

42nd barn quilt features tulip pattern

Don and Connie Barrows have sponsored Shawano County's 42nd barn quilt, which now adorns their barn at 765 Pine Road, Cecil.

The brightly colored pattern of four red tulips, called "Pieced Tulips," was the Barrows' first choice from among several patterns they looked at. Connie, who has sewn several quilts over the years, became excited about the Shawano County barn quilt project after seeing several others around the area.

"I was always interested in the hex signs on the barns of the Pennsylvania Dutch and the barn quilts seem like the Midwest's answer to them," she said. "We feel the addition of the barn quilts adds just another wonderful dimension to an already beautiful piece of farmland in Shawano County."

The Barrows owned an old family cottage on Shawano Lake and wanted to move closer to it from their home in Arizona. So they bought the farm in 1999 and spent that year doing restoration work on many of the buildings. They also enlarged the pond and restored the old outhouse.

While researching the history of past owners of the farm, the Barrows found the original tax record in the county courthouse basement in the 1882 ledger (a very small book), the same year the land was acquired from the state of Wisconsin. Two longtime families who farmed the land were Frank Gipp from 1911-43 and Leo and Hildegard Uelman from 1955-88.

With only 40 acres of the original farm remaining, the Barrows lease the land to Kraig Knueppel.