



HOOSIER BARN CHRONICLE

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2014 - What A Year!

It's hard to believe that just a year ago the idea to form a foundation to provide assistance to barn owners toward barn preservation was little more than a dream and a few enthusiastic phone calls. But that dream has gotten amazing support, and is now a reality!

Within weeks of those first conversations, we began developing a board of directors and forming a nonprofit foundation. We now have a fund established within Indiana Landmarks, the largest nonprofit preservation organization in the country. This allows us to receive tax-deductible donations that will allow us to fund matching grants for

barn preservation while we seek 501c3 status. Our board now has 17 members from all over Indiana, with diverse backgrounds in agriculture, the arts, and historic preservation.

Annual Meeting

On July 12th we held our first Annual Meeting at the

Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Again, people came from all parts of the state - from Angola to Madison and areas in between. Judy O'Bannon, Indiana's former First Lady, was the keynote speaker and touched everyone's hearts by sharing how memories come alive when she spends time in her southern Indiana 1866 restored log barn. After the meeting we enjoyed homemade ice cream, a tour of the Williamson Pinframe Barn, and visiting with other barn owners.

Indiana State Fair

For 17 days in August we had a booth at the Indiana State Fair in the pinframe barn, right next to the oxen. Our volunteers had a great time meeting barn



enthusiasts and sharing our mission to save Indiana's historic barns. One thing we learned was that people from all walks of life appreciate and want to see Indiana's barns saved. Barns are so much a part of our heritage and tie us to the land like nothing else. It's inspiring to see so many people share their connections to Indiana's barns.

Historic Barn Tour

On September 27, we held our first Historic Barn Tour in north central Indiana. Over 200 people attended this self-guided driving tour. The route was 50 miles long and passed 100 barns, ten of which were open to visitors.

Historian Duncan Campbell provided written histories of each barn type, and the barns' owners were available to answer questions. It was a great day to see some of Indiana's beautiful barns, as well as learn about their histories and preservation.

One of the key goals of our foundation is to be able to fund grants to barn owners for barn preservation. We now have a fund established that will be used toward this goal; enough that we are hopeful to be able to start taking applications in 2015.

2014 was a great start for Indiana Barn Foundation, but we've only just begun. We have teamed up with other established organizations like Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Farm Bureau, and will be working with the Bicentennial Commission to raise awareness of efforts to preserve Indiana's barns.



Celebrating Success

A unique 1855 limestone bank barn sat deteriorating in Jefferson County. Indiana Barn Foundation board member Gwen Gutwein knew the barn well, and made a call to Indiana Landmarks. The story of this barn save says much about the power of an individual reaching out and making a connection, but also the importance of having like-minded people united with a common mission. Working together with other groups like Indiana Landmarks, Indiana Barn Foundation can foster those connections and together we can make a difference!

(Reprinted from Indiana Landmarks with permission.)

Indiana Landmarks tries to be a matchmaker for historic buildings that need attention. We recently matched an Ohio family with a mid-nineteenth-century stone barn near Madison.

Gwen Gutwein, an artist on a mission to paint a historic barn in every Indiana county, alerted Indiana Landmarks to the deteriorating Lloyd-Field Barn outside Madison in Jefferson County. Her painting of the barn was featured on the cover of a calendar illustrated with her work. Built in 1855 for Zephaniah Lloyd, the large limestone bank barn sat unused near the burned ruin of a brick house on a farm of several hundred acres owned by Don and Janice Field.

Indiana Landmarks found the Fields receptive to the idea of saving the barn by carving out acreage on which the barn sits if we could find a buyer. "Indiana Landmarks optioned the barn and began contacting people we thought might be interested in a unique place



like this," says Greg Sekula, director of Indiana Landmarks Southern Regional Office in Jeffersonville. "I knew Brady Kress was hunting for a southern Indiana getaway, so he was on my list of prospects for the barn."

