

# Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

FALL 2008 ♡ VOL. 17 NO. 3



MEMBERS ONLY

The Jackson family of Florida, Members since 2007, enjoy the model room for Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort.

# Disney

# FILES MAGAZINE



Illustration by Keelan Parham

Disney Files Magazine is published by the good people at Disney Vacation Club  
P.O. Box 10350  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

All dates, times, events and prices printed herein are subject to change without notice. (Our lawyers do a happy dance when we say that.)

#### MOVING?

Update your mailing address online at [www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com)

#### MEMBERSHIP QUESTIONS?

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Eastern daily at (800) 800-9800 or (407) 566-3800

Fax Number: (407) 938-4151

E-mail Member Services at: [members@disneyvacationclub.com](mailto:members@disneyvacationclub.com)

Stay up to date on the news between magazines at [www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com)



Disney Files Magazine proudly uses recycled paper and soy-based ink.

DVC-MBR-65-D

Curses to “The Jeffersons.” Here I sit, presenting a magazine highlighting one of the most anticipated resort projects in Disney Vacation Club history, and all I can think about are Members “movin’ on up” like George and Weezie. Granted, there are worse times for me to fall into my “sitcoms of the 70s” comfort zone. After all, it was 1971 when comedian Bob Hope presided over the grand opening of Disney’s Contemporary Resort, the elder cousin of our spectacular new Disney Vacation Club tower.

As most Disneyphiles know, crews assembled that original *Walt Disney World*® Resort hotel like a giant chest of drawers, sliding completed rooms by crane into the iconic A-frame structure (see Disney Legend Marty Sklar’s “Park Perspectives” on pages 21-22 for firsthand tales of the original resort’s launch). I thought about that visionary construction concept recently as I sat home rearranging my sock drawers (another wild Friday night in the March house). Just imagine, if only the Florida ground hadn’t settled and locked the resort’s “drawers” in place (stupid ground!), refurbishing rooms would have been as easy as pulling out the old and pushing in the new.

Fortunately, ground settling doesn’t affect the publishing world, so we’re free to rearrange our editorial “drawers” as needed to better serve you, the reader. Inspired by your feedback, we’ve shuffled our pages in this edition to help you more quickly and easily find your favorite content.

Rather than dispersing our Disney Vacation Club features throughout the magazine, we’ve reorganized those key stories in the “top drawer,” presenting your neighborhood news and notes, Perk Alerts and Member Getaways inspirations on our earliest pages (through page 14 in this edition). The next recurring “drawer” holds news and insight from Disney Destinations (pages 17-22), the dream-weaving places that keep you coming “home” year after year. As you continue to flip through the *Files*, you’ll find ideas for enjoying Disney between trips (pages 23-26), travel back in time with Jim Korkis (pages 27-28) and, as always, end your journey with Member memories (pages 29-30) and a visual “kiss goodnight” from the photo archives (back cover).

Of course, there’s always room for a bonus drawer. (You know, like the one in your kitchen that holds tangled rubber bands, unidentified keys and enough packets of soy sauce to rescue a small village from the threat of bland spring rolls.) This edition’s “editorial grab bag” takes the “bonus drawer” concept quite literally, showcasing the collected treasures of a Disney Vacation Club Cast Member and offering a unique look at the evolution of the vacation kingdom (pages 15-16).

Until we meet again in November, I’m off to resume my glamorous life of intrigue and adventure. (Those socks aren’t going to wash themselves.)

Welcome Home,

Ryan March  
Disney Files Editor

**Disneyphiles (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:**  
really cool people who love, or are attracted to, all things Disney

**Disney Files (Diz-nee-fyles) noun, plural:**  
a really cool magazine for Disney Vacation Club  
Members, the ultimate Disneyphiles



# FROM THE DESK OF JIM LEWIS

top news & perspectives

by Jim Lewis, President, Disney Vacation Club

## NEW PROJECTS WILL ELEVATE THE MEMBER EXPERIENCE

I can tell you once again that there's never been a better time to be part of Disney Vacation Club.

Our recent announcement of long-awaited Disney Vacation Club accommodations at Disney's Contemporary Resort propels us further into an unprecedented era of growth for your Disney neighborhood. To say that the buzz surrounding this project is

strong would be a dramatic understatement. You might even say that this project has been the "worst-kept Disney secret."

We are truly excited to deliver on that great buzz with a resort that builds on our legacy of creating not just new *destinations*, but new

*experiences*. Experiential diversity is top of mind for all of us at Disney Vacation Club as we explore opportunities to grow our resort collection. While our resorts share a great deal in common in terms of comfort, convenience and Disney detail, each offers a completely different vacation experience.

That tradition of experiential diversity certainly continues with the 15-story Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, which you'll read more about in this edition of your magazine, and it will continue further with our development of the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, which you'll learn more about in the months ahead.



## INDUSTRY HONORS OUTSTANDING CAST MEMBERS

In the winter edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, I told you that changing Members' lives through extraordinary vacations — not topping industry lists or winning industry awards — is what motivates our Cast to continue raising the bar. That said, we're not above accepting a few awards, and I'm proud to tell you about our latest.

As you may know, Disney Vacation Club is part of the American Resort Development Association (ARDA), an industry organization dedicated to advancing excellence in the vacation-ownership industry. The association recently held its annual awards gala in Las Vegas, and two of our outstanding Cast Members landed top honors.

Telesales Guide Gib McCain, who has welcomed countless individuals into our growing Member family through the years, took home the award in the "Sales-Telesales" category. Admittedly more comfortable as a coach to his kids' sports teams than he is as a salesperson, Gib carefully "coaches" his Guests to help them

decide if Disney Vacation Club Membership is right for them, even if that means turning away a potential sale. As proud as I am of Gib's record sales levels, I'm even more proud of his commitment to doing it the right way.

Meanwhile, Member Satisfaction Manager Nicole Florio, who goes the extra mile to take care of countless Member families once they're part of our community, took home the award in the "Owner/Customer Relations Staff Member" category. Nicole plays an invaluable role in our continuous improvement process, developing and maintaining a detailed system for collecting, recording and tracking Member feedback. That system, coupled with Nicole's commitment to sharing that feedback with senior leaders, is critical to our ability to take action and enhance the magic of Membership.

Both Gib and Nicole exemplify the enduring spirit of Disney Vacation Club and reinforce my belief that our Cast Members are the true secret to our success.



# IT'S DISNEY VACATION CLUB!



Artist Concept-Proposed

## New tower scheduled to open in fall 2009

In 1965, the *Orlando Sentinel* printed the now-famous headline “It’s Disney!”, confirming Walt Disney’s connection to massive land purchases in Central Florida. Here in 2008, *Disney Files* Magazine is taking a cue from our *Sentinel* friends and printing our destined-to-become-famous headline “It’s Disney Vacation Club!”, confirming our connection to a striking tower rising on the shores of Bay Lake.

Indeed, the new Bay Lake Tower at Disney’s Contemporary Resort (once dubbed “Project Crystal” in Disney Vacation Club boardrooms) will be part of the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood, welcoming Members “home” to a new Disney landmark, where Cinderella Castle is the ultimate nightlight.

Never before have Members been able to own a piece of an original *Walt Disney World*® resort. Never before has a Disney Vacation Club Resort towered so high into the Florida sky (or any sky for that matter). And never before has a Walt Disney Imagineer

kicked off a *Disney Files* interview with a discussion of “tidiness.”

“This has been one of the tidiest jobsites you’ll ever see, as the crew is basically ‘on stage’ every day,” said Imagineer Brian McFarland, referencing the site’s highly visible location near the *Magic Kingdom*® Park. “With the project taking shape, this is a really exciting time for Imagineers, Cast Members and Disney Vacation Club Members alike.”

Sure, exciting today. But what about when the project began? What must it have been like to be an Imagineer tasked with building on the legacy of one of the most iconic Resort hotels on earth? How challenging must it have been to dream up a design that’s both “contemporary” and visually complementary to its decades-old cousin?

“This project presented some unique challenges and, yes, it definitely came with a bit of pressure to do justice to a beloved classic,” Brian answered. “Disney’s Contemporary Resort is kind of the ‘it’s a small world’ of Resort hotels. We knew we were going to





have some passionate perspectives around this one.”

The end result is a curvilinear, crescent-shaped tower that blends modern architectural sensibilities with the trademark visual cues of its influential neighbor.

“You don’t need formal architectural training to see the similarities in the two buildings,” Brian said. “From the exterior color palette to the strong horizontal lines to the angular rooftop lounge that mimics the original resort’s A-frame structure, the new building is designed to feel right at home in this space.”

Aside from creating cohesive “eye candy,” the building’s design will elevate the Member experience in more ways than one.

“Obviously, this is our first Disney Vacation Club high-rise, so we’re creating something unique right off the bat,” Brian said. “But the building’s form really helps us present a special experience in a variety of ways. For example, the crescent shape hugs what will be a lushly landscaped courtyard, giving a nice, intimate feel to what we believe will become a great gathering space. The building’s shape

also creates tremendous views. From one area of the building, you may look out over undeveloped areas of Bay Lake, with old-growth cypress trees creating some naturally beautiful Florida scenery. From another, you may look out over this amazing courtyard and pool area. Even many of the rooms that we’d typically regard as ‘secondary’ views don’t just look at a parking lot, but at the *Magic Kingdom*® Park. It’s really tough to say what will become the most popular view. I guess it’ll depend on the person.”

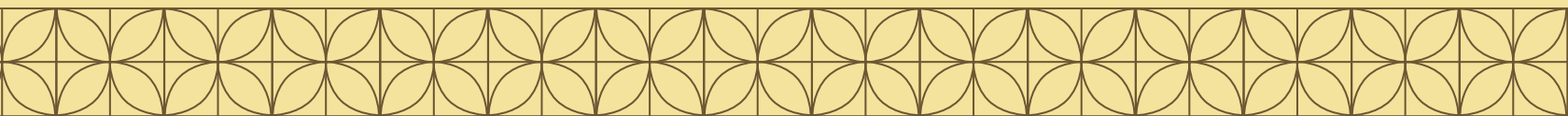
So what’s Brian’s favorite view?

“Wow, tough call,” Brian replied from the hot seat. “I’m pretty partial to the pool view. It’s a very unique pool slide, wrapped in glass block and creating an iconic element that I really think will be a focal point for this resort. We spent so much time studying shade patterns to determine the perfect placement for the pool, and the end result was our decision to tuck this lush landscaping deep inside the crescent and to push the pool closer to the beautiful shores of Bay Lake. That was kind of a labor of love for me, so this





Artist Concept-Proposed



area of the resort holds a special place in my heart.”

