

Barn Grant Fund Established Commemorating Mauri Williamson

Mauri Williamson was a giant in the agricultural heritage world. But on January 30th, we lost more than a preservationist, we lost a friend. Mauri was an inspiration to all who knew him. While many know Mauri Williamson was the founder of Pioneer Village at the Indiana State Fair, he was also a founder of Indiana Barn Foundation. His guidance, advice and undying belief in our mission has been critical in the growth of our organization.

We have always believed that to accomplish our goal of establishing a foundation to provide barn preservation grants, IBF would need to be a grassroots effort and have solid leadership. He was instrumental on both those fronts. While we have raised enough capital for a solid operating budget, it wasn't until we received a substantial gift from Mauri's grandson, Cameron Mohr, that the Board of Directors agreed it was time to take a leap of faith and move forward to establish a separate fund to provide grants for barn preservation. This fund

has been named the Mauri Williamson Barn Preservation Grant Fund. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the Bicentennial Barn Quilt Auction and Fundraiser went into this fund.

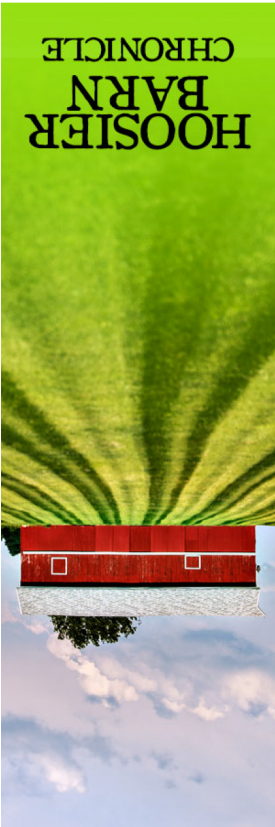
Mauri often said that we needed to raise \$3 million to fund this project. We have not reached that goal. Not even close. But the committee is now writing guidelines and preparing an application process, and we will start with a limited number of small grants. It is a start, and we will keep Mauri's vision alive as we continue our mission of "Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn At A Time".

Indiana Barn Foundation is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible. Donations can be ear-marked for the barn grant fund and mailed directly to IBF, 1201 Central Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46202, or can also be made online at www.indianabarns.org.

Welcome New/Renewing Members!
Kenneth Baker
Danial Butler Family
Jim and Donna Dugan Family
Mary Lu Kolb Orr Family

Nicole Stevens Family
Switzerland County Historical Society

Thank you Donors!
R. Donald Bell
Douglas Long
Charles Mitchell Rentschler
Janet Walker
Kent and Joy Yeager



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Want To Barnstorm Indiana This July?
Join IBF July 21, 22 For Bus Barn Tour and Annual Meeting

Well, now you can!
In 2017, Indiana Barn Foundation's Annual Meeting will have two days of modern-style barnstorming. And you're invited! Choose one or—better—both days! Membership is not required for either day—but joining is a great, inexpensive and tax-deductible way to support IBF's heritage barn preservation mission. You can easily join on-line at www.indianabarns.org, on the enclosed mail-in registration slip or that Saturday at the Annual Meeting.

First day

All-day on Friday, July 21, 2017, join IBF's first-ever bus barn tour. Heading out from Greenfield, IN, you hit the road in an air conditioned charter bus—to see and learn about historic barns and rural life in Indiana's Hancock and Madison Counties—both convenient to Indy, just to its East and Northeast. Travel to/from the heritage barns with narration from learned Barn Detectives and County Historians. Enjoy your included lunch at Tuttle's Orchards, before hitting the road again for more vintage barns. Space is limited—first 46 registrants are guaranteed a seat. And there may or may not be a second bus.

The bus leaves promptly at 9 am Friday morning, from the parking lot at Greenfield's Country Inn and Suites. It'll return there later at tour's end. Cars may not follow the bus. If you choose, there's a limited bloc of rooms reserved by IBF at a reduced rate at the Country Inn, which offers a free hot breakfast, and close proximity to other fun-loving barn enthusiasts. There are also many other lodging options nearby.

Only \$55 per person for the bus barn tour, with lunch included.



