

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2026, Issue 349

A Remarkable Calendar—Greenville Area Barns

Finally, a crisp & cool day in the 60s brought a breath of fresh air and about sixty attendees for the September program: Tom Sweeny, Christine Mickelsen, Ron Teator, Stuart Wagner, Judy Rundell, *Gerry Boone & *Laura Tenney, Brian Mulligan, John Garofalo & Peter O'Hara, Roland Reissig, Stephanie Ingalls, Rachel Ceasar, Barbara & Flip Flack, Terry & Garth Bryant, Anita Orsino, Joyce Chase, Margaret Donahue,

Barbara & Clark Ryndak, *John Hull, Charlene & Ken Mabey, *Ed Volmar, Karen Knapp, Wendell Tubbs(?), Elaine & Toby Nevins, Robert Titus, Linda Berger, Jeanne Farrell, *Ann Rhoades & *Jay Goodman, Kay Peavey(?), Dave Tschinkel, Mary Lou Nahas, *Ted Hilscher, *Fred Hinrichsen, Debra & Don Teator, and a couple handful who might not have signed in.

*calendar barn owner

This meeting was good for my soul.

It capped nearly a year of creating, planning, researching, editing, producing what has proven to be a remarkable calendar.

Although I will cover most of what comprised the meeting, allow me to start with some thank-yous. It seemed this calendar was a supreme effort of coordination, timing, and asking for assistance. And I had an abundance of the last.

My first thank you goes to my brother Ron Teator – owner of Crossroads Ford, barn aficionado, and financial backer of the calendar.

Some five years ago or so, Ron implored me to create a barn calendar. His list of wants did not mesh with my thinking at the time. Finally, between a narrower scope of needs versus my emerging vision of worthiness, the shape of the 2027 calendar came into being.

Ron's influence on the calendar is seen in the May and December selections.

My personally strongest thank you goes to Ted Hilscher – Town of New Baltimore Historian, an attorney in Catskill, and a soon-to-be author of agriculture in Greene County.

Our interest in local history goes back decades and Ted has provided several programs for GLHG.

Ted's influence on the calendar extends to:

the writing of the Barn Primer;

Barn selections: Lisk, Eldred, Hinrichsen, Hull

Category: Lewis (current milk shipping farm), Volmar (last milk shipper in Greenville)

Captions: Lisk, Palmer, Eldred, Hinrichsen, Hull; Deily, PLM, Carlsen

Ted was my psychological boost when I needed it. Thank you, Ted.

A definite thank you is most appreciatively proffered to my wife Debra. Many a morning or afternoon or evening saw an raised eyebrow – heh, barns again?! She might even claim I married the mass of them. I certainly

dreamt about them.

And then, to cap the barn effort, Debra started to sketch one, then two, then all 27 of them, each of them given as a thank you to each barn owner, all of them (owners) moved by a unique gift.

The fourth collaborator, Jonathan Palmer, allowed his presence to add to the enthusiasm and thoughtfulness about what each barn showed us. And it was his photo that became the Barnsters.

And a thank you to Paige Ingalls, the proof-reader for these past three years, who faced a unique challenge. Ted, Ron & I had pored over every word and sentence before it arrived at her doorstep. And still, Paige's efforts saved me from a few dozen small mistakes that would have haunted me.

And then I am indebted to every single one of the barn owners, and the whole group of 27, for allowing us to share their barns with the Greenville area. The 60-90 minutes we spent with each family generated a feeling that became one of our greatest rewards of this project. As our thank you card to each barn own-

er said: "On behalf of the Greenville local history group, thank you for sharing your barn for the 2027 Barns of the Greenville Area Calendar. These magnificent structures are emblematic of the strength and tenacity of the families who have worked and/or preserved them and of the communities benefiting from the fabric of life built around them. The Barn Committee immensely enjoyed the trust, graciousness, time, thoughts, and conversation you shared with us - a side benefit that no calendar can adequately capture."

One more thank you goes to the Greenville area community who, when asked, contributed ideas for barns to consider. A half-dozen of those suggestions led to or confirmed selections in the calendar.

