

Disney FILES

MAGAZINE



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I know what you're thinking. Crush and Dory on a holiday cover? Is the art director confused? I can assure you that (1) there's a perfectly reasonable explanation and (2) our art director is no more confused than usual.

Our Disney-Pixar pals are simply here to deliver good tidings (to you and your kin), along with some encouraging news about sea turtles. I sat down with Dr. Anne Savage, Senior Conservation Biologist for Disney's Animal Programs, to discuss evidence that Members' support of sea turtle conservation efforts at Disney's Vero Beach Resort may be paying off for our fine flippered friends (pages 3-4).

More good tidings arrive in the form of a rare look into the secret world of Walt Disney World Holiday Services (pages 5-6), the massive Theme Park decorating operation we were asked to explore by Disney Vacation Club Facebook fans (www.Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub).

Moving on to our Disney Community section, we've condensed two decades of Disney Vacation Club history into two pages of magazine space (pages 7-8), squeezing highlights like Santa's waistline through a chimney.

We must've enjoyed the tight squeeze, as we did it again on pages 15-16, this time gathering news and notes from throughout our Disney Vacation Club community. Look for this new "Neighborhood Notes" column to become a *Disney Files* staple in future editions.

Beyond our picket fence, we check in on a big baby at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (page 17), take an artistic look at Dumbo's new digs (page 18), explore holiday happenings around our "world" (page 19) and report Downtown Disney news that has Walt Disney World fans on "pins" and needles (page 20).

And sticking with our spirit of conservation as we deliver your Disney fix between trips, our Disney Diversions section (pages 21-24) includes a Hollywood star who's green, helpful little guys who look good in green and a craft that'll help you celebrate the season while being green.

Add historical features from "Disney Heritage" columnists Marty Sklar and Jim Korkis (pages 25-28), and a spread of images that includes a trio of standouts from one photographically talented Member family (pages 29-30), and you have a magazine you may end up loving too much to toss into the recycle bin. (Please do it anyway. Or keep it forever.)

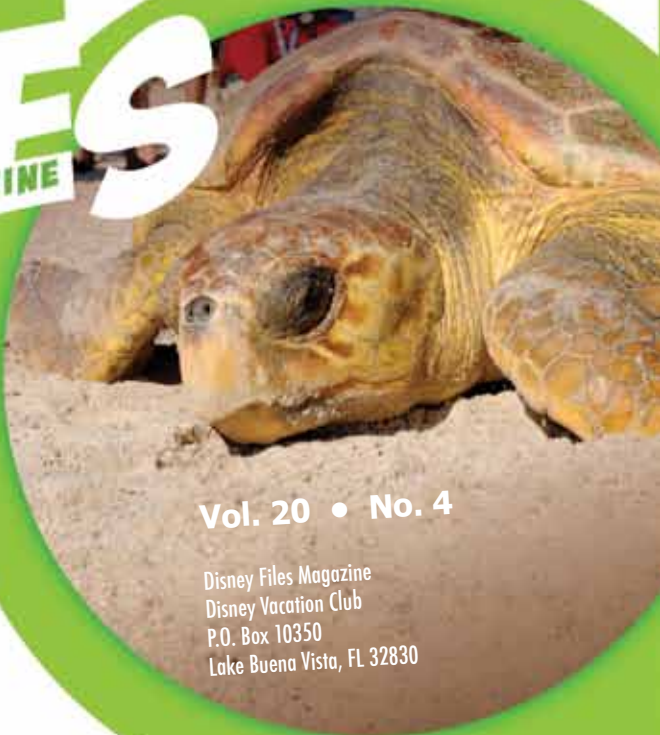
Welcome home,


Ryan March
Disney Files Editor

Don't think of this as an old illustration from our spring 2010 issue. Think of it as creative recycling.



Illustration by Keelan Parham



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Disney Vacation Club
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Please recycle

DVC-MBR-65-Q

A proud look at 20



By Claire Bilby
Senior Vice President, Disney Vacation Club

While the task of highlighting key themes and stories in this magazine generally falls to its Editor, I wanted to take this opportunity to call your attention to a feature that immediately caught my attention. In fact, as I continue to learn this great business, I may keep this particular spread close at hand as reference material.

As December marks the milestone 20th anniversary of the original Disney Vacation Club Resort opening (the flagship destination known today as Disney's Old Key West Resort), this edition's "Disney Community" section begins with a fun look at our community's colorful history, sharing highlights from each of the past 20 years. From the creation of new resorts and operations to the debut of new Member perks and events, the timeline covers as much turf as two pages could accommodate.

When I look at that timeline, I can't help but marvel at what this community has achieved. I can tell you candidly that, when the company announced Disney Vacation Club in 1990 as part of "The Disney Decade," not everyone applauded the vision. "Timeshare" and "Disney" weren't exactly hailed as a match made in vacation heaven.

But the mouse changed the playing field. Just as Walt's Disneyland concept changed perceptions of amusement parks, Disney Vacation Club changed perceptions of vacation ownership.

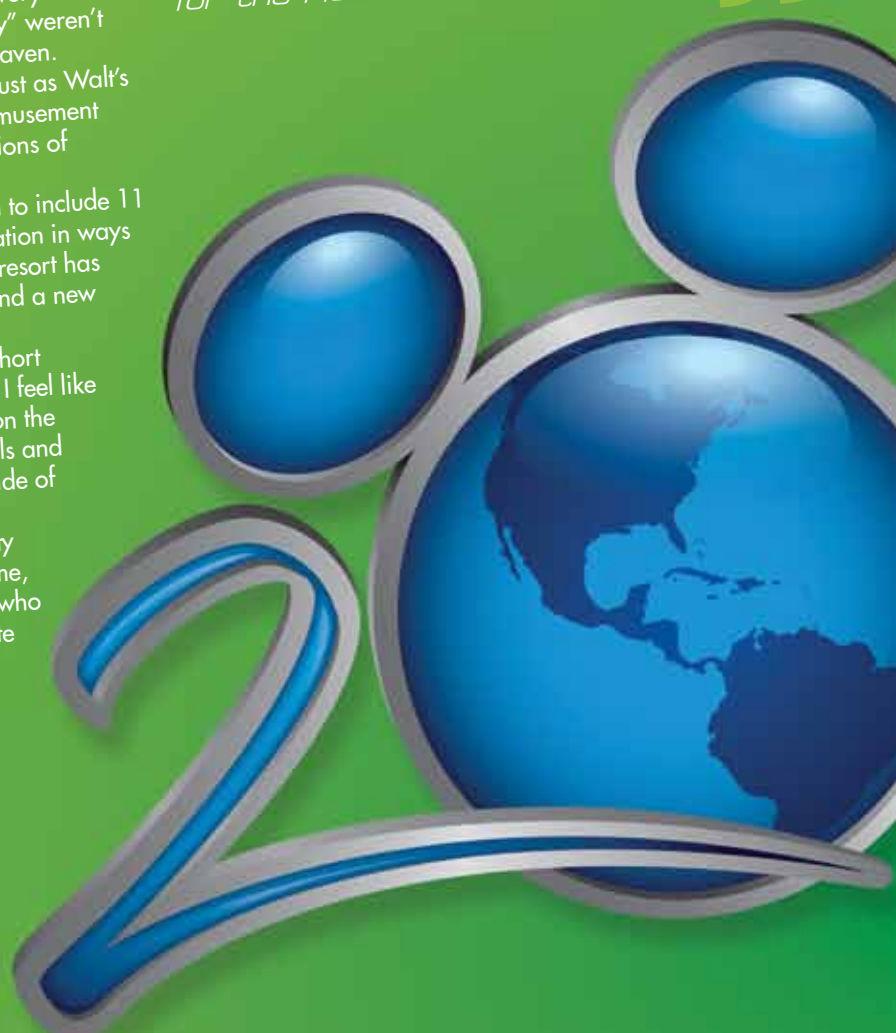
This incredible community has since grown to include 11 uniquely themed resorts that help families vacation in ways they never dreamed possible. With each new resort has come a new vacation option for your family and a new opportunity to make memories.

So when I joined this business just a few short months ago, I was as proud as I was excited. I feel like I've been handed the keys to the coolest car on the block. I may still be getting used to all the bells and whistles, but I can already tell I'm in for the ride of my life.

I feel privileged to be part of a community that has accomplished so much in so little time, and I'm deeply proud of the Cast Members who continue to demonstrate their ability to create value for our Members and business alike. The highlights you'll see in this magazine are a tribute to everyone in that equation.

Of course, what I enjoy most about the timeline isn't looking at what's been accomplished during these past 20 years, but imagining what we'll accomplish together in the 20 ahead. As great as these two decades have been, this is only the beginning.

