

Winners of Medicine Lake Wildlife Refuge Quilting Contest

Gwenie Nelson of Homestead is the first place winner in the Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge Quilting Contest! Her winning quilt square, entitled "Sunset over the Refuge," depicts the Refuge lookout tower and a flying Canada Goose, with a sunset over Medicine Lake in the background. For her efforts, Gwenie wins \$50 in Sheridan County Chamber bucks, donated by the Sheridan County Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. She also wins a grassland bird picture book and a bird house from the refuge.

Marilyn Smith of Dagmar won second place, and Arlene Whitney of Outlook won third place. They win \$30 and \$20 cash, respectively, donated by the Medicine Lake Commercial Club, as well as some prizes from the refuge. In all, eleven quilters entered 16 squares in the contest.

The Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge hosted this quilting contest to come up with a winning quilt square to be used in a National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial quilt. In preparation for the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial in 2003, refuges in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and Kansas are working on a Refuge Quilt exhibit. Every National Wildlife Refuge in the eight states has to submit one quilt square that best represents that refuge. The quilt squares will then be joined into a Regional Centennial Quilt, and this quilt will travel around the eight states throughout the year 2003.

In the Medicine Lake contest, five community judges voted on the squares to determine the winners. The judges were Tedd Gutzke and Sharri Lunde (Medicine Lake Refuge), Tim Hutslar

(Medicine Lake), Jane Detienne (Plentywood), and Donna Tompt (Homestead). The squares also were displayed in Medicine Lake and Plentywood, and a popular vote from the traveling ballot box counted as a sixth judge. First place winner, Gwenie Nelson, will have her square joined with those of other refuges to make-up the traveling Refuge System Centennial quilt. All other entries will be made into a local quilt to be displayed at the Medicine Lake Refuge and in surrounding communities. The handiwork and creativity put into each quilt squares was very impressive, and the refuge would like to extend a big thank you to all the participants for their efforts.

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Editors Note: Digital photos of quilt squares and winners available by email from the refuge.
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