Timeline

Ron and I started our discussion in September 2025. I eventually agreed that a Barn Calendar would be done, mostly likely in 2028. A couple nights of sleep made me reconsider. Next page: is a copy of an early important email:



The Barnsters:

Clockwise, from top:
Ron, Don, Jon, Ted

With his camera on a ten-second timer, Jon Palmer sprinted to barn and around to the window to barely have time to pop his face for the photo – so fast that he did not have time to smile!

9/29

Good afternoon, Ron,

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After consideration, I have arrived at the following calendar plan. Let me know if it meets the desires you voiced.

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Greenville Local History Group 2027 Calendar
Greenville Area Barns

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(a 500 word theme/dedication should go on the back cover)

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6 barns from Greenville (one of them for the cover)

7 barns from bordering towns: Westerlo, Coeymans, Coxsackie, New Baltimore, Cairo, Durham, maybe Rensselaerville (not a border but so close)

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This would allow me to justify a Greenville calendar, and it spreads the other areas fairly. Coeymans is spoken for, in case you want to start the contact.

I have yet to talk to Ted Hilscher but his barn would be New Baltimore

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I would need to hustle to take photos of barns before snow flies, and then have time in the spring in case I need a better photo. And I have to research each barn, something that I think is doable. I would be doing almost as much work for a regular calendar.

Greenville barns: Teator, North Barn, South Barn (cover?), and four more.



Debbie (Sacco) and Bill Von Atzingen are the recipients of the 2027 Recognition from the Greenville Local History Group. Their service to the community goes above and beyond the usual, one of the GLHG standards for its recognition. Debbie has been the face of Summer Tuesday music at Veterans Park (pond), collaborator in writing grants, and is involved in Community Partners of Greenville. Bill can be seen dangling from the steeple of Prevost Hall, has been president of CPOG for a few years, and is one of the most active people in the Town Park. The full details are in the calendar. Congratulations, Debbie & Bill

I, and my fellow collaborators, now chuckle at the short range of workload I suggested. Naging doubts about including an adequate number of barns was a major force in revising the scope of this calendar to eight more pages (two calendar pages). And that led to a workload that led to a factor of 4-6 times.

Another key day was the day Ted & Ron & I toured the available barns for our first draft selection. After I had driven every road in the southern half of the Town of Greenville and then a different day for the northern half and its environs into Westerlo and Rensselaerville, I prepared an itinerary.

November 7 Itinerary

- Ted's at 8, look at barn
- (Blaisdell already seen)
- Dietz barn
- to Cocksackie to see Ron's new barn
- CR 51- Hinrichsen
- 81, left on CR 45
- Paradise Farm on Gayhead-Earlton
- reverse course to Buttino on Surprise Result
- Lampman complex on SRR & King Hill Earlton Rd
- Weeks-King barn on King Hill
- Waldron on Waldron Rd
- Huemmer-Story on Mt View Rd
- West Rd
- Morning Mist
- Paul Bear (Sunny Hill)
- White Farm Loop
- back to Freehold for stop if needed

- White Farm Loop
- back to Freehold for stop if needed
- past Teator homestead
- Henckel barn
- on Big Wood Rd to Lee Brown complex – Old Plank
- Mirabelli barn on Old Plan
- Sunset Rd
- to Schoolhouse Rd to Mt View barn
- to Hull Barn
- Mackey Rd
- McCafferty Rd
- Field Rd
- Maple Ave Ext
- carriage house
- Vanderbilt Park barns
- Stevens
- Turon
- Irving Rd
- Denhard
- Rose
- Volmar
- Back home



Those of you knowledgeable about area roads can probably follow the course we followed. Left out is lunch at Tiny Diner!

Had there been a thirteenth month, the Carlsen Barn would have taken that place. This photo attracted many comments.

