

# The Old BARN POST

*A publication of Friends of Ohio Barns • March 2013 • Vol. XIV, Issue 4*

## Ohio Barn Conference XIV

The 2013 Ohio Barn Conference will be held at the Auditorium at the old Athens Asylum in Athens County. The Ohio University Department of Geography has graciously offered to host this year's conference and the OU Geography Club will be helping with some critical details that always present a challenge to a volunteer group trying to manage these events from their homes hundreds of miles distant.

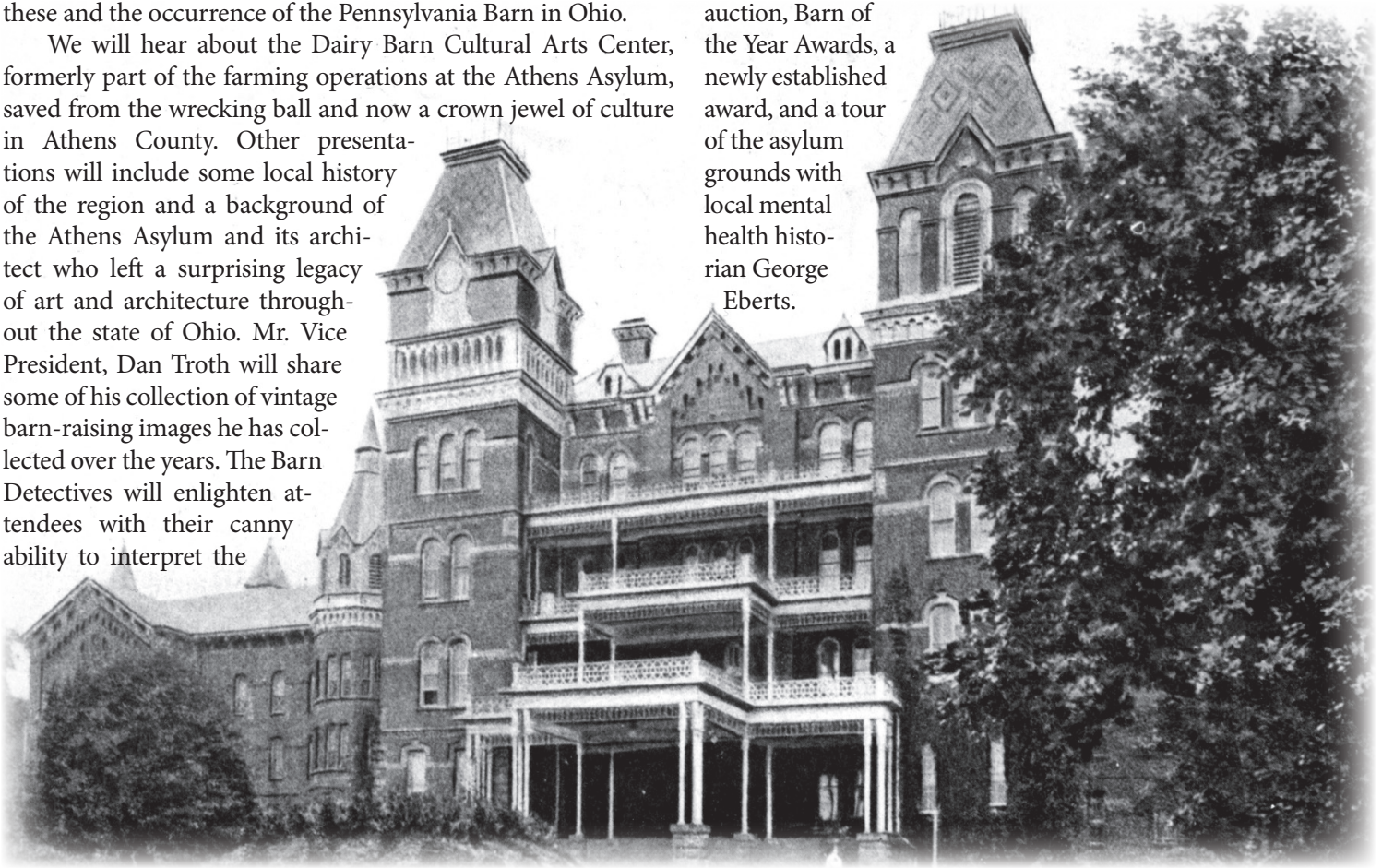
Headlining the program will be Dr. Timothy Anderson, a professor of Geography at Ohio University. Dr. Anderson has been researching material culture and settlement patterns and processes in the Ohio country and will focus his discussion of these and the occurrence of the Pennsylvania Barn in Ohio.

