

HOOSIER BARN CHRONICLE

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Monroe County to host the Indiana Barn Foundation Barn Tour in October

The Monroe County Barn Tour, a fund raising event to benefit the Indiana Barn Foundation, will take place on Saturday, October 28, 2017, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The self-guided tour will feature 13 barns and outbuildings at 9 locations, from Bloomington and its environs to the county's outlying corners.

The barns vary in age, type, and use, from a dairy barn converted for horses and named an Indiana Bicentennial Barn to a dairy barn reused as the studio of limestone sculptor, Dale Enochs. The artistic traditions of the area will also be featured at Whippoorwill Hill, a historic working farm that is home to a rare c.1840s double crib log barn. The second barn on the property, a historic barn relocated from Shelbyville, IN, for reuse as event space, will host the Upland Plein Air Artists exhibit and paint-out. Kyle Clifton, owner of Indiana Barns LLC, will also be on hand to talk about his company's work relocating and rebuilding the barn.

Other stops on the tour include a rehabilitated 1855 English threshing type barn, a c.1885 Transverse frame barn originally part of

a dairy operation, a small c.1940 log barn made from a re-purposed cabin, an 1850s barn relocated from Northern Indiana for use on a

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm and also named a 2016 Indiana Bicentennial Barn, and an early 1900 Transverse frame barn that is part of the 7th generation family farm of Purdue Extension-Monroe County's Agriculture and Natural Resources Educator. The dairy barn and three farm buildings at the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead Museum & Historic Site are also part of the tour, with the corn crib housing the "Harvesting at the Farmstead" exhibit. Inside the 1892 main house will be live music and the rural still life photography exhibit of Jon Benson.



Tour goers are also invited to visit the 2016 Bicentennial Barn Project Traveling Tour from October 2nd through November 13th at the Wylie House Museum's Morton C. Bradley, Jr. Education Center, a relocated barn at 307 E. Second Street. Exhibited will be ten framed barn plaques by Scott County's Indiana Artisan, Dorrel Harrison. Admission to the barn plaque exhibit is free.

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The 2016 Bicentennial Barn Plaque Traveling Tour comes to Monroe County

The 2016 Bicentennial Barn Project Traveling Tour will be on exhibit from October 2nd through November 13th at the Wylie House Museum's Morton C. Bradley, Jr. Education Center at 307 E. Second Street in Bloomington. Exhibited will be ten framed barn plaques by Scott County's Indiana Artisan, Dorrel Harrison. The exhibit will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. during regular museum hours or by appointment. Admission to the barn plaque exhibit is free.

In 2016, Dorrel Harrison was part of a steering committee of interested agriculturists, artists, and historians who came together to create the Bicentennial Barn program to bring attention to Indiana's agricultural heritage during the bicentennial year. Over 200 Hoosiers entered the project, endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission, by submitting barn images and information on-line. At the Indiana State Fair that year, all who posted an on-line entry of their barn received a Bicentennial Barn sign presented by Indiana Farm Credit, Indiana Farm Bureau, Beacon Credit Union/Beacon Ag Group, and Indiana Landmarks. In addition, the top ten winners of the project received a customized framed barn plaque donated by Harrison.

Harrison is a retired educator and photographer originally from upstate New York. He moved to southern Indiana in 2003. A member of the Scott County Arts Council, Harrison sponsored several county wide classic barn contests in 2007 and introduced his three dimensional barn plaques as prizes. In 2008, he was designated an Indiana Artisan and is the only Scott County artist with that designation. Harrison's barn plaques have been at the Indiana State Museum store, Indiana State Fair, and Madison Table Works in

Madison, Indiana, and Branson, Missouri. In 2012, Harrison's Scott County barn plaques became a permanent free public exhibit at the Mid-America Science Park in Scottsburg, Indiana. The traveling tour in 2017-2018 completes the project at various venues where Harrison's framed barn plaques will continue to celebrate Hoosier barn heritage.

Harrison was invited to display his 2016 Bicentennial Barn Project Traveling Tour in Monroe County in conjunction with the Monroe County Barn Tour on October 28, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information about Dorrel Harrison's barn plaques, visit www.barnmillplaques.com



New Grant Fund Approved to Assist Barn Owners

At the Indiana Barn Foundation's Annual Meeting this summer, the newly formed Mauri Williamson Barn Preservation Grant Fund Committee proposed a fund that would assist Indiana barn owners in the repair and maintenance of historic barns. Such a fund has been a goal of IBF since it's founding in 2014, and the Board enthusiastically endorsed the proposal.

The committee worked through several considerations to design a two-year pilot program that will respond to IBF's limited funding realities while promoting IBF objectives. At the same time the committee realized that even modest barn repairs can be expensive, and that there is likely to be a large demand for funding once the grant program is

publicized—a demand that will be difficult to meet without an aggressive fund raising strategy.

