



Vol. 5, No. 3

A Publication of Indiana Barn Foundation

Fall, 2018

## Annual Meeting Filled with Poignant Stories

Tom and Kerry Dull, owners of Dull's Christmas Tree Farm near Lebanon, served as sponsors and hosts for the 2018 IBF Annual Meeting. For the past four years, the Normandy Barn on the Indiana State Fairgrounds has served as the annual meeting venue. This year brought an opportunity for IBF members to meet in a newly repurposed heritage barn that was moved to the Dull farm from Carroll County.

Tommy Kleckner, Director of the Indiana Landmarks Western Regional Office, set the stage for the day with a Power point presentation that featured beautiful, interesting and unique heritage barns from across the state. Tommy's explanation about the cultures that shaped the various styles and features of the barns captivated the participants.

Janet Ayres and Duncan Campbell, IBF board members and heritage barn owners, discussed the little known Heritage Barn Tax Deduction and the process that barn owners can take to apply for this property tax savings. (See the



*The recipients of the Mauri L. Williamson Barn Preservation Grants were introduced at the 2018 Annual Meeting. From left to right are Ingrid and William Koressel (Monroe County), Duncan Campbell (IBF board member and grant committee chair) and Regan and Lisa Becker (Fulton County). (above) - Not pictured is Jeff Becker*

*Duncan Campbell describes the Fulton County barn that was awarded IBF's first barn grant. (below)*



article in this newsletter.)

Carolyn Rahe, IBF past president, introduced speakers who told stories about three barns that have moved to new locations. On behalf of Kyle Clifton, Indiana Barns LLC, Carolyn presented photographs Kyle had taken of an 1860s barn moved from rural Indiana to Australia. Nupi McCreary from Indianapolis shared how her family's treasured barn was moved to a farm in Johnson County after being threatened by encroaching urban development. Perhaps the most "nail-biting," and humorous, story was told by Brent Snyder from Marshall County. Through the use of photographs and videos taken by a drone, participants could see how the barn was raised and moved, inch by harrowing inch, to its new location.

After a delicious, country-style lunch, complete with just picked corn-on-the-cob, a brief annual meeting was held to elect new board members. New to the board this year are Danielle Bachant-Bell who serves as chair of the County Reps Committee and Lou Malcomb who serves as Membership Chair. Re-elected to another three-year term are

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Annual Meeting (continued)

Carolyn Rahe, Gwen Gutwein and Sara Edgerton. Retiring board members are Marsha Williamson Mohr, Pamela Pfrang and John Parsons.

Duncan Campbell introduced the 2018 recipients of the Mauri L. Williamson grants. Their poignant stories about why they were investing to fix up their old barns left participants with a reminder of why we love old

barns. (See article.)

Tom and Kerry Dull wrapped up the day by speaking about why they chose to invest in their barns, and how they are integral to their thriving Christmas tree and agri-tourism business. The capstone to the day was the sun that broke through the rainy day – just in time to take a tour of the barns and log cabins.



*The historic buildings at Dull's Tree Farm have been lovingly preserved*

## Heritage Barn Tax Deduction Filing Deadline Nears

If you are the owner of an old barn and you have not yet filed for the Heritage Barn Tax Deduction, you may be eligible for some property tax savings. You may want to look into this benefit before the end of the year.

The Indiana State Legislature passed Indiana Code 6-1.1-12-26.2 in 2014, becoming effective with assessments after that time. The Indiana Barn Foundation and Indiana Landmarks were leaders in pursuing this legislation intended to encourage barn owners to maintain and repair their old barns. Yet, many barn owners have not taken advantage of this tax deduction.

To find out if your barn is eligible, start in your County Assessor's office. Staff can look up your property assessments and determine if your barn is assessed as a "Heritage barn" meaning it:

(A) was constructed before 1950;

(B) retains sufficient integrity of design, materials and construction to clearly identify the

building as a barn; and  
(C) is a mortise and tenon barn. (A mortise and tenon barn is a barn built using heavy wooden timbers, joined together with wood-pegged mortise and tenon joinery, that form an exposed structural frame.)

