**6 Featured Sites on Barn Quilt Tour Offer Rich Variety of Experiences**

***Tickets Now on Sale for October 5 One-Day-Only Tour***

The Champaign County Barn Quilt Tour, which has become one of the largest such tours in the Midwest, will offer local residents and visitors an entertaining and educational mix of experiences for all ages at six featured stops on Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau established the Barn Quilt Tour in 2006 to invite visitors to discover the attractions and natural beauty of Champaign County’s farmland. The tour highlights the county’s agricultural heritage and barns, the folk art of quilting and special features and history of the county.

Tickets will be on sale beginning Friday, September 27 for the eighth annual tour. Tour tickets and a 2013 Barn Quilt Tour map, which charts the locations of all barn quilts, will be available at all stops during the tour and at the Chamber & Visitors Bureau office. The tour is made possible by many generous sponsors from the area.

Spend the day on October 5 exploring three local farms and several historical sites. 2013 Barn Quilt Tour highlights include: presentations on the history of Kiser Lake State Park; local historical figure Richard Stanhope, personal valet to General George Washington; the local Geuy family of builders who helped erect over 100 barns in Champaign & Shelby counties including some of our featured barns; tours of both the Pony Wagon Museum in St. Paris and Johnny Appleseed Museum on the campus of Urbana University; a stop at Rosewood Grocery & Deli celebrating 120 years as the area’s general store; and tour stops at three local farms. At the tour stops, enjoy displays of antique farm machinery and quilts, children’s activities, locally grown foods and mums, local art, and much more!

Year-round, visitors may take a leisurely driving tour to view the barn quilts which includes more than 80 large, vibrantly-colored quilt squares displayed on barns and other buildings across the county. The map for self-guided tours is available throughout the year at the Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau.

The 2013 Champaign County Barn Quilt Tour sites include:

1. **Paul & Mark Pence:**
*Quilt: Four Seasons of Farming*
Explore two levels of this turn-of-the-century barn owned by Paul and Mark Pence at 7255 State Route 29 (Urbana), recently renovated in part by the Geuy builders of Champaign County. Members of the Geuy family will be on hand to present the history of some of the over 173 Champaign & Shelby County barns they helped to construct. Two scale-model Geuy barns built by Steve Hess and special quilts created by local 4-H members will be on display. From 10-2, the Champaign County Farm Bureau will host a Family Fun Day at this location including a kiddie-pedal tractor maze, pumpkin decorating, sandwiches and drinks. Farm Bureau members who present their membership card can receive a free sandwich for immediate family members. Join us for a special performance by Daniel Dye and the Miller Road Band at 4 p.m.!
2. **Bob & Becky Evans**:
*Quilt: The Cabin by the Lake*
The Evans barn, owned by Bob and Becky Evans, is a 5th generation farm at 5218 North State Route 235 (Conover) that overlooks Kiser Lake State Park. This Geuy-constructed barn, built circa 1912, features decorative skirting at its tall peak, both of which are characteristics of the Geuy building style. Bill Kremer, former Kiser Lake Park Manager for 27 years will discuss throughout the day how the state park was developed from a portion of the Evans farm and the land surrounding it. The Champaign Quilters Guild will provide their popular quilt display at this site. Learn about the history of the farm, see an arrowhead display and visit the Champaign Land Preservation display including a special children’s activity! Enjoy the beautiful country vista overlooking the state park while local artists paint the surrounding scenery and offer displays and sales of their works at this location.
3. **George & Pat Owens**:
*Quilt: Stars & Stripes Forever*The George and Pat Owens farm at 5263 State Route 560 (Urbana) includes a restored century-old bank barn constructed between 1914 and 1917 under the direction of Samuel J. Barger, owner of the farm at that time. On the day of the tour, we will feature antique and modern farm equipment displays, fun and educational children’s activities sponsored by the Champaign Family YMCA, and a visit with farm animals. Enjoy fresh local produce, warm food & baked goods and country crafts as well as mum sales by locally-owned Chateau Farms. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Dr. Janet Ebert will present on local historical figure Richard Stanhope who served as a personal valet to General George Washington at Valley Forge. Stanhope spent his later years residing in Champaign County and his final resting place is in Johnson Cemetery next to the Owens’ farm.
4. **Johnny Appleseed Museum**
*Quilt: Chapman’s Apple*
Celebrate Johnny Appleseed’s birthday with self-guided museum tours, a slice of apple pie from Steven’s Bakery, quilt displays, cider press demos and a lovely performance by the Champaign County Dulcimer Club from 12-2 p.m. Local authors, Ann Corfman and Nancy Sherwood will be signing copies of their books and Johnny Appleseed himself will be making a special appearance! The Appleseed Museum is located at 579 College Way on the Urbana University campus.
5. **Rosewood Grocery & Deli**:
*Quilt: Rosewood*
Experience another element of turn-of-the-century life at this general store celebrating 120 years in 2013! See old fixtures and wooden plank floor as well as the building’s original post office. The store’s owners, Patti & Kurt Bailar, will be on hand to talk about the history of the establishment. Food specials will be available at the grocery and Grandpa’s Produce & Pumpkin Patch will provide pumpkin, corn stalk & gourd sales outdoors. The Rosewood Grocery & Deli is located at 11009 W. State Route 29 in Rosewood.
6. **Pony Wagon Museum**
*500 Block of S. Springfield St. in St. Paris*Step back in time at this former freight depot for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Discoverthe history of St. Paris, Ohio and its heritage as the center for pony wagon manufacturing in the late 19th century. St. Paris was home to a variety of carriage manufacturers, including The Walborn & Riker Company, which shipped its products worldwide and displayed its carriages at many expositions such as the 1891 Chicago World’s Fair. View collections and items representing local St. Paris history, a variety of pony wagons on display and a special quilt display by the Antique Study Club. The museum is a non-profit organization operated by a staff of volunteers and gladly accepts donations.

**Barn Quilt Tour Tickets on Sale September 27**

Tickets for the 2013 Champaign County Barn Quilt Tour will be sold at eight locations:

* The Champaign County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau, 107 N. Main St., Urbana; 937-653-5764 and 877-873-5764
* The Peoples Savings Bank, 10 Monument Square and 618 Scioto St., Urbana
* Security National Bank, 1 Monument Square and 828 Scioto St., Urbana; 2 S. Main St., Mechanicsburg; 8 W. Maple St., North Lewisburg
* St. Paris Hardware, 114 W. Main St., St. Paris

The $10 tickets cover admission to all six tour stops, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, October 5. Visitors under the age of 12 are admitted at no cost.

The day of the tour, October 5, tickets will also be on sale at each of the stops and at a tent on the gravel lot located at the southeast corner of Monument Square in Urbana.