



Press Release
For Immediate Release
Contact: Vera Wiltse
MBPN conference chairperson
Michigan Barn Preservation Network.
989-465-1216, vera@wiltse.com

Saturday, March 12, 2011

(East Lansing, Michigan)

The Michigan Barn Preservation Network (MBPN) is pleased to announce their 2011 Michigan Barn of the Year awards at their Annual Conference and Meeting on March 11 and 12 at Kellogg Center, Michigan State University (MSU) campus in East Lansing. The 16th annual conference, themed *Heritage Barns for the Next Generation*, honors Barns of the Year in five categories as follows:

Continued Family/Private Agricultural Use

Anderson Bros. Barn, Kent City, Sparta Twp.

Owners Anderson Bros, LLC

This handsome, 92 foot long, restored gambrel barn was built and has been owned by the same family, the Andersons, over 100 years.

Family/Private Adaptive Use

Irish Barn, Traverse City

Owner: Tom Irish

A 1920s gambrel barn restored and painted blue complete with wooden silo.

Honorable Mention

Bowen Barn, Belding

Owner: Fred C. Bowen

Built by the Bowen family in 1873, the fifth generation Bowen family restored and repainted this gambrel barn.

Demorest Barn, Belding

Owners: Kort & Mary Warner, Fran Rivard

A 64 year old widowed grandmother with resolve tackled the restoration of this 1868 farm including the barn.

Non-profit Agricultural or Adaptive Use

Staebler Barn, Ann Arbor

Owner: Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

The Parks Commission saved this aging 40 foot cow barn from collapse during restoration and included it in community use plans of the entire farmstead.

Commercial Agricultural or Adaptive Use

Long Barn, Commerce

Owner: Robert Long

An 80 foot long gambrel barn built about the time of the Civil War, transitioned to a cider mill, donut store for the new orchard crop on the property.

Special Category: Farmstead Preservation

Palinsky Barn, Pigeon

Owners: Mark and Tina Palinsky

A newly-married couple completed a farmstead restoration including three barns, outbuildings and the farm house down to the garden shed and Victorian garden.

Honorable Mention

Wilbur Barn, Marshall

Owner: William and Carol Wilbur

A six-barn farmstead restoration by the Wilburs featured a large gambrel barn and 1880 horse barn complete with intricate wooden cupola.

Special Category: Oldest Continuously Maintained Family Agricultural Use Barn

Gallagher Barn, Belding

Owner: Jane and Jerry Gallagher

A special award honors the remarkable continuity of the restored Gallagher Barn. Built in 1848, it has been in continuous family farm use for 163 years.

MBPN congratulates all the awardees on their outstanding contributions to the preservation of Michigan's rural heritage into the future.

MBPN is a Michigan statewide volunteer, non-profit organization dedicated to the appreciation, preservation, and rehabilitation of Michigan barns, farmsteads and rural communities over the last 16 years. For more information visit www.mibarn.net and face book.

(Photos and more information are available from Janine Saputo, MBPN, jlsaputo@comcast.net 248-701-7369.)