

BARN LIGHTS

Quarterly Newsletter

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

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ABA receives national grant

The Appalachian Barn Alliance is proud to announce that we were awarded a grant from a nationally-recognized prestigious organization—a \$6,000 matching grant from the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Grants from the National Trust Preservation Funds have provided over \$15 million since 2003 and we are excited to be one of the organizations recognized by them. In their letter to the ABA, Stephanie Meeks, president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, said "Organizations like The Appalachian Barn Alliance help to ensure that communities and towns all across America retain their unique sense of place. We are honored to provide funds to help preserve an important piece of our shared national heritage." The grant funds will be used to help fund the documentation of our next township—Mars Hill—over the next year. The matching funds will be raised through membership and donations plus our Annual Barn Day and benefit concerts. Our researcher, Taylor Barnhill, has already started his work and two of the barns which will be included are highlighted in photos below.



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation



photo by Taylor Barnhill

The Hughey Ray flue-cured tobacco barn in Mars Hill is a rare relic of a log barn from the era of flue-cured tobacco spanning 1870 to around 1920. The family does not know who actually built this barn more than a century ago. It had a rock furnace in the doorway in which a wood fire would heat the barn to cure the tobacco.



painting by descendant Chris Phillips-Bell

The Samuel L. Phillips livestock barn was built in the late 1800s, a classic log crib barn with animal stalls below and a hay loft above. The loft siding is of open lattice that allowed air-flow through the hay. Phillips' grandson Dewey Phillips was known for his work with heirloom grapes, a variety of which is shown growing on this barn.

The President's Letter



What an exciting few months we have had! The news that we had been awarded the grant from the Johanna Favrot National Trust of the National Trust for Historic Preservation started off the 4th of July weekend with a celebration equal to that national holiday. Each acknowledgement leads to another and we credit the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area grant from 2015 as the stepping stone to this one.

In July and August, we tried out a few new ideas for fundraising. We successfully conducted a van-tour of the same barns used for Barn Day—this time with just 12 people. Our plans are to continue to offer this option every few months (except in the winter). We hosted our first Farm to Table Dinner at The Farmers' Hands and everyone just loved the event, so we have added that to our annual fundraisers. And, we tried out a new music genre at our annual benefit concert: Brian Gurl and his "Gershwin with a Twist!" Show was a wonderful treat. Also, an idea neither new nor intended as fundraising was the reception at Green Sage for Don McGowan and Bonnie

Cooper's barn photographs. What was new, however, was that the Barn Alliance was allowed to put a display about our organization with Don and Bonnie's work. We hope to find some new friends through this.

The most rewarding thing that happened was the front-page coverage of our organization in the *Asheville Citizen Times* on Monday, August 22, followed by the same in our Madison County paper, *The News Record and Sentinel*. This grew out of an email I sent with a press release about the Favrot Grant. The reporter was intrigued and wanted to do an in-depth story—but, I was not expecting front page placement. I am so

delighted that more and more people recognize the worth of our work! _____ *Sandy Stevenson*

Upcoming Events

OCTOBER WITH THE ABA

Watch for a notice of a Fall Van Tour of Barns in October

Saturday, October 1-10 a.m.-4 p.m. Look for our Booth at the Heritage Festival on the MHU Quad

Sunday, October 23—1-3 p.m. Join us for our Annual Meeting

Combined Annual Meeting and Museum Exhibition Reception

This year our Annual Meeting will take place at the Opening Reception for the MHU Rural Heritage Museum's exhibit *Shelter on the Mountain: Barns and Building Traditions of the Southern Highlands*. This will be a special treat for all of our members to have a first look at the exhibit which examines the influences of the native peoples and European immigrants who shaped the region's culture and architectural tradition. You are all invited to the Rural heritage Museum on Sunday, October 23 from 1pm to 3pm. There will be a brief presentation at 1:30 by our researcher, Taylor Barnhill, about the exhibit and an overview of the past year's accomplishments and the next year's plans by Board President Sandy Stevenson. Refreshments will be served and, of course, there will be the opportunity to walk through the exhibit.

A Seat at the Table

Mix some barn history with a fabulous meal served by New York trained Chef Sebastiaan Zijp and it was a textbook recipe for our first benefit farm to table dinner on Sunday, July 17. Sebastiaan and his wife Ariel are the perfect hosts and Taylor Barnhill was joined by Buster Phillips & Chris Phillips Bell, the descendants of the original barn owner, to create a mini-tour filled with stories.



Gershwin with a Twist

The auditorium at Ebb's Chapel was filled with Gershwin lovers on Sunday, August 7, and they were not disappointed. The top-notch performance by Brian Gurl and Michelle Pruyn filled the hall and left the audience humming the tunes as they left. There were some standards performed with "a twist" but the stirring "Summertime" by Michelle and the rendition of "Rhapsody in Blue" by Brian were crowd favorites.



APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

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