The Assessor's office will give you an application form you must fill out, State Form 55706 (R/6-16). Upon verification from the Assessor's Office, the form is then taken to the Auditor's Office.

The County Auditor makes the final determination. The application must be completed and signed on or before December 31 of the year for which the deduction is sought and filed or postmarked on or before January 5 of the following year.

You can obtain the form by mail or in person.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Janet Ayres, IBF President, at: [ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com](mailto:ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com)

# The 2018 IBF Barn Tour

The 2018 tour was a self-driving tour of 12 barns in Jennings County Indiana, held June 23, 2018. It started at the Jennings County Historical Society's museum in historic Vernon, Indiana. The day was gloomy with the rain almost ruining the mood for a tour, but as soon as tour attendees walked into the museum, the IBF Bicentennial Barn Quilt welcomed them. [Thanks goes to Melba Shilling for loaning us the quilt for the day]. Its fabulous design and colorful make-up brightened everyone's spirits. IBF president, Janet Ayres, was also there to help attendees understand the role IBF can play in preservation of our state's barns.

We sold 121 tickets both online through the IBF website (30) and onsite at the museum (91). Attendees came from as far away as Colorado and Pennsylvania but most were from in-state. The president of JCHS created a barn quilt as a door prize which was given away at the end of the day to a Ripley County participant.

Several activities were provided at the barns including a hot dog roast and hayride at the Kinder Homestead Barn and Reynolds barn. Stream Cliff Farms showed the old Artz barn now used for barn markets and other events. The Shepherd Barn had been totally re-painted for the event. Oak Grove Stables had planned to have a race horse on the training track. While the rain prevented use of the track they did have the horse on hand. Oak Grove's history speaks to the development of the harness racing industry in Indiana, since its creator, James B. Curtis, came from Goshen, New York, and established Oak Grove to bring quality thoroughbred horses to Indiana early in the 1800's.

An 8 1/2 x 11 photograph book about the tour is available from IBF as part of the fundraising effort. The book costs \$20.00 and provides photographs and historical descriptions of all the barns on the tour.



As tour coordinator, I learned a great deal about tour organization and preparation, the history of these specific barns, and what it's like to run a barn tour. While some of the participants had worried that people wouldn't want to see old barns, they were delighted with the turn out, especially from out-of-town guests. And they enjoyed the questions attendees asked about construction, maintenance and uses of the barns. Everyone involved with the tour wants to see more barns preserved in the county, and to learn the history of our barns including their importance to the development of our agricultural industry.



# The Indiana State Fair 2018



*This summer IBF Volunteers shared our mission with Indiana State Fair visitors. The IBF booth is becoming a recognized presence in Pioneer Village, having been in this location for five years in a row. Thank you to all who helped at our table!*



## Welcome New Members!

Mike Ault Family  
Michael Bell Family  
Bonnie Bowers  
Aaron Crane  
Dale De Young Family  
Mitzi De Young Family  
Jack Dibrell Family  
Michael Doseck  
Lucinda Embry Family  
Ann Garl  
Jim Garland

Eric Graninger Family  
Larry Heger  
Sheila Julian  
John Katterjohn Family  
Robert Kiskin  
Christine Kitch  
Don Kitch  
Halie Machen Family  
Ross McCampbell Family  
Cindy McGraw Family  
Susan Meadows

Erika Miller Family  
Connie Miller Family  
David Miller Family  
Rebecca Ralston  
Dean Smith  
Scott Stam Family  
Nancy Stone  
Jinny Thompson Family  
Mark Thompson Family  
Jacob VanDeventer

## A Dream Come True

This summer at IBF's Annual Meeting, the first-ever recipients of the Mauri L. Williamson Barn Grants were announced. As I listened to the stories the owners told, of their passion, dedication and love for their barns, I couldn't help thinking that this day was a dream come true for me.