When Members aren’t peering out their windows and debating with their neighbors about who has the better view, they’ll enjoy contemporary furnishings and designs unlike any in the neighborhood.

“These vacation homes will be furnished with some amazing custom pieces that are works of art unto themselves,” Brian said. “And some of the most contemporary elements, such as the gliding storage unit in the kitchen or the sliding barn-style doors in the bathrooms, are as functional as they are attractive. It’s all about maintaining that feel of clean lines and open spaces, with plenty of Disney touches.” (Many of those “touches” come courtesy of the vacation homes’ art collection, which we’ll showcase in a future edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.)

Each of the 295 two-bedroom-equivalent units will sleep as many as nine (two in the master bedroom, four in the second

bedroom, two on the living room sleeper sofa and one on the living room sleeper chair) and offer a third bathroom in the living area, much like the vacation homes at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Villas.

Add the sense of arrival created by a planned lobby (above right) filled with woven woods and glass-wrapped columns; the sweeping views of the rooftop Top of the World Lounge (cheers to Disneyphiles who know the Disney history behind that name!) depicted above (lounge access subject to availability); and the convenience of a sky bridge linking the tower to the original resort’s shops, restaurants and monorail station, and you have a destination that’s as perfectly practical as it is fetchingly fashionable.

Watch *Disney Files Magazine* for more details about the resort as its scheduled fall 2009 opening date approaches.

Oh, and as for the time it took for this dream project to finally become reality? Your *Disney Files* staff did some digging and eventually “uncovered” this perfectly reasonable explanation...



Artist Concept-Proposed

Once upon a time, in a not-so-far-away land, a magnificent tower took shape near a magic kingdom. With a cosmic peak beneath its shadows, singing pirates plundering nearby waters and grim-grinning ghosts socializing just around the bend, this was to be no ordinary tower. Curiously, nobody in the kingdom seemed to notice.

You see, early word of the land's availability had leaked to the inquisitive Disney villains ("mirror mirror on the wall, which available property is the greatest of all?"), who had long coveted such a location to build a cutting-edge lair. (The old one was okay, but the commute to the kingdom was tedious.) Unwilling to see the prime real estate fall into those cauldron-stirring, potion-mixing, blackbird-stroking hands, the Blue Fairy cast a cloaking spell over the kingdom and hatched a plan of her own.

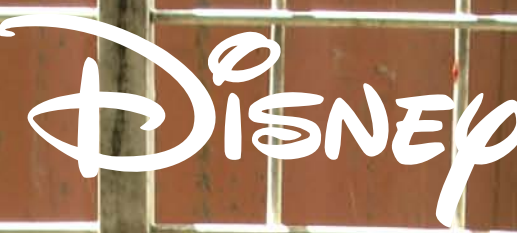
Soliciting the help of Disney Princesses, fairy godmothers and chore-loving woodland creatures, the Blue Fairy developed the site in the name of all things good and cheery. While visitors marveled at the rising tower, the clever spell left those who call the kingdom "home" completely blind to its presence. (It was a shame to keep even the kindhearted constituents in the dark, but it was for their own protection.)

To buy the woodland creature crew some time (squirrels tend to struggle with drywall), the Blue Fairy included a crucial caveat in her spell: "Like a bolt out of the blue, the final floor will reveal what's true." In other words, only when the tower reached its final height could the spell be lifted.

That crowning moment came on a sunny afternoon, as 15 stories of architectural wonder parted the clouds of silence and revealed the gleaming tower once and for all. Shocking gasps turned to thunderous cheers as the Blue Fairy unveiled the structure and deemed it a welcoming home for those who believe in the power of their dreams (and the value of securing tomorrow's vacations at today's prices).

As the villains cursed the crafty fairy and vowed to be heard from again, music swirled, fireworks exploded and a precocious little pixie waved her wand. The stage was set once again for a happily ever after.





# VACATION CLUB

news and insight from around the neighborhood

## OUT OF AFRICA

### Tanzanian artists carve ornate door shields for Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas

While Kidani Village will celebrate the animal world, its artwork will reflect the delicate touches of the human hand.

Building on the resort's longstanding tradition, every vacation home door in the new Disney Vacation Club village will display a handcrafted African shield. And, like those found today in the nearby Jambo House, the Kidani Village shields will draw inspiration from those used for centuries by the Maasai tribes of Kenya and Tanzania.

*Disney Files Magazine* caught up with Elite Art of Africa owner Frank Eagar and Walt Disney Imagineer Shannon Reed, who are overseeing production of the resort's artful doornaments. (Believe it or not, we didn't make up that word. We do like it, though, and we encourage you to use it in conversation.)

"The Maasai are a very powerful, respected tribe in this region of Africa," Frank explained. "Interestingly, the Maasai believed that they had the world's first cattle and that all cattle on earth are descendants from their cows. So historically, in times of great drought or famine, the Maasai believed it was their right to reclaim livestock from neighboring tribes. As a result, there were quite a few battles between the Maasai and neighboring peoples, and the Maasai were highly successful in those conflicts."

Shields used by the Maasai in those battles were wrapped in animal hide and painted with designs representing their families or tribal groups. (For those of you who may be squeamish about having combat gear hanging on your door, you'll be happy to know that the Maasai also used the shields to protect themselves from the harsh African sun. Think of them as parasols for men.)

To create the resort's Maasai-inspired door shields, Frank and Shannon commissioned Maasai and Makonde carvers in the Tanzanian town of Dar es Salaam, taking special care to hire unemployed artists as part of a critical economic stimulus program. (Dar es Salaam's 26 percent unemployment rate is the highest in Tanzania.)

The commissioned artists use machetes, knives, sharpened screwdrivers and other simple tools to hand-carve one of four distinctive designs into each of the shields, which are cut not from a wide plank, but from a conjoined series of narrower planks (a method that helps protect the shields from warping in the Florida humidity). Each shield is then hand-painted, achieving a finished look that can only be achieved with the human touch.

"We actually considered machine-producing fiberglass shields but really wanted to bring something more to the project," Shannon said. "With Frank's help, we've been able to work with these talented African artists and really build on the resort's storyline with great authenticity."





# SMOKY PORTOBELLO MUSHROOM SOUP



Members who call The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge "home" have become regulars at the nearby Artist Point restaurant and are therefore familiar with the restaurant's signature Smoky Portobello Mushroom Soup. To help you enjoy this fall-friendly dish at home, your *Disney Files* staff talked the chef into sharing not only the recipe, but also a few tips for garnishing your soup with restaurant-quality flair. Time to break out the good bowls and fancy spoons!

## Serves eight

### Ingredients:

- 6 sliced Portobello mushrooms
- 3 sliced Smoked Portobello mushrooms\*
- 1/2 cup diced sweet onions
- 1/2 cup chardonnay
- 1 1/4 quarts heavy cream
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 1/2 tablespoons chopped garlic
- 1 1/4 cup white roux (equal parts butter and flour, mixed over low heat)
- Salt and pepper to taste

\*If you have a home smoker, place thick slices of three Portobello mushrooms on the smoker's rack and cold smoke for one hour (preferably using oak chips). If not, skip the smoking process and change the recipe's name to simply Portobello Mushroom Soup.

### Steps:

1. Use a slightly damp towel to clean the mushrooms, removing the gills (the slats beneath the caps) and any dirt.
2. In a large pot, lightly sauté the onions to sweat (make translucent)
3. Add the six unsmoked mushrooms to the onions (or all nine if you skipped the smoking).
4. Add the garlic to the mix once your mushrooms are cooked. Also add the smoked mushrooms if you have them and didn't take the easy way out by robbing this dish of its smoky goodness. (Not that we're judging you.)
5. Add the chardonnay and continue heating until the chardonnay is reduced by half. Then add the chicken stock.
6. Transfer the mixture in batches to a food processor, adding the heavy cream as the mixture blends, and seasoning with salt and pepper to taste.
7. Transfer the mixture back to your original pot, and add the roux before simmering for 20 minutes.



### Here are a few tricks of the Artist Point trade for taking your soup to a new level of fanciness.

1. **Add homemade croutons.** Cut six slices of your favorite bread into 3/4-inch squares. Toss in a bowl with 1/4 cup of melted butter. Place on baking sheet, and season with salt and pepper. Bake at 350 degrees (Fahrenheit) until golden.
2. **Drizzle with chive oil.** Place a cup of light olive oil in a blender and add a cup of fresh chives. Blend for 30 seconds, let rest for one hour, and strain through a fine sieve or cloth.
3. **Garnish with roasted shiitake mushrooms.** Thinly slice two cups of shiitake mushrooms and toss with two tablespoons of olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Bake on a baking sheet in a 375-degree oven until crispy and golden brown.
4. **Top off with sour cream.** But don't just dish it out from the fridge. Place a little in a bowl and whip it up by hand until smooth. To add flair, place your whipped sour cream in a squeeze bottle and let your inner Jackson Pollock run wild.





# PERK ALERTS

Member savings and experiences

## THE TRICK TO ENJOYING DISCOUNTED TREATS

### Halloween party discounts available at *Disneyland®* and *Walt Disney World®* Resorts

**Disneyland Resort:** Mickey's Trick-or-Treat Party at *Disney's California Adventure®* Park is a private costume party that lets Guests laugh and play with Disney characters (including the event's namesake, of course), enjoy select attractions and, yes, trick-or-treat through the Park. Interactive games, "spired" music, a nightly character cavalcade and other special activities round out the after-hours event. This year's party is scheduled to take place on Oct. 3, 10, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 and 31. Disney Vacation Club Members may call (714) 781-4400 or visit the *Disneyland* Resort main entrance box office to purchase as many as eight tickets at the discounted price of \$25 each plus tax (regularly \$29 each plus tax) for events taking place on Oct. 3, 16, 22, 23, 28 or 29. (Note that the regular price on Oct. 31 is \$37.) Each ticket includes event admission, as well as *Disneyland* Resort parking for one vehicle (larger vehicles may require an additional fee) on the specified event date.

**Walt Disney World Resort:** Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party is an after-hours ticketed event that lets Guests don their favorite costumes, trick-or-treat through the *Magic Kingdom®* Park, experience exclusive entertainment (including Mickey's Boo-to-You Halloween Parade and the Happy HalloWishes fireworks spectacular), meet Halloween-costumed Disney characters, enjoy popular *Magic Kingdom* attractions and more. This year's event is scheduled to take place on Sept. 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 26, 28 and 30, and Oct. 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 19, 21, 23, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 31. Disney Vacation Club Members may call Member Services to purchase as many as six specially discounted advance-purchase tickets for \$45.95 each plus tax for adults and \$39.95 each plus tax for kids ages 3-9 (\$3 off regular advance-ticket prices and \$10 off regular day-of-event tickets) for events taking place on Sept. 9, 12, 23 and 30, and Oct. 2, 4, 7, 9 and 21.

