

County's 259th Barn Quilt has a "Fowl" Theme

Rhode Island Red is the name of the pattern of Shawano County's 259th barn quilt. It has been sponsored by Linda Heling, N3915 Shorewood Lane, Clintonville. Eldon and Linda were married in 1980 and Eldon has lived on a dairy farm his entire life. They purchased their dairy farm in 1989 and Linda purchased a second farm a half mile away in 2013 (by selling her income-producing rental property on the Island of Bermuda she had inherited from her father John and mother Ellen Bourne for this special farm on the river where the barn quilt is displayed. The Helings and their 23-year-old daughter Peggy hope to open a bed and breakfast on the second farm.

The farm is on the Embarrass River with over a mile of the river running along the west and north sides of the 104-acre farm. The farm is over 100 years old, with both the house and barn built in the early 1900s. The barn is in its original condition and has been well kept up.

The farm was homesteaded in 1886 by a Laude family and was called Shorewood Farm. August and Alma Laude then took over the farm, followed by Arlin and Margaret Laude, who had a dairy herd there until May, 1981. Linda purchased the farm from Gerald and Cynthia Laude in 2013 and has renamed it Riverwood Farm.

"Once we get the bed and breakfast started, we hope to offer visitors a true farm experience with animals in the barn and grazing in the nearby fields," Linda said. "Visitors will also be able to walk past the fields on their way to fish and canoe in the river or to just enjoy a stroll through the fields."

"We just love the barn quilt," Linda said, "and think the pattern is very appropriate for our plans to open a bed and breakfast. We think our visitors will enjoy seeing it."

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

Anyone who has a barn in Shawano County and who is interested in getting a barn quilt can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com or by phone at 715-524-5685. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano County Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or by email at tourism@shawano.com. A link on the Shawano Chamber Web site includes photos and information on every barn quilt on display in Shawano County. Just go to www.shawanocountry.com and click on the barn quilt icon.

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