



HOOSIER BARN CHRONICLE

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Fall Barn Tour Postponed

by Laura Weston

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Indiana Barn Foundation has postponed our fall tour of Allen and DeKalb county barns until the fall of 2021. The health and safety of our barn owners, attendees and board members are our utmost concern.

To whet your appetite for next year's tour, here is a sneak peek at two of the barns that will be featured. Several are in an area known as Dutch Ridge because of the influx of Pennsylvania Dutch families from Lancaster, Pennsylvania who settled in the area.

The c. 1915 John Barrett barn, owned by the Yoder family, is a gambrel barn. The barn is used to sell maple syrup from the family's sugar bush.

Another barn on the tour will be the Thomas Vandolah barn. This outstanding Sweitzer barn



was built in 1889. Thomas, the son of a millwright, was a prominent livestock owner. He died in 1912, suffering a fatal heart attack while preparing to feed his cattle.

The Vandolah family owned several acres of land in the Cedar Creek area, and Thomas's father ran a nearby mill. Vandolah lands were bisected by the creation of Interstate 69. The Vandolah Nature Preserve, a property managed by ACRES Land Trust, is located on the east side of the interstate. Vandolah descendants still have a farm on the west side.

For more information about this tour, check our website, <https://www.indianabarns.org/>, our Facebook page and newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming you to our barn tour next year.

Gwen Gutwein's *Heritage Barns of Indiana* to be Published

Coming soon...a beautifully hardbound book of historic barn paintings, by Gwen Gutwein.

Artist Gwen Gutwein, who was a founding board member of IBF, is now in the process of having a book of her historic barn paintings published. In fact, it was an interview with Gwen that was published in the Indy Star that brought a surge of attention to Indiana's loss of historic barns. From that interview, in which Gwen shared her mission of painting two barns from each Indiana county, the author concluded that she'd better get busy because Indiana's old barns are quickly disappearing.

Gwen traveled throughout Indiana and selected historic barns from each county. She completed most of the paintings on location, which is called plein air painting. Painting on location allows the artist to see beauty not always captured by a camera. Gwen also collected each barn's history and its stories.



Sulina Tobacco Barn, Franklin County--plein air (on location) painting in oil. 18 x 24 inches, painted in October 2007. This barn has been in the same family since it was built in 1908.

Gwen had this to say about the inspiration for launching into this venture.

"In the beginning, in 2004, I formulated a project that would allow me to use and hone my artistic abilities in oil painting, highlight a concern about the demise facing our rural barns and heritage, and contribute to society.

Maybe part of this inspiration to focus on old barns was from a tragic event that occurred during my childhood. I grew up on a farm in northwest Indiana and spent countless hours over many years playing in our beloved barn. One spring night, when I was about twelve years old, the barn was completely destroyed by fire. It remains a distinct memory that could have been the impetus onto this painting path."

The book, scheduled for release later this year is titled, *Heritage Barns of Indiana*. It will include all 186 barn paintings, a bit of history and barn story from each and also a comment on the artist's painting process. Some notes include funny stories Gwen encountered while painting.

The publisher, M.T. Publishing Company is taking pre-orders now. To place an order for your book visit www.mtpublishing.com or call 1-888-263-4702.

As a final comment Gwen said, *"I believe my project was successful. My painting skills have improved. I have helped spark a statewide interest in historic barns and in their preservation. I have had a positive influence on other plein air painters. I have had a fantastic adventure, and – best of all- I have met some of the greatest people in Indiana. I painted a grand total of 186 barn paintings from 92 counties. I finished the last painting in 2016."*

Visit Gwen's website to see all the barn paintings from each county, www.gwengutwein.com.



Allensville Hay Press Barn, Switzerland County--plein air painting in oil. 18 x 30 inches, completed in October 2008. The barn has been moved and restored, including the hay press.



City of Rochester Round Barn, Fulton County--studio painting in oil 12 x 24 inches, painted in 2013 from photos taken in 2003, before the barn was restored and renovated into the round barn golf club.