Tickets to both events are subject to availability. Entertainment and offers are subject to change without notice. Please choose costumes that are not obstructive, offensive or violent, and note that Guests' eyes must be visible at all times. Event admission isn't included with regular Park admission, and event tickets are valid only during specific event dates and hours. Remember to mention that you're a Disney Vacation Club Member to get your discount. Discounts cannot be combined with other offers.





## WHAT IS A GOOD DEAL?

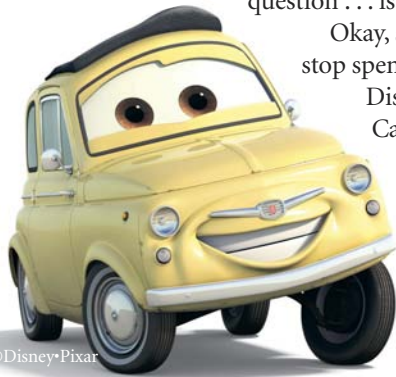
### National® and Alamo® Car Rental offer Member discount

Let's play a quick game of Member Perks "Jeopardy!" Your category is "My Next Vacation." We'll give you the answers, and you give us the question. (You know the drill.) Ready? Here we go...

"Available only when booking in person." "Not valid on promotional rates." "Discontinue if rash occurs." The answer . . . or question . . . is, "What are disclaimers that don't apply to my car rental discount?"

Okay, so the "Jeopardy!" format is a convoluted way to tee up a simple discount. (Perhaps we should stop spending our lunch hours enjoying Ellen's Energy Adventure at *Epcot*®.) Here's all you need to know: Disney Vacation Club Members are eligible to save as much as 10 percent with *National* or *Alamo* Car Rental, and the discount applies to regular or promotional rates from either company. Simply call the respective company (800-328-7945 for *National* or 800-662-2725 for *Alamo*) and mention the appropriate promotional code (5036717 for *National* or 309397 for *Alamo*). If you're booking your rental car online ([www.nationalcar.com](http://www.nationalcar.com) or [www.alamo.com](http://www.alamo.com)), enter the respective promotional code under "Contract ID."

Alright, one more round of "Jeopardy!" for the road: "Changing pants." "Texting my BFF." "Doing the prison dance I saw on YouTube™." The question, of course, is, "What are things I shouldn't do behind the wheel of my rental car?" Drive safely, friends.



©Disney•Pixar

## FEEL AT HOME IN THE PARKS

### Select Annual Passport discounts available at the Disneyland® and Walt Disney World® Resorts

There's just something about being a *Disneyland* or *Walt Disney World* Annual Passholder that makes you feel like you own the place (a familiar feeling for Disney Vacation Club Members).

With such frequent access to the Parks, you begin to see the *Splash Mountain*® flume as your own personal watering hole and The Haunted Mansion as the creepy house down the street where errant kick balls disappear into oblivion. (Do kids still play kick ball?) With your Annual Passport in hand, swinging into *Disney's California Adventure*® Park for a glass of wine or dropping by *Epcot* for sushi is a perfectly reasonable proposition.

Disney Vacation Club Members enjoy special discounts on the purchase of select Annual Passports at the *Disneyland* and *Walt Disney World* Resorts (depending on the type of pass purchased). There are several options to meet your family's needs, and complete details about this perk, including discounted prices and purchasing instructions, are available in the Member Perks section of your Member Web site ([www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com)).

## YOUR MUG ON A MUG

### Limited-time offer from Disney's PhotoPass® service

*Disney's PhotoPass* Professional Portrait packages are now available at six *Walt Disney World* Resort locations, giving families a convenient way to pose for dozens of expert portraits in picturesque Disney settings.

Disney Vacation Club Members who book and participate in a session through Dec. 15, 2008, will receive a voucher redeemable online for one complimentary Disney's PhotoMug when purchasing a portrait package. The one-of-a-kind drinking vessel will feature the Member family's selected portrait image and one of 15 designs. Use it to liven up your morning cup-o-joe or to just display at the office as proof to your coworkers that your vacation and family is better than theirs. (Not that we condone such boasting.)

Remember to show your Member Card at your photo session to receive the voucher, and note that the voucher can't be combined with other offers. For more details, call (407) 934-4004.







# MEMBER GETAWAYS

discover a whole new world

## BRANSON, MISSOURI

Boasting more theater seats than Broadway and Las Vegas combined, Branson has earned its reputation as a mecca for live shows. But a closer look at this southern Missouri hotspot reveals a city beyond cowboy hats and musical revues.

Let's take a look at a few of the highlights you may be surprised to find in Branson, one of many destinations available to Disney Vacation Club Members through the World Passport Collection.

### Great outdoors

Branson may be best known for its theaters and indoor performances, but there's just as much to do outside in the rolling hills and picturesque forests of the Ozarks. For a one-of-a-kind view of the area, head just out of town and then up, up and away in a hot air balloon at the **Ozark Balloon Port**. Or choose to experience the tethered **Branson Balloon**, where you can gather a group together (the balloon can accommodate as many as 30 people) and capture a vacation photo at 500 feet.

If you're traveling in a foursome rather than in a large group, make a tee time at one of Branson's top-notch golf clubs, like the Jack Nicklaus-designed **Top of the Rock Golf Course**. This expertly created par-3 track is a challenge for golfers of every level who appreciate its array of water hazards at course level and its views of glimmering Table Rock Lake below.

### Southern hospitality

While most Branson cuisine is inspired by classics of the heartland and the southern states, several restaurants buck the trend with more international fare. High above the city on scenic Mt. Branson, the **Candlestick Inn** serves French-inspired meat and seafood dishes in an atmosphere that's one of the best around. Peruse the wine list for selections from France, Australia and Argentina, and see why Branson dining is "c'est magnifique." For another adventurous dinner experience, follow the call of the wild to **Buckingham's**, where your brood can eat in a dining room that brings to mind an African safari. The theme extends to the menu, too, where you'll find traditional steak entrées but also rare offerings like ostrich and quail. Later, go Down Under for drinks and snacks at **Outback Pub**, where the Australian décor will complete your "world tour" of Branson hotspots.

### Branson Landing



SwiftShots for Branson Landing

### Historical exhibitions

With modern hotels and entertainment, Branson is a dynamic, ever-changing city. But it's also a place with a deep respect for history, and several museums and exhibits offer visitors a chance to look into the past. At the **Veterans Memorial Museum**, you'll see one of the country's greatest collections of American war memorabilia, with special emphasis on the World Wars and other 20th century conflicts. Wander through the collection of authentic uniforms, vehicles and artifacts, and don't miss the bronze sculpture depicting a fallen soldier from each of the 50 U.S. states.

After your American-history immersion, become "king of the world" for a few hours at the **Titanic Museum Attraction**. Here you can imagine yourself as a first-class passenger as you walk through stunning recreations of the ship's cabins and grand staircase, learning more about the era of the great ocean liners. Afterwards, peruse the museum's interactive exhibits of Titanic artifacts, comprising one of the foremost collections on either side of the Atlantic.



### Toast of the town

Napa Valley may be thousands of miles away, but you wouldn't know it from the wine distilled each year in Branson and the surrounding region. Missouri and Arkansas vintages are among the finest in the country, and you can sample the latest creations for yourself at the **Stone Hill Winery**. Once the second-largest vineyard in the United States, Stone Hill offers free tours of its winemaking facilities in Branson, along with complimentary samples and wine tasting.

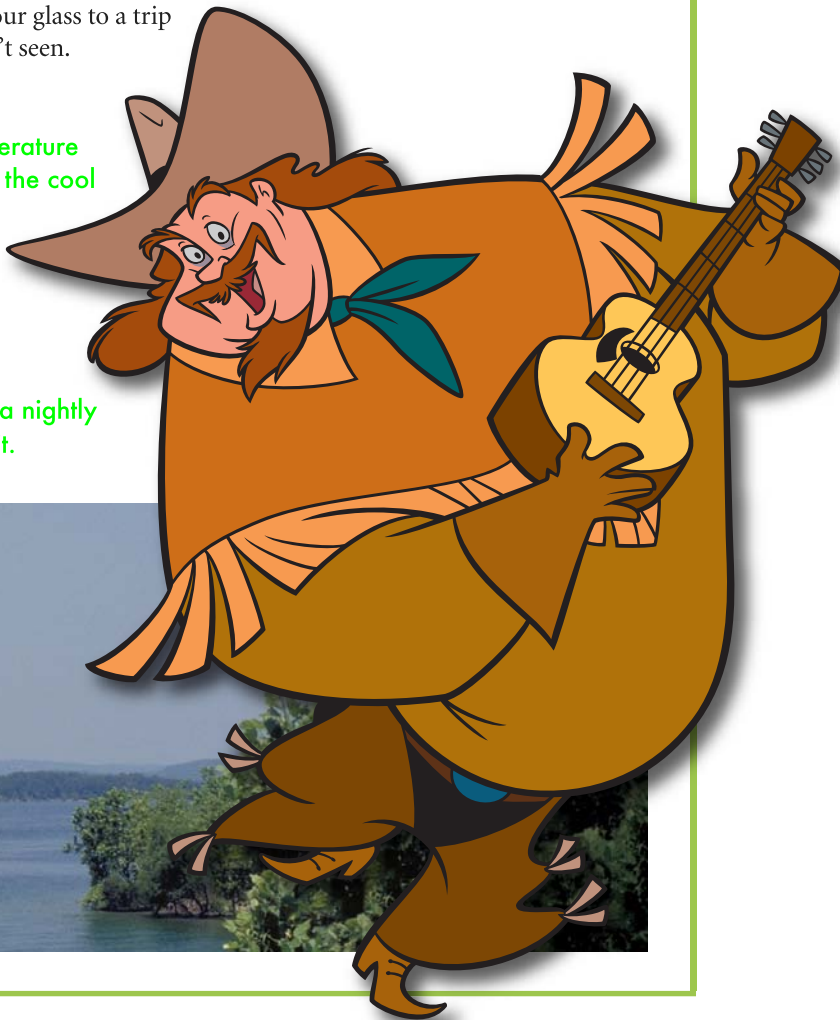
To pick up a bottle or two from other Missouri wineries, travel across town to **The Wine Company**, which offers the county's largest selection of homegrown wines and microbrews. Then raise your glass to a trip well spent, and to discovering a side of Branson most travelers haven't seen.

