

County's 175th Barn Quilt is Sawtooth Sunflower

Shawano County's 175th Barn Quilt, called Sawtooth Sunflower, represents the annual planting of sunflowers each year in the Val and Vince Vande Hey garden at N5474 Green Valley Road, Krakow. Val sponsored the quilt for their farm which they've owned since 1973. "This beautiful little farm became our home where we raised our four wonderful children, Heidi, Nathan, Joshua and Camille," Val said.

When Val and Vince's neighbors, Bryan and Nancy Rehn, decided to get a barn quilt, Val went with Nancy to meet with Shawano County barn quilt project coordinator Jim Leuenberger to pick out her quilt pattern. "The display of barn quilts in Shawano County is a delightful practice which we wanted to be part of as the quilting tradition is a meaningful part of our American heritage," Val said. "We used the Star motif to go with the sunflower as the star is frequently used in the making of quilts."

"Vince is a dedicated gardener on a large scale and includes sunflowers for the pure joy of watching them grow," Val said. "Since only two of us remain here on the farm, the overflow from this huge garden is donated to a food pantry while the sunflowers remain as a gift to the birds, deer and our flock of chickens."

The Vande Hey barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and Bruce Teetzen of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

Anyone who would like to participate in Shawano County's barn quilt project can contact project coordinator Jim Leuenberger at 715-524-5685 or by email at jamesmleuenberger@yahoo.com. You can also contact Patti Peterson, tourism manager at the Shawano Country Chamber of Commerce at 715-524-2139 or 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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