Important Message from Kent Yeager, President, IBF Board of Directors

The pandemic has changed all our lives in ways we could never have imagined. *While certainly minor when compared to the dramatic impacts to personal health, the economy, and so many other things, it has caused major changes for the Indiana Barn Foundation. We had to cancel our traditional annual meeting, originally scheduled for July 18, and move it to a virtual meeting. As you have seen elsewhere in this newsletter, we just recently had to postpone the IFB Annual Barn Tour until 2021. Each of these changes have a negative impact on our budget. The IBF Board is actively trying to find ways to replace these sources of revenue. Any contribution you, as a member, can make in the form of time, treasure or talent is critically important.

On a positive note, we welcomed five extraordinarily talented new members to the IBF

Board on August 1. You can read more about them in this newsletter. I also am pleased to report that IBF Treasurer, Tim Sheets, was reelected to another three-year term on the board, as was Secretary, Tommy Kleckner.

Former IBF president and then vice-president, Janet Ayers, did not seek reelection to her expiring board position. Janet has been an immensely important part of the Indiana Barn Foundation. I cannot thank her enough for her service to IBF. We wish Janet the very best, but she will certainly be missed.

Janet was just elected to a two-year term as vice-president last year, so we needed to elect a new vice president to fill the remaining year of her term. Mike Thompson was elected as our new vice president.

Welcome New Members

Charles Blink Family
 Laura Beth Buland Family
 Erik Buland Family
 Dan Butler
 Albert De Young Family
 Cindy De Young Family
 Elizabeth De Young Family
 Stephanie Griesch Family
 Matthew Guerin
 David Harman
 Kenton Hostetler
 Jerry Huffman
 Mary Elisabeth & Anne Keller Family
 Cindy Kuffel Family
 Carrie Lam
 John Lechleiter Family
 Alexander Matray Family
 Dave Merritt
 Hannah Raake Family
 Pamela Raake Family
 Paul Raake Family

Sarah Raake Family
 Mary Rohrer Family
 Denise Rohrer Family
 Adam Spindler Family
 Robert Vance

...and Donors

Randy Haymaker
 Shirley Beetz
 John Lichtleiter
 Phyllis Marks
 Sara Edgerton
 Debrah Allen
 Mac Williams
 Janet Ayres

Welcome New Members to IBF Board of Directors



Chris Garvey of Zionsville, Indiana recently retired from Corteva Agrisciences after having worked for 40 years in the industry, in roles ranging from Corporate Strategy, Mycogen Seeds (a Dow Seed brand) General Manager and leading several global projects. He has also held leadership roles with ICI Chemicals based in Delaware and the United Kingdom. He holds degrees in Agriculture Science and an MBA. Garvey has four U.S. Patents.

In 2004, Chris Garvey led a subcommittee of the Zionsville Historical Society and gained approval to develop Maplelawn Farmstead, an 1830s farmstead. He led Maplelawn's effort in creating a 501(c)(3), developing the vision and strategy with the board of directors, and has served as president of the board since its inception. Maplelawn was listed as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places in 2011. The organization funds and implements all its restoration projects and programs and has established a network of local volunteers including Scout troops, FFAs, 4H, Lions and Kiwanis Clubs.



Christi Perry was born, raised and currently lives in White County, Indiana. She was raised on a farm and always loved hanging out in their barn; especially in the hayloft. Perry graduated from Ball State University with a degree in Journalism, and worked several years at the local newspaper in Lafayette, the Journal & Courier and the Lafayette Magazine. Perry currently works at Purdue University in the Marketing and Media department where she is the Marketing Production Manager.

Perry's career has been devoted to marketing, sales and business development, and she plans to bring these skills to the Indiana Barn Foundation. She and her husband renovated an old, 1869 farm house, where they raised their family and currently live.