### Get hooked

The scenic waters of Lake Taneycomo never exceed a temperature of 58 degrees Fahrenheit, so they're not ideal for swimming, but the cool temperatures have created a thriving population of marine life, making the lake perfect for trout fishing.

### Smart shopping

For a taste of high fashion and luxury shopping in Branson, head to the new Branson Landing, a development of nationally known shops and boutiques. This waterfront area also features a nightly "fire and fountain show," adding excitement to any evening visit.





# Fridge-o-Fame

A refrigerator is more than just a place to keep the stuff you can't believe isn't butter. It's a place of family honor, a surface on which to display report cards, award certificates and kids' well-intentioned holiday art projects. Like a proud parent, *Disney Files Magazine* celebrates the achievements of Members and their families here on the "Fridge-o-Fame."

DVC



**Locks of Love:** Five-year-old Carly, part of the Peshtur family of New York, Members since 1997, noticed a young girl with no hair during a 2007 Walt Disney World® vacation. Upon learning that the girl had lost her hair to disease treatment, Carly decided to grow her own hair to support the cause. The selfless observer recently made good on her promise, donating her long hair to Locks of Love, a nonprofit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children suffering from long-term medical hair loss. *Disney Files Magazine* salutes Carly for her gracious act of kindness.

**Color Key:** Katy Gannon-Janelle of Maine, Member since 1994, makes the most of her vacation downtime. As her husband and children enjoyed an afternoon swim at Disney's Old Key West Resort, Katy broke out the watercolors and captured the surrounding view. The end result is suitable for framing and more than deserving of a spot on our fridge.



**In other news:** Members continue to land book deals, including **Norwood Pope** of Arizona, Member since 1997, whose tongue-in-cheek travel book, *Travel Speak*, is detailed online at [www.travelspeakbook.com](http://www.travelspeakbook.com); **Jennifer Swanson** of Florida, Member since 2000, whose new children's dog-detective book *Penny and Rio: The Mysterious Backyard Meeting* is featured online at [www.pennyandrio.com](http://www.pennyandrio.com); and **Ed Hawkeye** of New Hampshire, Member since 1998, whose business book *Market Warfare* is available at [www.pdbookstore.com](http://www.pdbookstore.com).

**Honor your family:** Send your family's news, along with your name, address, phone number and Member Since year, to *Disney Files Magazine's* Fridge-o-Fame, Disney Vacation Club, 200 Celebration Place, Celebration, FL 34747. (Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned.) When sending your submission, please sign and include our release form for each person pictured or referenced. For your convenience, the form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at [www.dvcmember.com/releaseform](http://www.dvcmember.com/releaseform).



## SMALL TALK



**A village comes to life:** On Aug. 3, Members who call Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas "home" began making vacation reservations for stays beginning May 1, 2009, at the resort's Kidani Village accommodations, pictured here under construction. Those reservations become available to all Members within their seven-month booking window. Membership at Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas includes both Jambo House and Kidani Village accommodations.

**One-stop shopping:** In response to Member feedback, Disney Vacation Club has introduced a new reservation policy that lets Members place a single phone call to secure an entire Disney Vacation Club Resort reservation for as many as seven nights beginning on the first day of their booking window, which is 11 months before check-in at Members' Home Resort, or seven months before check-in at other Disney Vacation Club Resorts. (The previous policy required Members to call daily at the beginning of their booking window, piecing together their reservation one night at a time.) Disney Vacation Club has also streamlined the wait list process, allowing Members to make requests for the consecutive nights they require to complete their desired length of stay, from one night up to the number of consecutive nights needed. (Previously, Members placed requests on the wait list for intermittent nights that had high cancellation rates and needlessly tied up inventory.) In addition to providing greater Member convenience, the simplified processes also reduce call volume to Member Services, thereby shortening Members' wait times and making more efficient use of this annual dues-supported service. For more details, visit [www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com).

**Wilderness work:** A variety of refurbishment efforts are underway at The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, introducing new carpeting, sleeper sofas, select chairs and interior paint to the

resort's vacation homes. Plans call for the work to be completed in mid-November.

**Front desk news:** Having concluded testing of a Member check-in desk in the lobby of Disney's Beach Club Villas, the resort has returned its check-in location to the front desk of the adjacent Disney's Beach Club Resort. The move re-establishes a single, consistent check-in location serving both Disney's Beach Club Resort and Disney's Beach Club Villas.

**Pool hopping:** As a reminder, pool hopping isn't available at Uzima Pool at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge or Stormalong Bay or leisure pools at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping won't be available at any *Walt Disney World*® Resort hotel Nov. 24-30, 2008, and Dec. 14, 2008-Jan. 4, 2009. Please remember that the pool-hopping perk is available only to Members staying at an eligible Disney Vacation Club Resort. Complete details are available in *Portable Perks* and at [www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com).

**Condo meeting:** A single 2008 condominium association meeting for all Disney Vacation Club Resorts is planned for Dec. 9 at the *Walt Disney World* Resort. Watch [www.dvcmember.com](http://www.dvcmember.com) for more details.



# Birthday Buttons

Each fall, *Walt Disney World*® Cast Members wish the vacation kingdom a happy birthday by adding a little something to their costumes. Themed birthday buttons, worn on the days surrounding Oct. 1, mark the magical milestone and become instant Cast collectibles.

A complete collection offers a unique look at Disney history, showcasing popular design styles, attractions, characters and campaigns through the decades. The *Disney Files* staff didn't have to look far to find such a collection, as Disney Vacation Club Administrative Assistant Kathy Luck has been a Cast Member since the "world" began on Oct. 1, 1971, and has never discarded a birthday button. (To give you an idea of just how much things have changed since 1971, Kathy started her Disney career selling film and flash cubes in a *Main Street, U.S.A.*® merchandise shop. Remember flash cubes? Or film for that matter?)

Kathy graciously agreed to lend us her meticulously maintained collection so that we could share this visual trip down memory lane. Enjoy the ride.









The Disney logo is written in its classic, white, cursive font against a dark blue background. To the left of the logo is a vertical photograph of a large, ornate building at night, illuminated with warm yellow lights. The building has arched windows and a tiled roof. In the foreground, there are palm trees and other tropical plants, also lit up.

# DESTINATIONS

news and insight from the places where dreams come true

## SPORTS COMPLEX TO BECOME AN ESPN VENUE

### New name and signature elements in the works

**WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort:** The wide world of sports and worldwide leader in sports are about to become one.

As part of their fall-programming presentation to advertisers, ESPN executives revealed plans to re-brand *Disney's Wide World of Sports*® Complex at the *Walt Disney World Resort* as an ESPN venue.



While details of the re-branding initiative remain in the development stage as this edition of *Disney Files Magazine* goes to press, initial plans call not only for the renaming of the complex, but also for the incorporation of signature ESPN elements throughout the 220-acre facility, which welcomes nearly 2 million athletes, coaches and fans each year. The project aims to enhance the experience of both athletes and spectators by connecting them with their favorite ESPN programs, personalities and elements.

“This is a natural and exciting pairing of two powerful brands to create a one-of-a-kind, immersive sports venue that will enable athletes, coaches and Guests to experience sports in a whole new way,” said Jay Rasulo, Chairman of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. “This project builds on our collaborative successes and positions us to explore more opportunities with ESPN to create new experiences for Guests at the *Walt Disney World Resort*.”

George Bodenheimer, President of ESPN Inc., and ABC Sports, and Co-chairman of Disney Media Networks, is equally enthusiastic about the plans, saying, “Our involvement in the Disney sports complex will provide greater opportunities for us to connect directly with athletes, coaches and fans in a highly immersive way.”

The re-branding effort is just the latest initiative for the growing complex, which debuted new outdoor football, soccer, lacrosse and field hockey facilities in December 2007 and is scheduled to open the state-of-the-art Jostens Center indoor field house by the time you read this story. The Jostens Center alone will allow the complex to double its capacity for indoor sporting events. Leaders are exploring additional expansion concepts for the soon-to-be-ESPN-branded complex, including a recently announced bowling center that will host United States Bowling Congress tournaments from 2011-2029.

### Disney sports at a glance

- Athletes from more than 70 countries visit the *Walt Disney World Resort* each year to compete in more than 180 events spanning 50 different sports.
- In addition to hosting a wide world of amateur athletic events, the sports complex is the training home of Major League Baseball's Atlanta Braves and the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and has hosted such professional sporting events as the Major League Baseball Draft, the National Basketball Association's Pre-Draft Camp, Chelsea Football Club events and more.
- ESPN has televised 20 sporting events from the complex during the past year, including Atlanta Braves baseball during the annual ESPN The Weekend event at *Disney's Hollywood Studios*™.

## EXPLORE 'CITIES IN WONDERLAND'

**Culinary festival returns Sept. 26-Nov. 9**

**WALT DISNEY WORLD® Resort:** The title song in Walt Disney's 1951 animated classic *Alice in Wonderland* posed a rather prophetic question: "How do you get to Wonderland?" The convoluted answer, of course, involved a time-sensitive rabbit, a talking doorknob and a tempting morsel simply labeled "eat me."

This fall, *Walt Disney World* Guests will make like Alice and eat their way to Wonderland during the *Epcot*® International Food & Wine Festival. Tantalizing taste buds this year from Sept. 26-Nov. 9, the culinary festival will inspire Guests to explore "Cities in Wonderland," discovering blissful bites at marketplaces brimming with exotic flavors, comfort foods, beers and wines from renowned culinary cities across the globe. (Please forgive your *Disney Files* staff for using such superlatives as "blissful bites" and "brimming with exotic flavors." We're kissing up to festival planners with the hope of scoring free food.) More than 25 international marketplaces will serve tapas-sized portions of regional specialties priced at \$2-\$5 each, along with recommended wine and beer pairings.

New festival flavors will spotlight some of the most "wonder"-ful cities of the culinary world, including San Francisco, Calif.; Boston, Mass.; Cork, Ireland; Cape Town, South

Africa; Lyon, France; Marrakesh, Morocco; Shanghai, China; Bologna, Italy; Tokyo, Japan and Mexico City, Mexico.

"We wanted to take our Guests on a grand gustatory expedition," said Festival Manager Nora Carey, who is as lovely a leader as you'll find at any event. (Bring on the complimentary couscous!) "The cities that we'll feature are known for great dining experiences, and the 'Cities in Wonderland' theme will inspire our Guests to enjoy great food and wine in a fresh new way."