We will hear about the Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center, formerly part of the farming operations at the Athens Asylum, saved from the wrecking ball and now a crown jewel of culture in Athens County. Other presentations will include some local history of the region and a background of the Athens Asylum and its architect who left a surprising legacy of art and architecture throughout the state of Ohio. Mr. Vice President, Dan Troth will share some of his collection of vintage barn-raising images he has collected over the years. The Barn Detectives will enlighten attendees with their canny ability to interpret the

unusual joinery, scratch marks, empty holes, and other unorthodox features installed a hundred years ago and are detected in the barns visited on the Friday tour.

Bob Eichenberg, an environmental planning and design professional, will speak on GIS (Government Information Systems), an electronic mapping and data program, and its potential applications for barn surveys and inventories and the distribution of cultural settlements and barn types across the state. GIS is a tool that can go a long way over time to help establish a record and a database for research and conservation of Ohio's barn heritage.

The conference will have its usual fare of displays, silent auction, Barn of the Year Awards, a newly established award, and a tour of the asylum grounds with local mental health historian George Eberts.



**Pictured:** Athens Asylum main building Levi T. Scofield, architect, 1868

# Barn Conference Edition

I'm sitting at the kitchen table in my new barn house writing this article...it's after dark, usually the time when I try to catch up on things like this. You see, even though my wife and I are very excited to be in our new home, there is still much to be done. Not unlike what needs to get accomplished at Friends of Ohio Barns!

Our immediate tasks are working very hard to put together another quality conference again this year. The finishing touches are being added, and we are looking forward to visiting another part of this great state come spring.

Longer-term projects may involve FOB starting a new restoration/conservation project. I wonder if we could identify 10 barns throughout the state in need of restoration. These barns would have to be pretty special, though. They would need to be something like the restored/new barn at the Amelita Mirolo / Community Center in Upper Arlington. Maybe it could be a restored replacement barn like the Hertzler barn at the George Rogers Clark Park in Enon, or possibly it could be an in situ restoration like the barn at Malabar Farms.

Ideally it would be a barn project that lots of people will see and enjoy, will learn about, and will come back to visit again. Because, the more Ohioans see what can be done with our beautiful barns, the more likely they are to look differently at the one out their back door!

So...do you know of a really special barn in your area? If so, send me an e-mail; send me pictures; tell me a little bit about why it should be considered for a FOB project.

Stay warm and think spring!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Beck  
President

## Board Member Elections

Friends of Ohio Barns will once again be seeking candidates to fill board positions of members whose terms are expiring. There are currently three open positions.

Responsibilities include participating in the annual barn conference, attending board meetings and conference calls, and representing Friends at festivals and events with the satisfaction of knowing that you are doing something to help save a part of Ohio's rich agricultural heritage.

If you are interested in a board position, please send a short biography with your goals and ideas to Friends of Ohio Barns, P.O. Box 203, Burbank, Ohio 44214, or e-mail us at friendsohiobarns@gmail.com. Remember, new blood brings fresh ideas, and keeps the organization alive with promise!

## Friends of Ohio Barns *Board of Directors*

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*"Inside a barn is a whole universe, with its own time zone and climate and ecosystem, a shadowy world of swirling dust illuminated in tiger stripes by light shining through the cracks between the boards. Old leather tack, lengths of chain, rope, and baling twine dangled from nails and rafters and draped over stall railings. Generations of pocketknives lay lost in the layers of detritus on the floor."*

—CAROLYN JOURDAN, *Heart in the Right Place*

## Upcoming Events

If you know of any upcoming events related to barns that are going to be in your area this year, please send some information.....we would love to get the word out! Our usual events for Friends in 2013 will be:

**Friends of Ohio Barns Fall Picnic**  
September 14  
Location TBA

**Ohio Heritage Days**  
September 28  
Malabar Farms  
Mansfield, OH  
[www.malabarfarm.org](http://www.malabarfarm.org)

