

## Shawano County's 355<sup>th</sup> Barn Quilt Now on Display

Shawano County's barn quilt count has now reached 355. The latest quilt, called Nature's Grandeur, is on display on a barn owned by Chuck and Mary Lou Kugel, W5924 Porter Road, Shawano. It is the second quilt on their barn, which also features the county's 300<sup>th</sup> barn quilt.

The quilt has been sponsored by Tom Zdeblick and his wife, Stacey Brickson, who live in Middleton, Wis., but have a cabin on Lake Beaulieu north of Gresham. "When working with Jim Leuenberger on a quilt design, we wanted a loon to be incorporated," Stacey said. "One of the most majestic parts of our summer is listening to the loons on Lake Beaulieu. I can't think of a sound more soothing and primordial. And when the moon is bright and the call of the loons echoes over the lake, I can't help but wonder where else on earth could be grander."

Two bicycle sprockets are also included in the barn quilt pattern. "My husband and I are cyclists and have enjoyed riding the Mountain Bay trail on our gravel bikes as well as participating in Shawano's annual Bike the Barn Quilts event, thus the sprockets in the pattern. We also wanted to support the barn quilt project by sponsoring a quilt as we are both advocates for art and exercise. The bike the barn quilts event is certainly a great way to combine them both," Stacey said.

### Kugel Farm History

Chuck and Mary Lou purchased 118 acres and the farm buildings from Chuck's parents, Francis and Alice (Cecilia) Kugel in July 1987. The farm had always been a dairy farm until Chuck and Mary Lou dispersed their 50-cow Holstein herd in May 2014.

"Chuck and I had actually talked about putting another barn quilt on our barn," Mary Lou said. "We just love supporting such an amazing project."

She continued, "We have enjoyed seeing and hearing bicyclists speak positively about the quilt that is on the east side of our barn as they sail down the hill past our farm. When Jim Leuenberger called to say he had a barn quilt painted he thought would look great on our barn, we agreed. It really is a bright, beautiful pattern. And since both Chuck and I love loons, it's special to have one on the quilt as well.

"From its infancy in 2010 to now, the barn quilt project has really put Shawano County on the map as a destination place. As locals traveling the country roads, it brightens our day to see a barn or shed proudly displaying a barn quilt that has special meaning to the farmstead it is displayed on," Mary Lou said.

The quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt project committee and was put on display by LeRoy Raddant and his grandson Keenan Raddant of Raddant Electric in Shawano.

\*

### Photo Caption (Photo by Jim Leuenberger)

Stacey Brickson, left, who sponsored the quilt with her husband, Tom Zdeblick, is shown with Chuck and Mary Lou Kugel, on whose barn Shawano County's 355<sup>th</sup> barn quilt is displayed.