Cindy Barber moved to Washington, Indiana, from Dallas, Texas, in 2003, to keep the farm & historic round barn in the family. In 2007 she married her husband, Tony, and they are raising their two young sons, Wyatt and Ward, on that same farm, in southwest Indiana. In addition to farming grain, they also raise Black Angus cattle, & are members of the Southwest Indiana Angus Association. Their round barn was built in 1908 by her great-grandfather, Thomas Singleton. In 2016, it was recognized as one of the top 10 Bicentennial Barns of Indiana & in 2019 they received a Sesquicentennial Hoosier Homestead Award, in recognition of the farm being in the same family for over 150 years.

Barber has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Kansas and a Master's Degree in Leadership & Management from Western Governor's University. She has worked for Purdue University since 2006 and currently serves as a Community Development Educator for Purdue Extension, in Daviess County. As a Community

New Board Members (cont.)

(Cindy Barber Cont.)

Development Educator she engages individuals and groups in programs to address leadership and civic engagement, community and organizational planning, local government education, and enhancing communities' quality of place and quality of life.



Randy Haymaker

of Plainfield is the retired Director of Public Affairs at Hoosier Energy Rural Electric Cooperative where he worked in economic development and public policy for 25 years serving on the NRECA legislative committee representing Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia. Before joining Hoosier, he was Deputy Director of Financial Services at the Indiana Dept. of Commerce and founded the Mooresville Development Commission. From 1971-1989 he was Editor and Co-Publisher of The Times, Mooresville.

A long-time volunteer for his alma mater, Purdue University, Haymaker serves on the state committee of the Council on Agriculture, Research and Teaching. He is a Sagamore of the Wabash and received the Excellence in Leadership Award from the Indiana Economic Development Association where he is a Past President. He is on the Advisory Committee for Hoosiers for Renewables. Haymaker is a lifelong part-time farmer having raised cattle, swine and grains. He is a graduate of the Economic Development Institute of the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife, Joan, a retired kindergarten teacher, are active volunteers in their community.



Aaron Curtis is the owner and president of Curtis Construction based in Carmel, Indiana. He

lives on a historical farm in Rushville, Indiana with his fiancée Heather and her two children. Before starting Curtis Construction, Aaron finished a 20-year career as an Army officer with overseas tours that included Iraq, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Jordan and South Korea. His last combat tour sent him to the hospital in Germany, ending his military service. During his extensive time overseas, he would often research and fondly remember the barns of his childhood in central Indiana. The historical buildings, farms, small towns and the people in them were a constant reminder of his desire to one day return home. Aaron's hobbies include restoring his 1890s farm, pasture grass farming, and being a good neighbor by using his building resources to restore our historical heritage. Most often asked question: What was his favorite item received while overseas? Fall leaves sent from home.

Cows Are Curious by Gwen Gutwein

I am an artist. I enjoy setting up an easel outside and creating an oil painting of one spectacular scene after another.

Several years ago I set up my easel and paint supplies in a pasture. My goal was to capture on canvas a stunning perspective



of a beautiful old 1894 barn. The barn happened to be home to a herd of Black Angus, about 20 or so I guess. The cattle were hand fed daily so they were fairly comfortable around people. I was raised on a farm and since there were no bulls or young calves in the herd, I had no fear of them.

We got along just fine.

It was an interesting painting experience, one I will never forget. The cattle had access to a huge and lush pasture but they chose to hang around me. And I mean that literally, they encircled me and stayed with

me during a good deal of my painting time (about three hours). I began to notice their noises. They seemed to sniff before they grabbed and munched, as if they were selecting just the right bite. They also made little noises back and forth as if they were carrying on conversations.

After a while their curiosity became paramount. They inched in closer and closer. Soon I had cow noses nudging my canvas and my paint palette full of wet paint. One grabbed the easel handle and set it rocking and another nosed my apron ties. I thought I was going to lose my apron! It was my laughter that startled them; I had not said a word, made much of a sound or even moved for several hours.

They trotted off a bit only to move right back in. I think they wanted to critique my painting!



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