

BARN LIGHTS

Quarterly Newsletter

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

VOL. 2 No. 2 Summer 2015

Barn Day Combines Good Times, Old Times

ABA's second annual gala mixes a splash of history with a tour of some of the county's barns followed by a party with a dash of mountain music, a big helping of barbecue dinner and two -- count 'em two -- terrific auctions.

Barn Day participants arrive at the 19th Century Wolf Laurel barn now owned by music producer Scott Carswell. ABA historian Taylor Barnwell led the group through the lower livestock levels and the upper tobacco drying area of the barn, pointing out original unique features that help date the structure. Taylor was peppered with questions by guests who were noticing details, such as open livestock stalls with no doors to contain the animals.



Some Barn Day guests assembled at the upper entrance of the Wolf Laurel bank barn, where Taylor pointed out the 40-foot hewn beams that run the length of the building.



How can you celebrate Appalachian barns without mountain music? Popular Madison County fiddler Roger Howell was joined by guitar-player Jerry Sutton who provided the sounds to complete the scenes.



Taylor Barnhill explains details of the Thurman Briggs barn on the Old Mars Hill Highway. Taylor pointed out that the gambrel-roof barn was built in the 1950's, but even at that relatively young age, it still has historical interest.

The President's Letter

May and Barn Month was a rewarding time: We are on our way for Madison County to be recognized as **the** Barn County! The month began with a successful workshop on controlling bugs and ended with a fabulous Barn Day. Our thanks to all who attended or supported us with donations.

Stop by the Extension Office lobby to view the permanent display of antique barn-building tools. Our next big event for 2015 is the concert in August so mark your calendars now for 3pm on Sunday, August 23. Information is in this newsletter.

For some other great news---we have rolled out our database of barn research information. This important piece of our mission was made possible by our second Marion Stedman Covington grant. You can see all the data collected on the barns in Beech Glen community by going to our website and clicking on Barn Database from the menu. We will continue to populate this website with information from the other communities. The self-guided tour brochures give an overview of each property. The database is where to go for complete information.

The Alliance is also taking steps to expand into the educational arena by making presentations in schools. Board member Nancy Larkin and her husband Jim Thorsen (retired educators) went to the 4th grade classroom at Hot Springs Elementary to "set the stage" for the Historic Barns presentation by Taylor Barnhill on the following day. The success of that day has given us the confidence that the program should be offered to all 4th grade classes during the next school year.

Photographer Don McGowan and his wife Bonnie Cooper of www.earthsongphotography.com have become true friends of the Barn Alliance. They were at our Barn Day to introduce the public to their planned book about Appalachian barns. Watch for more news about that in upcoming emails. Don also announced that he plans to offer another Photo Workshop to benefit the Alliance. We will let you know in an email notice as soon as we have a date.

Sandy Stevenson



Bonnie Cooper & Don McGowan at Barn Day



Taylor & Hot Springs Elementary students



Barn-building tool display at Extension Office

The Appalachian Barn Alliance presents

BARN RAISIN' CONCERT



Benefit *for the* Appalachian Barn Alliance

Enjoy an afternoon that takes you on a nostalgic journey through time while enjoying old standards and new favorites. Featured are Madison County musicians who make mountain music come to life!

Susi Gott & Marty Lewis

Award-winning fiddler and gifted songwriters, perform Madison County Songs.



Matthew Curry & The Carolina Two

Good old-fashioned "country honky-tonk" music bring the legacy of Johnny Cash to life.



Peter Gott

A lively blend of banjo and guitar recall the music of the early 60s.

The Sons of Ralph

Ralph, Martin and Don perform a unique style of bluegrass music that harkens to yesteryear while combining the past with the present.



August 23 – 3:00 p.m.

- Ebbs Chapel Performing Arts Center ❖ 271 Laurel Valley Road ❖ Mars Hill, NC
- Tickets--\$20 in advance, \$25 at the door
- Information and tickets are available by e-mailing info@appalachianbarns.org or calling 828-230-6982.

Proceeds benefit the Appalachian Barn Alliance, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving historical barns through photo, story, and architecture.

APPALACHIAN BARN ALLIANCE

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Sandy Stevenson (President), Jeannie Blethen, Ryan Cody, Katie Estridge, Rob Kraft, Nancy Larkin, Jim Murphy and Les Reker.

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