I feel like I've been handed the keys to the coolest car on the block. I may still be getting used to all the bells and whistles, but I can already tell I'm in for the ride of my life.



one on one



with dr. anne savage

It's easy to be skeptical when Kermit the Frog sings, "It's Not Easy Being Green." After all, he's a big-time movie star (see page 21) who seemingly lives on Easy Street. (That's a figure of speech, of course. We aren't at liberty to publish Kermit's actual address.) But what if there's a deeper meaning to the song? Maybe he isn't singing about himself at all. Perhaps he's looking out for sea turtles.

At the crossroads of human activity and sea turtle breeding is an ecological conflict that has long threatened turtles' survival. Simply put, as more people encroach on the turtles' coastal nesting grounds, fewer nests lead to fewer babies. The issue is of particular concern in Florida, which accounts for about 90 percent of sea turtle nesting in the U.S. Fortunately, there's hope.

Thanks in part to thoughtful Cast and Disney Vacation Club Members, Kermit may soon be singing "It's Getting Ever-So-Slightly Easier Being Green." *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March caught up with Disney's Animal Programs Senior Conservation Biologist Dr. Anne Savage to discuss the good news.

Ryan: We've heard a lot of discouraging news about sea turtles through the years, but I understand things may be looking up.

Anne: Yes, we hope so. We've seen a downward trend in the number of Loggerhead sea turtle nests for the past five years or so. But in 2010, we had a banner year for Loggerheads [in the area Anne monitors along Florida's Treasure Coast near Disney's Vero Beach Resort]. The numbers were really encouraging. I'm happy to report that, as we speak here today in 2011, we're not only having another positive year for Loggerheads, but this has been our best year ever for Green Sea Turtles and our third-best year for Leatherbacks. We're not only seeing positive changes in terms of the number of nests, but we are also seeing an increase in terms of the number of nests that are successfully hatching. While it's certainly too early to tell for sure, I'd say we're cautiously optimistic that these are signs that a lot of the efforts that have been put into helping conserve sea turtles are starting to pay off.

Ryan: Can you tell us a little more about the concerns we're addressing through these efforts?

Anne: Sure. One of the best ways to get a comprehensive look at the issues facing sea turtle survival is to visit www.TourDeTurtles.org. In addition to following the tracks of migrating sea turtles on the site, you can learn about the

issues that the Sea Turtle Conservancy has highlighted as priorities for helping to conserve sea turtles. Among the most critical issues is lighting. When light from a coastal building shines onto the beach at night, it can disorient nesting turtles and, most importantly, hatchlings. Instead of the hatchlings heading toward the brightest thing they can see, which should be the moon shining on the ocean, they may head toward the light shining from someone's condo. Sadly, they never make it to the ocean.

Ryan: That's an issue Members at Disney's Vero Beach Resort know quite well.

Anne: Absolutely. We've made a concerted effort to encourage Members and Guests to keep their curtains closed at night and to stay off the beach with flashlights after dark. The response has been tremendous, and it appears to be working. We don't have as many false crawls, which is when sea turtles come ashore to lay their eggs and then decide not to. These false crawls could be due to light intrusion, or because there are too many people or things on the beach. That can be a real tragedy. If a female makes several attempts to nest and can't, she may become too exhausted and simply drop her eggs in the ocean. Females are 20-30 years old before they come to nest for the first time, and we know that turtles that were hatched in Florida come back to lay their nests in Florida. So if a female has waited almost two decades and has been able to find her way back to our

beach, we want to give her the best chance possible to lay her eggs by keeping our beaches dark and quiet.

Ryan: What about beach litter? That's another issue Members hear a lot about.

Anne: True. Plastic pollution is another dangerous problem for sea turtles. When I first began working with turtles on our beaches, we'd find lots of litter in front of the resort. But now, through the efforts of the resort to reduce the amount of plastic being used – in particular, the elimination of plastic straws – and through the efforts of Members and Guests to keep litter off the beach, we encounter very little trash on the beach today. Members have taken a particularly active role in sea turtle conservation. As they visit year after year, they become deeply involved in our educational programs and develop a passion for protecting these animals.

Ryan: How does it feel to have that kind of impact on people?

Anne: It's unbelievably satisfying. I see kids who have grown up in our Turtle Troup program go on to champion this cause as young adults. I recently had one little girl, now grown, ask me if I'd write a letter of recommendation for college as she looks to become a marine biologist. We have a teacher from Ohio who visits every year during sea turtle nesting time. We've watched his kids grow up, and his wife has put together a great book of their nine years here. There are just so many stories like that. [Conservation Programs Manager] Claire Martin was approached by someone at our Tour de Turtles event who said, "I was with you when you did Turtle Troup last year, and it got me so excited that I specifically planned my vacation for this year so I could be here for Tour de Turtles."

Ryan: That's the second time you've mentioned Tour de Turtles. Can you talk more about that?

Anne: Sure. Tour de Turtles is a collaboration with the Sea Turtle Conservancy that gives the public an opportunity to track 15 sea turtles through the website I mentioned earlier as the turtles embark on their marathon migration from their nesting ground to their foraging grounds. Each turtle is equipped with a satellite transmitter and acts as an ambassador to raise awareness about a specific threat to sea turtles. Disney's Animal

Programs, Disney's Vero Beach Resort and the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund sponsored two turtles. One is named Lightning McQueen and the other is named Rapunzel. If you follow Lightning online, you can see a map of where she's swimming and learn more about how lighting is detrimental to sea turtles. When you follow Rapunzel, you'll chart her progress while learning more about how sea turtles become entangled in fishing nets and gear. Aside from being a fun way to get people excited about sea turtles, the program allows the Sea Turtle Conservancy to collect really important migration information that helps us drive legislation and develop effective conservation programs. Another way we connect families to turtles is the Adopt-a-Nest program, which lets Members and Guests virtually "adopt" a sea turtle nest and track its progress online. We've already had 61 nest adoptions at Disney's Vero Beach Resort this year. (To participate in the program, visit the Island Grove Packing Company store at Disney's Vero Beach Resort.)

Ryan: What advice do you have for Members who read this interview and are inspired to make sea turtle conservation part of their vacation plans?

Anne: June and July are the best months to visit Disney's Vero Beach Resort if you want to learn more about sea turtles. Families selected through a raffle system can even participate in sea turtle night walks in search of nesting sea turtles. Since we limit these experiences to protect the sea turtles, a good tip is to visit www.myfwc.com before your Florida vacation to see what other organizations are offering sea turtle walks nearby. Watching a female sea turtle lay her eggs is a life-changing experience that should be on everyone's bucket list.





Holiday Services

Everything in the World for the Holidays

When we asked our Facebook fans (www.Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) to tell us which Walt Disney World holiday operation to explore in this edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, the response was about as predictable as the winner of a Harlem Globetrotters game. To nobody's surprise on the *Disney Files* staff, "Theme Park decorators" emerged as the clear winner in our poll and confirmed our longstanding belief that Holiday Services is among the most fascinating departments in our "World."

Charged with transforming the Central Florida property into a winter wonderland each holiday season, this dedicated team of Cast Members works throughout the year to create, collect, repair, replace, sort, store, distribute and ultimately install a mind-bending array of decorations before uninstalling their masterpieces and starting the process anew. It's enough work to leave Santa's elves in desperate need of a vacation (perhaps to Disney's Winter Summerland Miniature Golf Course, decorated year-round by our friends at Holiday Services).

With our Facebook marching orders in hand, we packed up our camera, grabbed our finest note-taking supplies and headed off to a 54,000-square-foot backstage building that's equal parts warehouse and wonderland. Welcoming us behind the scenes was Holiday Services Manager Lisa Borotkanics ³, a 25-year Cast Member who's been part of these merry makeovers for nearly a decade.

We were immediately struck by Lisa's passion for the job, fueled perhaps by a childhood filled with the kinds of holiday traditions typically reserved for Norman Rockwell paintings.

"I spent the early years of my childhood on a farm in Indiana, and each year, we'd cut down our own Christmas tree from a neighbor's farm," Lisa recalled. "Then, all of us kids would sit around and actually string popcorn and cranberries."

While Lisa probably hasn't lost her popcorn-stringing skills, decorating this

considerably larger space (a "jurisdiction" that includes the Walt Disney World Resort, Disney's Vero Beach Resort, Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort, the Disney Cruise Line ships and now Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i) each year requires a more high-tech approach.

A computerized system (backed by tried-and-true photo documentation) tracks every tagged treasure in the Holiday Services trove, ensuring that everything from the tallest tree to the smallest ornament avoids the fate of that wreath you stashed in the garage and haven't seen since 1994. This meticulous level of organization is particularly essential for the seasonal crew that arrives each year to help the full-time Cast move the massive inventory.