Other elements of the festival will include presentations from more than 250 master chefs, live musical performances through the nightly Eat to the Beat! Concert series (En Vogue and Boyz II Men are among the acts scheduled to perform), international entertainment throughout World Showcase and more.

To learn more about the festival, including details about the popular Party For the Senses ticketed event, visit [www.disneyworld.com/food](http://www.disneyworld.com/food).



## WEB-FOOTNOTES

[www.disneyworld.com/3dparks](http://www.disneyworld.com/3dparks)—Enjoy a virtual tour of *Epcot* and the rest of the *Walt Disney World* Resort through the most detailed 3-D rendering product in the history of *Google Earth*™.

## JACK IS BACK!

**Skellington returns to The Haunted Mansion**

**DISNEYLAND® Resort and TOKYO DISNEY RESORT®:** Pumpkin King. Bone Daddy. Adopted mascot for Goth teens whose pierced lips clash with cuddlier characters. He's Jack Skellington, and he's taking over The Haunted Mansion.

More than a mere overlay, the annual makeover boldly re-imagines the beloved attraction at *Disneyland* Park in California (where the tradition is dubbed "Haunted Mansion Holiday") Sept. 26, 2008-Jan. 4, 2009, and *Tokyo Disneyland* Park in Japan (where Guests know the experience as "Haunted Mansion Holiday Nightmare") Sept. 12, 2008-Jan. 13, 2009, with characters, music and more from Tim Burton's classic film *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

Visit [www.disneyarks.com](http://www.disneyarks.com) to learn more about Halloween happenings in Disney Parks around the world.



Tim Burton's *The Nightmare Before Christmas* ©Touchstone Pictures



## TOKYO GUESTS EXPERIENCE 'JUBILATION!'

### Parade celebrates Park's 25th anniversary

**TOKYO DISNEY RESORT®:** Detailed floats, vibrant costumes, show-stopping performances and favorite Disney characters are celebrating a quarter-century of dreams at *Tokyo Disneyland®* Park during a new daytime parade dubbed "Jubilation!"

For the first time in a Disney parade, thematic elements of the grand procession flow seamlessly from beginning to end, with each parade unit tied by a common theme to the next. For example, a jungle river leads to a sea, connected by the common theme of water. (Something fun to point out to the people next to you, who are sure to be impressed by your eye for detail.)

And, building on an emerging trend in Disney parades, "Jubilation!" will stop at a number of locations along the parade route to engage Guests in an interactive celebration of the Park's milestone anniversary.

While your *Disney Files* staff couldn't squeeze in (or pay for) a trip to Tokyo to preview the parade for ourselves, we did employ the wonders of modern technology to get the scoop about some of the floats. (In other words, we shot off a few e-mails to our friends in Japan.) Here's what we learned.

The parade opens with Minnie Mouse on a Pegasus-drawn carriage as the Blue Fairy welcomes Guests to the celebration. The procession continues with a garden setting filled with Disney royalty, leading seamlessly to a forest scene starring Brer Rabbit

and other woodland creatures.

Butterflies from said forest lead to Simba's jungle world, where a river winds its way to a *Peter Pan*-inspired, acrobatic sea unit. The sea leads to the tropical island of Hawaii, home to Lilo, Stitch and a Pinocchio-toting whale.

Add a finale anchored by Mickey and the gang (pictured in this rendering), and you have a quintessentially Disney celebration filled with familiar faces in unexpected places. Speaking of unexpected, we did take special care to leave a few elements out of this story. Nobody likes a complete spoiler.



## NEW ADVENTURES TO UNFOLD IN 2009

### Guided vacation offerings continue to grow

**ADVENTURES BY DISNEY:** From the Matterhorn mountain of the European Alps to the snow-capped volcanoes of Ecuador, *Adventures by Disney* guided vacations are immersing Guests in extraordinary stories and locales around the world, and eight all-new adventures are on tap for 2009.

Launched in 2005 with guided trips to Wyoming and Hawaii, *Adventures by Disney* vacations struck a chord with Guests and have expanded annually to include international destinations ranging from the rainforests of Costa Rica to the outback of Australia. Each itinerary is designed to deliver vacations and experiences that Guests would find difficult to arrange on their own, blending Disney's signature service and storytelling with exclusive experiences in desired destinations across the globe.

The menu grows to 23 adventures in 2009, with some itineraries adding new options within popular *Adventures by Disney* countries and others introducing new countries altogether.

"Disney Vacation Club Members certainly know a thing or

two about vacationing with Disney beyond the Theme Parks, so it's no surprise that they're among our most enthusiastic fans," *Adventures by Disney* Senior Vice President Ed Baklor told *Disney Files Magazine*. "Our Adventure Guides have always enjoyed exploring the world with Member families, and we're looking forward to having Members with us next year as we travel to so many exciting new destinations."

Those new itineraries include *Bella Italia* (Italy's Florence, Sienna and Amalfi Coast), *Safari to South Africa*, *Taming the Last Frontier* (Alaska), *Golden Path to Yosemite* (San Francisco, Lake Tahoe and Yosemite), *Beantown & The Big Apple* (Boston, Newport and New York City), *Rocky Trails and Mountie Tales* (Glacier National Park and Canadian Rockies), *Alpine Magic* (Switzerland and The Italian Lakes) and *Gateway to the Galapagos* (Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands).

Call Member Services to book *Adventures by Disney* experiences using your Vacation Points, and be sure to ask about Early Booking Rates. To learn more about the new and returning itineraries, or to learn how to book these vacations using cash, visit [www.AdventuresByDisney.com](http://www.AdventuresByDisney.com).







# MORE TO REPORT

good to know before you go



# 1

**Different lyrics, same tune:** The Cantonese verses of legendary lyricist James Wong meet the classic composition of the legendary Sherman brothers in the latest version of the famed “it’s a small world” attraction, now open at *Hong Kong Disneyland*® Park. An expanded Asia scene and the unprecedented addition of Disney characters to the cast of international dolls add a fresh perspective to the attraction while staying true to the artistic style created by Disney Legend Mary Blair and the original Walt Disney Imagineering team.

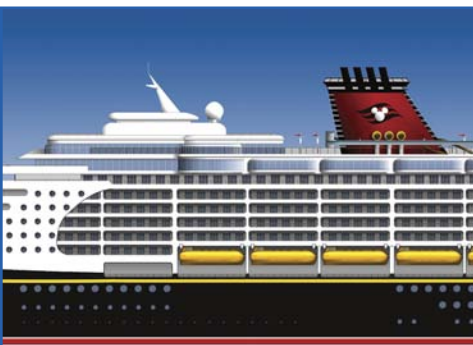


# 2

**Festival of the Masters presented by Sharpie**®: More than 100 award-winning artists will showcase their creations during the 33rd annual Festival of the Masters Nov. 7-9 in the *Downtown Disney*® area at the *Walt Disney World*® Resort. The festival, running from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily, also includes live entertainment, chalk art sidewalk displays, interactive children’s activities and more. Admission and parking are free. Learn more online at [www.disneyworld.com/artfestival](http://www.disneyworld.com/artfestival).

# 3

**ABC Super Soap Weekend presented by Colgate**® **Total**®: ABC Daytime stars will greet fans, sign autographs, show off their hidden musical talents and more Nov. 15-16 at *Disney’s Hollywood Studios*™ at the *Walt Disney World* Resort. Learn more online at [www.disneyworld.com/supersoapweekend](http://www.disneyworld.com/supersoapweekend).

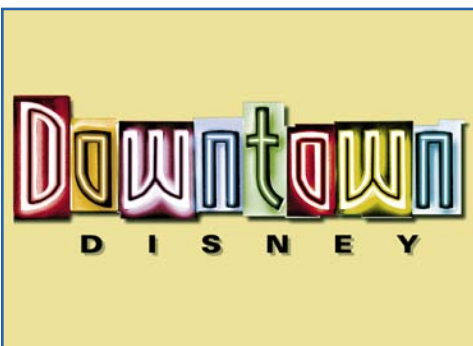


# 4

**Cruise news:** *Disney Cruise Line*® has extended its contract with Port Canaveral, Fla., through 2022. As part of the agreement, the Canaveral Port Authority will expand and modify the *Disney Cruise Line* port facility, extending the dock, enhancing the terminal building and constructing a multi-level parking structure (slated for completion by 2011) for *Disney Cruise Line* Guests. *Disney Cruise Line* also agreed to home port its two new ships (slated to launch in 2011 and 2012) at Port Canaveral.

# 5

**Downtown lowdown:** *Walt Disney World* leaders have unveiled a bold new vision for the resort’s *Downtown Disney*® area, with enhancements debuting during the next two years. Plans call for new shopping and dining experiences, an iconic new attraction and a completely re-imagined Pleasure Island. To make way for the new Pleasure Island offerings, all of the clubs currently on the island will close on Sept. 27. (*Raglan Road*™, *Fuego* by Sosa Cigars, *Curl* by Sammy Duval, the Orlando *Harley-Davidson*® shop, and the island’s outdoor food and beverage locations will remain open during the transition.) Look for updates in future editions of *Disney Files* Magazine as new details become available.



# 6

**Disney Resort Collection:** Members and Guests may bring touches of Disney Resorts home (without stealing the towels), thanks to the Disney Resort Collection, a new catalog of amenities and accessories inspired by the *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel experience. Shop online between visits at [www.DisneyResortCollection.com](http://www.DisneyResortCollection.com).



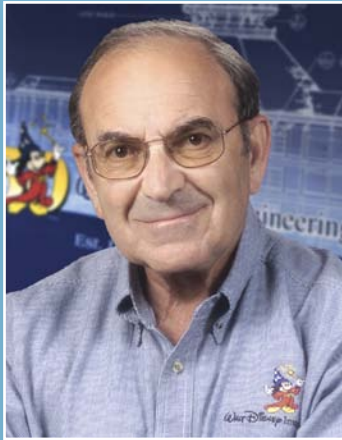


# PARK PERSPECTIVES

BY MARTY SKLAR

Disney Files Magazine is proud to present the perspectives of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, the longtime leader of Walt Disney Imagineering and the only Cast Member to have been part of every Disney Park opening on earth.

