
Message from the Chairman

In this issue:

Message from Chairman	1
Fall Barn Tour Recap	2-4
Eidem Farm Recap	5-6
Why I Like Barns	7-8
Jim Crouch Barn Recap	9
Photo Calendar Contest	10
A Rod Article	11
General Announcements	12

As another year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of our members for their support and attendance at FoMB events. There were a number of Coffee Chats, the FoMB annual meeting, two threshing shows, assembling the model barn at three events and an outstanding Fall Barn Tour organized by Clare Hoelderle with assistance from Kim Halek. Thank you to our members and the people who shared their properties for the enjoyment of all who made these events successful by your participation. As an interesting sidelight Kim traveled to Idaho this fall to participate in bringing a herd of cattle down from the mountains to the ranch. Kim, an avid rider, said this was something on her bucket list and she thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The FoMB Board is in the planning stages for the coming year and I would like to encourage members to share your ideas for upcoming events, Coffee Chats, the annual meeting, and the annual Fall Barn Tour as well as ideas on other activities. If you have ideas, contact FoMB, a board member or attend a board meeting to share your ideas. I would encourage members to attend our board meetings.

Watch for upcoming news on updating membership information in the 1st quarter edition of The Barn Door, I have been updating the membership

list but I think it is time to redo the list and make sure all the information is current.

There were a couple of interesting Coffee Chats in October; the historic Eidem Farm in Brooklyn Center and the Jim Crouch property in Waverly. More about these events in this newsletter.

If you haven't been to a Coffee Chat, you should consider attending one in the future. Every one is different, from the construction of the barn to the present usage. It is very interesting to hear the stories of the struggles involved in preserving the barn and the many memories connected with this labor of love. If you would like to host a Coffee Chat or know of a barn that would make an interesting tour, please contact me, any board member or FoMB. FoMB is insured and will bring treats.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our members new and old for their support of FoMB and to wish everyone a happy and blessed Christmas season.

Bill Bruentrup



Fall Barn Tour Recap: Lake Elmo & Stillwater



On September 29, we had record attendance at our 2019 Fall Barn Tour. Our tour included 5 amazing barns!!

Fall tour stop 1: Danny & Danielle Hecker Family Barn, Lake Elmo

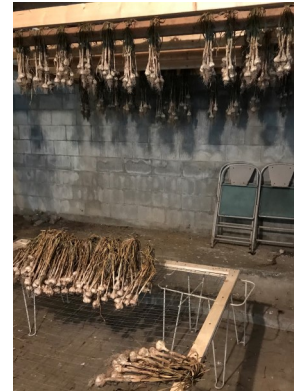


Fall tour stop 2: Fields of St. Croix Neighborhood Barn, Lake Elmo



Fall Barn Tour Recap, continued

Fall tour stop 3: Anne & Dave Leikam Family Barn, Lake Elmo

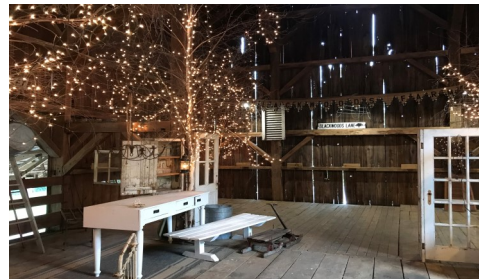


Fall tour stop 4: Stone Hill Farm (Hops) and Stone Hill Farm & Friends (Vintage Sales), Stillwater Owned by John and Kim Brach



Fall Barn Tour Recap, continued

Fall tour stop 5: Blackwoods Farm (Christmas Trees and more), Stillwater
Owned by Steve and Diane Bischoff



THANK YOU to Hagdis Tschunko for the wonderful, warm neck warmers during our Fall Barn Tour! We are so grateful for you sharing your sewing talent with all of us! Remember to dry them on low heat!



Coffee Chat Recap: Eidem Farm, Brooklyn Park

One last nice, warm, autumn afternoon in October brought a dozen FoMB members to the Eidem Farm in Brooklyn Park for a *Coffee Chat* guided tour.

Two costumed guides led our group on a two-hour tour of the historic farm, which began its life as a 39-acre potato farm in the 1850's. The property has since been purchased by the city of Brooklyn Park and operates as a preserved farmstead used to educate the public about life on a farm during the early 1900's.

Though now surrounded by suburban split-levels and a large charter school, the farm remains an excellent example of how a homesteading family established its local roots generations ago and successfully raised crops and animals.



