

County's 211th Barn Quilt Adds to Beauty of McClone Farm

Shawano County's 211th barn quilt is now on display on one of Shawano County's prettiest farms. The farm is owned by Tom and Lois McClone at W4413 Wildlife Road, Bonduel. The quilt pattern they chose is a red, white and blue design called Patriotic and Proud. It has the numbers '76' in the center, representing the year Tom and Lois purchased the farm. The quilt has been sponsored by Tom and Lois' sons, Jerry, Mark and Paul, and their families. It will be an anniversary gift to celebrate Tom and Lois' 50th wedding anniversary in 2014.

The original 80 acre farm was homesteaded by Wilhelminia Krueger in 1889. Richard Gehm purchased it in 1911 and owned it until 1946 when his son Albert took over. The farm changed hands several more times over the years until Jim and Lone Grunewald sold it to the McClones in 1976. The farm was operated as a dairy farm until the early 1950s. After Tom and Lois bought their 14-acre parcel, they raised beef cattle, hogs, chickens and rabbits, which their sons used as 4-H projects.

The original house on the farm was built in 1899 and the barn in the early 1900s. Tom and Lois did a lot to restore the barn, including redoing the foundation, painting it, and adding a metal roof about ten years ago. An addition was put on the house in 2006, mainly to enlarge the kitchen and give Tom and Lois a better view of all the birds at their numerous bird feeders. Among the birds they get at their feeders is a pair of pheasants they see pretty much every day.

Lois has always enjoyed the outdoors and loves to display flowers throughout their yard. This year, she traveled to more than ten greenhouses to find just the right flowers and plants. Lois is very fussy about their lawn too, and does all the mowing, even though it takes her over four hours to mow.

A number of the planters the flowers are displayed in are red, white and blue. And the inside of the house has a lot of patriotic items as well. "We've always been thankful to have grown up in America," Lois said, "so we are proud to decorate in red, white and blue. That's why we wanted a patriotic barn quilt too."

To help with the barn quilt pattern, Tom and Lois' grandson, Race, made the pattern in his computer aided drafting class at Bonduel High School.

The McClone 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 via 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.