



The Barn Door

Newsletter of the National Barn Alliance

Fall 2010 Volume 4, Issue 2



NBA Barn-Build Educational Project

is now on the Road- The National Barn Alliance now has two regional barn models available to schools and historical sites and organizations to use in your education programs or for your events. Contact an NBA member in your region to get on the schedule. The Northeast model is a quarter-scale replica of an 18th-century New York State Dutch Barn. The model is 10 ft by 12 ft in plan and is 8 ft tall.



This model is designed to fit the NYS curriculum for 4th and 7th grade when students study State history. However, the model is very accurate, having correct joinery, and can be used for older students in technology and shop classes, and adult historical events where these details are a must.



The Midwest Model (from Tim Narkiewicz) was built by Trillium Dell Timberworks and is a replica of the new Antique Engine & Tractor Assn. Museum in Geneseo, IL, which they built and is based on the 1842 Midwestern Ground Barn at the Garfield Farm Museum in LaFox, IL. There are several objectives of the Barn-Build Project. First, this model can be used to teach 'community', as does a real barn-raising. The raising of the Museum barn was a large-scale, multi-generational community event sponsored by the Timber Framers Guild. "The community *is* the building... without community these buildings will decline" Timber-framed barns were built to last centuries, and this model to meant to help build community that will serve our preservation efforts.



The model offers other educational opportunities. There are lessons in geometry and traditional methods of proportion. The 1842 barn and model are based on the 'rod', a unit of measure 16'-6" in length. This unit was standardized in 1607 and was how our landscape was surveyed. The Garfield barn and most Midwest barns have sidewalls about one rod in height. The other elements are in proportion, there is a 2:1 ratio between the width of the floor and the sidewall height. These are pieces of the ancient system of layout known as sacred geometry, a shared sensibility of right proportions. This is part of our shared community fabric.

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Board Member Profile- Michael Woodford

Mike Woodford lives in Fabius in central New York and is the Treasurer of the NBA. He has many years experience in barn restoration work and is the current Vice-President of Woodford Bros., Inc. a well-known barn repair company. Mike is responsible for all customer relations, sales and marketing duties as well as a shared responsibility for the general direction and management of the company whose territory runs from Maine to Minnesota to Virginia. In addition to traveling to regional and national conferences for the NBA, Mike gives workshops on barn rehabilitation for universities and historical groups in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and New York. Mike is a licensed pilot and member of the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association.



Join the National Barn Alliance today! Our Mission:

- Encourage the documentation, through surveys and photography, of historic barns and other rural structures throughout America.
- Encourage and support the creation of statewide and local barn preservation organizations and programs.
- Facilitate the sharing of information on barns, their history and their maintenance.



Your membership will help us in our efforts to document and protect our vanishing rural heritage. For more information visit our website at www.barnalliance.org

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| Membership Categories: | \$20.00 Student | \$30.00 Individual |
| \$50.00 Family | \$100.00 Not-for-profit Affiliate | \$500.00 Corporate Affiliate |

Name _____
 Organization _____
 Address _____
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Send your check (payable to NBA) and membership form to:
 National Barn Alliance, Inc., c/o Vera Wiltse, 5580 N. Chippewa Rd., Coleman, MI 48618
 Or Join online with PayPal at www.barnalliance.org/membership.html

Recent Pennsylvania Barn Tours by Jeffrey L. Marshall

Two self-guided barn tours were held in southeastern Pennsylvania in October. The Worcester Township (Montgomery County) Historical Society held its first barn tour and the 6th annual Bedminster Regional Land Conservancy (Bucks County) Barns and Farms Tour was on October 17th. Each tour boasted about a half dozen barns. In both cases, the organizers were happy with the turnout and participants seemed appreciative of the tour. The highlights of each tour were several 18th and early 19th century barns.



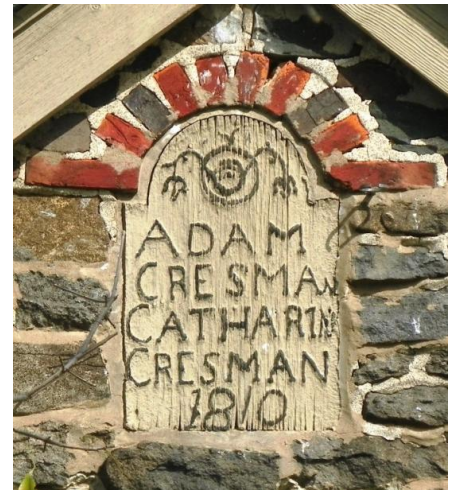
The stone English Lake District bank barn with its characteristic pent roof above the stable doors has a beam with Mathias Rittenhouse's initials and the date of 1760 located in the interior of the structure above the wagon doors was the oldest barn on the Worcester tour.



The most unique barn on the conservancy's tour was an unusual log and stone barn. The barn was a hybrid of sorts. Unlike the more traditional double crib log "ground barns" that used to dot the region, this barn has stone walls on the lower portion of the barn, reminiscent of the stone stable area of the traditional two story bank barns for which Pennsylvania is famous. Another barn on the conservancy tour was the 1810



Cressman Barn, a traditional "Pennsylvania Standard Barn" where a frame forebay was added to after its initial construction (the cantilevered section at the left of the photo). "Standard barns" is a term popularized by Robert Ensminger to describe two story bank barns that (unlike Pennsylvania German Sweitzer barns) have symmetrical rooflines because instead of having a cantilevered forebay above the stable doors, the stable door wall is recessed under the front wall to provide shelter. Pennsylvania Standard barns almost always have a frame siding on the front wall above the stable doors while the rest are made of stone, stone and frame, frame or brick construction above the stone basement foundation.