**Fall Festival**  
October 12-14  
Algonquin Mill Park  
Carrollton, OH  
[www.carrollcountyohio.com](http://www.carrollcountyohio.com)



# Another Barnstorming Session in January Helps Narrow Down the Stops on 2013 Tour



**Above:** An early view of White's Mill before the dam failed and the turbines were still in operation.

From aerial photo in White's Mill

A second barnstorming session in Athens County has helped identify enough stops for the 2013 Ohio Barn Tour. A stop at White's Mill on the Hocking River will start the day. Built around 1850 in a small town in Meigs County it was disassembled and reconfigured in Athens after the old Herrold's Mill burned. In October 1912, fire destroyed the mill complex leaving only the massive cut sandstone foundation built in 1816, almost 100 years earlier. Mr. White was not easily suppressed. He located a mill in Dyesville in Meigs County on Leading Creek. White purchased the old Nathan Vale flourmill, dismantled it, numbered the parts, and reconstructed it at his location on the Hocking River. One can easily see the signature of the broad axe on many of the timbers in this old grist mill. Chamfered

posts and wooden shoots for moving grain can be seen upstairs among the belts and gears and wheels still in place.

All of the barns being considered for the tour are early Ohio barns. They are all constructed with hewn timbers. Some have hewn sidewall girts and queen posts. If not hewn, braces and other

parts are cut with a sash saw. One small early barn appears to have been incorporated as a single bay in a larger and later three bay barn with a dirt floor. All timbers in that bay are hewn with a heavily constructed mow with hewn 8" X 8" joists. The rest of the barn is made of sawn timbers with some rather recent shoring up with the use of sycamore posts and beams.



**Above:** FOB board members Ric Beck and Pam Gray investigate some of the belts and chutes in the upstairs of White's Mill.

Photo by: Tom O'Grady



**Above:** A bennie for the barnstormers on this trip was a short sidebar at the Mound Cemetery. Not only were Native Americans possibly buried in this mound but so too were early settlers in Athens County who were natives of Buckinghamshire, England.

Photo by: Tom O'Grady

Across the road the upstairs of a small barn with a hay hood and a very narrow footprint has been converted into a rural apartment. Hewn plates and sawn posts remain exposed in the apartment while the hay track is hidden by drywall for purposes of energy conservation. A very expectant mother accommodated us traipsing through this nicely converted space

*continued on page 4*

## *A Special Thanks to our Donors*

We would like to recognize the donors who helped make our endowment fund a reality. Listed alphabetically, they are not related by placement to the value of their donation: Donna & Dave Anderson, Charles Bauer, Karen Burkhardt, Carter Family Foundation, Mathew Carter, Donna Cerreta, Cathrine Corley, Scott Druhot, Robert Ensminger, George Hausser, Maureen Keisel, Rachel Krause, Tina O'Grady, Yolita Rausche, Erwin Reidner, Jane Saieve, Joe Stieger, John Stilzlein, Tecumseh Land Trust, Timber Framers Guild (Ric Beck), Dan Troth, Bob Weygandt, Sarah Woodall.

Our endowment fund was set up with the Columbus Foundation on January 8th 2013.





**Above:** The Lance barn has a four bay interior with hewn posts, tie beams, sidewall girts, and queen posts and sash sawn braces. The old brick house to the left rear of this old barn was a stagecoach stop on the Marietta to Chillicothe Road.

**Photo by Tom O'Grady**

The barnstormers visited a bunch of barns and should be able to present a very interesting tour for 2013. The barns of this region of the state are considerably different from those visited on barn tours over the past several years. No Pennsylvania bank barns. Only New England ground barns, Southern barns and hybrids. Now we'll see which ones make the final cut and become the stops on this year's tour. Bear in mind that the quality of the barn is only one factor in the decision. We have to consider its location and accessibility for tour buses.

If you feel so inclined, start thinking about barns in your area of the state and consider getting in on the barnstorming sessions that put together the annual Ohio Barn Tour for upcoming years. We are always looking for help.

Tom O'Grady

**Above:** Eric Bonnaud and his sister May invite barnstormers to see the unfinished basement of the barn which has just had the upstairs repurposed as a rural apartment. A boy was born in this barn shortly after the barnstormer's visit.

**Photo by: Tom O'Grady**

and had a home birth some 43 hours later. A healthy lad was born in the barn.