The Littleton-Kingen barn is the largest round barn in Indiana



*The Frost Stone Barn in Hancock County.
Photos used with permission by Brigitte Cook Jones*

Second day

On Saturday, July 22, 2017, come one, come all to the Normandy Barn on the Indiana State Fairgrounds for IBF's big annual meeting! It's a short drive from Greenfield. The meeting begins promptly at 9:30 am. There will be lots of opportunities to ask questions and learn, from:

- Keynote speaker Rudy Christian is a renowned timber framer and barn restorer. Christian is also a great "barn detective" and key figure in promoting historic methods of saving old barns.
- Doug Hurt, head of Purdue's History Department and author of American Agriculture: a Brief History, who'll talk about early Indiana farm life.
- Chris Baas, barn preservationist from Ball State, who'll talk about ancient hay press barns.
- A panel of Hoosiers who took their old barns—and in new ways—gave them new lives. Find out how it can be done.
- Annual Members Business Meeting with Election of Board of Directors

Of course, there's another delicious lunch included. This time, it'll be with

live barn music—you'll want to tap your toes while eating! The cost is \$45 for everything Saturday at Normandy Barn, with lunch included.

Register for either or both days, quickly and easily, online at www.indianabarns.org, mail in the registration slip enclosed in this IBF Newsletter, or join at the Annual Meeting. Join us!

Bicentennial Barn Quilt Auction and Fundraiser A Success, Following a Change of Plans

Starke County Barn Owner Melba Shilling Places Winning Bid

For the past year, IBF planned to hold a Quilt Auction and Fundraising Event in a convenient, central Indiana Location. We had promoted the date of March 4th and reserved space at Indiana Historical Society's Stardust Cafe. But with just one week remaining before the event, only a handful of tickets had been sold. Whether it was the timing, the location, or other circumstances, it became clear that we needed to change plans.

It was decided instead to hold an online auction. "We really didn't know what to expect from this fundraiser", said IBF President Carolyn Rahe. "We didn't know if the quilt would be purchased by a philanthropist wishing to make a donation, or by someone wanting to loan it to a museum. As it turns out, most of the items were purchased by people with a personal connection to the items or to the barns they represent."

The quilt was purchased by Melba Shilling, of Starke County. "I was hoping it would end up some place where people could continue to see it", says Melba, and she is open to ideas on how to best share it with the public and to continue to raise awareness and funds for Indiana Barn Foundation.

After hearing the story of the Shilling barn, it seems it could not have ended up in a more meaningful home.

Melba shares why the quilt means so much to her. "My husband Jim was the president of the Starke County Historical Society when he got a call from quilter Judy Harness. She had heard about the Bicentennial Barn Quilt project, and that there wasn't a square for Starke County yet. She called The Historical Society and asked Jim to send her some photos of Starke County barns." One of the photos he sent was of his own barn.

"Jim's grandfather built the barn in 1902. Jim grew up in the house and played in that barn growing up. He had so many memories of the barn from his childhood. Sometimes I think it's a wonder he lived to tell them!" Jim remembered one close call when he was sledding down the barn bank, which spooked a horse, causing him to rear up.

"His foot came down right next to Jim's leg and broke the sled." He shared other stories with Melba of stacking hay and having sleepovers in the barn.

"Jim was determined to have a quilt plaque made with his grandfather's name to put on the barn. He did that three or four years before he died. When Judy Harness told him she was going to use Jim's barn for her quilt square, he was so pleased. He didn't live long enough to see the Bicentennial Barn Quilt completed, but he knew it was going to be a part of it." Jim Shilling died in October of 2015. The quilt square that Judy Harness contributed is a beautiful image of the Shilling barn with the quilt plaque and "Edgar W. Shilling, 1902" depicted in the 6" quilt block.

"I decided to spend some of the insurance money to contribute to Indiana Barn Foundation by way of this quilt. I think Jim would have been happy with that choice." Melba remains involved with the Starke County Historical Society, and has plans to display it there on occasion. She has also been in communication with another IBF member on ways that the quilt can be loaned to other organizations and continue to benefit IBF.

Joy William, the Indiana Bicentennial Barn Quilt Coordinator, is pleased that the quilt will have an avenue to be appreciated by the public for years to come. "I am so grateful to Mrs. Shilling for opening her home to the quilt and looking for ways to share it with the community. I was contacted by many Hoosiers over the past year, concerned that the quilt would be boxed up in a storeroom by a collector and never seen again. I am

happy to tell them a generous philanthropist is willing to make it available for display."

Thank you to Melba Shilling for sharing your story and for your generous bid, which will provide a lasting legacy to Indiana barns. All totaled, the auction raised \$4,823 which will be placed in the Mauri Williamson Barn Preservation Grant Fund. Thank you to everyone who participated in the auction and who donated items!