A cow, a goat, a few sheep, and many chickens and ducks still call the Eidem Farm home in various outbuildings and a snug, structurally-sound barn. Some of the farm's land is used to raise flowers and vegetables for the farm's use (there were still some ground cherries to sample from the garden), some of the acreage is pasture for the animals, and the remainder is leased to the public as community gardens.

The docents provided the background on the windmill, well, and pump, as well as the antique farm implements that reside in the barn and around the property; some of our FoMB members had firsthand experience with these items and were able to teach the guides a thing or two about the history and intended use of some of the machinery!

The old house was full of antiques (furniture, décor, and kitchenware, for example) and a large woodburning kitchen stove. The relative affluence of the Eidem family was noted by the home's four bedrooms, stained glass windows, and the presence of a piano and an organ in the home's parlor.

The guides said they were more accustomed to providing tours to elementary school-aged children than to adults, so they couldn't stump the FoMB attendees with questions about doing laundry with a washboard and handmade soap, or the purpose of an odd-looking kitchen utensil (it was a toast-maker for the woodstove).



Thank you to the Bruentrups and Kutas for providing the delicious treats and beverages before and after the tour.

Coffee Chat Recap: Eidem Farm, more pictures



Why I Like Barns

By: Mark Johnson

My first experience with barns was helping my grandfather, Sophus Johnson, work on his barn when I was ten years old. My role was usually just straightening old nails so he could reuse them to do whatever repairs were needed with some old lumber he had lying around. I think that is where the seed was planted that has grown and guided me through my whole life.

The happy times I spent there must be why I thought it was cool when I read an article in Mother Earth News about a young couple who turned an old barn into their home and did it without even getting a mortgage! It was 1975 and we had only been married a year, when I told my wife, Sandy, about this couple and how I thought we could do the same thing with an old timber frame granary that I had found just south of Mankato. We didn't have any land yet, much less a plan on how this was all going to work but she agreed and we started taking it down. I was going to college at the time so I took a class in Architectural Design where I came up with a plan to build our dream home. The plan was rather small compared to the other students, so I didn't get a very good grade... I often wonder how many of those homes actually got built.



As the materials piled up in our backyard my land lady, who lived next door, started to ask what I was doing and when I was going to get this stull moved. When I told her I didn't know when because we didn't own a piece of land yet, she sent me an eviction notice the following month after a couple more loads of old wood showed up. I decided to go talk to her and try to get more time by pointing out the old, dilapidated sawmill she had in her back yard which didn't look any worse than my yard. She agreed so we found a realtor named Cash Raether (not kidding) and within a few months, he found a 25 acre parcel that we bought with some cash that my grandfather gave me to finish college.



We started building and soon realized a slight difference between us and the couple in that article was that we had to dismantle the barn, move it 22 miles and put it up again, so the only thing we had in common was the lack of funds. This, of course, slowed the progress to the point we didn't get in the house before winter and had to live in the 8x12 camper we borrowed from my father-in-law to get through the summer. That lasted until around Christmas when the electric heater in the camper almost started a fire, forcing us to move into the basement the following week with a wood cook stove, a heated waterbed and no running water. It wasn't easy but at least we didn't have a mortgage (lol)!

Why I Like Barns, continued



We finally realized the situation we were in and that to get a mortgage, we needed to get more work done on the house. The only way we could do that was to keep using reclaimed material, which seemed to fit well with the barn. We got some old windows from a neighbor, doors from Bethany college, hardwood flooring from a church, a marble countertop at an auction, wood and stone from several other barns and steel roofing from the pole barns I was building at the time.

All this and more was hauled to our property on a 1947 International I ton truck that I bought for \$50. That was in 1977 and although we still live in the same house, it is not finished. My excuse for this is

because it has been added onto four times and the oldest part now needs to be updated. My wife says it's because I work so much on other people's projects, our projects get put on the back burner. I hate to say it but I think she's right...as usual.

Those "other" projects include restoring century old barns and log cabins for those who feel the same as I do about preserving our history by saving these structures. For those that don't have a historic cabin or barn but still want one I have made a practice of finding, moving and restoring these old treasures. So, as I look back at the last 42 years of my life, it seems like it's either gone in a big circle or nowhere.

If you wish to know for sure, drop me a line at info@artisanrestorationmn.com.



Coffee Chat Recap: Jim Crouch Barn, Waverly



On a dreary, cool day at the end of October, there was a nice turnout to see this well-preserved 1950s Gothic roof barn.

