

Wicklunds chosen yard of the month



Tom and Shannon Wicklund in their yard



Wicklunds yard that won yard of the month honors

Tom and Shannon Wicklund at 135 Quaid Street have been chosen as the Heppner Yard of the Month for July, 2005.

The Wicklunds began their married life in Mollala, Oregon, where they had been high school sweethearts. Shannon's parents, Ruth, and the late Jack Maben, had moved to Heppner from Mollala

in 1978 after purchasing Court Street Market, and asked the Wicklunds to help them with the store. The Wicklunds moved here in 1979, purchasing their home at that time. Son, Jered, was three years old then and daughter, Rebecca, began first grade later that school year at Heppner Elementary. While Tom worked at Kinzua Mill a few years, he

and Shannon stayed at Court Street Market until it closed in 2000. Tom is now laid off from logging with his brothers-in-law, Greg and Jeff Maben, leaving him more time for his volunteer fireman and EMT calls. Shannon is still working with her mother, this time at Murray Drugs. Shannon is a pharmacy technician.

The Wicklunds' house was built in 1910 and was a hospital for many years, at one time owned by Doc McMurdo. Shannon is told often by people that they were born in her house. The home also has a hand-dug well underneath the kitchen that was long ago capped.

Tom began collecting antiques and rustics in high school. Shannon has joined him in his hobby and they are still adding to their collection. Antiques fill their home and many are used, not just looked at. An old wagon seat with its rocker springs was made into a living room seat. An original "Home Comfort" woodstove is used for auxiliary heat in winter

and to cook an occasional pot of stew.

The collectibles spill out into the yard, becoming an integral part of the landscape. A huge old fashioned bathtub is full of hens and chicks. A wringer washing machine nestles by a chrysanthemum full of buds. An old dreg saw that is in good shape sits under a spruce with its large blade set in a log looking like it's ready to start in. There is a lime spreader from Tom's family farm in Mollala. A hand pump is used to hold a hanging basket in the front yard while a hand pump in the back yard has a newer water pipe and faucet routed up through it for use.

A stack of aged barn board is being cut for siding the original garage. A honeysuckle vine is beginning its climb up the garage side. A two-seater board from a genuine outhouse is part of another project-to rebuild the outhouse for use as a garden tool shed.

The outer wall of their covered deck is built with cubicles and open shelves for some of their graniteware collection. On the lowest shelf is a row of

old tricycles from the days that trikes were built without any plastic, only metal. A kiddy car and red wagon mix in with the trikes.

Salvaged brick from the original high school/middle school and fire brick from Kinzua Mill is used throughout the back yard as patio, pathways and edging. Letters and numbers stamped on the old brick include "Yukon" and "2 12".

Tom and Shannon bought two connecting lots from a neighbor awhile ago which back up to Hinton Creek. They have discovered that they have only about 18 inches or so of soil before hitting bedrock. Somehow, perhaps due to possible underlying springs, their lawn stays green without sprinkling with city water. To irrigate their extensive vegetable bed, they dig trenches along side the rows and place a running hose at one end of the trench while the other end is closed off. The plant roots soak up the water directly with much less water usage than overhead sprinkling. They grow tomatoes, lemon cucumbers, corn, onions, and squash. There are rows of yellow and red raspberries. An arbor of aged wood supports some vigorous white grape vines which are Tom's favorite plants.

Some of the shrubs in Tom's and Shannon's yard are lilacs, red flowering hybrid Scotch broom, variegated weigela, a well-protected rhododendron, a light pink flowering hydrangea, Oregon grape, junipers and two different shrubs with the common name of Beauty Bush. An unknown variety of a 15" pine shrub began as a 3' gift from Tom's folks. Two dark purple butterfly bushes are Shannon's favorite plantings.

Trees include a spruce, walnut and some elms on a far back corner.

Perennials throughout the yard include hollyhocks, sweet Williams, a candy pink double poppy, tiger lillies (from Tom's grandmother), lavender, gums, columbine, purple coneflower, candytuft, asters, jupiter beard, salvia, sedums, heuchura, hardy geraniums, and astrantia. Annuals such as petunias, California poppies, moss rose, cosmos and snapdragons make a showing here and there. Shannon has dahlias and gladioli planted near the garage foundation so they overwinter in the ground and return each year.

In full yellow flower now are cacti filling three large tubs while they await a more permanent site. Tom was in the service and stationed in Colorado (with Shannon) and brought the cacti back to Oregon from there.

The Wicklunds work together on their yard because they like to. Tom is the lawn mower and they both pull weeds. They enjoy sitting in their double patio swing that looks over their yard as does their tomcat, Nelson. Shannon's favorite part of their landscaping is their 'fake barn'.

A spot along a side fence where a diseased elm tree had to come out didn't feel right, so Tom built an entire false front of an old barn in its place. Adorning the fake front are traps, yokes, plow horseshoes, a loft ladder and other rustics that fit right in. Since their front lawn was a hassle to mow because of its small size, they took out the grass and put in river rock, planters and rustics to landscape. Shannon likes unusual plants and so added a type of weeping spruce and a contorted hawthorne shrub on either side of the front door. Many of their plantings are established and don't need extensive watering.

Tom and Shannon also share their home and yard with their momma cat, Lexie, who recently had her first and last litter. hen asked if the three kittens were to go to new homes, Shannon said "yes", but laughed. It seems that the kittens, like Tom and Shannon, are perfectly happy right where they are.

ESD offers ed sessions

The Umatilla-Morrow Education Service District is currently accepting registrations for its fifth annual Eastern Oregon Institute held at Hermiston High School the week of August 1-5.

The institute is offering over 50 professional development sessions for education staff; teachers, administrators and classified staff. Subjects offered will be technology, special education, special needs, curriculum, assessment and many other topics.

Eastern Oregon Credit and Blue Mountain Community College Credits are available.

To register, go online to www.umesd.k12.or.us/staffdev/view.html?id=318. For more information, contact Nicole Nokes at nicole.nokes@umesd.k12.or.us or call (541) 966-3220.

Umatilla and Morrow counties staff registration fees are \$20 and out-of-region staff fees are \$70. Registration fees are a one-time fee and are non-refundable. Send check or money order to Umatilla-Morrow ESD- EOI; 2001 SW Nye; Pendleton, OR 97801.

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