When asked to compare the traditional calendar to the Barn Calendar, I made these notes.

traditional calendar vs 2027 calendar
28 pgs vs 36 pgs
14 photos vs 27 photos
2,000 words vs 5,000 words
archives available vs start from scratch
500 miles vs 2500 miles
2-5 visits per barn
20-30 photos vs 300 photos
re-did every photo (except 2)
answerable to myself vs **keeping two others informed at every step**
5 hrs interviews vs 75 hrs interviews
6 personal talks vs 35 personal talks
50-100 emails vs 1,500 emails
1 brain changing its mind vs 3 brains changing minds
2 hrs distribution at start vs 30 hours
50-75 hours for old calendar vs 300? +80 (TH) + 50 (RT) for new one

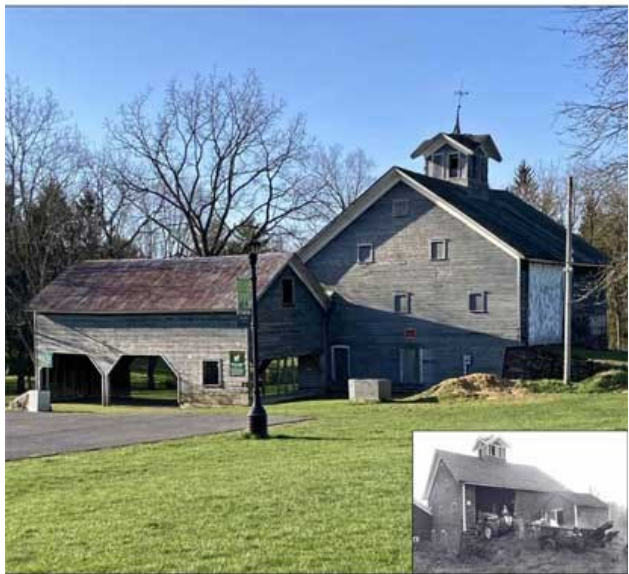
In short, every step of the calendar's creation took more time, both in numbers and in creating new material.

If I had to pick two key factors, one would be the availability of photos. In the regular calendar, I usually look through the ongoing list I keep while also perusing the archives for inspiration. I already have the first three months of 2028 done in my head. On the other hand, I had to take all the photos for the 2027 calendar, once in the fall for consultation with the committee and once again in Spring 2026 for better quality photos.

A second factor was flexibility and creativity. The original plan of 12 photos continued to change. Eventually, it would lead to twenty-seven photos. And even though a list of barns to select surprisingly emerged early, we continually tweaked a barn on the edge of the list or found a category that needed filling (usually, Ted's idea) or later played with every caption. And I was teamed with two creative, somewhat vocally free-ranging collaborators. I was tasked with keeping notes of good ideas and see what happened down the road a few months. And they both reassured me that I had final say. As Ted would comment: he and Ron each had a vote while I had three!

Many of you have mentioned the improvements of the paper weight and the spiral. These were topics of discussion also but easy decisions to make.

BARNs OF THE GREENVILLE AREA



Greenville Local History Group
2027 Calendar

Ted Hilscher and I decided early on that the calendar should be more than 12 pretty pictures. It was probably the Town Historian thing! ha

I wrote the Testimony page, listing the different perspectives that each barn, any barn lend themselves to. And this calendar certainly lent itself to that, with the three of us (Ted, Ron, me) many times remembering where a once sturdy barn once stood, and now gone and soon forgotten.

Ted wrote the Primer page. In it, he details the differences between two major types of barns – Dutch, English – and how they came to be. And he is quick to point out that these two are the big categories, often changed or added on to. In the case of the Eldred barn (March), what is first built as a Dutch barn was added and reconfigured enough that the average person might assume English. The H-bents are the giveaway. And in the end, it made little difference as long as its usefulness was proven.

Photography, as in any calendar, is a key element.

Anyone, including me, can take good-enough photos, and I did plenty of that early on (last fall). Once we began selecting certain barns – assessing what lighting, what time of day, which angle would show the exterior best came to the fore. And then an occasional interior shot tested us also.

One barn, and I apologize to it now, that I did not take its best side was the Honorable Mention – Giarusso barn. I drove past on a magnificent crisp day that highlighted the shadows of the Catskill Mountains so exquisitely that it had to be in the calendar.

A quick look at our reasoning for each shot goes as follows.