"At the end of each holiday season, with every piece returned to its rightful place in the warehouse, the yearlong refurbishment effort begins," Lisa explained. "When you think about the time we have to install décor through all of the areas we cover – typically about four weeks – it's critical that everything's show ready and in proper working order when it arrives in the field. The same challenge you face at home with lights that stopped working sometime after you packed them away last Christmas affects us here, only on a much larger scale. Fortunately, we've transitioned the vast majority of our lights to LEDs, which aside from being more energy efficient, are also more durable."

But lights are just part of the challenge. Delicate ribbons and bows displayed outdoors in the sun may need to be replaced each year. Décor on display all year at Disney's Winter Summerland Miniature Golf Course lasts only about two years. Artificial foliage used to decorate Disney Cruise Line's Castaway Cay has a shelf life of about three seasons in the salty air (unless the island

happens to be hit by the outer bands of a hurricane, as it was

last year). Ornaments within Guests' reach in a resort lobby have varied life spans, depending on just how much they've been 'loved.'

"Generally speaking, for the majority of our inventory, the décor-replacement cycle is



about every five years," Lisa told us. "So it's a careful process of inspecting, refurbishing and replacing that takes us from January to October, when we really begin to mobilize for installation in November." (The team also supports Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party at the Magic Kingdom Park, making the fall something of a dizzying time period for Lisa and company.)

Then there's the creative process of decorating new spaces (the Disney Dream Ship and Aulani this year, for example) or enhancing the décor of existing spaces (new sculptured swans 4 will adorn this year's trees at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, and new sculptured Santas on horseback 1 will look right at "home" this year at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa). Procurement of new items takes place at least a year ahead of each holiday season, and creating pieces from scratch can take even longer.

"That may be one of the most fun parts of the job," Lisa acknowledged. "Whether we're searching far and wide for unique items to complement a design concept or sitting down with Walt Disney Imagineers to create pieces you won't find anywhere else, that's a really enjoyable process."

Offering examples of both great finds and great creations, Lisa pointed to an artificial clove-studded orange obtained through a manufacturer of traditionally inspired décor (look for these highly realistic ornaments in such period-appropriate places as Main Street, U.S.A. in the Magic Kingdom Park) and a custom holiday garland the team's creating for Aulani.

"Aulani, of course, is all about celebrating the real Hawai'i," Lisa said of the newest addition to the Disney Vacation Club neighborhood. "Working with input from Imagineers, we're creating garland inspired by flowers and foliage native to the islands 2. It's going to be absolutely beautiful, and you'll only find it at Aulani."

Walt Disney Imagineering is just one of the partners with whom Holiday Services works to make its seasonal magic. From Merchandise to Entertainment to Food and Beverage, a wide range of teams come together to ensure that the holiday season is the most magical time of the year. And just like Santa's elves, those Cast Members forgo a bit of sleep as the season arrives.

"Installation is when it all comes together for our team," Lisa said. "That's when work schedules become a blur and the overnight magic happens. It's exhausting, but it's also an exciting finish line at the end of a yearlong process. Seeing the look on the faces of Guests who may have visited an undecorated Park one day and return to see it dramatically transformed the next is unbelievably rewarding. I enjoy that moment now as much as I ever have. It's the culmination of a process we're so proud to be part of, and it's probably why we have so little turnover on this team."

Come to think of it, Santa doesn't have much turnover on his team either. Must be something in the cider.



The history of our world

Two decades of Disney Vacation Club®

As December marks the 20th anniversary of the original Disney Vacation Club Resort opening, *Disney Files Magazine* looks at just some of neighborhood happenings during each of the past 20 years.

1991: The original Disney Vacation Club Resort (renamed Disney's Old Key West Resort in 1996) welcomes its first Members home.

1992: Walt Disney World golf courses begin offering Member discounts and the first Member magazine mails to all 2,700 Members, delivering 12 pages of news and information.

1993: Accommodations at the Disneyland Resort in California and Disneyland Paris in France join the collection of options available to Members.

1994: Disney Vacation Club begins allowing Members to borrow 100 percent of their next use year's vacation points (previously 50 percent), further enhancing the flexibility of Membership.

1995: Disney's Vero Beach Resort opens.

1996: The number of Disney Vacation Club Resorts in the neighborhood doubles with the addition of Disney's BoardWalk Villas at the Walt Disney World Resort and Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort in South Carolina. Disney Theatrical Productions introduces a Member discount, the first in a series of periodic Disney On Broadway perks that continues today.

1997: Disney Cruise Line bookings begin as the voyages join the growing collection of options available to Members. DVCMember.com launches.

1998: The Richard Petty Driving Experience and Sammy Duvall Watersports Centre are among the recreational operations at the Walt Disney World Resort that begin offering Disney Vacation Club Member discounts.

1999: Disney Vacation Club establishes sales operations on Disney Cruise Line ships, paving the way for Member celebrations to be part of Disney Cruise Line voyages.

2000: The Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge opens.

2001: Disney Vacation Club begins celebrating its milestone 10th anniversary.

2002: Disney's Beach Club Villas opens and Members sail on the first S.S. Member Cruise, a half-charter voyage.



2003: The S.S. Member Cruise becomes an annual, full-charter event and Members gather for a summertime "Member Day" event at Disney's BoardWalk Resort.

2004: Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa opens and hosts a grand Member Homecoming event. In other spa news, our friends at Nikki Bryan introduce their Member spa and fitness center discount. Members enjoy the first Disney Vacation Club holiday party at the Walt Disney World Resort.

2005: Members begin enjoying an enhanced discount on select Walt Disney World Annual Passes, Disney's PhotoPass Service introduces a Member discount, a variety of Member Perks debut at the Disneyland Resort in California as Disney Vacation Club establishes operations in Anaheim, the Member magazine adds Disneyland news and expands to 28 pages, and Disney Vacation Club debuts two new Member events at the Walt Disney World Resort – "Spring Swing" with the Atlanta Braves and "Summer Block Party" at Pleasure Island (both events returned in 2006).

2006: Adventures by Disney trips join the collection of options available to Members, the Member magazine expands further to 32 pages, Members attend the first "Welcome Home Wednesdays" event at the Walt Disney World Resort (replacing "Member Updates") and the Member community grows to exceed 100,000 families. Members see their community on national television as Disney Vacation Club provides the grand prize on the hit ABC series "America's Funniest Home Videos."