Kress is president and CEO of Dayton History in Ohio, and formerly worked at Indiana Landmarks' Eastern Regional Office. He and his wife Amy have two daughters, ages 8 and 11. "We were always checking out the For Sale section on Indiana Landmarks' website and in its magazine. We considered many properties in southern Indiana and northern Kentucky before Greg brought the Lloyd-Field Barn to our attention. It looks like something you'd see in southern France and it filled every checkbox on our wish list—a unique historic building that

needs help, a beautiful setting that includes a creek and a cave, the location within two hours of our home in Dayton."

The Fields sold the Kresses a 10.5-acre parcel for \$120,000 that includes the barn and the ruin of the c. 1830 farmhouse. A preservation covenant held by Indiana Landmarks was part of the deal.

"We were quick to say yes because we'd be heartbroken if this fantastic barn collapsed," Kress noted. Using contractors and DIY labor, the Kresses will clean out the barn and immediately repair the central cupola and surrounding chestnut timbers and address other areas where the wood lintel and stone need attention. They hope to resurrect the house in a second phase.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways you can help IBF become a thriving, statewide organization and fulfill our mission to preserve Indiana's historic barns.

- Make a tax-deductible donation. This will make possible a key feature of our foundation - providing grants to go directly to preserving barns.
- Become a County Representative - Ensure that we represent the whole state and that the barns in your area are represented!

- Volunteer - Volunteers are always needed at barn tours and to help at our State Fair booth. Sign up now to schedule your day at the fair!
- Email info@indianabarns.org. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/IndianaBarns and www.facebook.com/groups/indianabarnfoundation/ for all the latest.

Board of Directors

Duncan Campbell	Monroe County
Rep. Bob Cherry	Hancock County
Marsh Davis	Marion County
Sara Edgerton	Marion County
Chris Flook	Delaware County
Gwen Gutwein	Allen County
Kevin Kellems	Jefferson County
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Marsha Williamson-Mohr	Tippecanoe County
Kent Yeager	Harrison County

End of Year Appeal



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Bicentennial Barn Project

Bicentennial Barns of Indiana is a program endorsed by the 2016 Bicentennial Commission. Indiana Barn Foundation is working with

this committee, whose goal is to celebrate and preserve Indiana barns.

A highlight of the program is a contest wherein 200 barns will be selected and designated Bicentennial Barns. From those 200, ten will receive a framed plaque made by Indiana Artisan Dorrel Harrison. Entries can be made on the Bicentennial Barns website, which IBF will link to when it is complete. Stay tuned for more information!

Tax Deduction for Indiana Barn Owners!

At last Indiana has passed legislation that will provide a property tax deduction for barn owners! State Representative Bob Cherry authored HEA 1046, which has been signed into law by Governor Pence. The bill permits 100% property tax deduction against the assessed value of a barn that qualifies as a heritage barn. Heritage barns are defined as constructed before 1950 and are not being used for business purposes or in the operation of an agricultural enterprise. An application must be filled with the auditor in the county in which the barn is located. The deduction will apply to the 2015-16 tax bill cycle. "This is a start," says Rep. Cherry, who serves on the Indiana Barn Foundation board of directors. "People say 'Why put a new roof on it? It would just cause me to pay more taxes. Why not just tear it down?' My goal is to save as many of these barns as we can."

Calendar

Send submissions to info@indianabarns.org for consideration.

Dec. 12, 2014 - March 1, 2015 - The Heritage Barns of Indiana exhibit at Midwest Museum of American Art, Elkhart, IN. Artist and IBF board member Gwen Gutwein's paintings of barns from her series of barns from 92 counties will be on display.

July 11, 2015 - Indiana Barn Foundation Annual Meeting - Normandy Barn at Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indiana

August 7-23, 2015 - Indiana State Fair

September 19, 2015 - 2nd Annual Historic Barn Tour

October 1, 2015 - Bicentennial Barns Deadline for contest entries.

Thank You Donors and Volunteers

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