Just down the road a New England four bay barn with hewn timbers is associated with an old brick home that once served as a stop on the Marietta to Chillicothe stagecoach road. Local history claims a passenger didn't make it to dinner one evening and they found his mangled corpse on the bluff above the way station. It is listed in the history books as Panther Rock.

Another possible stop on the barn tour presents a challenge to the barn detectives. Sporting unusual gable end girts above the tie beams this barn also has siding grooves and what appear to be several posts removed and raised joists in the basement. The owner has heard reports of large numbers of shell casings found on the property and the possibility that the site was once an old U.S. Cavalry post. An exciting possibility requiring more research.



**Above:** The left side of the barn at the rear of this image was originally the gable end of a much smaller barn. Two more bays were added to the right of the original hand hewn structure to transform it into a three bay ground barn.

**Photo by: Tom O'Grady**

*Regional contrasts, including differences in language, religion, land tenure, architecture and agriculture, were part of the cultural baggage carried by settlers into Ohio. Here, the persistence of tradition assured the survival of these cultural variations through time and space.*

—HUBERT G.H. WILHELM, OHIO GEOGRAPHER, 1996



# The Cable Farm



**Above:** Gable end of Cable barn. Note massive hay hood and relatively small loft space for hay storage.

Photo by: Tom O'Grady

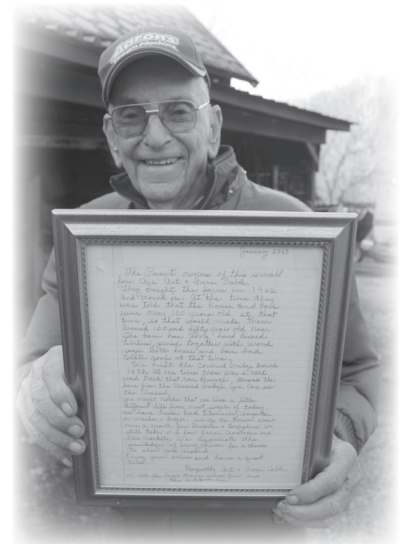
A delightful stop on the barnstorming session late in the day presented hours of potential exploration. Art and Irene Cable invited the barnstormers into their home just before dusk. Mrs. Cable continued with her quilting while Art gave us a tour of the house, the garage, the yard, the barn, and other storage facilities on his farm tucked in between the highway and an old railroad bed and large stone viaduct. Art has collected examples of all forms of transportation devices from the Model A with a rumble seat visible from the living room to the horse drawn school bus in the pole barn. Amidst the myriad of items collected and stored in the barn and out buildings for the past

**Below:** Side view of Cable barn with slate roof and extended hay hood.



Photo by: Tom O'Grady

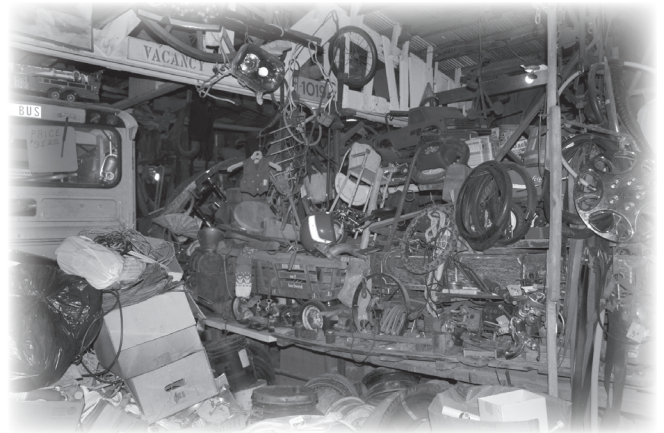
half century are a couple of horse drawn sleighs, a horse drawn buggy, a goat cart or two, a couple of boats, an MG Midget sports car, and wagons and wheels and bicycles and whatever else might be hidden below the top layer of interesting things. Art also built a covered bridge in the yard. A very interesting place and very nice



**Above:** Art Cable with a handwritten, framed welcome and introduction for our barnstorming visit in January.

Photo by :Pamela Whitney Gray

hosts. It might look like they had everything including the kitchen sink stored in one of these buildings, but Art and Irene have never owned a television, a computer, a washer or dryer. They go into town once a month for groceries and supplies and occasionally take in an auction. Yes, this visit was in January of 2013.



