

Bridge Beauties Sponsor 41st Barn Quilt

Eight Shawano women, who affectionately call themselves the Bridge Beauties because they get together once a month to play bridge, have sponsored Shawano County's 41st barn quilt. The quilt pattern they chose is called "Sunflower" and adorns a beautiful brown barn owned by Steve and Chris Nicolaison at N5467 Locust Road, Shawano.

The eight women who sponsored the quilt are Janalee Gansen, Irene Leuenberger, Sue Schuster, Lenore Behnke, Vera Drengler, Joanne Mehlberg, Arlene Martin and Shirley Rosenberg.

The barn the quilt is mounted on was built in the early 1900s. The farm was originally owned by John Hansen in 1906, who sold it to Erhardt Pedersen in 1943. It was purchased by Bill Theis in 1955, who sold it to Carl Winkler in 1987. Current owners Steve and Chris Nicolaison have lived there for the past 24 years.

Gardens maintained by the Nicolaisons highlight the barn quilt pattern. "Lots of people have commented about how nice the quilt is," Steve said. "Now if I need to tell someone where we live, I just have to say it's where the Sunflower barn quilt is."

Asked why her bridge group decided to sponsor a quilt, Janalee Gansen said, "We just thought it would be a fun thing to do and we wanted to support Jim and Irene Leuenberger for the hard work they are doing on the quilts."