

## Shawano County's 381<sup>st</sup> Barn Quilt is All About Nature

Shawano County's 381<sup>st</sup> barn quilt is now on display on a barn owned by Eugene and Joyce Reymont at N2643 Willow Road, Pulaski. The barn quilt was given to them for their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by daughters Jenny, Gina and Jami and their son Justin.

The quilt pattern, called Ponderosa, features several symbols that represent how nature is a big part of their lives on their "Ponderosa," as Eugene likes to call it. Joyce loves to feed birds and annually plants beautiful flowers throughout their property. When highway 29 was expanded, they sold part of their farm for the highway and ended up with a 10-acre pond and two smaller ones. The ponds are stocked with many species of fish, including bass, crappies, sunfish, northern pike, perch and others. In 1997 they planted numerous trees throughout their property. Finally, Joyce raises laying hens because "Eugene really likes farm fresh eggs," she said.

Eugene and Joyce and their family moved to the farm on Willow Road from their home in Hofa Park in November 1975. They had a herd of about 35 Holstein dairy cows and a couple Jerseys. The farm was originally 80 acres of cropland until they sold 40 acres to a neighbor in 1980. Also that year, they sold the cows and began raising pigs and cash cropping the land.

The Reymonts eventually went into the hay business, hauling hay for the elephants in the Ringling Brothers Circus located in Richmond, Illinois. They also hauled hay for The Tempel Lipizzans in Gurney, Illinois, the Medinah Black Horse Troop in St. Charles, Illinois, and, the Sugar Legacy Arabians in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin as well as to fancy horse stables in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. After the highway 29 expansion, they hauled hay for a few more years, but now just do some trucking and metal recycling.

The Reymont barn quilt was painted by the Shawano County barn quilt committee and was put on display by Eugene and Joyce Reymont and their daughter Jenny and her husband Doug Meyers.

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