Although fundraising was not the objective of this committee, it wanted to propose a competitive pilot program that would enable existing funds to stretch as far as possible while such a strategy is being developed. Though limited in scope, the proposed two-year pilot program does not use up all of our funds too quickly—\$5000 per year over two years—but it does allow IBF to begin making grants soon, thereby meeting two primary objectives of the organization—actively saving

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Grant Fund (Continued from page 2)

heritage barns and promoting barn preservation. This pilot should provide a two-year opportunity to test the applicant pool and funding demand, initiate program promotion, and assess fundraising needs.

In essence, the grant program is a tool for communicating IBF's mission, and building a broader constituency, even though funding capacity is currently limited. At a minimum, IBF would have to raise \$5000 per year to sustain even this limited pilot grant program, and obviously IBF would like to raise much more. To sustain and grow the grant program, IBF would need to raise \$10,000 per year.

The committee concluded that the best type of grant program, one that will stretch current IBF funds, and better meet repair costs, is a matching grant

program. Under such a program, applicants will compete for IBF grants of up to \$2500 per project, and will be required to match that amount with their own funds or in-kind value, such as donated labor. Initially, IBF will grant two projects per year, each receiving \$2500. With the match, each project could complete \$5000 worth of repairs, or more if the applicant acquired additional funding.

The Williamson Grant Fund Committee is currently developing application forms and instructions, establishing application and eligibility guidelines, and evaluation criteria, and working to determine the application process and timeline. This information will be available later this fall, in time to take applications in early 2018.

Barnstorm 2017 and Annual Business Meeting Highlights

IBF's first-ever Barnstorm weekend in July brought barn enthusiasts together for two full days of networking and opportunities to learn in fun, hands-on ways.

Bus Barn Tour

On Friday, July 21st, a sold-out chartered bus left Greenfield to tour six historic barns. The group was led by renowned "barn detectives" from across the country, who pointed out details that gave clues to the barns' backgrounds, construction methods and cultural significance. County historians from Hancock and Madison counties were also on hand to talk about their respective counties. Rudy Christian, a well-known timber framer from Ohio was joined by architect Chuck Bultman of Michigan and barn historian Duncan Campbell from the IBF, who together shared their insights with the crowd.

After lunch at the Tuttle Orchard, the group had an unexpected delay when it was discovered the bus had gotten stuck in the mud. While it provided some added excitement, the tour organizers quickly arranged for a replacement

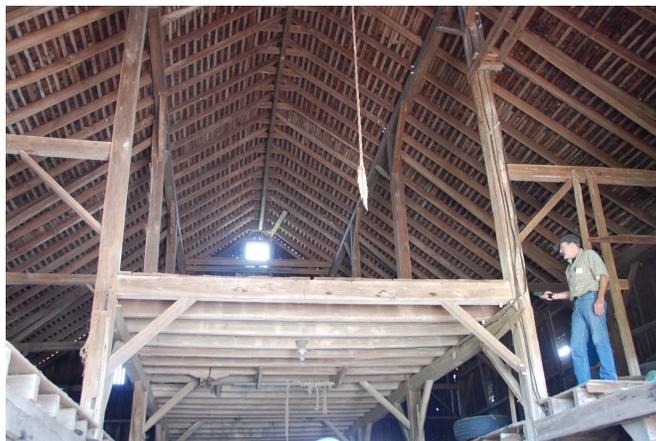
bus and the group was soon back on the road for their second half of the tour.

Tickets for the Bus Barn Tour were completely sold out by a week before the tour, so remember to order your tickets early for our next event!

Special thanks to IBF's Gwen Gutwein and Pamela Pfrang who did a fantastic job at organizing this successful, 2-day event!

Annual Event

Saturday's event was dedicated to the memory of Mauri Williamson, who helped found Indiana Barn Foundation. Mauri's presence will be sorely missed by the many people who called him friend, and by the world of agriculture. His passion for working with people and his dedication to agricultural heritage were inspiring to everyone who knew him. Donya Lester, who was a longtime friend of Mauri's and who succeeded him in his role with Purdue Ag Alumni gave a lively and touching tribute to Mauri Williamson, and urged us all to keep up the good work of saving Indiana barns. The day's programming



Barn detective Chuck Bultman shares his insights on the architecture during Barnstorm 2017

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Barnstorm (continued from page 3)

included a presentation on Hay Press Barns by Chris Baas, an interesting look at Indiana's agriculture history by Doug Hurt, and the keynote address, "The Value of Stewardship" by timber framer Rudy Christian.

A panel discussion followed a delicious lunch in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds, where Saturday's event was held. In the program "Old Barns, New Ventures", barn owners who have repurposed their barns into a variety of businesses shared their struggles and successes with the group. The panel included Ivisa Huber of This Old Barn B&B, Tom Dull of Dull's Tree Farm, and Mary Lu Kolb Orr of Kolb Homestead Farm-to-Fork.



new class of directors, who will serve 3-year terms. The class of 2017-2020 Board of Directors include Janet Ayres, Clare Ellison-Rexing, Kurt Garner, Tommy Kleckner, Donya Lester, John Parsons and Tim Sheets. Advisory Board Members will include Marsh Davis and Judy O'Bannon. Following the Annual Meeting, the Board met and elected officers to

the following positions with 2-year terms: President - Janet Ayres, Vice President - Sara Edgerton, Secretary - Tim Sheets, Treasurer - Carolyn Meyer Rahe. Please join us in thanking outgoing officers Gwen Gutwein as Vice President and Marsh Davis as Treasurer. This all-volunteer board is to be commended for their hard work and dedication to "Preserving Indiana's Heritage - One Barn At A Time"!