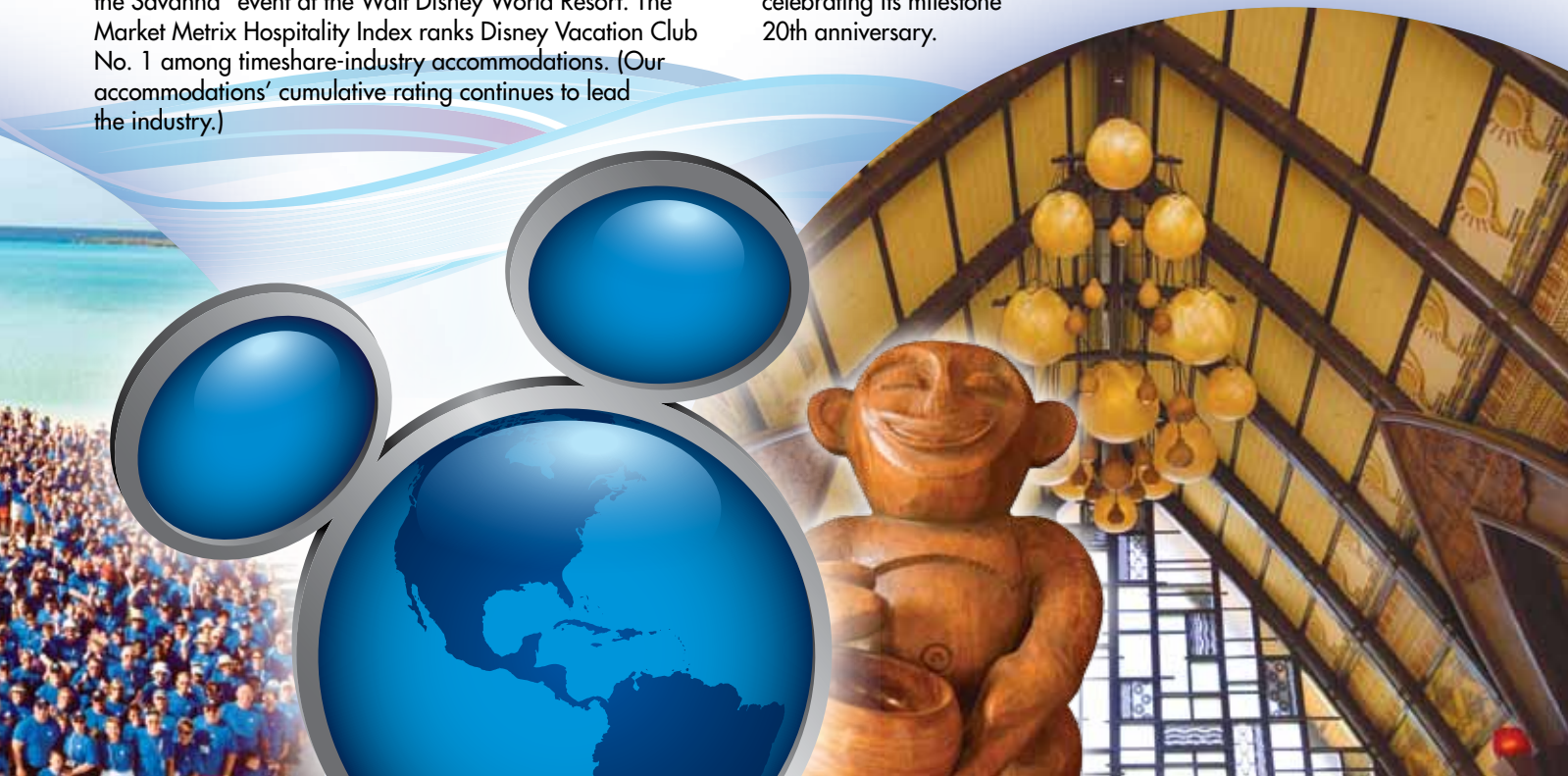
2007: Member Services expands its operating hours, the Disney Dining Plan becomes available to Members, Disney Vacation Club's Disney Doorway to Dreams store opens near Chicago and Members celebrate the announcement of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas by attending a "Summer on the Savanna" event at the Walt Disney World Resort. The Market Metrix Hospitality Index ranks Disney Vacation Club No. 1 among timeshare-industry accommodations. (Our accommodations' cumulative rating continues to lead the industry.)

2008: Disney Vacation Club Resorts begin waiving Members' daily high-speed Internet charges and our community grabs even more national television spotlight as Disney Vacation Club awards a prize through the syndicated series "Live with Regis and Kelly," lands its own Travel Channel special and partners with ABC on three episodes of the inspirational hit series "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition."

2009: Members enjoy the broadest expansion of Disney Vacation Club Resorts in our community's history, growing to 10 resorts with the addition of Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas, Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort and – our first West Coast property – The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa. Members' accommodation options grow further this same year with the addition of the Treehouse Villas at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa. Disney Vacation Club opens a Disney Doorway to Dreams store in New York and launches an online broadcast series called "Disney Traveler," which would welcome travel guru Samantha Brown as its host in 2011.

2010: Disney Vacation Club opens a Model Showroom at the Tokyo Disney Resort and a preview center on the Hawaiian island of O'ahu. "Disney Storybook Vacations," a Disney Vacation Club broadcast special starring real Member families, begins airing in select television markets. Reflecting Members' ever-growing visibility on the Disney radar, Walt Disney Pictures screens its inspirational film *Secretariat* on the S.S. Member Cruise, weeks before the film hits theaters. The American Resort Development Association honors Disney Vacation Club with its ACE Employer Award for being an outstanding place to work.

2011: Aulani, Disney Vacation Club Villas, Ko Olina, Hawai'i opens as the 11th resort in the neighborhood and Disney Vacation Club introduces a new logo as our community begins celebrating its milestone 20th anniversary.



Member Perks the icing on the cake

Perk paradise

Special offers await Members on O'ahu

Hawai'i: *Disney Files Magazine* is pleased to present the bountiful array of perks currently available to Members at Aulani, a Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i, and at neighboring businesses on the island of O'ahu.

Aulani perks

Enjoy a 10 percent discount on beach rentals, snorkeling experiences at Rainbow Reef and full-day cabana rentals (based on availability).

If you're renting a car (which we highly recommend, as there's a lot to see on the island) you'll be happy to know that Members also enjoy complimentary self-parking in the resort's garage (regularly \$35 a day for Guests) for as many as two cars throughout their Aulani stay.

Neighbor perks

Atlantis Submarines (www.atlantisadventures.com/oahu): Members save 10 percent off regularly priced standard and premium underwater tours.

Bishop Museum (www.bishopmuseum.org): Members may purchase adult tickets for \$12 each plus tax (regularly \$17.95 each plus tax) to the state's largest museum.

Dave and Buster's (www.daveandbusters.com): Kids and kids at heart can play games on the "Million Dollar Midway," enjoy a meal and more at this high-tech playground. Members who buy a \$10 game card get a second \$10 game card free.

E Noa Tours (www.enoa.com): Members who buy tickets for a day of Waikiki Trolley Tours get a second day free.

Germaine's Luau (www.germainesluau.com): Take in the rich cultural heritage of the Pacific Islands with a spectacular show at the ocean's edge. Members get a free child's ticket with the purchase of an adult ticket.

Hard Rock Café (www.hardrock.com): Enjoy the O'ahu location of this world-famous haven for "fans of music, food and great times." Members enjoy a 15 percent discount off lunch (11 a.m.-4 p.m., excluding alcohol, tax and gratuity) and retail purchases.

Hilo Hattie (www.hilohattie.com): Visit "the store of Hawai'i" and get a free mug with your \$20 purchase. Plus, Member kids get a free Dole Whip when accompanied by an adult.

Maui Divers Jewelry (www.mauidivers.com): Purchase \$50 worth of jewelry and get a sterling silver plumeria pendant and chain free. (Gotta love free!)

Ocean Joy Cruises (www.oceanjoycruises.com): Cruise the unspoiled Wai'anae coastline before diving into one of Hawai'i's most secluded snorkeling spots. Members get a free underwater reloadable and reusable camera with each paid adult and child ticket.

Star of Honolulu Cruises and Events (www.starofhonolulu.com): Save \$10 off each ticket for these picturesque voyages.

Hoku Nai'a (www.hokunaia.com): Book an eco-friendly dolphin-watching excursion, and your child will enjoy the experience for free.

Wet 'n Wild Hawai'i (www.hawaii.mywetnwild.com): Members receive a free meal voucher with each paid general or youth admission.



A memorable welcome home

Member-exclusive welcome package now available

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Inspired by the trademark “Welcome Home” greeting treasured by generations of Disney Vacation Club Members, the Walt Disney World Floral & Gifts team has dreamed up an exclusive in-room welcome experience for Member families.

“Welcome packages have long been among our most popular options for Guests staying at the Walt Disney World Resort,” explained Jean Volante, the team’s Manager of Dream Making. (Is that not the coolest title?) “Guests have really responded to this fun opportunity to give the gift of a memory by having special surprises awaiting their loved ones in their Walt Disney World Resort hotel room after check-in. As Disney Vacation Club Members are among our most enthusiastic Guests, we wanted to create an option available only to them. The milestone 20th anniversary of Disney Vacation Club made this the perfect year to debut our Disney Vacation Club Welcome package.”

Available to Members staying at any Disney-owned-and-operated Walt Disney World Resort hotel (including, of course, the vacation kingdom’s seven Disney Vacation Club Resorts), this unique package reveals that Mickey Mouse and friends have prepped the room for Members’ arrival.

A personalized “Welcome Home” sash draped over the front door is just the beginning (and likely becomes a souvenir that Members will use to decorate their door on future visits). Once inside, Members discover Mickey footprints leading to a collection of gifts that includes a welcome balloon (or a more animal-friendly Disney tote bag for Members staying at Disney’s Animal Kingdom Lodge), Mickey and Pluto plush toys, Pluto dog bones (actually dog-bone-shaped sweets for humans), a handy Disney Vacation Club backpack, fresh-baked cookies from Minnie (including the recipe card!), a custom blanket that becomes a travel pillow and a personalized, limited-edition piece of matted Disney Vacation Club artwork signed by the big cheese himself.

The package is priced at \$295 plus tax, which is \$20 less than the Grand Welcome package created for Guests.

To learn more, or to purchase a welcome package for your next Walt Disney World stay, call a Dream Maker at (407) WDW-GIFT (939-4438) any day between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. Eastern.



Store your stuff

Owner’s Locker debuts Member discount

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The color purple isn’t just a good movie. It’s also a sign you’ll never have to visit Central Florida without your favorite stuff.