Jim, who has owned the barn for 19 years, told us about the measures that were necessary to straighten the rafters that were bowing out at the floor line. First, the rafter tails were pulled in with cables and then special brackets were fabricated to tie them to the floor joists.

In the loft area, the original hay trolley still hangs from the peak of the roof. A new steel roof was installed recently. Jim has kept the barn in very nice condition. Maurene gave us a tour of the barn that is home to several fire tipped cats and an assortment of other animals, including

chickens, peacocks and the family horses. The loft is still used for hay storage.

As usual, each Coffee Chat has other interesting features. In this case, Jim has moved a couple of other buildings to his property, including a quansit building that has been converted into a heated shop where Jim has a couple of 80 year old youngsters doing restoration work for him on old tractors and equipment. There is a 36 X 90 X 14 pole barn that was moved onto the property in one piece and the sawed off posts were bolted to two channels, one on each side of the posts and cemented into pre-bored holes. Jim has his extensive collection of tractors and equipment in this building. In another building, we saw a restored 1900s IH stationary baler, which brought back memories for me. When I was a youngster, my father bought a stationary baler from the Earl Brown Farm to bale the loose hay and straw from our barn. Early on these balers were commonly belted to a steam engine and later regular tractors. Later yet, many had an engine mounted to the baler. It was at least a four man job to bale: one to feed in the loose hay, one person would feed the wires through the wood blocks that separated the bales as they were being compacted in the bale chamber, another to tie the wires and bring the blocks to the front of the chamber to be put between the bales and a fourth to take the bales and stack them.

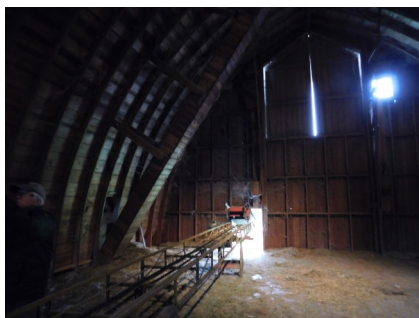


Photo Calendar Contest



Annual Barn Photography Contest

- Contest categories: Adult Open and Youth/Student Open. Photographs must include an identifiable part of a barn (inside or out). **Barns must be located in Minnesota.**
- Photos may be taken with any type of camera, phone, tablet, etc. Filters and other camera accessories may be used. **Photos need to be high resolution AND horizontal format.**
- Photographs can be enhanced using computer software.
- By entering the contest, you allow the Friends of Minnesota Barns (FoMB) to use your photograph in the barn calendar as well as in other promotions, advertisements, products, websites, social media sites, and any other way the group sees fit. The photographer will be credited if the photograph is used.
- A photographer may enter three (3) unique photographs into the Adult Open category. Youth/students may submit photos to the “Adult” category. The same photograph may not be entered into multiple categories.
- A total of 12 winners will be selected and will receive a 2021 calendar.
- Winners will be announced in spring 2020 at the FoMB Annual Meeting.
- Judges will have the final decision on if a photograph meets the criteria.

Updates about the contest will be posted to our website and Facebook page.
www.mnbarns.org

Barn Photography Contest

2020 Contest Categories

1. Adult Open (up to 3 entries per person)
2. Youth/Student Open (16 years old and under. One entry per person)

Entry Deadline: Monday, February 3, 2020

Entry Fee: FREE for youth/students and members of FoMB **or** \$25 yearly membership for adults. Yearly membership includes a quarterly newsletter, discounts on tours and barn coffee chat gatherings, great group of people to get to know and so much more!

Submission Information to Include:

1. Name
2. Email Address
3. Home Address
4. Phone Number
5. Category Entering

Email: .jpg digital image (high resolution) and horizontal format to: redbenchvintage@hotmail.com

Mail: 8 x 10 printed photograph to: Clare Hoelderle, 19685 Oak Grove Avenue, Prior Lake, MN 55372. Must be postmarked by entry deadline.

A Rod

By LeRoy Kuta

The trail at the YMCA camp, Du Nord, near Ely, MN is marked off in rods.

My daughter asked me what that was and I told her it was equal to 16 ½ feet. My dad used a rod back in North Dakota as 16 ½ feet by a half mile was one acre. An easy way to lay out a field.

In the 1600's, 2 rods (perches) by 2 rods was the amount of land an individual could cultivate alone. 40 times that amount could be cultivated by a yoke of oxen was deemed an acre. The rod may have been the length of a pike, a sharpened slender pole used in warfare.

