

# BARN LIGHTS

Quarterly Newsletter

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

VOL. 3 No. 1 Spring 2016

## Barn Day expands to become Barn Month

In 2015, we tested out the idea of having more barn-related events during May. So, it's official: May is Barn Month in Madison County. Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Barn Day will continue to be the capstone event of the month. This year the date is **Saturday May 21**. The barns toured will be different but the dinner location at the end is the same—The Steen's Barn in Mars Hill. The auction will have some of the popular items return for bidding but there will also be some new exciting offerings. This is a great event beginning with the tour of a few historic barns narrated by Taylor Barnhill and ending with a great meal in a modern-day "party barn" with music and fun.

This is our most highly anticipated event of the year with a limited number of tickets. Members have the opportunity to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public. Members also get \$5 off each ticket. So, if you have not renewed your membership for 2016, remember to do so.

Barn Month will kick off with an opening reception for an exhibit of barn images (photos and paintings) at the Arts Center in Marshall entitled "The Barns of Madison County." This exhibit will have items from both professionals and amateurs and run through the month of May. The reception is free and open to the public beginning at 5:30pm on **Friday, May 6** at the Arts Center. The next day—**Saturday, May 7** from 10 to 2—our good friends at Root Bottom Farm are having an Open House to showcase their barn and their farm. Stop by and be amazed at the transformation of the type of barn the Appalachian Barn Alliance works to document. This is the face of today's farm. Our last event is a workshop presented by Heather South, archivist at the Department of Cultural Resources in Asheville, on Photo Preservation. On **Thursday, May 24** from 6:30 to 7:30pm at the Marshall Library, you can pick up tips on how to take care of those historic photos handed down to you. Watch for reservation information on our website.

### BARN MONTH EVENT CALENDAR

**Friday, May 5 at 5:30pm**—Opening Reception of "The Barns of Madison County" exhibit at The Arts Center at 90 s. Main Street in Marshall FREE (Exhibit will run all month long). <http://www.madisoncountyarts.com>

**Saturday, May 6 10 am to 2 pm** —Open House at Root Bottom Farm at 1201 East Fork Road, Marshall. FREE <http://www.rootbottomfarm.com/>

**Saturday, May 21 2:30pm to 7:30pm**—Barn Day Tour followed by dinner and silent auction. Tickets will go on sale April 15 for members.

**Thursday, May 26 6:30 to 7:30pm**—Workshop on Historic Photo Preservation at the Marshall Library. Watch for details on our website and in our emails.



## The President's Letter



As I reflect back on the snowy winter and get a twinge of Spring Fever every time the temperature breaks the 50° mark, I admit that I love this time of the year. Our Board is feverishly planning not just a spring benefit concert but also working all the events associated with Barn Month in May. Most of all, I am so pleased that we are able to bring together all those of you who have shared with us your many barn photos and paintings into an exhibit during May.

This time of the year finds us partnering both inside our county and outside. We are teaming up with the Mars Hill University Music Department students for the first time to host a benefit concert on April 10. In addition, we have benefited once again from the friendship with Don McGowan and Bonnie Cooper. They have an exhibit of photographs of our barns at the Asheville Eye Associates. A reception on March 24 will provide us the opportunity to talk to a new group of people about our organization. Our materials are already there with the pictures. And, the March issue of *Plough to Pantry* marks the debut of ABA stories which will appear in every issue of the magazine. It seems that the Barn Alliance is springing up just like the shoots of plants in the springtime and what a great feeling as the new growth spreads our word. Follow the details on our website. I hope to see you at one of our events.

*Sandy Stevenson*

### Barn Alliance Series Debut in *Plough to Pantry*

Frances Figart, the editor of the quarterly magazine *Plough to Pantry* (a sister publication to *The Laurel of Asheville*) loves barns as much as we do and felt that her magazine is a perfect vehicle to tell our barn stories. And so, Taylor Barnhill (our researcher) will share a story in every issue of the magazine beginning with the March issue. Taylor will use the March story to introduce The Appalachian Barn Alliance to the readers. Then, with the June 2016 issue, he will move to sharing the many stories and facts that he has collected as part of the oral histories and architectural information that he has gathered during his research. Follow our stories with every issue of *Plough to Pantry* (available free wherever you have found *The Laurel*—including at the Madison County Visitor Center in Mars Hill) or digitally at [www.ploughtopantry.com](http://www.ploughtopantry.com).

### YOU ARE INVITED

" WITH THESE HANDS "  
Exhibit at Asheville Eye Associates  
8 Medical Park Drive in Asheville  
A Reception  
March 24th from 5:30 to 7pm.

Don McGowan and Bonnie Cooper will have an exhibit of 16 of their barn photographs entitled WITH THESE HANDS, AN APPALACHIAN BARN EXHIBIT. Taylor Barnhill, Lead Researcher for the Appalachian Barn Alliance, will present an audio-visual show about the barns and the organization. The exhibit runs through June. A portion of sales of the photos will go to the Appalachian Barn Alliance.



## Valentine's Day Concert

After a week's worth of cold temperatures and snow that would not melt, Mother Nature was on our side as the sleet and the snow took a break for the afternoon on Sunday, February 14. Our benefit Valentine's Day Concert featured the talents of the Steve Davidowski Trio. In the beautiful setting provided by the sanctuary of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, the crowd truly enjoyed the soft jazz and rock sounds of Steve Davidowski on piano, keyboard, and (at times) sax. Steve was joined by Jeff Rudolph on the drums and James Simmonds on the bass. Sebastiaan Ziip and Ariel Dixon of The Farmer's Hands ([www.thefarmershands.com](http://www.thefarmershands.com)) provided the scrumptious appetizers for the intermission and what a treat that was! It was an afternoon of a great blend of wonderful music—which enticed some to take to the “dance floor”—delicious food and that special atmosphere that seems to follow us whenever we tell people about our project. The best part was the new faces that were introduced to the Appalachian Barn Alliance's mission.



Sebastiaan Ziip and Ariel Dixon



Steve Davidowski Trio



*Dancing in the aisles*



**“Welcome Spring” Benefit Concert**



Mark your calendars for an encore at the wonderful location of the Valentine's Day Concert. On Sunday, April 10 at 3pm, The Appalachian Barn Alliance will host a benefit concert at The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. This time we are pleased to have a selection of the most talented Mars Hill University music students who will be performing in several sets of eclectic ensembles of orchestral and vocal selections. The tickets will be just \$10 in advance or at the door. Refreshments at the breaks will complement the beautiful mood as we enjoy the wonders of the month of April. Watch for our notices as the members of the congregation may have additional ideas for that day. Tickets can be bought at the door or you can reserve tickets by email to [info@appalachianbarns.org](mailto:info@appalachianbarns.org).

## APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

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*Donations to our organization are always  
welcome. Checks to Appalachian Barn Alliance, PO Box 1441, Mars Hill, NC 28754*

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