, MI
Kent County

“Pond House Farm Barn”

Continuing Ag - Family
Owner/Applicant: Jim & Theresa Williams
Manton, MI
Wexford County

“Bur's Wagon Shed”

Continuing Ag - Commercial
Owner/Applicant: Eileen Bur
Cheboygan, MI
Cheboygan County

“Banjolina Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners/Applicants: Tim & Roxanne Ellis
Monroe, MI
Monroe County

“Murphy Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners/Applicants: Keith & Kelly Murphy
Rochester Hills, MI
Oakland County

“Meadowbrook Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners/Applicants: Ed & Regina Grube
Rockford, MI
Kent County

“Pawlusiak Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners/Applicants: Robert & Lois Pawlusiak
Clinton, MI
Washtenaw County

“Maple Woods Farm Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners: Lee & Floy Barthel
Applicant: Earl Baxtresser
Northville, MI 48167
Oakland County

“Stout Street Barn”

Adaptive Use - Family/Private
Owners/Applicants: Kathleen Campbell & Robert Summers
Grosse Ile, MI
Wayne County

“Barn 1888”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owners/Applicants: Bryan & Danielle Howarth
Hopkins, MI
Allegan County

“Hidden Vineyard Barn”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owner: Hidden Vineyard LLC
Applicant: Greg Fenner
Berrien Springs, MI
Berrien County

“Vale Royal Barn”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owner/Applicant: Valerie Johnson
Fenton, MI
Livingston County

“Serenity Barn”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owners/Applicants: Tyler Dobson
Iron River, MI
Iron County (Upper Peninsula)

“Garden View Homestead Barn”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owners/Applicants: Diane & Peter Graham
Byron Center, MI
Kent County

“Unruh Barn”

Adaptive Use - NonProfit
Owners: Meridian Charter Township
Applicant: Brad Brogren, President,
Friends of Historic Meridian
Okemos, MI
Ingham County

“Michigan Bee Barn”

Adaptive Use - Commercial
Owner: Michigan Bee Company
Applicant: John J. Ebers
Comstock Park, MI
Kent County



Bur's Barn



Serenity Barn



Ebers Barn

(More photos on page 6)



Pond House Farm Barn



Banjolina Barn



1888 Barn



Garden View Homestead Barn



Hidden Vineyard Barn



Loudenslager Barn



Maple Woods Farm Barn



Meadbrook Barn



Michigan Bee Barn



Murphy Barn



Pawlusiak Barn



Stout Street Barn



Trail's End Barn



Unruh Barn



Vale Royal Barn

Invitation to Renew

It's Not Too Late to Renew Your 2023 MBPN Membership Join Us and Support the MBPN's Mission!

The work of the MBPN goes on, and we need your monetary support in order to continue the Network's mission. If you haven't already renewed your membership for 2023, please do so today! An organization like the MBPN doesn't thrive—as we have for more than two decades—without help and commitment from dedicated supporters.

The MBPN is recognized nationally as a premier barn preservation organization, thanks to the hard work and support of many individuals. The board of directors continues to follow an strategic plan that keeps barn preservation in the public eye through awareness and hands-on education for youth and adults. Your membership also supports our information-rich website and our quarterly newsletter, which is distributed to hundreds of people with each printing.

Do you know a friend who would enjoy receiving our newsletter or attending our events? Encourage their membership. Are you ready to provide long-term support in the form of a Cupola Membership? We need your help to build on our endowment fund!

Your membership supports MBPN's work of promoting appreciation, preservation and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities.

For more information, visit us online at www.mibarn.net.

\$40 Fieldstone – 1 person

\$50 Mortar – 2 people

\$1000 Cupola – lifetime/two people

\$50 – Affiliate – nonprofit

\$100 – Company Contractor/business

Check your mailing label for when your membership expires! Please choose the membership level that suits you best, and mail your payment to:

MBPN

P.O. Box 614

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0614

You can also renew online at www.mibarn.net.

Thank you in advance for your support!

The MBPN Board of Directors

Cupola Lifetime Memberships Help Build the MBPN Endowment

THANK YOU to our Cupola memberships — which since 2010 have provided the foundation of \$25,000 that established our MBPN Endowment Fund — which has now reached \$120,000!

The MBPN endowment is an investment in the future of barn preservation in Michigan and to the stability of MBPN itself. Our endowment fund is intended to provide a significant resource for MBPN's future in ways that we may not be able to imagine today. It will be there for future boards to utilize to meet their goals. And, this opportunity for giving to MBPN will never end but become an ongoing giving opportunity into the future.

The MBPN has strong and effective programs and services such as its newsletter, the outstanding and informative website

(www.mibarn.net), the Barn of the Year program,

Teamwork & Timbers, hands-on workshops, regional barn tours, and more. These services need and deserve an infusion of annual support revenue.

In addition to your annual membership dues, we hope that you will consider a more substantial gift to help underwrite the Network—a Cupola Lifetime Membership or a gift to the Network or Endowment Fund. Contact us for more information, and thank you again for your support

—Julie Avery, Vice President, Communications and Finance/Endowment Committees

MBPN Cupola Lifetime Members

Keith & Linda Anderson
Jan Corey & Doyle Arnett
Brad & Linda Brogren
John & Anne Cauley
Dan and Jean Creyts
Michael & Diana Dalton
Gerald & Marcia Danner
Robert & Debra Foti
Jim & Ann Freiburger
Bob Griffin
Richard Harvey & Marcia Calkin
Charlene & Royal Heins

Tom & Marilyn Irrer
Keith Kehlbeck & Ali Webb
Clare & Judy Koenigsnecht
William & Jean Kroger
Ronald Kuhl
Linda & Richard Mueller
Jeff & Cindy Nussdorfer
Robert & Nancy Plummer
Linda Pung
Deborah Remer
Thelma Riehle
Alice Robinson

Garrick & Fran Rollert
Jeanette Routhier & Jim Bowes
Chuck Saputo
Ivan & Ruth Stahl
Steve Stier & Julie Avery
Noel & Sandy Stuckman
Rex & Ginny Tefertiller
Raymond & Mary AnnWaltz
Bob & Sally Wiles
Vera Wiltse
Barb Worthington



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

Pre-Conference Edition 2023 No. 100

www.mibarn.net

Share, reuse, recycle this newsletter

MBPN Newsletter Reaches Milestone



1996



2000



Today

This edition of the MBPN Newsletter is its 100th edition! In the years since the Network began creating this quarterly update for our members, the newsletter has featured innumerable stories and photos of barns throughout Michigan...and reports on what our

board members, volunteers, and supporters are doing to promote our mission. To look at our archived library of newsletters, visit our website (under "Resources"), and you'll find a wealth of history... and information!