The Celebration, Fla.-based Owner’s Locker business is designed to provide a dependable and convenient storage solution for frequent vacationers, allowing families to store their vacation gear in Central Florida between trips and have it delivered to their resort whenever they return.

A growing number of Disney Vacation Club Members have discovered the service, avoiding excess airline-baggage fees and dramatically cutting their packing time for each trip by storing their favorite toiletries, cooking items, games and more in their own purple locker boxes (which many Members custom-decorate in grand Member style). From the special blanket that helps little Johnny sleep to the bottle of wine that helps Mommy unwind (we’re guessing here), the items stored in these industrial-strength-plastic containers are as diverse as the people who own them.

And now, with more Members than ever turning to the purple place to store their stuff, Owner’s Locker is offering Disney Vacation Club Members a 20 percent discount off the membership fee. To learn more about the service and take advantage of this discount offer, click on the Owner’s Locker link in the Member Perks section of DVCMember.com. (Note that arriving at the Owner’s Locker site through DVCMember.com is the only way to get the discount.)



Where in the World is Deevy?

By Deevy See
First Lady, Disney Vacation Club

Me again, Deevy See, First Lady of Disney Vacation Club, off visiting one of the more than 500 places around the world you can enjoy through the magic of Membership (which I inspired). See if you can figure out which U.S. state my husband, Dr. Luke See, and I are visiting by reading this transcript of the travel journal I keep with my super-smart phone's fancy audio recorder. I'm like a high-tech Waldo without the funny hat!

8:06 a.m. Wow, kinda chilly here this morning. Good thing I packed my wool sash. This is nothing like the weather I remember from our trip here last summer. Man, was that hot. People kept telling us it was a dry heat, as if that was going to help. You know what else has a dry heat? My oven! Ask the pot roast if that made it any more pleasant. Anyway, it's a bit brisk here in the winter. The handsome TV weatherman says it's supposed to get up into the 60s later, but for now, it reminds me a bit too much of the weather back home in Wisconsin.

8:49 a.m. I no longer feel like I'm in Wisconsin. Asked for cheese on my omelet at this quaint local diner, and they brought me pepper jack...covered with salsa! That's right, salsa. On eggs! The only thing you should serve on eggs is cheddar. And butter. And maybe some mayonnaise. But salsa? These people are crazy.

10:01 a.m. My daughter Ariel has started an umbrella collection (odd girl), so we're stopping at a gift shop before we hit the road to the state park for our river-rafting expedition. Aside from the souvenir umbrella, Luke wants to pick up a bola tie (or is it bolo?), which he tells me has been the state's official neckwear since 1973. I wonder what Wisconsin's official neckwear is. Probably one of those ties that look like a fish.

10:32 a.m. Can you believe that store didn't carry umbrellas? The guy behind the counter says there isn't much need here since it only rains about 9 inches a year. I'm pretty sure Florida gets that much rain during the average summer-afternoon parade. Oh well. Luke looks dashing in his new tie, and I think Ariel will learn to like her new Barry Goldwater bobble-head. (It was on sale.)

10:34 a.m. Ooh, speaking of gold water, I hear the river we're rafting today takes us past a gold mine!

10:35 a.m. Check that. Luke says it's a copper mine. It seems this state produces most of America's copper. Interesting. Though now I don't understand the bobble-head. Shouldn't the state's mascot be named Barry Copperwater?

10:36 a.m. Another correction from Dr. Smarty Pants. Goldwater isn't the state's mascot. He was a beloved Senator. Mascot, Senator...same thing if you ask me. (Ha! The state's mines may be full of copper, but my political comedy is pure gold, baby! Watch out, Jon Stewart.)

10:38 a.m. Oh, one more note about copper. I just read in my travel guide that the state's Capitol building roof has enough copper to make almost 5 million pennies! I did the math, and that's like \$5,000! Wait, Luke's giving me a look. Maybe that's not right. Hold on. Carry the zero, move the comma, divide by four, add the two...there we go. I meant \$500,000!

10:39 a.m. Dang it. Luke says it's \$50,000. He'd really annoy me if he wasn't so darn cute.

11:17 a.m. Stuck in some traffic on our way out of the city. A caller on a local radio show just won ski lift tickets for knowing that the state slogan used to be "The Valentine State," which Luke quickly (and not at all obnoxiously) explained to me is because the place became America's 48th state on Feb. 14, 1912. After double-checking to make sure he's still cute, I thanked him for the history lesson. And for always being my Valentine.

11:19 a.m. By the way, ski lift tickets? Here? In the desert? What a horrible prize. Snow skiing in the desert. Hilarious! Must've been a goof.

11:20 a.m. Guess who just told me that people do, in fact, snow ski in this state? I'll give you a hint. He's getting a little less cute.

1:04 p.m. Okay, finally at the river. Luke picked up a book about the state's waterways back at the raft-rental place. He thinks he's going to dazzle me with his local knowledge, but the joke's on him. The picture of a lake on the cover is clearly labeled "the original London Bridge." Genius bought a book about England!

3:17 p.m. The rafting was amazing! The joke on Luke? Not so much. Turns out the original London Bridge is located on a lake in this very American state. Not England. I give up.

4:41 p.m. Luke just told me he wants to visit the world's largest solar telescope tomorrow, and that before the end of the trip, he wants to visit three other states. Three! This sounds exhausting. Wait, Luke's smirking. Something's up.

4:44 p.m. Okay, now he tells me there's a place just a few hours from here that lets you stand in four states at once. He's so proud of himself. If I wait until we get to that Four Corners place before I smack that smug look off his face, I wonder which state I'll be arrested in. I'm kidding, of course. I'd never smack that pretty face. Cutey patootie.

6:28 p.m. Just found the coolest restaurant. I feel like John Wayne (who, Luke points out, shot many movies in this state). This place serves rattlesnake, jack rabbit, even cactus fries made from real cactus! Oh, and the back of the menu lists funny laws that are still on the books in these parts. (See, I even sound like John Wayne!) In case you're wondering, it's against the law in this state for donkeys to sleep in bathtubs. So if you're sharing a room with a donkey, make it sleep in the shower. Ooh, time to order!

8:47 p.m. Fabulous restaurant. Loved the chicken. Tasted like rattlesnake.

"We can't wait for more of Deevy's 'travel journal' in *Disney Files Magazine*. Her antics are always what we look for first ... It's an understatement to simply say we love Deevy. Her column and website have been sources of much enjoyment and laughter in our house."

The Batten family of Florida, Members since 1992

Do you know where in the world Deevy is? Look in the bottom-left corner of the next page to find out. ▶

picture this

original



As Members enjoy the new Paddock Pool at Disney's Saratoga Springs Resort & Spa, *Disney Files* Magazine challenges you to spot the seven things we've altered in this photo of the watering hole's opening day.

altered



ANSWERS: (1) Mylar Minnie's bow has lost a polka dot, (2) Mylar Minnie's lashes have grown longer, (3) Mylar Minnie is reflecting a second light pole, (4) the chimney on the villa building has grown taller, (5) the Mickey balloon has gone "pie-eyed," (6) a safety railing has disappeared from the foreground and (7) a towering tree in the background no longer towers.





Chocolate Budino

'Tis the season for chocolate (and being jolly). *Disney Files Magazine* wishes your family happy holidays as we present this sweet recipe for the chocolate budino cake enjoyed by Members and Guests at Kouzzina by Cat Cora at Disney's BoardWalk Resort.

Serves: 12 (as one 9-inch round cake or 12 small cakes)

Ingredients:

1/2 pound high-quality bittersweet chocolate
3 large eggs, plus 3 more large egg yolks
1/2 cup sugar
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
12 tablespoons (that's 1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened

Steps:

1. Place rack in the middle of your oven, and preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Grease a 9-inch round cake pan or a 12-cup muffin tin with vegetable or canola oil. Wipe out excess oil with a paper towel. Set aside.
3. Grate the chocolate or chop it into small shards with a chef's knife or serrated knife. (Tip: It's easiest to begin at a corner, particularly if the chocolate is really thick. And please remember to take this step slowly. The number of fingers you have when you finish should equal the number you had when you started.)
4. Place chocolate in the top of a double boiler. (Don't have a double boiler? Simply place a large bowl over a saucepan of simmering water over low heat.) Melt the chocolate slowly, stirring occasionally.
5. In a medium bowl, gently whisk together the eggs, egg yolks, sugar and flour. Mix until all of the ingredients are well incorporated.
6. When the chocolate is smooth, remove the bowl from the hot water and add the butter. Stir until the butter is melted and the chocolate is smooth again. Add the egg mixture, mixing well.
7. Spoon the batter into the cake pan or the prepared muffin tin, filling each cup half full.
8. Bake for 18-20 minutes. The edges should have just begun to pull away from the pan, and the center should still look moist and shiny.
9. Remove pan from oven and let cool for 10 minutes.
10. While pan is still warm, place a baking sheet over the top and invert the pan. Carefully lift the pan to release the cake(s). Transfer to a serving platter (or individual dessert plates if you went the muffin route) and let the chocolatey jolliness begin. (One last note: while this dish is best served warm, it's still delicious at room temperature.)



neighborhood notes

new and newsworthy in our magical community

Online booking news: Member Services Cast Members are testing the long-awaited Disney Vacation Club Member online booking application as this magazine goes to press. This new service will allow Members to reserve Disney Vacation Club Resort accommodations with Vacation Points through DVCMember.com. Plans call for the service to launch this winter. *Disney Files Magazine* will publish details about the new service following its successful launch. In the meantime, watch DVCMember.com for updates.