Detail of the Starke County Shilling Barn Quilt Square, by Judy Harness



Brenda Krom and Melba Shilling received the Bicentennial Barn Quilt at the Shilling farm on May 1st, 2017. Melba Shilling of Starke County placed the highest and is the new "custodian" of the quilt.

Monroe County Barn Tour Set for October

Indiana Barn Foundation will head to Bloomington and Monroe County for this year's fall barn tour. The annual tours are important fund raisers for IBF. Featuring at least eight barns, the tour will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The cost will be \$10 per adult. Tour goers will see barns of varying ages, types and uses, from a dairy barn converted for horses to another reused as a limestone sculptor's studio. Additionally, two historic barns were relocated to the county, each with a new farm use, and two are of log construction.

In the tradition of the area's annual cycling events and year-round cycling community, this year's route will also invite tour goers to travel by bicycle.

For those coming from long distances or who wish to make the trip into a weekend get-away, primary event sponsor Visit Bloomington will arrange a block of rooms at a special rate. Additionally, downtown Bloomington and the surrounding area feature numerous restaurants and live music venues.

For updated information about the tour, follow the Barns of Monroe County Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyBarns/> or check into the Indiana Barn Foundation website later this summer. Those interested can also contact IBF Monroe County Representative, Danielle Bachant-Bell, at lordandbach@gmail.com or (812) 336-6141.

Calendars of Upcoming Events!

July 21, 22, 2017 - Bus Barn Tour of Hancock County Barns on July 21st with Annual Meeting on July 22nd at the Normandy Barn, Indiana State Fairgrounds.

October 28th, 2017 - Indiana Barn Foundation's Fourth Annual Fall Barn Tour of Monroe County Barns
Indiana Barn Foundation's Annual Business Meeting to be Held on July 22nd - During the July 22nd Annual Meeting to be held at the Normandy Barn, a short business meeting will be held. During this meeting, a new class will be elected to the Board of Directors. All members are invited to vote, or to nominate new Directors. Nominations or questions should be directed to Board President Carolyn Meyer Rahe at carolynrahe@indianabarns.org. Terms ending in 2017 up for reelection include Janet Ayres, Marsh Davis, Craig Leonard, Judy O'Bannon, and Bob White. Other new Board members who have been nominated include Donya Lester, John Parsons and Tim Sheets. Following the Annual Meeting Board of Directors will vote on officers of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.



Originally a dairy barn, this Monroe County barn has been updated to house horses. This barn and others will be part of IBF's Monroe County Barn Tour to be held October 28, 2017



This rare Monroe County log barn will be part of IBF's 4th Annual Historic Barn Tour



Hinkle-Garton Farmstead's Dairy Barn can be visited during IBF's October 28th fall barn tour. the Hinkle-Garton dairy barn was depicted for the Bicentennial Barn Quilt Monroe County Square

Barnstorming Madison and Hancock Counties

While barnstorming Madison and Hancock Counties on July 21st, tour participants will appreciate some background on these two counties that remain largely rural. Thank you to Madison County Historian Stephen T. Jackson and Hancock County's CVB Director Bridgette Cook Jones for providing this information.

Named for President James Madison, Madison County is the northernmost of the two counties, and was originally inhabited by the Delaware Tribe of Native Americans. Settlers took advantage of the White River, with Canals providing transportation of goods during the 1830s. Between 1830-1880 grain was ground into meal and shipped along the White River and Fall Creek. Today the county remains predominantly rural, with 737 farms averaging 278 acres in size.

Hancock County was named after John Hancock, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and was established in 1828. The first log cabin was built there in 1811. The area attracted settlers because it was relatively flat, and had good access to water. Farmers had to clear heavy forest and contend with marsh and swamp. The National Road bisected the county and allowed farmers to bring their product to market. Today 84.4% of the county is still in farm production and it remains mostly rural. Hancock County is home to over 90 Hoosier Homestead farms, which are recognized by the State of Indiana for having remained in the same family for over 100 years.

Ruby's Little Red Barn (continued from page 3)

Woodburn is a small town and people talk. Eventually the word of my plans and renovations spread. I started receiving stories upon stories of the wonderful events held here. Everything from weddings, graduations, reunions, proms, confirmations, and even community square dances. Thousands and thousands of memories were made here! The nostalgia of the barn and the history I was uncovering made my passion grow stronger. The idea of bringing back this once thriving reception hall was a far-fetched dream for many years, but a dream I was passionate about none the less.

