

Basketry Guild Sponsors 117th Shawano County Barn Quilt

The Wolf River Basketry Guild has sponsored Shawano County's 117th barn quilt. Appropriately, the pattern they chose to sponsor is of a basket, which the Guild has named "Wolf River Basket." The quilt is displayed on a barn owned by Patti Lemke at N5169 Redwood Lane, just west of Shawano. It is easily seen from Highway 29 about two miles west of exit 225.

When the basketry guild decided to sponsor a barn quilt, they contacted project coordinator Jim Leuenberger, indicating they'd prefer to have it on a barn near Shawano. So Leuenberger contacted Lemke to see if she would be willing to have a quilt on her barn. "I was delighted to hear they wanted to put a quilt on my barn because my fiancé Len Kane and I had actually talked about getting a quilt," Lemke said. "I think the quilt they chose is just beautiful."

The farm where the quilt is displayed was first owned by the Churchill family in the 1800s. They had race horses and actually had a harness racing track on the farm where they trained their horses. The barn, built in the late 1800s, still has a dirt floor and was always used to house horses. Later the farm was owned by a Theis family, then by John Goodreau. Lemke has lived there since 1985.

The basketry guild was started in 1993 to promote the art of basketry. The guild currently has 87 members from all over Wisconsin and will be holding a workshop in April for its members. In September they will be holding a workshop where they bring in teachers from all over the country. The fall workshop is open to all basket weavers.

When asked why they wanted to sponsor a barn quilt, guild treasurer Becky Josvai said, "We thought it was a great way to support the project and promote our guild too. It is awesome to be a part of the project and want to thank Patti Lemke for letting us put the beautiful quilt on her barn."

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