Aulani, Disney Vacation Club Villas, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: Member Services is now booking a variety of excursions for Members vacationing at Aulani, from experiences led by Disney guides and local experts to non-exclusive explorations of the island and local attractions. Among the wide range of experiences available are studio art classes at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, horseback riding at the Kualoa Ranch, hiking through such landscapes as the Manoa Valley and Waimea Falls, surfing lesson through the Hawaiian Fire Surf School, a cooking class with famed Hawaiian chef Sam Choy and a ghost tour of the Wai'anae Coast. Multi-day excursions also are available, helping families enjoy a variety of organized Hawaiian experiences. Please note that tours are subject to change, and advance reservations are highly recommended.



Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort: Members who use the Walt Disney World Monorail system for transportation to and from Bay Lake Tower while enjoying the Parks should note that Monorail trains now serve the Magic Kingdom Park and Epcot until one hour after the respective Park concludes its regular operating day. Buses and (for the Magic Kingdom Park) watercraft continue serving Guests during Extra Magic Hours.

Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas: Want to learn more about how your contributions to the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund (DWCF) are supporting wildlife and wild places? A Google Earth application on the DWCF's Facebook page takes you on a virtual tour of the globe to see where DWCF projects are taking place. During your "tour," you can zoom in on snapshot summaries of projects, access photos, link to related videos and websites, and even "like" a project to add it to your Facebook newsfeed. Members and Guests at Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas support the DWCF in a variety of ways, from contributing to the add-a-dollar program at merchandise locations to participating in special animal experiences. Since its inception in 1995, the DWCF has contributed more than \$15.6 million to non-profit organizations, supporting everything from training for gorilla patrols in Africa to satellite monitoring of sea turtles to an educational wildlife bush camp for children in Zimbabwe.

Disney's Beach Club Villas: The Stormalong Bay pool area at Disney's Beach Club Resort has welcomed an enhanced pool-activities program, with activities ranging from water sports and dance parties to campfires and outdoor movies. Members staying at Disney's Beach Club Villas should receive an activities calendar upon check in. No advance registration is required for these offerings.

Disney's BoardWalk Villas: Cupcakes, lemonade, nostalgic stories and video footage of a guy being shot out of a cannon were part of a recent 15th anniversary celebration at Disney's BoardWalk Resort. The cannon-stunt footage was from the resort's 1996 opening ceremonies, embodying the vintage Atlantic City flair that inspired the resort's eastern seaboard theme. Disney Vacation Club Members signed a celebratory banner during the festivities, which were attended by many of the more than 70 Cast Members who have been part of the resort's team for all 15 years. Disney's

BoardWalk Resort General Manager Dave Venables was particularly pleased to welcome the longtime Cast Members, saying, "They all help us deliver our message about the heritage, history and legacy of the company."

Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort: Disney's Beach House at Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort is scheduled to undergo refurbishment from Jan. 2-Feb. 28, 2012. The facility, which includes a pool, beach access, the Big Buoy Arcade and Signals quick-service restaurant, will be closed during this process. Other resort amenities, including The Big Dipper and The Little Dipper Pools, and the Tide Me Over quick-service restaurant, will remain open at the resort, and a resort shuttle will be available to transport Members and Guests to the Palmetto Dunes Beach House for easy beach access.



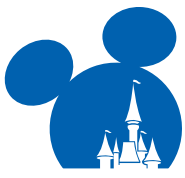
The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa:

Members are invited to join other Disneyland Resort Hotel Guests on the Frontier Lawn at the Disneyland Hotel to enjoy a "Magical Night at the Movies" in the great outdoors. As this recently introduced evening of cinema under the stars, which takes place on most Thursdays and Sundays (weather permitting), has quickly become popular, arriving early is recommended.

Pool hopping: Whenever you're using your Membership to stay at a Disney Vacation Club Resort at the Walt Disney World Resort or at Disney's Vero Beach Resort, you and any Guests staying with you are permitted to pool hop to other eligible pools if they're not at capacity. Due to expected high occupancy, pool hopping isn't available Dec. 11, 2011-Jan. 1, 2012. Pool hopping is never available at Bay Cove Pool at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort, the pools at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge, Stormalong Bay at Disney's Yacht & Beach Club Resorts, the pool at Disney's Beach Club Villas, or at the Disneyland Resort in California. Further block-out dates may be added based on capacity issues. Full details are available in *Portable Perks* and online at www.dvcmember.com. On a related note, please remember that Disney pools are available exclusively to Members and Guests staying at that resort, or to eligible Members utilizing their pool-hopping privileges during their registered stay.

S.S. Member Cruise 2011: The first S.S. Member Cruise aboard the new Disney Dream ship also was the first to star an amphibian, as Kermit the Frog headlined a most sensational, inspirational, celebrational, Muppetational finale show in the Walt Disney Theatre. Other unique shows during the voyage included a salute to 20 years of Disney Vacation Club hosted by former *NSYNC member and current Disney Vacation Club Member Joey Fatone, an inside look at the art of Disney-animated shorts with Walt Disney Animation Studios directors Kevin Deters and Stevie Wermers-Skelton, a Christmas-inspired deck party featuring an advance screening of Kevin and Stevie's latest "Disney Prep & Landing" special debuting this holiday season on ABC (see page 23), an irreverent game show starring Walt Disney Archives Director Becky Cline and celebrating the 40th anniversary of the Walt Disney World Resort with rare artifacts from the Walt Disney Archives (presented in partnership with our friends at D23, Disney's official fan club), interactive drawing sessions with character artist Don "Ducky" Williams and an evening of stand-up comedy from Disney Legend (and voice of Goofy) Bill Farmer.





Disney destinations

Did you know? The Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund and the Disney Foundation have directed more than \$1 million to projects in 20 countries to help protect and conserve elephants in the wild.

“Herd” the good news?

Baby Jabali stealing hearts and headlines

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Dumbo isn't the only little pachyderm making headlines these days in the vacation kingdom (see next page for the latest update on the aforementioned airborne elephant). Jabali, the newest addition to the Disney's Animal Kingdom elephant herd, is claiming his sizeable share of the spotlight.

The cute little guy (if you can call a 311-pound newborn “little”) became an Internet sensation through the Disney Parks Blog (www.disneyparks.com/blog) and the Disney Vacation Club Facebook page (www.facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) soon after his Aug. 24 birth, with photos and updates of his early development and eventual introduction to the herd prompting fans to call him everything from “too precious” to “a perfect little man.” (If you're wondering just how big the “little” man will get, male African elephants grow to weigh more than 10,000 pounds.)

Jabali is the sixth elephant born at the Theme Park, following Tufani (2003), Kianga (2004), Nadirah (2005), Tsavo (2008) and Luna (2010), who has become Jabali's best friend on the savanna. The highly successful breeding program is part of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums' Elephant Species Survival Plan, which aims to create a self-sustaining elephant population in North American zoos and wildlife centers.

More than just a metric, Jabali has established himself as a beloved member of the Disney's Animal Kingdom family.

“Jabali is a really sweet, affectionate young calf,” Disney's Animal Kingdom Zoological Manager Stephen Eisele told *Disney Files Magazine*. “He bonded quickly to his mother (Vasha) and wasted little time getting to know the herd.”

Still thriving in that herd, Jabali has delighted the Animal Care team by hitting critical milestones in stride, from consuming his mother's milk to safely navigating his habitat's watering holes (sometimes with a little help from his friends).

“By the time an elephant gives birth in the wild, she has seen numerous babies born and raised in the expansive herd,” Stephen explained. “While our 12 elephants rank among the larger herds in North America, they are just gaining that experience. With each new calf, our elephants are learning more and more, and our team of animal care experts is closely monitoring those key milestones. We have a great team, and Vasha is a great Mom. Jabali's staying consistently ahead of the curve and has been strong in every measurement.”

