

BARN LIGHTS

Quarterly Newsletter

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

VOL. 3 No. 4 Winter 2016



2016 Annual Meeting: Appropriate Venue



Our Annual Meeting in October had a new look. Because one of our board members, Les Reker, is the Director of the Rural Heritage Museum and our researcher, Taylor Barnhill, was the curator of the new exhibit at the Museum, we combined our meeting with the Opening Reception for the exhibit. “Shelter on the Mountain: Barns and Building Traditions of the Southern Highlands” provided a perfect backdrop for the work of the Appalachian Barn Alliance. So, we had both old friends and members as well as new friends present to learn about what we have accomplished in the last year to “preserve” the historic barns of our area.

2016 brought our organization 4 new board members—Janet Foster, Susan McChesney, Lynn Steen, and Lesley King—as well as impressive recognition of our work. We received a \$6,000 matching grant from the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and a front-page article in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*. Money raised at our fundraising events and the donations exceeded totals from previous years. Board President Sandy Stevenson told attendees to make it a point to look at the tool display and the farm sled in the exhibit. Those items were donated to the Barn Alliance and will form the beginning of the goal to establish a museum to house such items on a Heritage Farmstead in Madison County—a new vision which has been added to the work of the organization.



The President's Letter



Like many of you, during the Thanksgiving holiday, I take time to reflect on my blessings over the past year. And, for the Appalachian Barn Alliance, we have truly had a blessed year. Our recognition with the grant from the prestigious National Trust for Historic Preservation ranks at the top of that list. Having articles in *The Asheville Citizen Times*, the *Mountain Xpress* and the *Plough to Pantry* that were initiated from their end are sources of pride. On a more personal level, the expansion of our supporter base, the Board and the Advisory Council is another indication of our growing reputation and strength.

As we enter our fifth year of operation and look to New Year's resolutions, we are committed to taking that faith shown in us in continuing to grow the organization. The Board members gathered mid-year for strategic planning. We are excited about some of the ideas that came from that discussion—the major one being that we would like to begin work on establishing a Historic Farmstead. There should be a venue (beyond the self-guided tours and the database) for us to share all of the information that we have been documenting on the agricultural heritage of the area.

So, during this holiday season, I would like to thank all of you for the "gift" of your support for and belief in what the Appalachian Barn Alliance is doing. You are the foundation of our work.

Sandy Stevenson

Additional Barn Tours

Because of the extensive "wait list" that resulted from our Annual Barn Day in May, we decided to offer Van Tours of the same barns on that year's tour—also led by Taylor Barnhill. The enthusiastic reviews from those offered in July and in October convinced us to schedule these tours regularly and we will resume after the winter months.



Looking at James & Geneva Roberts's barn



Taylor Barnhill awaits his tour passengers

The 5th Annual Historic Barns Photo Contest marked a milestone for our organization. When the Appalachian Barn Alliance formed in late summer of 2011, we knew that we would have to find ways to advertise what we would be doing. The Madison County Tourism Development Authority agreed to provide the cash awards for the Photo Contest for 5 years so that we could spread the word about the historic barns in our county. 2016 has certainly proven that the “word” is now out there. The organization is now well established and the contest will become one of the categories of the Photo Competition with the regular Madison County Fair categories and just have ribbons and no cash prizes beginning next year.

This year’s winners were honored at an Award Ceremony at the County Extension Office on October 7. The photographs generated a lot of discussion about memories from growing up with Madison County’s numerous barns. In the Youth Category, **Hayden Kirkpatrick** won first place. Second and third place winner in the Youth Category was **Kyera Byas** who submitted a photo of her “Nana’s barn” as one of her winning entries. In the Adult Category, the second and third place winners were repeat winners from previous years—**Regina Fowler** took third place and **Steven Tweed** second place. The first place winner was a first time entrant **Hariette Brown**. Hariette’s photo of a barn on her property included beautiful wildflowers in the foreground. All of the photos are on the www.appalachianbarns.org website.



The Seeds of a Madison County Heritage Farmstead

The Appalachian Barn Alliance has received its first gifts and loans of farm tools and implements which will become part of a future heritage farmstead here in Madison County.



A classic Appalachian farm sled, built by Roy or Richard Franklin from the Big Laurel community, has been donated by the current owner of the Franklin farm, Steve Kaple of Ohio.



Ethel Kirkpatrick of Spring Creek has made a loan of a rare 19th century threshing machine. This museum-quality thresher will be an exemplary artifact of draft animal-powered farm culture of the southern Appalachians.

The ABA welcomes donations of old barn building tools and farm implements from across Madison County to be part of its future heritage farmstead. Currently you can view the farm sled in the Rural Heritage Museum’s exhibit. A display of barn building tools is also there and will return to the lobby of the NC Cooperative Extension Office at the end of the exhibit.

Donations to our organization are always welcome.

Please make checks to Appalachian Barn Alliance, PO Box 1441, Mars Hill, NC 28753

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

Board of Directors:

Sandy Stevenson (President), Jeannie Blethen, Ryan Cody, Janet Foster, Lesley King, Rob Kraft, Nancy Larkin, Susan McChesney, Les Reker, Lynn Steen, and David Wyatt.

Advisory Board:

Chad Ayers, Dedrick Cody, Pat Franklin, Sidney Harrison, Jerry Jacover, Ethel Kirkpatrick, Maurice McAllister, Paula Shelton McAllister, Chuck Michel, Karen Paar, Jerry Plemmons, Betty Reeves, Steve Tweed, and Ross Young.

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Madison County TDA



National Trust for Historic Preservation



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