



Left: One of the blocks in the Bullskin Barn Quilt Trail has been hung on an historic Pennsylvania-style barn. The Double Wedding Ring block was a wedding gift for a young farming couple. Right: Colleen Konieczny and her cousin Heath Hoffer with one of their quilt barn blocks.

On the block

Twenty-seven states in the USA now proudly boast a “barn quilt trail” — huge painted patchwork blocks attached to the exterior walls of barns and sheds, with tourist routes between them. The phenomenon began in Ohio in 2001 and has gradually spread, with more than 4000 blocks on display nationwide.

When Pennsylvanian Colleen Konieczny became aware of the phenomenon in early 2009, she asked her cousin, a metal worker, to help her create a block to hang on her own barn. From there, it was only a small jump to imagine that she could enthruse like-minded people in her region to help her create a local barn quilt trail. She and her cousin set up a website at www.pabarnquilts.com encouraging farmers to order a block for their own property. Today, the Bullskin Barn Quilt Trail is included in a recently published book entitled *Barn Quilting and the American Quilting Trail*, co-authored by Donna Sue Groves, who painted the first barn block in Ohio a decade ago.

Colleen has also collated a booklet about the local trail that not only gives the location of the blocks and the meaning behind the designs, but also a history of the barn or the residence as well as some family recipes from those residents.