

BARN LIGHTS

Quarterly Newsletter

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

VOL. 4 No. 1 Spring 2017

Celebrating Barn Month and Barn Day in Madison County

Our 3rd Annual Barn Month and 4th Annual Barn Day celebrate with a May Calendar offering events, tours, art: more this year than any other year! The ABA Barn Day on May 20 will be the capstone event of the month with the tour of a few historic barns narrated by Taylor Barnhill, the ABA Historian, and ending with a delicious meal and silent auction in a modern day “party barn” with music and fun. The barn tour will be different than last year with the exception of the main barn (the Roberts barn, back by popular demand), but the dinner location will be the same: the welcoming Steens' Barn in Mars Hill. Some of the popular auction items will return for bidding, plus some new exciting offerings. This is our most highly anticipated fundraising event of the year with a limited number of tickets. Members have the opportunity to purchase tickets in May before they go on sale to the general public, with the added enticement of \$5 off each ticket! If you have not renewed your membership for 2017, now is the time to do so.

Barn Month will kick off Thursday May 4, with the Rural Heritage Museum at Mars Hill University presenting a lecture and tour of its current exhibition—*See Page 3*. Taylor Barnhill, chief researcher of the Appalachian Barn Alliance and curator of the exhibit, will speak, with an Exhibition Tour to follow. Friday May 5 the Madison County Arts Council in Marshall holds an Opening Reception for a month-long exhibit of barn-related artwork “The Barns of Madison County.” Saturday May 13 join The Farmers Hands for an exquisite dinner, a Farm to Table Supper Club event in Marshall; buy your ticket before May 1st, mention Barn Month (enter BARNMONTH in coupon code section online) and receive \$5 off every ticket in honor of the Madison County Barn Tradition. Sunday May 14, local artist and art educator Susan McChesney will hold a Color Drawing Barn Journal workshop; site and details TBD, materials provided; ABA donation. Saturday May 20 Barn Day. Sunday May 21: Join *The Mad Spinners* on the MHU Quad, near the Rural Heritage Museum, as they demonstrate wool spinning.



Barn tour at Roberts barn in Mars Hill



Roberts corn crib, tool shed, & grape

Friday May 4, 7:30PM - lecture and tour of “**Shelter on the Mountain: Barns and Building Traditions Of the Southern Highlands**” exhibit at the Rural Heritage Museum at MHU.

Saturday May 5, 5:30 - 7PM - Opening Reception for Madison County Arts Council exhibit “**Barns of Madison County**”, Marshall

Saturday May 13, 6:30PM - Supper Club Dinner at **The Farmers Hands**, Marshall,

For more information: www.thefarmershands.com

Sunday May 14, 1 - 3PM - **Color Drawing Barn Journal** workshop, Madison County

Saturday May 20, Appalachian Barn Alliance **BARN DAY**; 2:30PM Bus Tour, 6:30PM Dinner and Silent Auction, Mars Hill

Sunday May 21, 1-4PM - “*Mad Spinners*” demonstrate wool spinning on the MHU Quad.

The President's Letter

Over the past four years, I have always wondered why—when I explain our mission—people's reaction is often "I love barns!" It does not matter whether they have a rural or urban background. Now, I have finally decided that



the barn represents a simpler time—certainly not "simpler" in terms of the amount of work, but in terms of more straightforward. I have begun to view what we do as akin to a community "barn raising" where people come together for a common purpose. We witnessed that, when in January 2012, representatives from different groups first met to brainstorm how to preserve our heritage. The commitment and passion of those involved—both then and now—continues to help us as we move into a new stage with our mission: working to establish a Heritage Farmstead.

And so, as we begin our fifth year, I have confidence that the quality that first comes to mind when describing Madison County—community—will continue to carry us through this new stage of our work. The varied talents of our all-volunteer board members and advisory council members—both past and present—have added to our success. Those who have volunteered to help Taylor with his research or have contributed money (which speaks volumes to demonstrate confidence in our mission) have helped us with the first stage of our "barn raising" and will be the foundation for the next. We are looking forward to another exciting year.

Sandy Stevenson

A Different Type of Tobacco Barn

One of the many intriguing barns in the Mars Hill township is the Samuel Moore barn; a distinctively different style of barn introduced in response to the growing burley tobacco market in Madison County. Built by Samuel Moore in the mid-1930's, this was one of the first barns built exclusively for burley tobacco. Prior to this barn type, burley tobacco was air cured in the old log flue-cured barns or the hay lofts of livestock barns. Another unique feature of this barn is its "monitor" roof, making it the first to be built of this type in eastern Madison County. The monitor roof employs a raised section along the ridge line which provides ventilation and a chimney effect, drawing air from near the ground up through the drying tobacco and up through the roof vents. Moore's grandson, Gordon Moore, recalls, "It was his creation, that type of barn, first one in the area of that roof type." Samuel's brother asked him after it was completed, "Sam, is that what you had in mind for that barn?" Sam said, "Well, if it wasn't I'd have to tear it down and start over". This barn is said to hold 3 acres of tobacco on 8 tier pole levels, and was built on rock piers laid "by the signs" to avoid frost heaving.



“Welcome Spring” Concert with Steve Davidowski Trio



Once again Steve Davidowski's trio will perform in the beautiful setting of the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit. This year the music will welcome Spring, and again benefit the work of the Appalachian Barn Alliance. Steve's trio brings to Madison County the sounds of jazz plus variations of pop music of the past.

Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door and can be purchased or reserved by emailing info@appalachianbarns.org or calling Janet at (828) 380-1178. All proceeds benefit the Appalachian Barn Alliance. -

For information <http://www.appalachianbarns.org>

Time: 3 p.m. on Sunday, March 19 at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit, 433 Bone Camp Road—just 2.4 miles from Mars Hill off Rt. 213.

Mars Hill University—Rural Heritage Museum

presents:

Shelter on the Mountain: Barns and Building Traditions of the Southern Highlands

Thursday May 4, 2017, 7:30 PM

Lecture by Taylor Barnhill, Architect

Chief Researcher of the Appalachian Barn Alliance

Peterson Lecture Room, Blackwell Hall

Exhibition Tour: 8:15 PM, Rural Heritage Museum

The Rural Heritage Museum at Mars Hill University presents a lecture and tour of its exhibition **Shelter on the Mountain: Barn and Building Traditions of the Southern Highlands**. The exhibition presents an overview of the unique built environment created by the peoples who have, over thousands of years, inhabited the mountains, valleys, buffalo trails, and river basins of the Southern Appalachians. These makers - from native peoples to European settlers - created new horizons as they sought to transform the unforgiving mountains into a land of promise, for themselves and future generations. The exhibition features an introductory film, a large log pulling sled, broad axes and other log-shaping tools, tobacco planters, 27 large informational panels, and over 70 photographs, many never seen before. For more information call (828) 689-1400.



Donations to our organization are always welcome. Please make checks to Appalachian Barn Alliance, PO Box 1441, Mars Hill, NC 28753

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

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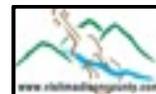
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