Well of course he's strong. What else would you expect from an elephant who shares his name with the Swahili word for “strong as a rock?”



Jabali is pictured left with his mother and above with new friend Luna.



Dumbo's new digs

Enhancing a Disney Parks icon

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Few Disney images are as iconic as elephants in flight. Long a staple of photo albums and marketing campaigns, people piloting pachyderms are as synonymous with Disney Parks as plundering pirates and grim-grinning ghosts.

Dumbo the Flying Elephant has become so iconic in fact, that few families would dream of visiting the Magic Kingdom Park without taking our ample-eared friend for a whirl.

Unfortunately, the resulting wait times can be enough to make a grown man cry (like he does every time he hears that "Baby Mine" song).

Sweet relief should arrive soon, as phase one of a dramatically enhanced and expanded Dumbo the Flying Elephant attraction is scheduled to take flight in Spring 2012.

"When we announced the Fantasyland expansion project, which ranks as the largest expansion in the Park's history, one of the elements that generated the most buzz was the re-visioning of Dumbo," Walt Disney Imagineer Chris Beatty told *Disney Files Magazine*.

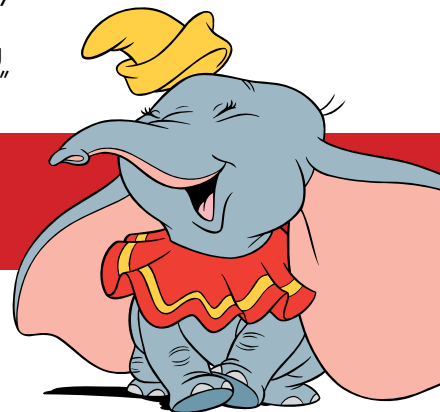
When completed, the attraction will feature two rotating squadrons of airborne elephants to accommodate more Guests than ever. And as part of an ongoing effort to make getting there part of the fun, a big-top tent filled with interactive elements will entertain (and shelter) Guests before their flight.

The attraction will be part of Storybook Circus, a Fantasyland neighborhood *Disney Files Magazine* will detail in the months ahead, exploring such additions as the Casey Jr. Splash & Soak Station and the Barnstormer starring Goofy as the Great Goofini. In the meantime, we asked Chris to tell us more about the Dumbo attraction's new design.

"Visually, the new attraction is going to be stunning," Chris said. "The color palette is inspired by the animated film and tin toys of the 1950s. Aside from being a fresh visual contrast to the attraction's current pastel colors, the new jewel tones address an interesting operational issue. It seems little boys' aversion to riding 'the one with the pink hat' can slow down the loading process. Who knew?"

The tin-toy-inspired color treatment is just the beginning of a visual transformation that will celebrate the golden age of the circus and the Academy Award-winning animated film with such eye-catching elements as gilded, ornamental filigree designs "Dumbo-ized" with peanuts and elephant trunks, and intricately painted images from the classic film.

"The Fantasyland expansion project is all about the details, and Storybook Circus is no exception," Chris said. "Breathing new life into one of Disney's most popular attractions is a great privilege. In the end, I think it's going to be as fun to look at as it is to ride."



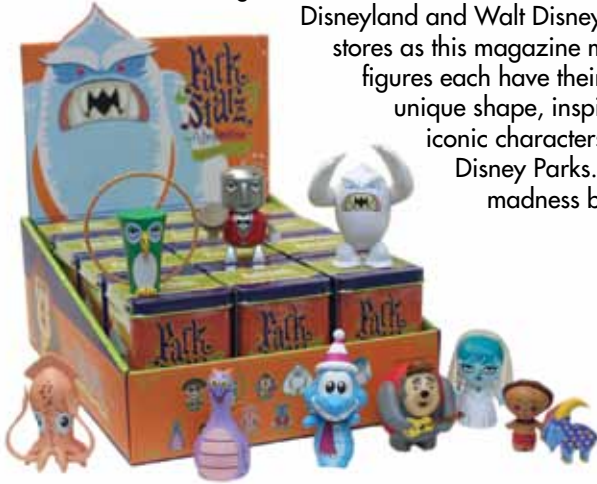
Did you know? Dumbo was scheduled to grace the cover of *TIME* magazine to support his film's theatrical debut in December 1941, but was bumped by the United States' entry into World War II.



BUZZWORTHY

14 stories • 2 pages • 1 space ranger

DISNEYLAND and WALT DISNEY WORLD Resorts: The creative team behind Disney Parks' wildly popular line of Vinylmation collectibles is "thinking outside the mold" with a new series of figures dubbed Park Starz. Scheduled to hit Disneyland and Walt Disney World stores as this magazine mails, the figures each have their own unique shape, inspired by iconic characters from Disney Parks. Let the madness begin.



DISNEYLAND Resort: It took a dozen Cast Members working overnight five times a week for two months to transform the iconic "it's a small world" attraction into the festive "it's a small world holiday." This annual Disneyland tradition turns the happiest cruise that ever sailed into the merriest attraction in the Park, spreading good tidings through a quarter million holiday lights; colorful holiday décor and a seasonal soundtrack putting a unique spin on classic holiday tunes (listen for mermaids singing "Jingle Shells"). Guests may enjoy this international celebration through Jan. 8, 2012.

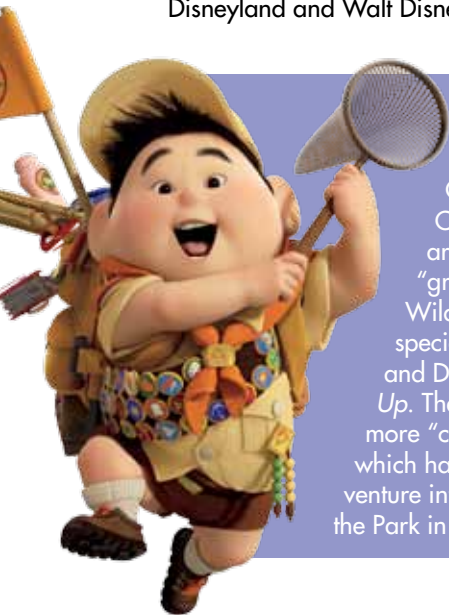
WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The most memorable Christmas party in the "World" is underway at the Magic Kingdom Park. Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party celebrates the season this year on 19 special nights after the Park's regular operating hours through Dec. 18, allowing Guests to enjoy the enchanted Castle Dream Lights, the spectacle of Mickey's Once Upon a Christmas parade, magical Main Street, U.S.A. "snow flurries," the exclusive "Holiday Wishes: Celebrate the Spirit of the Season" fireworks spectacular, characters decked out in their holiday best and more. Visit www.disneyworld.com/holidays for party dates and prices. To purchase advance tickets, call (407) W-DISNEY (934-7639). Be sure to mention that you're a Disney Vacation Club Member, as discounts are available on select nights.

DISNEYLAND and WALT DISNEY WORLD Resorts: Apricot Lane, a fashion boutique showcasing celebrity-inspired trends through apparel, jewelry, handbags and accessories from such brands as Miss Me, Free People, Vintage Havana, Chaser and Good Works Make a Difference, is among the newest stores serving Downtown Disney Guests at the Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Epcot is celebrating "Holidays Around the World" throughout World Showcase and hosting the nightly Candlelight Processional at the America Gardens Theatre through Dec. 30. The processional, a musical retelling of the Christmas story by a celebrity narrator backed by a mass choir and 50-piece orchestra, has become one of the most popular Walt Disney World holiday traditions. Look for the entire celebrity lineup scheduled for this year's processional online at www.disneyworld.com/holidays.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: The Streets of America at Disney's Hollywood Studios are aglow with the Park's nightly Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights through Jan. 3, 2012. This annual display features millions of lights that appear to dance to holiday music in perfect synchronization.

DISNEYLAND Resort: Young Guests hiking the Redwood Creek Challenge Trail in The Golden State district of Disney California Adventure Park are earning merit badges and "graduating" to become Senior Wilderness Explorers during a special ceremony featuring Russell and Dug from the hit Disney-Pixar film *Up*. These enhancements add even more "character" to the popular trail, which has invited intrepid explorers to venture into the woods since opening with the Park in 2001.



to a jollier beat through Jan. 4, 2012, making its seasonal switch to Mickey's Jingle Jungle Parade and putting a wild twist on the holidays.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: He sees you when you're sleeping. He knows when you're awake. Now he's joining you on vacation. Meet Santa Claus through Dec. 24 at Downtown Disney Marketplace as part of the "Festival of the Seasons," and be good for goodness sake. (Also note that, once the big guy heads off to fulfill his official Christmas duties after his Dec. 24 appearance, Santa Goofy will take his place, greeting Guests through Jan. 2, 2012.)

