

NEW YORK

Annual Barn Preservation Activities Report - 2004

Randy Nash and Michael Tomlan were contacted for updates regarding the NY State Barn Grant program and the NY State Barn Coalition respectively.

New York's barn grant program is still active solely on the support of Governor Pataki. Over six million dollars has been awarded over the last three years. The awards range from as little as \$2,300 to the maximum \$25,000. In the first round over 4,800 barn owners applied, 113 awards were announced. In the second round 1,300 applications were received, 120 awards were announced. The current round has 2.2 million dollars to award, 1,160 applications were received 113 awards were announced. A fourth round is not certain at this time but is probable in the fall of 2005.

Every county outside of New York City received at least one award. Most counties (48 in all) have six or more barns being worked on. The most common problem for grantees is locating a contractor to do the work within the limits of the money available for the project. To the surprise of some in Albany, the program has received very little negative press and the majority of articles criticized who received the award not the merits of the program for the public good.

Many people have asked how to start a barn preservation program in their state. I reiterate the first sentence, a person at the top who believes in the preservation of the state's agricultural artifact is a good place to start and state governor is as good as it gets.

The hands-on workshop for barn owners and contractors in barn preservation and restoration was held in Windham, New York, on June 12th and 13th, in cooperation with the Catskills Center for Conservation & Development, Greene County Cornell Cooperative Extension. The funding was provided by the Community Foundation of Windham, and a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (John E. Streb Preservation Services Fund).

Workshop instructors included James Kricker, Roundout Woodworking, Saugerties, NY; and Leon Buckwalter, Director of the Preservation Training Program at Alfred State University, Alfred, NY. Kricker is a well-recognized wheelwright and timber frame expert who has worked on projects for the Wisconsin Historical Society; Greenfield Village in Dearborn, Michigan; the Hudson Village Sloop Clearwater; and the Luis Gomez Mill House in Orange County, New York. Buckwalter has led efforts to study and restore important historic timber frame structures throughout the northeastern United States, conducting work projects with his classes in several locations.

In a bizarre turn of the political wheel in November, republican Senator Nancy Lorraine Hoffmann lost her bid for reelection, but Governor Pataki is not likely to let the New York State Barn Restoration and Preservation Grant Program go completely unfunded. The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation administers the program.

Looking ahead to the spring, the NYS Barn Coalition will be holding its annual meeting in conjunction with the spring workshop of the Landmarks society of Western New York, April 22-23, 2005, in Seneca Falls. further information will be forthcoming on the website, <http://www.barncoalition.com>.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Woodford