

# County's 341<sup>st</sup> Barn Quilt Honors Barb Mader

Shawano County's 341<sup>st</sup> barn quilt, now on display on the Doug and Pam Huck farm at W10488 Big Lake Road, Gresham, is dedicated to the memory of Gresham resident Barbara Mader. The barn quilt's floral design, called Forget-Me-Not, is inspired by woodland Native American beadwork designs prevalent in northern Wisconsin while paying homage to the local Native American cultures, including the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and the Stockbridge Munsee community.

Barbara, who enjoyed her retirement years on nearby Koonz Lake with her husband, Mark, always had a passion for wildflowers, particularly native prairie flowers of the Midwest. She played an active role in their preservation throughout her life and the barn quilt metaphorically continues that tradition.

Both the barn on which the quilt is displayed, as well as the Mader family, have a long history in the local area extending back more than 120 years. In the early 1900s, this dairy barn, typical of those from that period, was built on the property, along with a farmhouse and several outbuildings.

Throughout its early history, the Berkahn and Stoehr families' dairy farming operations continued during their respective years of residing on the property and farming the land. Today, the dairy cows and crops are gone, although the barn's upper level continues to be used for hay storage. The stanchions are still in place in the lower level, reflecting evidence of the cows that once called the barn home. While the history of the farm may have faded, the barn still stands as a reminder of the area's rich dairy farming tradition.

In recent years, Barbara was an active member of Shawano Pathways and was involved in the Bike the Barn Quilts event, which just completed its fourth year. She helped plan the bike routes and was an active biker. In her honor, Shawano Pathways designated the Gresham bike route in her honor. Barbara taught school for many years at the tribal school in Neopit and Keshena, so it is appropriate that the barn quilt displayed in her honor is on a barn owned by Stockbridge Munsee members Doug and Pam Huck.

Heidi Bedwell, Mark's daughter, said, "We just love the barn quilt and think it is a fitting tribute to our mom." Doug Huck said, "We've known the Maders for many years and are honored to have this special barn quilt displayed on our farm in memory of Barbara."

The Mader barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy and Keith Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

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