**Above:** Some of the myriad of items that Art has collected over the past half century.

Photo by: Pamela Whitney Gray

Art and Irene are the stewards of a very interesting barn. It is constructed with hewn timbers and has a low roofed hay mow. In spite of that relatively small storage area it has a hay track and a very unique hay hood for southeastern Ohio. Art says he was told that the house and barn were over 100 years of age when they bought the place in 1962.

Tom O'Grady

*Today, more than at any time in the past, old buildings are rapidly disappearing. We are losing landscape elements that are a key to traditional practices and the origin, migration, and settlement patterns of our ancestors. Let us remember that to understand a place like Ohio, and to have a better sense of place, the past is as important as the present. Only by knowing where we have been as a people, can we understand where we are today and where we may be going tomorrow.*

—HUBERT G. H. WILHELM, OHIO GEOGRAPHER, 1996

# Send in your nominations for Barn of the Year Awards!

Do you know of an outstanding barn in your region? If so, drop us a line and get it nominated for the annual Friends of Ohio Barns "Barn of the Year Award". The deadline for entries is March 31st.

Nominations should include photos, the current owners' name, location of the barn, current use of the barn, history of the barn including the age and builder if known, and information on repairs and who made them, if known.

Please find nomination form on our website and mail to Dan Troth, 7591 Perry Rd, Delaware, Ohio 43015. The awards will be presented at the Conference on Saturday, April 27,th 2013.

Nominations will be judged in three categories this year: agricultural use, adaptive re-use (non-agricultural) and stewardship.

Some of the criteria we use to select barns are:

### **Agricultural Use:**

*original intent and current use, generational history, current condition and barn repairs.*

### **Adaptive Re-use:**

*history of barn and present day use, completed restoration work, aesthetics, significance and exposure to the community.*

### **Stewardship:**

*restored barns that don't meet criteria above, but serve a family function such as storage, entertainment structure or not readily accessible to public.*



**Above:** The Mitch and Cathe Blower barn, with its gable end entry, appears to be a southern barn. The 35' x 42' barn is heavily timbered on the inside, destined to stand for ages.

**Photo by Pamela Whitney Gray**



**Above:** One of the two early barns on the Arbutnot farm this structure is built with all hewn timbers, hewn braces and girts with knee braces. Pegged rafters and siding grooves are additional interesting features of this barn.

**Photo by: Pamela Whitney Gray**

*The state of Ohio stands out as a region where both public and private attempts to create order on the land abound. It became the first state to be subjected to the rectangular survey system adopted by the Congress of the United States in 1785, better known as the township and range system. ... Based on that system, section and township lines run north and south and are usually paralleled by surface roads. Individual properties, including field and associated fence rows are similarly oriented, as are houses, barns and outbuildings. Among Pennsylvania folk, it was standard practice to orient their barns so that the front of the barn with the overhang and related cattle yard would face southeast. In Ohio, this traditional practice ceased when farm structures became oriented to the prevailing north-south and east-west survey and boundary lines.*

—HUBERT G.H. WILHELM,  
OHIO GEOGRAPHER, 1996

## Membership renewal time is here!

Each year we are excited to send out our Ohio Barn Conference newsletter to all our past members. We do so to invite all Ohio stewards of our magnificent barns to see more excellent examples of barns in the state, and be better informed of what is being done by Friends of Ohio Barns and our current members to help preserve the Ohio barn heritage.

We also do this in the hopes that you consider re-joining us by renewing your membership with Friends of Ohio Barns.

Your membership helps us maintain valuable programs such as the barn survey, the Junior Barn Detective program, the kids mini-barn raising, and, most importantly, all the educational and awareness programs that arm enthusiasts with information and aid in their preservation efforts.

So please consider renewing your membership! Check out our website for costs and our secure online payment method. Thanks, and we look forward to seeing you in April!



## Register Securely Online for the Ohio Barn Conference XIV and Barn Tour

Click on the Calendar of Events at the top of the menu column to the left on the homepage located at [www.friendsofoiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofoiobarns.org) and you will then see the registration button to click on in the Ohio Barn Conference XIV box. Select your type of registration on the first page knowing that you will be able to sign up your spouse on the second page where it has a button to “add a guest” at the spouse reduced rate. If you have any questions or difficulties please call Sarah Woodall at 330-856-9053 or 330-550-6982.