## DISNEY'S CONTEMPORARY RESORT: A TRUE 'EPCOT' CONCEPT'



The announcement of the newest Disney Vacation Club Resort – the spectacular Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort – brought back a flood of memories about one of the most unique projects ever constructed at the *Walt Disney World* Resort. For all the amazing design and construction challenges in our Florida "world" – from Cinderella Castle to

General Joe Potter (key executives on the Florida project after their retirement from the military); Disney Parks chief Dick Nunis; and Imagineers Marvin Davis (*Walt Disney World* master planner), and designers John Hench and Bill Martin. We first visited Atlanta, where architect John Portman had recently opened the first of his signature hotels with a turntable restaurant at the top that rotated 360 degrees, then several resorts in Miami Beach, and lastly new hotels on Grand Bahama Island.

Three early decisions after that trip literally became the signatures of Disney's Contemporary Resort. One such decision was to cover the resort's towering elevator shaft with a tile mural designed by artist Mary Blair, whose illustrations inspired the children and toys of the "it's a small world" attraction. With color and native American themes of the

Spaceship Earth to *Expedition Everest*<sup>TM</sup> – perhaps none was as tradition-breaking as construction of Disney's Contemporary Resort.

I was privileged to be an eyewitness, and briefly one of the earliest "Guests," in the creation of this extraordinary facility. In many ways, the story began for me in October 1967, almost four years before Opening Day.

As a result of an excellent working relationship with WED Enterprises (now Walt Disney Imagineering) on the 1964-65 New York World's Fair, the Santa Monica, Calif., firm Welton Beckett and Associates had been hired to design the first two *Walt Disney World* Resort hotels, one with a Polynesian theme and one with a contemporary theme. The Beckett team was the architect for General Electric's Progressland at the World's Fair, which included Walt Disney's Carousel of Progress.

As the Florida project began, Dick Irvine, chief of design for WED Enterprises, sent the Beckett and Disney teams on a trip aboard the company's Grumman Gulfstream to research some of the latest developments in resort hotels. My fellow travelers were Mr. Beckett and three of his firm's principal architects; Walt Disney Company participants E. Cardon Walker (later our company's CEO), Admiral Joe Fowler and

region, the cavernous space became the theme statement for the resort's "Grand Canyon Concourse." The statistics are dramatic: although "only" 184 feet in height, the main building is 468 feet long and 220 feet wide.

The second key decision was to connect the two original Florida Project resorts to the *Magic Kingdom* Park and the Ticket and Transportation Center by monorail. For Disney's Contemporary

Resort, that meant creating still another first: routing a transportation system through the center of the hotel, within a few feet of restaurant diners and the front doors of Guest rooms. (At one point in the design, the architects were so upset by "the monorail issue" that they threatened to resign the project. Later, they were happy to accept the architectural awards!)

The third decision led to the biggest challenge of all: building the Guest rooms through modular steel construction at an off-site location, and then trucking each of the 1,050 fully furnished, 8.5-ton rooms to the shores of Bay Lake.

Originally a partnership between Disney and U.S. Steel, the resort's construction was a true "*Epcot* project." Walt Disney originally conceived his *Epcot* "community" to set an example by "demonstrating and testing new materials and systems."





Disney's Contemporary Resort marked the world's first major use of a steel-unitized construction system. Each room was completely assembled about two miles away, and equipped with plumbing and electrical sub systems, requiring minimum field hook-up. All wall coverings, lighting and bath fixtures were pre-installed. When each individual room left the assembly line, it was ready to be lifted into place by crane, "inserted" like an oversized chest of drawers, tied into the plumbing and electrical systems, and furnished. Even the beds were made two miles away from the hotel site!

Although unique in size at 9 feet high, 15 feet wide and 32 feet, 7 inches long, the rooms (identical in size to the rooms at Disney's Polynesian Resort) established a design requirement for all Disney Resort hotels around the world (and *Disney Cruise Line* staterooms for that matter). Every Disney hotel room begins life as a full-size mock up. The room mock up for what would become Disney's Contemporary Resort was built at Walt Disney Imagineering headquarters in Glendale, Calif., where the Beckett, WED and *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel staffs could sample materials, colors and furnishings, as well as study lighting, carpeting, wall coverings and other fixtures.

I still consider the morning I walked into that mock up in Glendale to be my "first visit" to a Disney's Contemporary Resort room, but it was the next "visit" that will live in my memory. During the final days of construction in September 1971, some of us who were finishing our assignments installing shows, architectural details, graphics, narrations, etc., were asked to move from our off-property motels and hotels into the lakeside south wing of Disney's Contemporary Resort to give the brand new Cast Members some on-the-job training. The "fun part" was the often interrupted installation of certain basics like water, air conditioning and electrical power. (Try "soaping up" in the shower - and suddenly the water is gone, sometimes for the rest of the day! Early morning swims in the pool were "refreshing"! ) And oh yes, about that laundry I sent out in 1971 ... I'm confident some dedicated Disney Cast Member is still searching for it, 37 years later!

About the resort's name: after several years of the descriptive term "contemporary" appearing on design drawings, John Hench and I decided we needed a *real name*. Working with the WED graphics team, we created a beautiful presentation of the complex we called Tempo Bay Resort Hotel. We took our presentation boards directly to Roy O. Disney, who listened carefully and politely ... and then doomed our concept



Crowds of Guests line the railings of Disney's Contemporary Resort as comedian Bob Hope presides over the opening ceremony (with a snappily dressed Guest Relations Cast Member) on Oct. 1, 1971.

with one question: "What's wrong with Contemporary?"

It was a day to remember on Oct. 1, 1971, when Bob Hope dedicated Disney's Contemporary Resort as part of the television show that introduced "the Vacation Kingdom of the World" to the world. Soon after, David Brinkley, then of NBC News, was rhapsodizing about the *Walt Disney World* Resort, and specifically about construction of Disney's Contemporary Resort, on his evening news. By then, Roy O. Disney had bought out U.S. Steel as a partner in the hotel, and the resort once known as "Tempo Bay" became part of an amusing trivia question: "Who chose the name 'Contemporary' for this *Walt Disney World* Resort hotel?" The answer: whoever wrote that *temporary working title* on its earliest architectural plans.







# Disney

# DIVERSIONS

enjoying Disney between trips

## WALT DISNEY STUDIOS LAUNCHES DISNEYNATURE

### New label's first release set for December

Disney filmmakers will go to the ends of the earth to create compelling cinema through DisneyNature, a new France-based production division created to produce big screen nature documentaries.

"Nature invents the most beautiful stories," said Disney veteran Jean-Francois Camilleri, who will head the new unit. "... By working with the best wildlife directors, we will offer nature as never seen before, help the audience to discover the incredible beauty of our world but also understand the challenges for the future generations."

Among the first films to be released in the U.S. under the new label will be *Earth*, from award-winning British producer/director Alastair Fothergill, whose credits include the landmark "Planet Earth" series for the BBC and The Discovery Channel. James Earl Jones will narrate *Earth*, leading audiences on an eye-opening tour of our home planet. The film is slated to make its U.S. theatrical debut on Earth Day (April 22) 2009.

"Disney has been an inspiration to wildlife documentarians for generations, and it's a genuine thrill to advance this extraordinary legacy under this new label," Fothergill said of the project.

Building on a tradition established by Walt Disney himself, DisneyNature will go beyond movies to impact a number of Disney businesses, including Parks, publications and educational outreach.

"We love balancing heritage and innovation, and DisneyNature is a perfect example of this," said Bob Iger, President and CEO of The Walt Disney Company. "We are placing the legacy of Disney's 'True-Life Adventures' in the hands of great modern filmmakers using dazzling technology. DisneyNature is a concept we look forward to building across the company and across the globe for years to come. And, we hope these films will contribute to a greater understanding and appreciation of the beauty and fragility of our natural world."

Dick Cook, Chairman of The Walt Disney Studios, added, "Our goal is for DisneyNature to offer event films that will appeal to everyone who is captivated by the grandeur of nature and the wonder of great filmmaking. Thanks to today's state-of-the-art creative tools, filmmakers have an unlimited ability to tell nature's limitless stories. These stories are as engrossing as any works of fiction and are of a scale and scope that can only be fully appreciated on a big screen. At DisneyNature, the sky is truly the limit."

Other DisneyNature films in the works include *The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingos* (December 2008), *Oceans* (2010), *Orangutans: One Minute to Midnight* (2010), *Big Cats* (2011), *Naked Beauty: A Love Story that Feeds the Earth* (2011) and *Chimpanzee* (2012).

Learn more online at [www.disney.com/nature](http://www.disney.com/nature).





## MORNING LIGHT WILL SHINE IN THEATERS THIS FALL

### Roy E. Disney brings real-life drama to theaters on Oct. 17

From Walt Disney Pictures comes *Morning Light*, a true-life documentary about life's first great adventure.

The film, from executive producers Roy E. Disney and Leslie DeMeuse, follows 15 young men and women at the cusp of adulthood as they race a high-performance sloop in the 2,300-mile TRANSPAC, the most revered of open-ocean sailing races.

Through six months of punishing physical training in the unforgiving waters off the Hawaiian Islands, they're challenged with learning the ropes of the sport, pushing their egos and personality conflicts aside, and forming a singular, unsinkable team.

In the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the *Morning Light* crew will face a showdown with world-class professionals in a virtually identical boat. They'll be tested by the best competitors, by each other and by the elements in a sport where mistakes can cost you far more than victory.

### Also in theaters in October

**High School Musical 3: Senior Year:** Disney's "High School Musical" phenomenon leaps to the big screen on Oct. 24 as high school seniors Troy (Zac Efron) and Gabriella (Vanessa Hudgens) join the rest of the Wildcats to stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about the future before heading off to college.

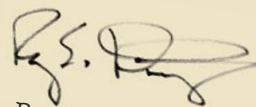
ROY EDWARD DISNEY

To all my friends at Disney Vacation Club,  
Well, that movie I spoke with you about on board the Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise almost two years ago and have since discussed here in your magazine now has a name, *Morning Light*, and a theatrical release date, Oct. 17!

I want to thank you all for your continuing interest, and I really believe the finished film will live up to all of its advance notice.

We - the filmmakers and, more importantly, the 15 young adults in the cast - are all very excited to see this labor of love finally see the light of the big screen.

I hope all is well in the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood and that you enjoy the movie.



Roy E. Disney

## FALL INTO A GOOD BOOK

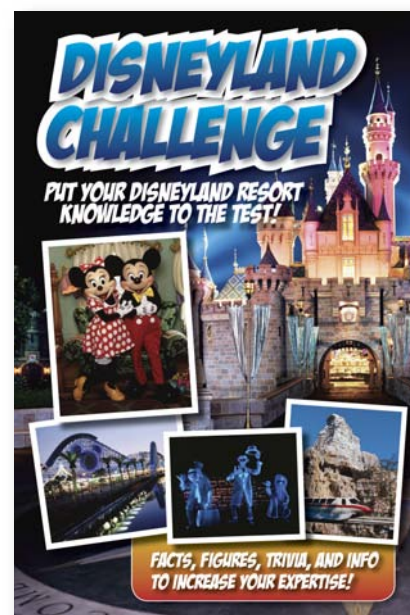
### New titles on the way from Disney Editions

From real facts to imagined adventures, three new books from Disney Editions are offering a fresh look at Disney Parks.