Front cover – town park barn, default selection

Back cover – town park barn, default selection

Recognition barn – wonderful coincidence the Von Atzingens repurposed a barn

Jan – a classic three bay, ground level, English barn; a good starting place

Feb – the Rensselaerville representative; still shipping milk

March – a Coxsackie representative; the tallest section is the Dutch representative; a Ted pick

April – a spread of five units, with a U-shape barnyard; not seen elsewhere

May – Coeymans representative; one of Ron's two requests, the grandest of the barns

June – Westerlo representative

July – historical significance of family, a non-cow use

August – New Baltimore representative; Ted's pick, and his own barns

Sept – one of last Greenville farms to ship milk

Oct – too awesome to pass by; another Coxsackie pick – the only non-G'ville to place two

Nov – the Durham rep; Ted's pick and a favorite person of that community

Dec – Ron's second request; the only barn non-existent

The Honor Mentions were worthy barns in their own right, with a perhaps more ranging of opinion from the Barnsters (Ted, Ron, Jon, and me).

- The DiTullio barn was the Cairo representative. It was the only Town representative that was not placed on a monthly page.
- The Turon & Stevens barns were within-throwing-distance neighbors and still classic barns.
- The Paradise barn pops off the street on its sharp corner.
- The Prevost barn is shown for its historic significance to Greenville history
- Pine Lake Manor shows a re-use, this one as a resort rec hall
- Stealing our hearts – would have been month #13 was the Carlsen barn with the truck begging for attention.

And the others not mentioned were deemed worthy barns.

We had made our selections – two dozen more barns, half in Greenville. At some point, I decided that a satisfying balance had been reached. We had achieved more than

just a mere calendar, possibly had reached the keepsake possibility, and hopefully had not entered in coffee table volume pretension status.

My heart still yearns for a couple of those barns not selected for the calendar. And a couple dozen viewers have already asked whether we considered such and such barn, or why we did not consider their barn. In the end, as Ted would say, they are all nice barns. And we stuffed this calendar as full as we could stuff a calendar.

Distribution and costs of the calendar is a topic I often spare you. All I will say for this year, because of the scope of the calendar area, I spent more time talking with Ron about costs. I believe the final price is a bargain beyond compare, short of being given away.

Offshoot #1

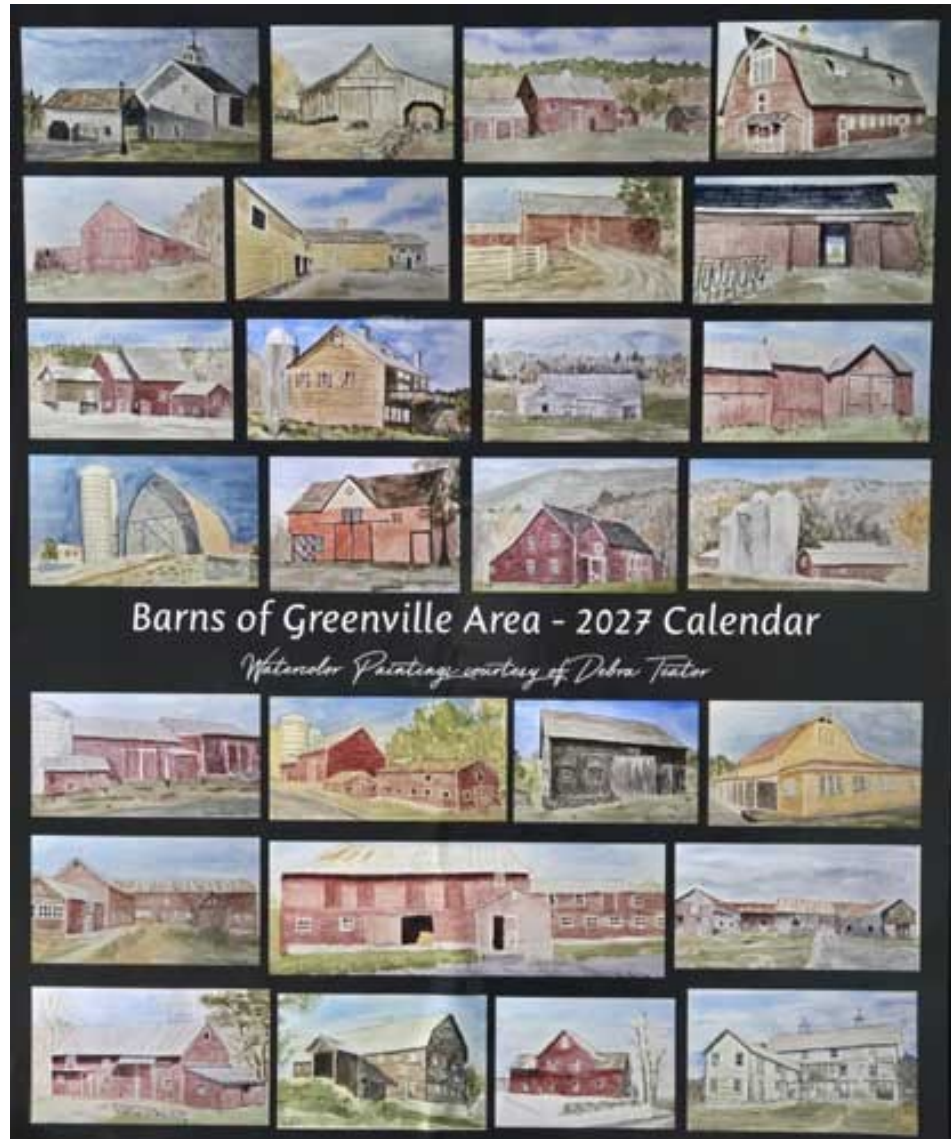
This calendar has resulted in a couple of side journeys not planned on and probably possible only because of the topic and scope.

