

Hopkins Barn Quilt Festival

It started in Ohio, 2001, and generations before that supplied the material. Old barns, fancy barns, barns with advertising were brought to a young Donna Sue Groves attention. Donna Sue's ancestors also treated her to the beauty of quilting and her mother, Maxine an accomplished quilter shared her love of quilting with her daughter. When they moved to a farm in Ohio, Maxine and Donna Sue became the owners of a barn, it wasn't a pretty barn but an idea came to Donna Sue's mind and she promised her mother to paint a quilt square for the barn. This is essentially in less detail than it deserves the beginning of the American Quilt Trail Movement. Quilt trails are springing up all across the nation and in Canada.

Maybe you have been driving either down some interstate or back road and a flash of color catches your eye. The size of a barn quilt is anywhere from 2x2 ft to 8x8 ft. They may be found on a home, garage, shed or other building or even on a post in the yard. Barn Quilt Trails usually set their own standards and the trail grows from there.

In May, 2013 Sandi Lawson moved to Hopkins, Mo with her family in what she and her husband Stuart plan on being their retirement home. Painting has always been her hobby. She had her first art lesson in 1982 and continued on painting her favorite subjects, old barns. Then a few years ago Sandi saw her first Barn Quilt and became immediately captivated. After the move to Hopkins Sandi decided to start designing and painting Barn Quilts and wanted to form a Barn Quilt Trail for Northwest Missouri. The interest in barn quilts continue to grow and Sandi has painted several quilts for mainly Nodaway County, Missouri and Taylor County, Iowa. And Sandi has sold enough quilts to support her hobby.

In 2014 Hopkins started a Community Betterment Association and Sandi joined the organization. After making friends over the telephone with Donna Sue Groves, Sandi presented her idea to Donna Sue about having a community showcasing barn quilts and Donna Sue didn't know of any other community in the country that had done that. Sandi presented her idea for a community wide trail to Community Betterment in September which was approved. J.L. Houston and

Spalding Insurance donated the funds for the project and now 77 quilts have been painted in sizes ranging from 2x2 ft to 8x8 ft. The highest quilt is located on a 40 foot high section of building of the J.L. Houston Company. A few of the quilts have stories behind them and a lot of the squares are original designs by Sandi Lawson.

On September 18th everyone is invited to come to Hopkins, also known as Barn Quilt City U.S.A. to join hayrides to tour the quilt trail. The event will begin at 1 pm. Bill and Roger From the Palace will provide musical entertainment. The Junior class is planning a concession stand. Craft and Merchandise vendors will also be on hand.

Bring your lawn chairs, a blanket for the hayride, and your favorite non-alcoholic beverage and join in on some old-fashioned fun. The event is free of charge. A rain date of September 25th has been scheduled. For further information on the event and local barn quilts go to Facebook page Show Me the Barn Quilts of Northwest Missouri. There is a link on the page to both Google Maps of the trails.