The means of measuring were variable using either a rope or a stick. That is until a Mathematician, named Gunter, devised the chain, which measured 66 feet or 4 rods. The chain was made of metal and consisted of 100 links. Gunter's chain had a number of things going for it. One: it was made of metal so it did not vary in length. Two: it could be divided by 2, 4 or 10. Three: it could be wrapped over the shoulder of surveyor and carried into the wilderness to measure land. It was convenient that 10 square chains equaling an acre and 80 Gunter's Chains was equal to a mile or 5,280 feet.

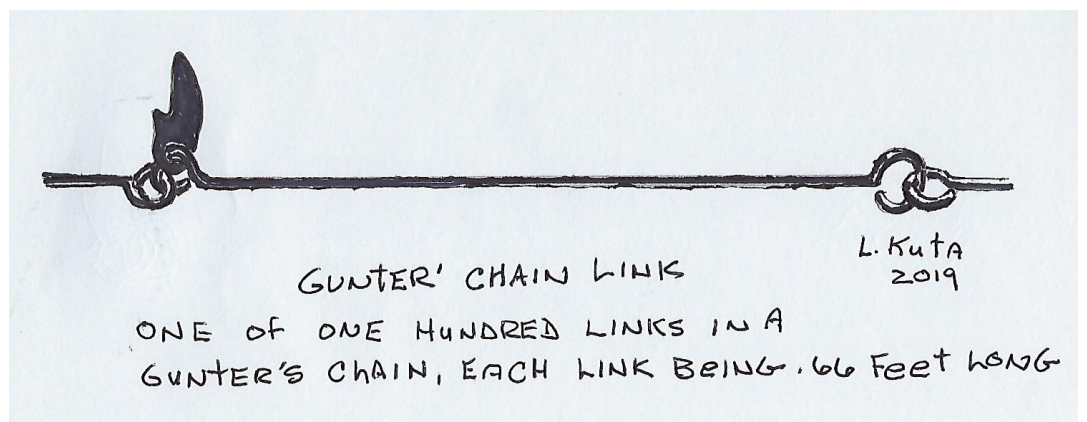
On the Ohio River, across from Pennsylvania, a stone marker carries a plaque headed with “ The Point Of Beginning”, from this point west to the Pacific, north to Canada, and south to Mexico, all of the public land was laid out in square miles using the Gunter's chain.

The Gunter's chain is 66 feet long with 100 links. Each link is .66 feet long or some 8 inches. A rod (or Perche) is 16 ½ feet long so there are 4 rods to a chain (a chain is also the pitch on a Cricket field). There are 80 chains to a mile which is 5,280 feet. One mile by one mile is, 640 acres, also known as a section. A quarter of land is a quarter section often referred to as a quarter, I've often heard of farmers having “X” number of quarters but almost never as sections. Most land is sold by quarters at so much an acre.

Today, land is selling as farm land for between \$2,000.00 to over \$10,000.00 per acre. The Homestead Act of 1860 gave a quarter of land or 160 acres to an individual if he would farm the land and build a dwelling. It was then his or hers free and clear. A quarter was 2,640 feet by 2,640 feet and one rod times 2,640 feet was one acre or 43,560 square feet. A handy way for a farmer to lay out a field as he would make his rows a half mile long.

If you would like to read more about the various things we measure and how they came about, I would recommend the book “Measuring America” by Andro Linklater.

- The Rusty Hinge



Friends of Minnesota Barns

10605 Joliet Avenue North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Telephone:
612-338-BARN (2276)

E-mail:
info@friendsofminnesotabarns.org

Website:
www.mnbarns.org

Our mission is to educate the public and raise awareness to the importance of historic barns and farmsteads in Minnesota, and to help advocate for barn preservation. We offer educational workshops and assist others in finding resources for preservation and/or restoration of historic barns and farmsteads.



Barn in Lakeville, MN

Photo credit: Clare Hoelderle

General Announcements

* Please note that our mailing address has changed to:
10605 Joliet Avenue North, Stillwater, MN 55082

* The next Friends of MN Barns board meeting will be on
Monday, December 16 at 6:30 p.m. at Davanni's in
Eden Prairie. All are welcome to attend.

* We are always looking for barn articles, pictures and
interesting facts to be used in upcoming newsletters.
If you would like to contribute, please contact newsletter
editor and board member, Clare Hoelderle at
redbenchvintage@hotmail.com.



On the grounds at Blackwoods Farm, Stillwater