## Junior Barn Detective Workshop

New this year! There will be a workshop in conjunction with the Ohio Barn Conference on Thursday, April 25, from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at a local barn to discuss the issues and challenges of deciding on and completing repairs and

restoration work on an aging barn. The workshop is limited to 25 people and the cost is \$10.00pp. Please see the article on the backside of the registration insert for more information.



**Above:** This barn belonging to Kate Kelley and Willem Roosenburg will be the focus of a Junior Barn Detectives Workshop on Thursday afternoon before the Barn Tour. Is this a Dutch barn, a Southern barn or a New England barn that has been modified? Help solve this mystery.

Photo by: Pamela Whitney Gray

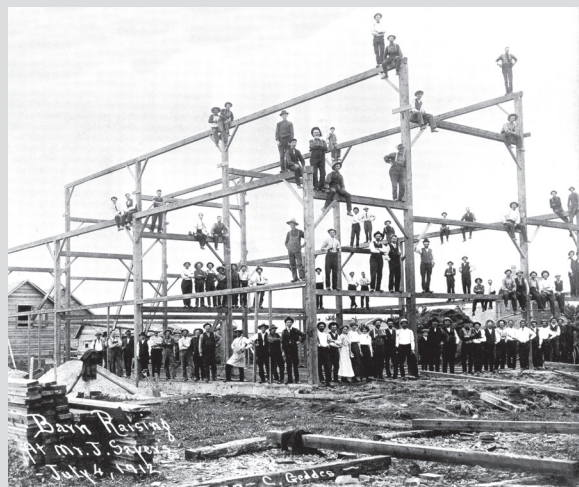
## Silent auction donations needed!

Part of the fun we have each year during the Ohio Barn Conference is, of course, the silent auction. Friends encourages everyone to bring silent auction items for the Saturday event. The proceeds help us offset the costs of the conference, and still provide you, the members, with a quality program.

We hope you can contribute an item or two – something

handmade, collectible, store bought, or something interesting you’ve found in your travels. The more you bring, and the better the items, the more exciting the auction gets!

If you can’t find anything to bring, at least come prepared to make someone else bid a little higher before walking off with a treasure!



*Mr. Vice President, Dan Troth will be presenting images from his vast collection and speaking on barn-raising at the Ohio Barn Conference 2013 in Athens. No doubt most barn raisings for the hundreds of thousands of barns raised in the Ohio country there was no one on hand with a large tripod camera setup to take such images. Many were done early in the 20th century such as this image made at a barn-raising on the 4th of July, 1912. We’re not sure where this barn went skyward but hopefully it is still standing 101 years later. When looking through a variety of images of barn raisings it is amazing that these things ever got put up. No one is ever seen working at these sites. More of these barn raisers than you would expect show up with ties on. They don’t look like they are ready for any of, or have contributed thus far to, the hard work associated with raising a barn. Maybe that is what Mr. Vice President finds so attractive about barn-raising. We hear there is a lot of good food on hand too.*



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Please recycle this newsletter. Share it with a friend.  
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**Above:** The Lochary farm includes a host of timber frame buildings including the English three bay barn with a straw shed at left and the horse barn at right.

**Photo by: Tom O'Grady**



**Above:** The Lochary horse barn has two curved hay tracks while the three bay barn has two hay track perpendicular to each other.

**Photo by: Tom O'Grady**

*Ohio's earliest settlement area, which by 1850 had more than three fourths of its acreage in farms, no longer retains the character of an agricultural region. The small-scale and self-sufficient farming that evolved as a characteristic way of life in southeastern Ohio failed as a permanent occupance phase. Today, abandoned farms, their former fields and pastures overgrown with successional forms of vegetation, are as much a part of the landscape as is the rotting coal tipple, the brush covered railroad spur, and the crumbling iron furnace. As landscape relics, they warrant little popular or professional attention. However, they are an integral part of the cultural landscape which can only be understood by the systematic study of all the forms, whether functional or relic, that serve as indicators of human settlement through space and time.*

—HUBERT G.H. WILHELM, OHIO GEOGRAPHER, 1972





# FRIENDS OF OHIO BARNs

## Ohio Barn Conference XIV

*will be held in Athens County*

*April 25, 26 and 27, 2013*

### Please join us for Ohio Barn Conference XIV!

Register securely online at [www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org) or fill out and mail form at the bottom of this page.

