



## Gwen Gutwein's *Heritage Barns* Project

In December 2015, Gwen Gutwein made her final trek—searching out distinctive and historic Indiana barns. Her barn-painting project trademarked HERITAGE BARNs started in the fall of 2004, over eleven years ago!

Gwen had specific criteria in mind when she started her project way back then:

- Create a painting of two historic barns from each county in Indiana (92 counties).
- Collect the history from each barn owner and document each barn.
  - Complete as many paintings as possible on location.
  - Promote exhibit tours of the paintings with each barn's distinct and fascinating history.
  - Practice the art of painting.

Ask Gwen "WHY?" and her answers come easily.

"Over the years I have seen so many barns disappear. With each barn we have lost so much. The old barns are very beautiful, literally and figuratively speaking.

Literally, 100 or 150 years ago the materials used to build a barn are almost non-existent today. The size and length of some of the timbers is extraordinary. Many old barns were built with our native timber! The skills used back then are unique, ingenious and quite astounding.

The time and skill used to decorate barns must have given such great satisfaction to the barn owner. Over the years, their barns have graced our countryside with their unique beauty.

And then there is the beauty expressed through time that becomes an integral part of the structure itself, such as the family history, the cultural history, the farmers' integrity and the farming ingenuity.



Certainly too, I was able to practice my art of painting. Each painting is a portrait, a barn portrait. So, like capturing people on the canvas, capturing the essence of each barn's character was of the utmost importance."

But that's not all. Gwen goes on to express yet another facet of her inspiration...

"It isn't just the capture of the barn on a canvas that is important. It is also the action of 'shining a spotlight' on the demise facing our barns. The best way I could do that was to promote exhibit tours of the barn paintings with each barn's history exhibited with it. The paintings and the histories are compelling. The exhibits have been drawing in crowds and promoting barn awareness. In this way, I can use my talent to give back to our community and our state."

And...That is exactly what has transpired over the years since Gwen started her project. Exhibits of her barn paintings and histories have been touring the state since 2009. Currently the Columbus Indiana Visitors Center is hosting an exhibit, installed through the end of 2016. Beyond exhibits, Gwen has promoted barns and preservation through interviews, newspaper articles, "barn talks" and

more.

Her HERITAGE BARNs series of paintings, all 185 (one extra) have been endorsed by the Indiana Bicentennial Commission.

What next? Gwen isn't quite finished with her project. She is pursuing a book of the barn paintings and histories. Currently Gwen is in the process of compiling the wealth of information she has gathered over the years in preparation for a book proposal.

Want to see more paintings? Visit Gwen's web site at: [www.gwengutwein.com](http://www.gwengutwein.com)

# Highlights of Annual Meeting

*July 18, 2016 at the Normandy Barn, Indiana State Fairgrounds.*

Indiana Barn Foundation's annual business meeting was held, where the following Board Members were elected to three year terms: Duncan Campbell, Richard Thompson, Joy William, Mac Williams and Kent Yeager. They join previously elected board members serving through 2017: Janet Ayres (Secretary), Marsh Davis (Treasurer), Craig Leonard, Judy O'Bannon, Bob White and Mauri Williamson; and through 2018 Rep. Bob Cherry, Sara Edgerton, Gwen Gutwein, Pamela Pfrang, Carolyn Rahe (President) and Marsha Williamson-Mohr.



*A full house enjoyed networking with other barn owners and enthusiasts at the Normandy Barn during IBF's 3rd Annual Meeting.*



*Timber framer Rick Collins of Trillium Dell shared "Barn Restoration Practices and Techniques".*



*IBF board member Duncan Campbell shared an interesting look at the different cultural influences on barn styles seen across Indiana in his presentation, "Telling A Unique Hoosier Story".*



*Rep. Bob Cherry (middle) shared updates on the new Heritage Barn property tax relief bill.*



*Good food and good times were had by all!*

# Third Annual Barn Tour Coming October 8th to Carroll County

Don't miss our third Annual Barn Tour, this one through Carroll County. It's been said that nowhere is the agricultural heritage more deeply rooted than in Carroll County Indiana. This self-guided driving tour



will enable you to explore 10 historic barns in Carroll County and to view many others on the 60-mile journey.

