

Living on a Lake in the Country: Be Thankful for Mother Nature

By Gayle Rich-Boxman

In viewing what has transpired on the east coast recently, we may need to step back in time, recall what we went through about five years ago, and be thankful that Mother Nature gave us a break.

Many of you are all too aware of what people



something to be proud of.

Instead of horrific storms, winds and flooding of our local rivers and lakes, we have enjoyed some balmy temperatures, STUNNING fall foliage and a very dry late summer/fall season. I caught moments of people thoroughly enjoying Mother Nature while snapping photos in the late afternoon at Vernonia Lake recently.

Look around you and take note of how very lucky we have been with Mother Nature smiling on us while millions experienced the horrors that we all faced in 2007. Be thankful this holiday season because you aren't dealing with a home completely destroyed by water rushing in. Be glad that your local gas station easily pumps your gas without miles of waiting in line or getting none at all. Give an extra hug to your loved one or your pet because you are safe. Take a moment to enjoy the beauty surrounding you in all of Mother Nature's splendor. Sit down, take a break and count your blessings.



And then think about donating to a charity to support those who can't afford it themselves in the aftermath. It doesn't have to be much. It can be called your own "Pay it Forward" donation as a symbol of appreciation for those who supported us in our community when it happened here not-so-long-ago.

are going through in the aftermath of such devastation. Some of you were able to eventually rebuild here, some had to walk away. It has been a tough go for our neighbors, friends and family, yet I want to share something positive that the F.E.M.A. (Federal Emergency Management Agency) insurance adjuster said to me when he walked into our Vernonia Realty office soon after the government stepped in. He told me that in FORTY YEARS of doing this, he had never seen such an organized community! Now, THAT is

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Vernonia Weather Spotter Training

The National Weather Service welcomes volunteers with an interest in observing and reporting severe weather to the Vernonia Weather Spotter Training on Wednesday, December 5 from 7:00 – 8:30 PM at the Vernonia Community Learning Center, 939 Bridge Street,

The Skywarn program is completely voluntary. You will be trained on significant weather events that occur in our area and have the opportunity to call in several times a month depending on the weather pattern in your neck-of-the-woods. If you agree, they may occasionally call you for "ground truth" as to what is actually happening in your community and near your house. Most likely the phone call will be to confirm an indication of potentially severe thunderstorms, like large hail, or damaging wind. Other calls may be to verify heavy snowfall or peak wind speed associated with large winter storms. The training is free and open to the general public. Please register for this class at VernoniaSpotter.DoAttend.com. Other training sessions may be found on the webpage at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/pqr/skytraining.php>. or 503-366-3934

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