Friends of Ohio Barns' 2013 conference will take place April 25, 26 and 27 in Athens, Ohio at The Ridges Auditorium. It will feature demonstrations, speakers, displays, the Barn Detectives and more. Friday's barn tour by motor coach offers participants a wide variety of barns, conditions, assessments, and historic buildings in beautiful Athens County. Saturday's conference includes our annual silent auction. Check the articles in this newsletter and our website for more information.

## Membership and Conference Registration Form

Name (and guest) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Friends of Ohio Barns

#### Annual Membership Dues

*Your membership dues support our mission and help save Ohio's barns. Please renew today, and invite a friend to join us as well. You'll receive discounts on conference fees and workshops and enjoy The Old Barn Post delivered to your home.*

Individual \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$40 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Senior \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Family \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$400 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

JBD Workshop \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Registration Required, Limit 25

See back of this form for details

### Conference Registration Information

*Full conference package includes Friday bus tour, morning coffee and donuts and tour booklet; Saturday conference presentations/demonstrations, continental breakfast, lunch and conference booklet.*

*Saturday only package includes presentations/demonstrations, continental breakfast, lunch and conference booklet.*

Friends member conference fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$130 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-member conference fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$150 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$120 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday only member fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 80 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 70 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Saturday only non-member fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$100 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 90 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Reduced rates for Early Registration (before March 31):

Full conference, member fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$110 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$ 90 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Full conference, non-member fee \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$135 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$115 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to Friends of Ohio Barns and mail to the address below)**

Friends of Ohio Barns PO Box 203 , Burbank, OH 44214 website: [www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org) email: [friendsohiobarns@gmail.com](mailto:friendsohiobarns@gmail.com)

# Lodging for Ohio Barn Conference XIV

Days Inn Athens  
330 Columbus Road Athens, OH 45701  
Phone: (740) 593-6655

The host hotel for this year's conference is the Days Inn Athens. To make reservations call the hotel directly and mention the "Friends of Ohio Barns" block for the reduced rate. The block is reserved from Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>. The cutoff date is April 12, 2013.

## Register Securely Online

Click on the Calendar of Events at the top of the menu column to the left on our homepage at [www.friendsofohiobarns.org](http://www.friendsofohiobarns.org). You will then see the registration button in the Ohio Barn Conference XIV box. Select your type of registration on the first page (you will be able to sign up your guest on the second page where there is a button to "add a guest" at the guest reduced rate). If you have any questions and/or problems please call Sarah Woodall at 330-550-6982.

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## Junior Barn Detective Workshop

Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 1:00 to 4:00 pm  
Location: 14667 McDaniel Rd Amesville, OH

Willem Roosenburg and Kate Kelley have graciously agreed to host our JBD Workshop. Their barn is located at the intersection of Brawley Rd and McDaniel Rd near the address noted above. The site is about eleven miles from the conference location. The barn has recently undergone repairs and restoration work. Steve Skellett, owner of Royal Barn/Home Restoration, was the contractor hired to provide the services.

Our objective is to provide a case study of a repair/restoration project and the process in which the owners and the contractor were involved. The plan is to have both the contractor and the owners on site to discuss the progression of events that took place as decisions were made and the reasoning behind the final choices that were made. Hopefully, Steve will explain his approach for determining what repairs/restoration work would be required and what methods/material choices could be used. Additionally, we hope the owners, Kate and Willem, will share with us the process and challenges they had in making their final decisions regarding the restoration of their barn.

We anticipate an open forum discussion type of atmosphere with questions from the attendees and stories of the challenges and expectations from both the contractor's and owner's perspective.

At the end of the day we hope everyone attending will be able to walk away with a little better understanding of some of the challenges that can be expected when trying to preserve a beautiful but aging historic barn.

Sign up on the front of this insert. The cost is \$10 per person to help cover expenses. We have to limit the number of attendees to the first 25 that register due to parking and logistics. If you have any questions please feel free to send an email to Sarah and Laura at [friendsohiobarns@gmail.com](mailto:friendsohiobarns@gmail.com).

Remember, this is an outdoor event so please dress appropriately and bring your notebook and camera!