The odds were against us, but we kept persevering. Over the years, we managed to replace the roof and fix the water damage. The more we fixed, the more the barn along with the dreams of its future came alive. The barn is now fixed to the point where it will last for my generation. However, if we can give it a function and a purpose by revitalizing this once popular event venue that so many people love, it can last for many generations to come.

We have gotten our LLC, and I have decided to name the company Ruby's Little Red Barn. So far, we have gotten approval from our county to go ahead with our reception hall plans. However, the codes and permits required for such a business in Indiana, especially here in Allen County, are much more strict than they were back when the Hanefeld family ran the business. The expenses are mounting, but I think that this project is bigger than me and too important to give up on the account of money. My husband and I are self-funding this project as much as we can and doing most of the work ourselves to save money and make this venue affordable so everyone can enjoy it. I am not looking to get rich from this venture of mine. I just think that what was put forth by the generations before me deserves to live on for as long as possible and be

accessible to the public. These old barns are disappearing from our landscape at an alarming rate, but I am determined to do what I can to save this one and hopefully inspire others to do the same.

Unfortunately, conventional loans are out of our reach at the moment, so I am stepping out of my comfort zone and searching for unconventional funding in the form of investors, lenders, grants, or donations. I started a Kickstarter account that unfortunately didn't get funded. I am not giving up and I am looking into different crowdfunding platforms. I also plan to join the National Trust for Historical Preservation #ThisPlaceMatters campaign to gain awareness of my project. If I am successful on any of these platforms, I think I can start a movement that inspires others like me to believe that they too can help save the precious few old barns we have left. I'm nobody special, so if I can do this anybody can.

Our barn has gained local attention. We were featured on 21Alive, our local news, in a segment called "In your country". We were also featured in the National Barn Alliance blog. This is all very exciting! Now, with the help of the Indiana Barn Foundation, I can reach so many more that care about our disappearing barns. No matter who you are or what you do, you have the power to preserve the past and create a future for these amazing barns. If you believe in something, you are already half way there. Never in a million years did I ever see myself here, but it is when you are least expecting something that the greatest things can happen. Sometimes I feel like a little fish in a big pond, but if all of us little fish come together we can make waves and preserve our history and heritage.

Like our Facebook Page to follow our progress, <https://www.facebook.com/Rubys-Little-Red-Barn-LLC-680020135497713/>

Ruby's Little Red Barn

It is exciting to see the interest in barns grow as more and more are being used as event venues. This year's Annual Meeting will feature a panel discussion by barn owners who have repurposed their barns - a great way to give old barns new life! IBF member Jessica Erpelding shares the story of restoring their barn to its past glory as an event center, and the creative efforts they are making to fund the restoration. Thank you for sharing your story, Jessica!

My name is Jessica Erpelding and this is my unexpected journey of how I fell in love with my barn and its story. Growing up I wanted to travel and live in big cities, and I thought that I would never want kids. But, here I am content in the smallest city in Indiana with three wonderful children and a loving, supportive husband and I couldn't be happier. I feel that it is when you let go of your inhibitions and let the universe unfold itself, you find yourself where you were meant to be. Here is the story of the Little Red Barn on a farm in Woodburn Indiana.

My husband and I were looking to buy our first home. We were supposed to look at another house down a block but we accidentally took a wrong left turn and stumbled upon this property that had been for sale for quite some time. We fell in love with the house, property, and the barn was rundown but still a perk. We had no idea about the history of the barn until after we purchased the property.

The barn itself is a bank barn and is shown on a 1938 aerial picture of the property and may have been built prior to that. Unfortunately, we may never know the actual age of the barn. Our tax records are wrong. It says the barn was built in 1943. So, I checked with the township trustee to check their property records, but



according to our township trustee the property files were burned in a fire decades ago. Bummer... So, the search continues.

