

# Vernonia Pride Yard-of-the-Month for August Winners Announced

By Janelle Thomas Cedergreen

Vernonia Pride's **Golden Rose Award** winners for the month of August have managed to survive through the awful heat of late July. Heat like that is hard on us humans as well as our plants. And yet... I found these yards of note.

**Winners for Yard-of-the-Month for August 2009 are:**

**Residential** – Marcia Wright at 1000 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

This yard graces one of those newer Craftsmen houses on Corey Hill. It is filled with a plethora of plant life including several kinds of grasses, bamboo, and lovely, graceful firs and cedars. There is a split-rail fence wrapping around this corner lot which adds to its rustic look. The river-rock-covered path meanders through raised beds filled with big bunches of daisies, lavenders, ferns, and continues down the side of the house. The yard shows an extremely eclectic variety of plants. Showy presentation! Moreover... no lawn to mow.



**Commercial** – Wauna Federal Credit Union at 622 Bridge St.

They have, by far, the best hanging baskets in Vernonia, giving the front edifice a welcoming show of color to enjoy. I just realized that Wauna's landscaping is "zero-scaping" with sedges, grasses, heather, and shrubs with decorative rocks and a stump mixed into the front beds! Wauna needn't water anything but their baskets. Congratulations on being eco-friendly!



**Honorable Mention** – Tera Roberts at 1125 Bridge Street.

Surprising and hidden from our view, her efforts in gardening certainly show off the terraced beds with a profusion of ribbon grasses, daisies, gladiolas, cone flowers in two colors, crocosmia, cosmos and incredibly fragrant Stargazer lilies in two different colors. She has a large, terraced vegetable garden at the back of the house. Tera and her eight children did all the work on this lovely terraced garden. They have also been busy renovating their house-- a very large task, but a job well done! Thanks for bringing her yard to our attention.

# A Stitch in time.....

*A Quilting tradition that helped build Vernonia's Catholic Church continues*

Mark your calendars! September 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> will be the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Mary's Quilt Fair. It is an event that draws on the help and skills of all the parishioners and demonstrates

of the parish hall, located on higher ground as an emergency Red Cross shelter and also housed the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class from Washington Grade School until the school was ready to receive students again. The St. Mary's parishioners are active within the greater Vernonia community with individual and group activities such as serving at the local Senior Center, organizing the Vernonia Bear Creek Run/Walk for the Vernonia Cares food bank and membership in the Vernonia Pride group. The group is



a proud history of a determined community. The event is the largest fundraiser for the parish, essentially enabling it to keep its doors open.

Each year, old friends and new visit the Fair, which boasts unique quilting designs and includes a Craft and Gift Bazaar as well as delicious homemade lunches. The array of colors on quilts amazes people who perhaps have a stereotype in mind before attending the fair – there is something to suit and entice everyone. The bazaar products have included floral arrangements, wall hangings, and knitted and crocheted items.



talented and committed to making a difference.

Each year, the St. Mary's quilters make a "Star of Bethlehem" quilt that gets raffled. This year is no exception and the quilt really is a beautiful piece.

So, what should one expect of this year's event? Lots of quilts, blankets, crafts and gifts, a choice of homemade soups, gooey cinnamon rolls and pies and, most of all, a warm and friendly welcome. Doors are open 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM, September 17<sup>th</sup> through 20<sup>th</sup>. A \$1 donation is accepted in lieu of an 'entry fee'.

For more information, contact St. Mary's parish office at (503) 429 8841.

When the congregation outgrew its small country church many years ago, donations were collected to purchase the current property on Missouri Avenue in Vernonia. No money existed to actually construct the church – this was where the quilt fair tradition started. A parishioner, Louise Smekjal, began gathering scraps of material and enlisted the help of fellow quilters to make quilts that could be sold to raise funds. Over time, enough money was collected to start construction, and parishioners pitched in and literally "built" the church that is used today. At a later stage, a hall was added that now houses the quilt fair.

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