Within hours of picking up the calendar from Altamont Enterprise Printing, I received a call from the editor of Altamont Enterprise Newspaper, parts of the whole.

Editor Melissa Hale-Spencer called and asked if I might consider having the calendar be the subject of a podcast. I agreed and a few days later, we sat down in the office.

I must say seldom have I been honored like this, with an article in the weekly edition and the again is a 66 minutes podcast available online. Both article and podcast, with slightly different perspectives, can be read, and listened to at:
<https://altamontenterprise.com/09122026/don-teator-produces-nostalgic-educational-calendar-greenville-area-barns>

And as a long-time reader of the Altamont Enterprise, I have long admired Melissa's editorials.



Offshoot #2

It was impossible for Debra to not peek once or thrice at the calendar goings-on. And she likes sketching and painting structures.

She asked, perhaps it was June, if I minded if she painted from one of our barn photos. And that led to another one, and then to another one... and she kept going.

She finished all 27 barns, in watercolor, by the end of August, almost all of them fitting into a 5x7 frame. Deb decided each one should go into the complimentary calendar envelope with a thank you card and calendar.

Offshoot #2b

Deb and I realized that giving the watercolor gifts to each barn owner would end our viewing of her 27 works. Then, the idea struck.

What if we took photos of each painting and make a poster of it? Voila! We now have a 20x24 poster of the Barns of the Greenville Area. We first made three for the

three Barnsters but soon came to realize it was a piece of art itself. So, we have ordered a couple dozen more, and half of them are now sold. The second half remains. If you want one, contact me. \$20. I can mail; postage is another \$10+. A re-order is not likely.

Now available at Kelly's, GNH, and the Library (other sites to be determined), the 2027 calendar, and it is still a calendar, has proven to be a different product and different effort.

This calendar project has had an energy demand – physical, psychological, emotional – that is consuming, at times. Coming down from this high has been a challenge.

And yet I cannot understate the numerous, and enormous, rewards to this undertaking.

I think the calendar brings new attention to the Greenville area. And I thank all of you for the steady support.

I am now starting the 2028 calendar.

Notes:

—Stephanie & Christine: thank you once again for the “light refreshments” I keep promising in the meeting pr.

—Deb gave a survey of the art in the gallery as well as Clematis Club doings. Membership in the Clematis Club is a social way of sharing one's interest in gardens and gar-

dening, and with no special expertise or knowledge expected.

—Greenville Day has come and gone. Friday was a beautiful day. Saturday found that the weather gods had reared their wet heads with the nor'easter that damaged the coastlines and the enjoyment of Greenville's festival.

October program:

Flip Flach returns for his eighth, and final, Canvas of Greenville program. This one will start on Route 32 at Hill Street and finish at the Four Corners. At the conclusion, I plan on reviewing Flip entire Canvas programming.