**Disneyland® Challenge** (available now at the *Disneyland Resort*): Packed with quirky questions and intricate objectives, this easy-to-carry-along book is designed to test readers' knowledge of *Disneyland Park* and *Disney's California Adventure® Park*.

**The Imagineering Field Guide to Disneyland** (August): The fourth in a series of pocket-size paperbacks, this new field guide is filled with Imagineering back stories and details, giving readers the experience of walking through *Disneyland® Park* with an Imagineer by their side.

**The Kingdom Keepers: Disney At Dawn** (available Aug. 25): In author Ridley Pearson's 2005 thriller *The Kingdom Keepers*, five teens trapped overnight in the *Magic Kingdom® Park* as "holographic hosts" are pitted against villains who threaten the future of the *Walt Disney World Resort*. The adventure continues in Pearson's follow-up title, as the evil Overtakers gain control of a computer server at *Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park* and threaten to send any "holographic host" who falls asleep into a permanent coma.





**WHAT'S NEXT IN DISNEY ANIMATION**

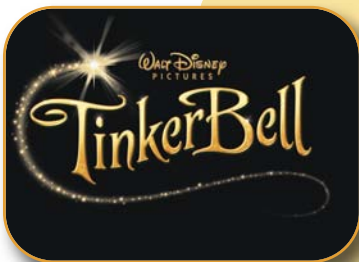
**Studios reveal film slate through 2012**

A delusional dog star, an elderly globetrotter and a scientifically betrothed newt are among the dynamic characters taking shape under the watchful eye of Disney animators. Artists at Walt Disney Animation Studios, Pixar Animation Studios and DisneyToon Studios are developing an ambitious slate of animated films to debut through 2012.

“This is an amazing time for animation at Disney and Pixar, and it’s a thrill to be working on such a diverse and original

group of films with such an all-star team of filmmakers,” said John Lasseter, Chief Creative Officer for Walt Disney and Pixar Animation Studios. “The thing I love best about my job is that I get to work at both Disney and Pixar with filmmakers who are passionate about their projects and who are the absolute best in the business.”

And the thing we *Disney Files* staffers love best about *our* job is that we get to peek behind the scenes and keep Disney Vacation Club Members in the loop. So without further ado, *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to present “what’s next” in Disney



**Oct. 28, 2008, on Disney DVD and Blu-ray Disc™ (from DisneyToon Studios)**

The magical world of fairies and the “seasonal specialists” of Pixie Hollow come to life in a new adventure that begins as Tinker Bell doubts the importance of her talent as a “tinker.” A decision to change who she is proves to be disastrous, and Tink’s friends will have to teach the plucky pixie that magical things can happen if she’s true to herself.

The movie will be the first in a planned DVD and *Blu-ray Disc* franchise that’s scheduled to include the following working titles: *Tinker Bell and the Lost Treasure* (2009), *Tinker Bell A Midsummer Storm* (2010) and *Tinker Bell A Winter Story* (2011).

**Nov. 26, 2008, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Walt Disney Animation Studios**

John Travolta (*Wild Hogs*) and Miley Cyrus (“Hannah Montana”) are among the stars lending their voices to the cast of this adventure-comedy about a canine TV star who’s accidentally shipped from his Hollywood soundstage to New York City. Armed only with the delusions that his amazing feats and powers are real, Bolt joins two unlikely companions (a jaded, abandoned housecat and a TV-obsessed, plastic-ball-dwelling hamster) on a cross-country journey through the real world.



**May 29, 2009, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Pixar Animation Studios**

Ed Asner (“The Mary Tyler Moore Show”), Christopher Plummer (*National Treasure*) and, of course, John Ratzenberger (every Disney•Pixar movie ever) voice characters in this new feature from directors Pete Docter (*Monsters, Inc.*) and Bob Peterson (screenwriter and voice talent on many Disney•Pixar films). Seventy-eight-year-old Carl Fredricksen sees his life, and his dreams of exploring the globe, passing him by until a twist of fate (not to mention a persistent eight-year-old) ignites a thrilling journey.

**Christmas 2009 in theaters from Walt Disney Animation Studios**

The timeless art of traditional, hand-drawn animation returns in this rich musical set in the vibrant city of New Orleans. Acclaimed filmmakers Ron Clements and John Musker (creators of *The Little Mermaid* and *Aladdin*) join Oscar®-winning composer Randy Newman (*Monsters, Inc.*) to tell the most beautiful love story ever told with frogs, voodoo and a singing alligator.





**June 18, 2010, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Pixar Animation Studios**

The toys are back in town for a third installment of the hit film series, pairing the co-director of *Toy Story 2* (Lee Unkrich) with the *Academy Award*®-winning screenwriter of *Little Miss Sunshine* (Michael Arndt). Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack, Don Rickles, Estelle Harris and John Ratzenberger are among the voice talents returning to the toy box to reprise their *Toy Story* roles. The new movie will follow the Disney Digital 3-D theatrical release of *Toy Story* on Oct. 2, 2009, and *Toy Story 2* on Feb. 12, 2010.

**Christmas 2010, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Walt Disney Animation Studios**

Legendary Disney animator Glen Keane (*Tarzan*, *Pocahontas* and countless other Disney classics) co-directs this new retelling of the classic fairy tale, complete with the iconic tower, evil witch, gallant hero and, of course, the mysterious girl with the long golden tresses. Expect adventure, heart, humor and hair. Lots and lots of hair.



**Summer 2011, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Pixar Animation Studios**

“What happens when the last remaining male and female blue-footed newts on the planet are forced together by science to save the species, and they can’t stand each other?” *Academy Award*®-winner Gary Rydstrom directs the inquisitive film, exploring the possibilities as the newt duo discovers that finding a mate doesn’t always go as planned (even when you only have one choice).

**Christmas 2011, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Pixar Animation Studios**

Reese Witherspoon (*Walk the Line*), Billy Connolly (*Lemony Snicket’s A Series of Unfortunate Events*) and Emma Thompson (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*) lend their voices to this action-adventure (directed by Brenda Chapman) set in a rugged and mythic Scotland. Merida, a daughter of royalty, would prefer to make her mark as a great archer. A clash of wills with her mother compels Merida to make a reckless choice, which unleashes unintended peril on her father’s kingdom and her mother’s life.



**Summer 2012, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Pixar Animation Studios**

Mater and McQueen are back, and this time, they’ve got their passports. The adventures that began in 2006’s *Cars* continue in this high-octane new installment from director Brad Lewis (producer of *Ratatouille*), propelling the four-wheeled wonders into a new world of intrigue, thrills and fast-paced comedic escapades around the globe.

**Christmas 2012, in theaters and Disney Digital 3-D™ from Walt Disney Animation Studios**

The acclaimed team behind 2003’s *Brother Bear* reunite to expand on the short story of legendary storyteller Phillip K. Dick about an average Mississippi man whose reluctant actions to help a desperate band of elves leads them to name him king. Joining the innocent and endangered elves as they attempt to escape an evil and menacing troll, the unlikely new leader is caught on a journey filled with unimaginable dangers and faced with a chance to bring real meaning back to his own life.







## TINKER BELL TALKS!

### Character's original reference model travels down memory lane

Yes, Virginia, there *is* a real Tinker Bell, and her name is Margaret Kerry. Margaret served as animators' live-action reference model for the now-famous pixie as they worked on the 1953 classic *Peter Pan*. (Studio artists commonly observed live performers to help them understand how a person moves, how their clothing might flow during a scene, etc.)

If you're thinking that it was another Hollywood blonde who inspired the character, you're in good company.

"One of the greatest misconceptions about Tinker Bell is that she was modeled after Marilyn Monroe," legendary Disney animator Marc Davis once told me. "There is no truth whatsoever to this. Margaret Kerry was our only live-action reference, and she was a tremendous help in allowing us to rough out the action."

Margaret recently found herself offering that helpful hand once again, consulting with DisneyToon Studios artists as they developed the new *Tinker Bell* movie, debuting on Disney DVD and high-definition *Blu-ray™* Disc on Oct. 28. Even 50 years later, artists recognized Tinker Bell's distinctive legs as soon as Margaret entered the room. (This, of course, was much to the delight of Margaret, who once won a "World's Most Beautiful Legs" contest.)

I've known Margaret for many years, and she was happy to take a break from her work on an upcoming autobiography (titled *Tinker Bell Talks: Tales of a Pixie Dusted Life*) to share some of her memories.

"I was four years old when I did my first film, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and I was a little fairy in it," Margaret told me as she recalled fond memories of a career that spanned theater, film, radio and television.

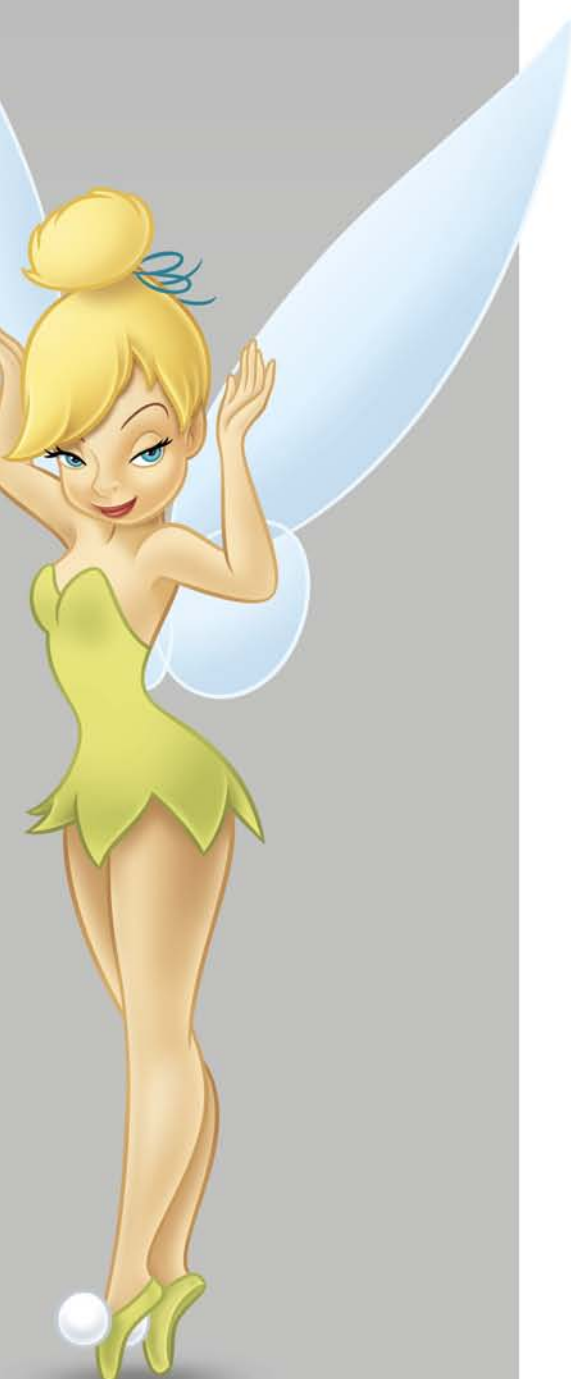
She was 21 years old when her agent contacted her with the perplexing Tinker Bell offer. Laughing, Margaret remembered thinking, "How do you audition for animation and for a character who doesn't speak? So, I got this little record player and put on an instrumental record, and I worked up a pantomime of making breakfast to the beat of the record. I choreographed a whole three-and-a-half minute routine to this old record. [After performing that routine in the audition], they asked me to do the famous scene where [Tinker Bell] lands on the looking glass, preening herself and measuring her hips. Next thing I knew, they asked if I could come in to work the next Tuesday."

