

# The Hubert Wilhelm Cultural Heritage Educators Award



Hubert G. H. Wilhelm

This award was created by  
Friends of Ohio Barns to honor  
***Hubert G. H. Wilhelm***  
in recognition of his pioneering spirit and  
outstanding achievement  
in promoting the appreciation,  
significance, and preservation of  
Ohio's historic barns.

# Wilhelm Award Recipient

for 2016

## Robert F. Ensminger



**Robert F. Ensminger** is a professor of geography, emeritus, at Kutztown University in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, and widely known author of *The Pennsylvania Barn, Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America*. His book provided the first comprehensive study of an important piece of American vernacular architecture—the forebay bank barn, better known as the Pennsylvania barn or the Pennsylvania German barn. Ensminger’s research, diligent fieldwork, and archival research into the origins, evolution, and distribution in North America of this significant agricultural structure has brought a greater understanding of the importance of the Pennsylvania barn. His work is responsible for the movement to protect and preserve the Pennsylvania barn. His classic work will appeal to students and scholars in cultural and historical geography, folklore, and vernacular architectural history, and American studies, as well as to general readers.

"With this book, Ensminger has drawn our attention to one of the most distinctive buildings in the American landscape, one which offers lessons not only pertinent to American agriculture and ethnic history, but one whose study reveals much about settlement processes. Every scholar concerned with material culture on whatever level will want to read and treasure this book."

"With the perspective of a master builder and farmer and the eye of an artist, Ensminger guides the reader through the historical development of Pennsylvania barns from their origin in medieval Europe to their present-day uses... All may be identified by studying the photographs generously scattered throughout the text."

— Illinois Historical Journal

"Its [reward] means that it's fun to find barns and share them with other people and hope that they'll be preserved," said Ensminger. "They [barns] represent the architectural heritage of the Pennsylvania German culture. They're the outstanding building along with the farmhouse of the farm scene in Pennsylvania and therefore we should preserve like we preserve all important monuments."