Thank you to sponsor Indiana Barns, LLC, and to Gwen Gutwein and Pam Pfrang who organized this year's first-ever two-day Barnstorm Indiana! It was an amazing weekend!

New IBF Officers and Board of Directors Election

During the brief Annual Members Meeting, IBF members had the opportunity to nominate and elect a

Welcome New Members and Donors!

Jean Allen
 Catherine Anders
 Bart and Rebekah Bailey Family
 Hilary Barnes
 Corrine Boncek Family
 Bruce Buchanan
 Chuck Bultman
 Jim Calli/Marie Thomson
 Charles Curtis
 Janet Dorsey
 Jim and Donna Dugan Family
 Clare Ellison-Rexing
 Maynard and Beverly Feitz Family

Anna Gilsinger
 Theresa Haneline Family
 Mary Hardin
 Robert Kiskin
 Tommy Kleckner
 Casey Knigga Family
 Bil Kruser Family
 Donya Lester
 Mamie Lilovich Family
 Janice Peterson
 Donna and Steven Pitts Family
 Randall & Kelley Rosenkrans Family

Julie Reynolds
 Marcine Schwomey
 Ron Schwomey
 Bob Sherman
 Joyce Smidley
 Amy Thompson/Dionicio Nunez Family
 Sara Wheeler Family

Donors

R. Donald Bell
 The Convention and Visitors Bureau of Monroe County

Barn Tour (continued from page 1)

Tour tickets are \$10 per person advance, \$15 the day of the tour, and under age 15 years free. Advance tickets (cash or check) are available at the Visit Bloomington Visitors Center, 2855 N. Walnut Street; the Monroe County Purdue Extension office, 3400 S. Walnut Street; or online with credit card at the Indiana Barn Foundation website at www.indianabarns.org. Day-of tour tickets will be sold at two of the tour sites only, the Hinkle-Garton Farmstead, 2920 E. 10th Street, and the Munson Family Barn, 6707 W. Rockeast Road. Credit card purchases must be made online.

For updated information about the tour, follow the Barns of Monroe County Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/MonroeCountyBarns/>. Follow us on Instagram at #monroecountyinbarns. Thank you to our tour sponsors, Visit Bloomington, Steve, Kathy and Sarah Headley with Headley Quarter Horses, Scott McDonald with Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, Joseph Aldridge with Northwestern Mutual, and Whippoorwill Hill.



IBF Leadership Meets

Six new board members were elected at the Annual Meeting in July and joined their first board meeting on September 25. Joining the board are Kurt Garner from Marshall County; Donya Lester, Purdue Ag Alumni; John Parsons, Hendricks County; Tim Sheets, Howard County; Clare Ellison-Rexing, Vanderburgh County, and Tommy Kleckner with Indiana Landmarks in Terre Haute. Janet Ayres and Judy O'Bannon were re-elected to the board. They join with current board members Duncan Campbell, Kent Yeager, Joy William, Mac Williams, Bob Cherry, Sara Edgerton, Gwen Gutwein, Pamela Pfrang, Carolyn Meyer Rahe and Marsha Williamson-Mohr.

The board will continue with several projects initiated under Carolyn Meyer Rahe's leadership. And, some new efforts will be launched. These include:

- Launching the grant program for barn owners
- Offering expanded technical assistance and educational resources to barn owners
- Launching county-wide barn inventories with a new app created by Tim Sheets
- Raising a minimum of \$10,000 to continue the grant program
- Seeking business and corporate sponsorship and partnerships
- Promoting IBF and increasing membership

- Encouraging county barn tours in collaboration with IBF
- Enhancing and expanding the role of county representatives

One of the exciting initiatives is the launch of county-wide barn inventories. For some time, we've wrestled with how to go about this daunting task. Duncan Campbell has played a critical role in putting together information about barn types and features, developing a survey form and creating an inventory process. Tim Sheets took this information and created an easy-to-use app that is currently being tested in Carroll County.

Barn Inventory App Introduced Teaching Sessions Start This Fall

Two workshops are scheduled to learn what's needed to conduct a county-wide survey, how to go about it, and how to use the app. The workshop dates are Saturdays, **November 11, 1-3 PM** at a location in central Indiana and **February 24, 10-noon** in southern Indiana. These workshops are open to any IBF member who is interested in undertaking a county barn inventory. If interested in attending a workshop, please contact Janet Ayres at: ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com

Indiana Landmarks
1201 Central Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46202



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