And with that, Margaret found herself decked out in a one-piece swimsuit and Tink-like hairdo, performing pixie-worthy routines in a cold, dark Disney soundstage. Directors would show her storyboards for each scene, and the team would bounce around various actions for Margaret to perform on film. Even Walt Disney himself would drop by to observe the proceedings, though he never made the type of "entrance" Margaret expected.

"I remember Walt arriving late to a meeting in a crowded production room, and when one of the artists offered him his chair, Walt said, 'No, I was late, so I'll stand.' You always expected the studio bosses to be introduced by trumpeters, but that wasn't my experience with Walt. He was just there to do a job like everyone else, and I was very impressed by that."

Less impressive was an on-set mattress staffers provided to break Margaret's fall in one iconic scene, something she recalls with great clarity.

"You remember the scene where [Tinker Bell] falls over backwards in Wendy's dresser drawer? They had me falling over backwards onto a mattress. Well, the mattress was about



half an inch thick, or at least it seemed that thin, and I went over backwards, and I went ‘thud.’ The look on my face of surprise and pain was identical to the one Tink has in the finished film.”

Perhaps shaken by that “thud,” Margaret was understandably apprehensive about future scenes involving a hanging apparatus that Disney staffers had built to allow actors Bobby Driscoll and Kathryn Beaumont to “fly” as Peter Pan and Wendy.

“It was an awful, ugly contraption,” Margaret remembered.

“I was so nervous that I couldn’t eat when we broke for lunch. After lunch, Marc [Davis] said, ‘Margaret, we’re not going to have you fly.’ I thought maybe they had figured out how afraid I was about it. He said, ‘Well, you know, at lunch, we realized that Tinker Bell works at a different rhythm than anybody else in the movie. Tinker Bell does not glide when she flies. She darts. She flips. So we couldn’t use any of the film for reference anyway.’

“And I said, ‘Oh well, that’s a big disappointment.’ I was a really good actress.”

Decades later, Margaret hasn’t lost her Tinker Bell spirit.

“My husband and I saw it in a movie theater during one of the many re-releases of the film,” she told me. “I remembered

all the scenes and all the motions I did to create them. I kept elbowing my husband and saying, ‘That’s me! That’s me!’ He just turned to me and said, ‘I know it’s you. I’d recognize those thighs anywhere.’”

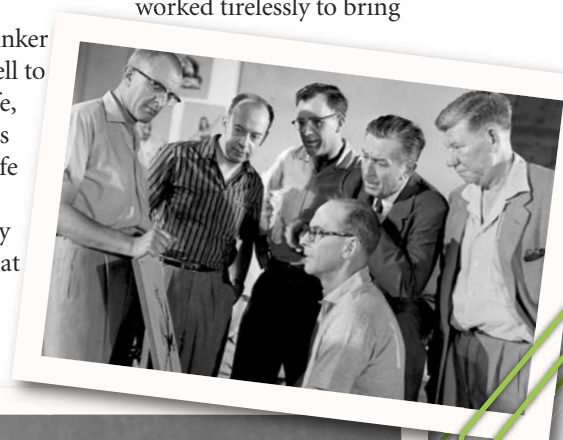
Here’s something even Margaret’s biggest fans may not know: she also served as the reference model for the red-haired mermaid in *Peter Pan’s* Mermaid Lagoon scene. (Interestingly, one of the other mermaid models was June Foray, who went on to voice characters ranging from Rocky the Flying Squirrel in the Bullwinkle cartoons to the grandmother in Disney’s *Mulan*.)

“They tied our legs together, and they had us sliding and slipping all over,” Margaret recalled of her mermaid gig. “And we had the most fun.”

I can’t think of a more fitting quote to end this column. While numerous artists worked tirelessly to bring



Tinker Bell to life, it’s safe to say that



Walt Disney and his animators (inset above) study Tinker Bell sketches based on the performances of Margaret Kerry (pictured here) during the production of the classic animated film *Peter Pan*.

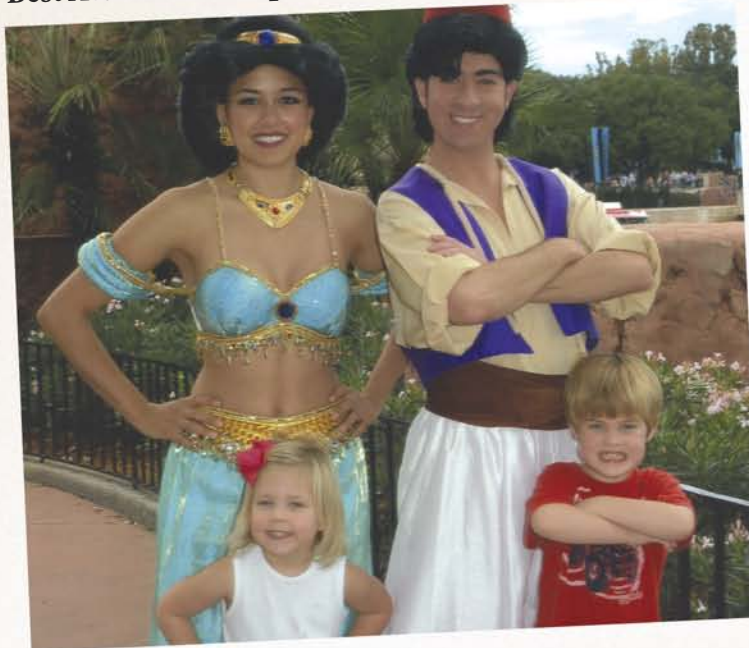


# PHOTO FILES

from your cameras  
to our pages

It won't be long before Hollywood heavyweights begin posturing for another self-congratulatory awards season. To get a jump on Tinseltown, your *Disney Files* staff is pleased to present our first Editor's Choice Awards, honoring Member photos in a variety of categories. No gold statues for the winners; just the sweet taste of fleeting fame. And the "awards" go to...

## Best Actors in an Impersonating Role



Ella and Xavier, part of the Rahe family of Indiana. Members since 2007, are virtually indistinguishable from their Disney heroes. (Hint: the Rahe kids are wearing less hairspray.)

## Best Visual Effects



Many have attempted the "holding up Spacemap Earth" shot, but few have executed the illusion as flawlessly as Kevin King of Illinois, Member since 1993. Congratulations Kevin. The Leaning Tower of Pisa awaits your artistry!

## Best Documentary, Relatable Subject



Isabella, Giovanna, Julietta and Vivianna, part of the Onofrietti family of New Jersey. Members since 2003, show what happens when parents take kids to The Hall of Presidents before their late-night character greeting.





## Best Use of a Goat in a Starring Role



Natalie and Diana, part of the Matuszak family of Michigan, Members since 1996, find a new friend at Disney's Animal Kingdom® Theme Park and play on the emotions of our Editor, whose pet fish, Carl, doesn't fill the void left when he bid farewell to his pet goat in Oregon well more than a decade ago. (If he asks, that goat remains alive and well, frolicking in a field with other happy goats.)

Membership<sup>+</sup>  
is magical

## Best Use of Headgear



Dad helps young Brady, part of the Johnston family of New Hampshire, Members since 2000, show off the latest in Disney headwear. (Not since Martin Short's one-man show have we seen a little guy display such versatility.)

## SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Send your vacation photos to *Disney Files Magazine*, Disney Vacation Club, 200 Celebration Place, Celebration, FL 34747. Submissions become property of Disney Vacation Club and will not be returned. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year so the staff can credit you with the submission. Also remember to sign and include our release form for each person pictured. The form is available in the download center of your Member Web site at [www.dvcmember.com/releaseform](http://www.dvcmember.com/releaseform).

**Tip:** Photos that tell a story have the best chance of getting into the magazine. So look for your best tight, candid shots that focus more on people than places.

## FILE IT AWAY

New-gimmick alert! The *Disney Files* staff wants to see you reading *Disney Files Magazine* on vacation! Send us photos of you with the magazine in fun vacation settings and you could see yourself in this space. Whether you're reading the *Files* in a spinning teacup or a London pub, there's nothing we enjoy more than seeing our cover in recognizable places. (Sorry, Flat Stanley. Your services are no longer needed.)

## We have a tie!

Eight-month-old Caelyn Emma, part of the McMahon Egan family of Connecticut, Members since 2000, wakes up on her first morning at Disney's BoardWalk Villas and reminds us why people have babies.



## Best New Artist



Two-month-old Member Samuel, part of the Prummel family of Florida, is the leader in the clubhouse to land a starring role in *Pirates of the Caribbean 4: Spawn of Sparrow*. (Easy there, bloggers, we made that up. Our friends at Walt Disney Pictures have nothing to announce.)



# BACK FILES

Disney through the rear-view mirror



Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort is designed to be what Walt Disney Imagineers describe as a "kissing cousin" to its famous neighbor, which opened with the *Walt Disney World*® Resort on Oct. 1, 1971. In this rare photo from the Imagineering library, Disney Legend Mary Blair oversees assembly of the iconic tile mural she designed for the original Resort hotel's Grand Canyon Concourse.