



Area's Best Kept Secret Revealed

The Fling Barn

The drive between Dayton and Hillsboro is a treat for the eyes. Farms on rolling hills are laid out like grandma's patchwork quilt. There's several little towns along the way were the main attraction is still the family diner on Main or the single screen movie theater. You get a feeling that this is what America is really all about—the Heartland. Easy feelings and simple bliss. Old barns scattered across the landscape, a horse here and there, a couple of cows, some kids chasing the family dog around a shallow pond. It just puts things in perspective, if only for a little while.

It's a short drive actually, just over an hour, but thinking about my destination--a one hundred year-old barn owned by the Fling family--caused me to wonder about the hours it would have taken the builder of that structure, Mr. Fling, to make the same trip back in the early 1900s. Of course, the Mr. Fling that I'm going to meet on this trip is the grandson of that Mr. Fling; and the Barn...well let's just say they don't keep animals in there anymore. The Fling Barn has been converted into a magnificent 3000 square foot entertainment venue complete with a fully equipped stage, lighting and sound systems, indoor and outdoor seating, multi-level bars, and all the modern conveniences you'd expect in a concert hall.

The Fling family has quite a history in Hillsboro—four generations worth. Currently, this working horse farm is owned by Dr. Bill Fling and his lovely wife Dr. Deborah Kilgallon, both practicing veterinarians. The Flings own and operate the Academy Pet Hospital on N. High Street in Hillsboro. It's a state-of-the-art facility providing every level of pet care from surgery to dentistry. Throughout Dr. Bill's career he has opened multiple pet hospitals around the country, and when he returned to live permanently at the family homestead a few year's ago, he saw the need for just such a practice in his hometown.

As I arrive at the Barn located at 8205 West Berrysville Road it's pretty much what you would expect from the outside; a large green roofed, rustic structure

that has weathered over a century of Ohio's seasons. But inside, now that's a different story. Greeted by Dr. Fling, I'm given the grand tour. The Barn is filled with antique farm implements hanging from the walls and ceilings. There are concert posters, performer's photos, and memorabilia displayed here and there. Directly in front of me is one of the most unique wooden bars I have ever seen...it actually looks like it could have been transported through time from one of the old west watering holes of the late 1800s.

Inside the structure has been completely restored and brought up to code for use as an entertainment venue, all while still maintaining the look and feel of the original barn. It's something you have to see for yourself.

Walking up some steps to the barn's loft there is a large stage and seating area with tables. An ample dance floor is located near the stage, and there's additional seating to the side. Larger crowds can spill out into the barnyard, and onto a second story deck, which overlooks the gentle rolling hills of this breathtaking 200-acre farm. The deck is a great place to enjoy an evening of music, and is served by a second bar located directly behind the stage.

I noticed an award displayed at the barn and was informed by Dr. Bill that the Fling Barn received the 2009 "Ohio Barn of the Year Award" from the Friends of Ohio Barns. The Friends of Ohio Barns is a society interested in preservation of old barns. The Fling Barn won "Ohio Barn of the Year for Adaptive Use". Quite the honor as far as barns are concerned.

The Fling Barn offers several live music shows monthly, most months of the year. Their complete schedule is posted on their website at www.flingbarn.com. Musical styles include Blues, Rock, Country, American Roots, Western Swing, Folk and Bluegrass. There's really something for everyone. Local talent from around the region is regularly showcased, and the Farm also brings in national acts like the Kentucky Headhunters scheduled for May 12th.

One thought that continued to go through my mind throughout my visit with Bill Fling was why I had never heard of this place before. I mean this is truly what music lovers dream about! Br. Bill told me that he had reached out to the newspapers in the Dayton area in the past and none of them had responded favorably. I was shocked, and also pleased to know that *Single Source News* was going to be the vehicle to get this message out into my community.

When the Barn is not in use as a concert hall, it also functions as a multi-purpose entertainment venue. Events like weddings, receptions, private parties and special celebrations are regular happenings at the Barn. According to Mr. Fling, weddings are very popular. The Barn offers terrific catering by experienced professionals, who work with you to design the perfect menu for your event. For any occasions the Barn offers that perfect unique space.

Dr. Bill told me that other than concerts, weddings are one of his favorite happenings on the Farm. In his words, "it's wonderful to know that the Farm will remain a loving memory for two people for the rest of their lives." He went

on to explain how the wedding packages are truly magical on the Farm. Imagine waking up at the Farm's Bed & Breakfast cottage on the morning of your wedding and looking out your window at a 30-mile view of the rolling countryside. Then taking a stunning white horse-drawn carriage ride through a valley to a grove of ancient oak trees where soft notes of dulcimer music fills the air. You arrive to see your guests waiting as the ceremony begins. Later its back to the Barn for the reception of a lifetime--completely catered to your specifications, and featuring live music and dancing. Afterwards you return to the privacy of your B & B cottage for an intimate stay with your new spouse. That does sound magical!

In addition to all this, the Fling's offer free camping on the grounds during events. They encourage people to stay and enjoy themselves at the Farm. If camping is not your thing, the beautiful Bed & Breakfast cottage is available to rent any time throughout the year.

The picturesque Fling Farm offers the perfect intimate getaway destination for small groups, corporate functions, clubs, churches, or just friends looking for a close to home change of pace for the week or weekend outing. The Bed & Breakfast cottage is spacious and beautifully appointed with all the amenities you good ask for.

I left the Farm that day wanting to tell all my music loving friends about what we'd been missing. I guess this article will be my way of doing that in mass. My thanks to Bill Fling for allowing me to introduce the Miami Valley to the Fling Farm and the happenings at the Barn. I can't wait to go back for my first concert. In the meantime check out some of the videos on their website. Hope to see you at the Barn!

For more information about the Fling Farm, and the Barn go to <http://www.flingbarn.com/> or call (937) 393-8200. You can also email Dr. Fling at: bill@flingbarn.com. For more detailed information on the Bed & Breakfast cottage visit www.flingfamilybandb.com. The farm is located 6 miles south of Hillsboro on State Route 247, turn left onto West Berrysville Road and go one mile.