It is needless to say, they do not build barns like this anymore. The barn was used for livestock up until Ruby and Oscar Hanefeld purchased the property in the early 1960's. They successfully transformed the barn into a popular reception hall in our area, that was in business until the late 1980's. This was no small feat. The Hanefeld children have told me stories of having to shovel out manure all summer one year. They built a beautiful hardwood dancefloor upstairs by connecting the two existing haylofts. They also added onto the barn to accommodate bathrooms and running water. They even managed to heat the building and run the business year-round. At the time that Ruby and Oscar accomplished all of this, the property was located on a dirt/stone road and barn reception halls were unconventional at the time. They definitely had guts to do what they did, but they were very successful. Prior to us purchasing the property, the barn had sat with little to no maintenance for 25 years. The roof was leaking badly, there was severe water damage to the inside and part of the dance floor, and was cluttered with remnants of the flea markets Ruby used to have from time to time. The upstairs was covered in about 3-4 inches of bird poop. It's funny because I remember when the realtor showed us the barn he said to us, "Think of it as a diamond in the rough." We had later decided to clean it up enough to have our own wedding reception in it. It was when I was pressure washing the floor upstairs, that I realized it was all beautiful hardwood. I remember thinking to myself, "There's my diamond!"

(Continued on Page 6)

WANT TO BARNSTORM INDIANA?

NOW YOU CAN!

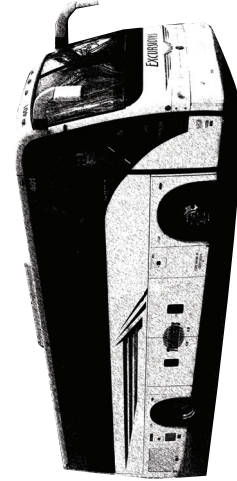
COME ALONG WITH US

FRIDAY, JULY 21 & SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017



INDIANA BARN
FOUNDATION

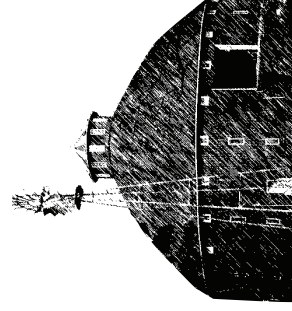
Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn At A Time



BUS BARN TOUR

Hancock & Madison Counties
(just E & NE of Indy)

Day 1 Friday, July 21, 2017 9AM



Your *COOL AND CUSHY COACH BUS* heads off from the parking lot at Country Inn & Suites, 2070 N. State Street, Greenfield, Indiana.*

The bus will be filled with other barn enthusiasts, a county historian, and expert barn detectives who will share what they find in each of the historic barns you will tour. Mid-day enjoy a **tasty lunch** at a working farm. *All-day bus tour.*

BE ON TIME! - The bus leaves at 9AM and cars *may not follow!* First 46 registrants guaranteed a seat.

(Might or might not be a second bus.)

*(Hotel room at Country Inn & Suites, Greenfield, is offering a reduced rate to you but call soon at (317) 467-0999)

\$55 for everything Friday

COME ONE, COME ALL!

IBF's BIG ANNUAL MEETING

Day 2 Saturday, July 22, 2017 9:30AM



Dedicated to Purdue's Mauri Williamson

GET YOURSELF TO THE NORMANDY BARN on the State Fairgrounds for the annual meeting that will start **promptly**. The Normandy Barn (not far from Greenfield), is located at 1202 E. 38th Street in Indy. It will be the location for the annual meeting of the nonprofit Indiana Barn Foundation. Join in for a different kind of Barnstorming!

Learn from a famous barn restorer and other experts about:

- Old Barns • Early Indiana Farming • Ancient Hay Press Barns • Barn Repairs

Plus..... **hear** from a panel of folks who have creatively found new uses for their old barns. Ask them “how-to.”

Again, a **tasty lunch**, but this time with **LIVE BARN MUSIC**.

\$45 for everything Saturday

Easily register on-line at www.indianabarns.org

OR

✂-----**REGISTER HERE**

Name(s) _____

Address-city-state-zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Enter Number _____ of tickets for **FRIDAY BUS TOUR @ \$55 each** = \$ _____

Enter Number _____ of tickets for **SATURDAY ANNUAL MEETING @ \$45 each** = \$ _____

YES! Sign me up for (tax-deductible) membership in IBF Individual @ \$20 each = _____ Family @ \$30 each = _____ Membership Total = _____

Membership is not required, but *crucial* for IBF's Preservation Mission

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =

Make check payable to: **INDIANA BARN FOUNDATION**

Send this order form and your check for the total to: Gwen Gutwein / Indiana Barn Foundation

Keep a copy of this order for your records

925 Forest Avenue, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46805

(Any questions? Email [Gwen Gutwein gwengutwein@gmail.com](mailto:Gwen.Gutwein@gutwein@gmail.com), Janet Ayres ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com, or Carolyn Rahe carolynrahe@indianabarns.org)