

County's 320th Barn Quilt is Weathervane Pinwheel

Dennis Rezner and his wife, Sherry, have sponsored Shawano County's 320th barn quilt. Asked why they sponsored a barn quilt, Dennis said, "I wanted to give our tree farm a family identity and support the great Shawano County barn quilt project at the same time."

The quilt pattern the Rezners picked out is called Weathervane Pinwheel and is on display on a shed on their property at N4703 Mavis Road, Wittenberg.

People who know Dennis Rezner know he has always had a deep appreciation for nature and the outdoors. His reputation for making things happen was earned as he built Matthews Tire into a thriving business with seven locations throughout Wisconsin.

Rezner signed a contract on February 26, 1997 for the purchase of 180 acres of land, including a cabin, near Wittenberg. The land, then owned by Jeff Hauser, was originally part of the Mavis Farmstead.

Soon after the land purchase, Dennis, along with family and friends, began creating a natural preserve for wildlife that could be enjoyed by his family, friends and generations to come. Rezner understood the importance of following accepted forestry practices and sought out experts to guide his efforts.

In 1999, the family put up a large storage building to house all the equipment needed to care for and patrol the extensive area. In 2000, Rezner purchased an additional 40 acres from Kretz Lumber Company and another 57 acres previously owned by the Bender family, in 2012.

Rezner and his family and friends continue to plant trees every year and to date, have planted over 25,000 trees. Eric Roers, D.N.R. forester, said, "Dennis is actively creating a habitat for wildlife and supplying timber that helps support jobs and the local economy. He is also helping control the deer herd and keeping the environment and wildlife in balance."

Rezner, whose land is a Pioneer Certified Tree Farm, was honored as Shawano County's Tree Farmer of the Year in 2013 and as Lumberjack Steward as well. "It is my hope that our investment in this land will continue to provide a habitat where wildlife can thrive as well as a place where my family and friends can enjoy nature's beauty," Dennis said.

The Rezner 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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