As a child, I used to ride along to farms with my father who was a veterinarian. He used to photograph barns on his route, and he eventually turned his photos into a slideshow that he called "Save the Family Farm", which he shared at community events. As an adult, I saw the struggles of barn owners to maintain their barns, and joined with others in forming a nonprofit foundation to support barn owners.

We jumped right in to the work, and in 2014, our first year, we held a barn tour in Northern Indiana. I convinced my dad to let us include his barn in our first tour. I remember meeting a woman named Lisa that day, who came with her nine-year-old daughter to my parent's barn. Both were awe-struck by the magnificence of the old structure, and my dad was happy to show the little girl how to shell corn on his old-fashioned, hand-cranked corn sheller. Lisa showed me a photo she had brought of her own barn that she was determined to save.

Lisa was convinced that her barn was unique and worth saving, but her neighbors didn't all concur. Many said it was too big a project, and it was too far gone. But Lisa knew they had something special on their hands. Lisa joined IBF, came to the annual meetings, and persisted in seeking advice. An email we received in 2016 pleaded, "Please direct me to where to begin!"

This July when the grant recipients were announced, I realized this journey that began five years ago had come full circle, and coming forward to receive their grants were Lisa Becker and her little girl (now 13) who I had met on



that first barn tour at my parents' barn.

I, like Lisa and many barn owners, have heard "You can't do that." When we heard we wouldn't find donors to contribute to saving barns, we believed we would and kept asking. When we heard "That's a big project!" as we asked for quilt squares from 92 counties to create the Bicentennial Barn Quilt, we said, "Yes it is", and kept working. The handful of people who once met in the basement of a mortuary because it was centrally located and they wouldn't charge us to use the space have kept believing in our mission, and have been joined by knowledgeable and talented people who are dedicated to saving barns. And now, in 2018, we presented our first grants, named after our friend, the late Mauri Williamson who helped start this foundation and never stopped believing.

Thank you all for believing in Indiana Barn Foundation, and for joining with us as we continue our commitment to preserve our great Indiana heritage barns.

Carolyn Meyer Rahe  
Past President, Indiana Barn Foundation



# A Look Back at the Summer of 2018

Summer is always a good time to relax and refresh, but Indiana Barn Foundation stayed busy with activities in June, July and August this year.

In June we held our yearly barn tour, this time in Jennings County. 2018 marked the fifth year that IBF has held barn tours, which have offered thousands of visitors the chance to visit barns of all styles in different locations across the state.

July brought IBF's Annual Meeting. More than just a meeting, this event brought barn enthusiasts from across the midwest together to learn from experts and other barn owners. 2018 was our fifth Annual Meeting, all of which have previously been held at the Normandy Barn at Indiana State Fairgrounds. This year we changed locations and met at Dull's Tree Farm in Thorntown. As in years past, we enjoyed great fun, fellowship, food and education, but this year that included just-picked corn on the cob, beautiful vistas of evergreens from

the deck of the main heritage barn, and a tour of their other barns and farm buildings. If you haven't visited Dull's Tree Farm, now is a good time to plan a visit to their pumpkin patch or to start thinking about Dull's as your Christmas tree farm! Visit [dullstreefarm.com](http://dullstreefarm.com).

Once again, August brought many visitors to the Indiana State Fair, and IBF was there to spread the word about our mission of "Preserving Indiana's Heritage, One Barn At A Time."

Since Indiana Barn Foundation was started, one of our main goals has been to provide financial help to barn owners wishing to preserve their heritage barns. This year we awarded our first ever Mauri L. Williamson Barn Preservation Grants to two deserving families. Join us in this Summer Wrap-Up issue as we look back at our eventful Summer of 2018, and as we look forward to what's to come.

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