Washington- The Heritage Barn Program is still listing barns and giving some matching grants to help stabilize and repair those structures. At our last meeting in Spokane, October 15, we listed 23 more barns over 50 years old, bringing the total in our registry to 444. Over 30 barns have been given matching grants in a very competitive application process. Historic significance, urgency of repairs, and readiness to restore are some of our criteria. We also give special consideration to barns on the National Historic Register and to those still in agricultural use. We also try to vary the geographic distribution so that barns all around the State are being saved. The current and second grant round is due to be completed by June 30 of next year. The committee is always proud and amazed to see the before and after pictures. I am sharing the most recently completed barn located in Colfax. The before picture was taken last June, the after picture was taken this October. Enjoy! Jerri Honeyford, Chair, Washington State Heritage Barn Advisory Committee.



BRING THE NBA TO YOUR STATE--

Barns are disappearing from the American landscape. On our website you will find information and links to help save the barns in your hometown. Join our nationwide effort to save the historic farm buildings of the American countryside. [Please become a Member](#) of the National Barn Alliance today.

New York- Winnakee Barn Tour, Dutchess County



Missouri- A new state group is forming- Missouri BARN. To join, e-mail Bill Hart at missouribarn@yahoo.com.

Kansas- About 120 Kansans toured 10 barns in Pottawatomie County on September 10. This fundraiser for the Friends of the Fair Pavilion will assist in continuing the restoration of this National Register octagonal structure. The tour included several native limestone barns including a 2002 Barn Again! award winner. Three farmsteads on the tour are owned by 3 generations of the same family. One is the Henneberg award winning barn built by the owner's great uncle. The Staudenmaier barn, subject of the June barn repair workshop in Doniphan Count, will be completed in time for the October 9 tour in that area. The oldest barn on that tour will be an 1850's stone barn. The newest will be a 1910 barn built to raise mules for the U.S.Army at Fort Leavenworth.



4th Annual National Barn Alliance Conference, Atchison & Doniphan County, Kansas June, 2010 The Historic Preservation Fund grant through the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office and more than a year of planning culminated in the National Barn Alliance conference being held in northeast Kansas. Over sixty-five barn preservationists came from nearly a dozen states to hear and see presentations on the need to reuse older barns and local the history of the region. Presentations were made by NBA president Charles Leik, Susie Haver, president of the Kansas Barn Alliance, Bill Noll, history instructor at Highland (KS) Community College, Marci Penner, Caitlin Meives of the Kansas SHPO, Jan Jantzen, Ron Wilson, cowboy poet ‘Iariat’, Laura Fortmeyer, Jenny Pachta, Sarah Hoffman, Mario Fantasma, Mike Woodford of Woodford Bros. Construction, and dendrochronologist, Dr. Darrin Rubino. Dr. Rubino took sample cores from the 1860’s era Tietjen barn and the c.1880 Staudenmaier barn where a 5 day barn repair workshop had taken place June 6-10. Participants toured six Doniphan County barns. The oldest barn on the tour was the stone Tietjen barn near Robinson. The newest was an octagonal barn built in 1914-1915. A barn tour booklet gave a brief summary of each barn as well as a glossary of structural nomenclature and drawings to educate viewers about barn construction. Learning about barn construction is one way to help people appreciate these buildings created usually by anonymous barn builders of a century ago with materials no longer available. Sally Dorr Hatcher See more at www.kansasbarnalliance.org



Kansas Barn Repair Workshop-

Craftsmen Brian and Richard from Trillium Dell Timberworks led six class participants, from MO, CA, IL, KS, in a hands-on repair course on this 1880 Doniphan County timber barn. Twelve cribbing towers were used to raise the barn for post and foundation repairs. Rotten wood on the old posts was cut off and new post sections were connected to the old with vertical scarf joints. Traditional and new technologies were demonstrated. Timberframer’s joints and wooden pegs were used along with epoxy, screws and steel connectors. This project was funded through a grant from the Historic Preservation Fund of the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office.



*Pennsylvania
Swiss Barns in America*

I am writing to share news with you about our wonderfully successful "Celebration of Swiss Barns" in the USA, Canada and Switzerland on August 7, 2010.

Over 1,000 people attended and over 10,000 were touched by messages, images, and views of the wonderful Swiss Barns which form the core of 25% of the barns in North America, with their prototype in Graubunden Switzerland.

One outcome of the event was the formation of the International Barn Alliance and its purpose to list each and every Swiss Barn in North America, and we ask your readership to send their contribution to e-mail saveanchorbeams@cs.com, and highlight their cantilevered forebay bank barn.

JIM SCHERRER, JSSCHERRER@AOL.COM
BUNDESRIEF SOCIETY, WWW.BUNDESBRIEF.ORG



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The Fall Barn Tour of the Winnakee Land Trust, Dutchess County, NY, included this Dutch Barn.