



2020 HINDSIGHT

DECEMBER 2020



We really don't have our tree up yet, so this one is from 2019. Even before the pandemic was in full swing, 2020 was looking like a tough year. The "Crushing Pad", where we make wine, was itself crushed by a heavy snowfall. But 11 days later deer were browsing on top of our house as the snow melted.



By may 15th we had the crushed pad restored and renamed as the "Greenpad". It's not just for making wine but also for propagating grape plants.



We also got our 1984 VW van restored with a 2002 Subaru engine so we can again take just one vehicle to the Farmer's Market.



There was no gathering on Easter but we brought our Easter Bonnets with us on a walk to Lake Roosevelt.

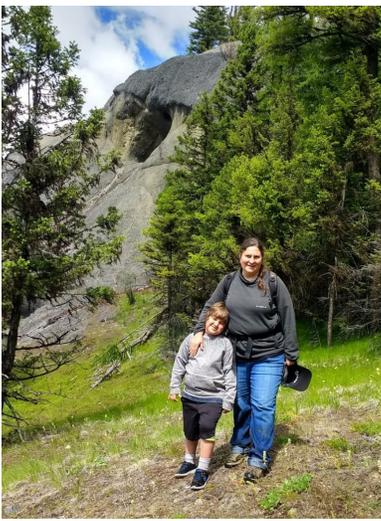
Spring came and we chased down a nearby 2019 forest fire to find blond Morel Mushrooms .

At least that is an activity where social distancing comes naturally. Spring was great for



flowers when the sun came out. But it was the rainiest Spring on record.





The Farmers Market turned out to be very good as more urban folks moved to the country with money and lots of people grew gardens.

Grandson James Houston and daughter April made a 7 mile hike up to the Bubble Dome for the annual Fathers Day excursion.

Cheryl gained a reputation for fabulous dill

pickles. Even though we didn't grow any cucumbers, friends gave Cheryl the cukes and she made pickles to trade with another vendor at the Farmers Market. Our



new greenhouse flourished with eggplants, peppers and



8 foot high tomato plants. It also served as a great place to grow more grape plants as the market for those continued to expand.

Joe still writes stories for the North Columbia Monthly about regenerative agriculture that feature many local people. You can read about them on the website, BarrecaVineyards.com.

Many folks ask how the grape harvest went. It was a hot summer

with forest fires across the river sparked by a storm on labor day that left us without power for four days.

The smoke does not seem to have been a huge problem, though it may take years to show up or not in the taste of the wine. After the intense rain in the Spring the summer was very dry. This slowed down maturity in grapes, apples and other crops. So it was a big surprise when early in the Fall we had a freeze down into



the single digits.

Trying to make the best of a bad situation, Joe harvested frozen grapes to make ice wine. This is a



new experience and we should know how it went in 2022. With a small and not-so-sweet grape harvest, Joe looked to expand his apple wine inventory by powering his 40 year old hand crank apple crusher electrically, another 2020 adaptation that will take a couple years to sort out.

There is never-a-dull moment. We have adopted a stray cat, proba-

bly dumped by someone who realized she is pregnant and didn't want to deal with it. Spicy is very friendly but our cat, Gray-C is not keen on having her around even though our dog, Gretchen is okay with her.

Take care and keep in touch.