Drive at your own pace through an area rich in history and beautiful rural countryside.

## **Highlights include:**

- Historic barns dating to 1850s
- Barn on the National Register of Historic Places
- Barn associated with the first commercialization of soybeans in the United States
- Three barns featured in artist Gwen Gutwein's Heritage Barn Series of paintings

The day starts at the elegant 1916 Carroll County Courthouse, located in the center of Delphi, and ends at the historic Adams Mill near Cutler.

You will also be able to meet Gwen Gutwein and see a display of her paintings, as well as see the Bicentennial Barn Quilt at the Courthouse. IBF Merchandise including commemorative quilt books and posters and IBF T-shirts will be available for purchase at the courthouse.

Thank you to the dedicated group of Carroll County IBF Members/County Representatives who have made this barn tour possible, and have also created the website [www.carrollcountybarns.com](http://www.carrollcountybarns.com) and the Facebook page Carroll County Heritage Barns! A link to purchase tickets can be found on [www.indianabarns.org](http://www.indianabarns.org) and on [carrollcountybarns.com](http://carrollcountybarns.com).

We hope to see you there!



## *Indiana Bicentennial Barn Quilt*

By now thousands of people across Indiana have visited IBF's Bicentennial Legacy Project, the Bicentennial Barn Quilt. The quilt is traveling across the state and will be displayed at over 50 different locations across Indiana. The full schedule, as well as a link to purchase commemorative quilt books and posters can be found at [www.indianabarns.org/barn-quilt](http://www.indianabarns.org/barn-quilt).

On March 4th, 2017, the Bicentennial Barn Quilt and other items will be auctioned during IBF's first major fundraiser. Plan now to attend and support our efforts to save Indiana's historic barns.

Visitors to the Indiana State Fair admired the quilt, displayed in the Bicentennial Pavillion during the 17-day fair.



## *IBF Continues to Grow, Welcoming New Members and Donors*

The summer of 2016 has been a busy one for IBF and we have seen tremendous growth! Our Annual Meeting in July brought in many new members, and our presence at the Indiana State Fair also has introduced hundreds of people to our mission. Our Bicentennial Legacy Project, the Bicentennial Barn Quilt, has been seen by thousands of people and has also been a means of spreading our message. More are learning about our efforts to save barns

through barn tours and speaking engagements by IBF Board members and County Representatives across the state. It seems the possibilities for growth are endless, and we are pleased to welcome a record number of new members and donors to our statewide organization.

As more and more counties are becoming active, our County Representative program is evolving and providing opportunities for people to get involved in their

communities on a local level. For more information about County Representatives email Janet Ayres at [ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com](mailto:ayres.janet.sue@gmail.com) or call 765-564-2324.

One way to stay abreast of what IBF is doing is through our Facebook page. Look for and "like" Indiana Barn Foundation. We have both a Facebook "page" and a "group". Also look for "Indiana Bicentennial Barn Quilt" to follow postings about the quilt.

### *Welcome New and Renewing Members!*

Mike Aitken  
Debrah Allen  
Janice Ayres Family  
Duncan Campbell Family  
Bill Crone  
Marsh Davis  
Gwen Gutwein  
Mark E. Hartman Family  
Gregg & Pamela Kissel Family  
Robert Kohnen

Linda Lamberson  
Dennis Lamp Family  
Lou Malcomb  
Danny Marr  
Laura and Kevin  
McCracken Family  
Kathy McGuire  
Michael & Beverly Metze Family  
Greg & Sally Micheel Family

Donna Musselman  
Robert & Kathy Oldfather Family  
Jerry Parsons  
Pamela Pfrang  
Carolyn Rahe Family  
Jacqueline Robertson Family  
John Sherman  
Darlene Stuckey  
D. Michael Thompson

Dick Thompson  
Ken Torr Family  
Tim Tumbleson/Sylvia  
Wilkinson Family  
August and Heather Veron Family  
Chuck Warner  
Janice White  
Kelly Whiteman-Snipes  
Joy William Family  
Mac Williams

### *Thank you to our Donors!*

Don and Joyce Willwock

Early Music in Motion/Sobremesa Farm

Allen County Purdue Extension Agency

Indiana Landmarks  
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