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Banfi Vintners has imported two exclusive Sogno d'Italia (Dream of Italy) wines made by Placido in Tuscany for Disney Parks, including a Pinot Grigio and a Chianti. Both are available for purchase by the bottle or glass in the Enoteca Castello Wine Shop in Italy at Epcot.



WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Disney has formed a long-term creative partnership with filmmaker James Cameron's Lightstorm Entertainment and Fox Filmed Entertainment to bring the epic fantasy world of AVATAR to life at Disney Parks, beginning with Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park. The new AVATAR-themed land, scheduled to begin construction in 2013, aims to build on the Park's ongoing commitment to immersing Guests in the worlds of animals and nature, both real and mythical. The project is in its creative infancy, so watch *Disney Files Magazine* for updates as new details become available.

WALT DISNEY WORLD Resort: Splitsville, an upscale entertainment venue featuring bowling, billiards, dining, music and nightlife, is scheduled to open in fall 2012 at Downtown Disney West Side. In other West Side news, jewelry store Something Silver has opened at the former site of Magic Masters and clothing boutique BLINK by Wet Seal has opened in the former location of Magnetron.

Artist rendering — proposed



ADVENTURES BY DISNEY: Greek Odyssey and Esprit de France have joined the collection of Adventures by Disney itineraries for 2012. Greek Odyssey is a 10-day, 9-night guided adventure through Athens, Santorini and Crete, while Esprit de France guides families through an 8-day, 7-night exploration of Versailles, Normandy, Loire Valley and Paris. Learn more about these and other guided family vacations online at www.adventuresbydisney.com, and call Member Services when you're ready to book your family's adventure.

TOKYO DISNEY Resort: A variety of "character-created" sorcerer's hat monuments are captivating Tokyo DisneySea Guests as part of the Park's milestone 10th anniversary celebration through March 19, 2012. A different hat adorns each themed port, from Donald Duck's ancient-ruin-inspired carving at Lost River Delta to Genie's magic-carpet-wrapped creation at Arabian Coast. Guests may interact with many of the monuments, waving their hands to emit light and sound, and unlocking additional surprises with Magical Wands available at merchandise locations. Casting spells is at the heart of the celebration, which is dubbed "Be Magical!" and features a new character show of the same name at Mediterranean Harbor. Also marking its 10th anniversary is the adjacent Tokyo DisneySea Hotel MiraCosta, which is distributing limited-edition room keys to Guests staying in the Venetian-themed hotel during the celebration.



Wait a minute, are there Muppets in this movie?

Kermit and friends return to the big screen

It's time to play the music. It's time to light the lights. It's time to get the Muppets back on the big screen.

Filmmakers answer the call with the Nov. 23 theatrical release of Disney's *The Muppets*. The highly anticipated feature stars Jason Segel (*Forgetting Sarah Marshall* and *Bad Teacher*), a lifelong Muppets fan who also co-writes and executive produces the film, along with three-time Academy Award nominee Amy Adams, Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Gonzo, Animal and a multitudinous mass of Muppets who've been absent from theaters for more than a decade. (Whoever challenged us to use the word multitudinous in a story, it's time to pay up!)

The epic story finds devoted Muppets fan Walter leaving Smalltown, U.S.A., for a long-awaited vacation in Los Angeles with his brother and BFF Gary (Segel) and Gary's girlfriend Mary (Adams). When the trio discovers the nefarious plan of oilman Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) to raze the Muppet Theater and drill for recently discovered oil beneath the venerable venue, they'll have to stage the greatest Muppet telethon ever to raise the \$10 million needed to save the theater.

Of course, they'll first need to help Kermit reunite the Muppets, who have gone their separate ways. Fozzie, for example, now performs at a Reno casino as part of a tribute band called the Moopets, Miss Piggy is the plus-sized fashion editor at *Vogue Paris*, Animal is being treated in a Santa Barbara clinic for anger management and Gonzo has become a high-powered plumbing magnate.

Will the group be able to save their theater? We like their chances, and

we *really* like the idea of seeing these characters back in a theater near us.

The film promises to deliver a diverse array of secret celebrity cameos, honoring a treasured Muppets tradition. And we're about to share some of those secrets, honoring a proud *Disney Files* tradition.

Among the stars appearing in the film are Donald Glover, Leslie Feist, Mickey Rooney, Alan Arkin, Dave Grohl, Kristen Schaal, Den Jeong, Sarah Hyland, Neil Patrick Harris, Whoopi Goldberg, Rico Rodriguez, Selena Gomez and John Krasinski (just to name a few).

The film is directed by James Bobin, best known as the writer, director and executive producer of HBO's "Flight of the Conchords." Bret McKenzie, who starred in, wrote for and served as composer for that same HBO series, worked as the film's music supervisor. He also wrote and composed some of its songs, including grand, Muppet-style opening and closing numbers.

Kermit the Frog has been busily promoting the picture, even appearing on the S.S. Member Cruise in September (see page 16 for more details about that voyage's entertainment lineup). The world's most famous frog, who earned a star on The Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2002, entertained Members during an unforgettable evening in the Walt Disney Theatre. While Kermit answered a variety of questions from show host Tim O'Day, he never really explained why there are so many songs about rainbows. Guess we'll never know.

Disney
THE MUPPETS





Step in time!

Disney Theatrical Workshops immerse groups in Broadway magic

NEW YORK CITY: If you have at least 14 friends (or relatives) with a common desire to realize a Broadway dream, you may want to call the number at the end of this story.

The talented people behind such Disney on Broadway hits as *The Lion King* and *Mary Poppins* are ready to give you a taste of Broadway through Disney Theatrical Workshops. These hands-on explorations of theatrical performance, available as an optional add-on experience for groups of 15 or more who arrange group tickets to the aforementioned Broadway shows through Disney Theatrical Sales, let everyone from beginners to professionals jump into the world of a Disney musical like never before.

Disney Teaching Artists assess your group's skill level (again, the experience is open to any and all skill levels) before leading your group through its tailored, 90-minute "Movement and Music" or "Scene Study" workshop in a real Broadway rehearsal studio.

One of the "Movement and Music" workshops, dubbed "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!," teaches your group to perform a show-stopping number from Disney & Cameron Macintosh's Broadway production of *Mary Poppins*. Disney Teaching Artists guide you through the unique, tongue-

tickling lyrics and body-bending choreography of the iconic song number behind that title that's hard to say but even harder to forget.

Also in the "Movement and Music" category is "The Rhythm of the Pridelands," which challenges your group to untame your imagination as you learn and perform choreography from Disney's *The Lion King*.

In the "Scene Study" category, "Cherry Tree Lane" transports your group to a turn-of-the-twentieth-century London, where 17 Cherry Tree Lane is in desperate need of help. Participants bring the world of *Mary Poppins* to life during this engaging acting workshop, using scenes from the current Broadway script and developing their own take on the show's beloved characters.

Similarly, in the "I Just Can't Wait to Be King!" program, participants explore the story of *The Lion King* and try their hand at performing characters who challenge Simba's point of view, including Timon, Pumbaa, Nala and a few hysterical hyenas.

To learn more about the workshops, visit www.DisneyTheatricalSales.com or call a Disney Theatrical Sales Representative at (800) 439-9000.

Building elf esteem

New TV special fuels festive franchise

If it seems like we *Disney Files* staffers are obsessed with “Disney Prep & Landing,” it’s only because we are.

Driven by our personal affinity for the franchise and enabled by our friends at the Walt Disney Animation Studios to keep Disney Vacation Club Members in the loop, we’ve talked about these films as if our names were in the credits. (They aren’t.)

Among those who actually *do* appear in those credits are producer Dorothy McKim, and co-directors Kevin Deters and Stevie-Wermers Skelton. All three have enthusiastically embraced the Disney Vacation Club community, keeping Members informed of every development from their “North Pole Christmas Eve Command Center” (or at least from their Burbank, Calif., studio) since the concept’s inception.

For those who may have missed Dorothy’s appearance on the S.S. Member Cruise 2008, the studio’s extended first look at the special during the S.S. Member Cruise 2009, Kevin’s appearance at a “Welcome Home Wednesdays” event that fall or the *Disney Files* interview with Kevin and Stevie that winter (not to mention the special’s December 2009 world broadcast premiere on ABC), here’s what “Disney Prep & Landing” is all about.

A high-tech team of stealthy elves is charged with the crucial task of ensuring that the world’s homes are properly prepped for Santa’s visit. Among them is Wayne, who we learn is a bit out of sorts after having been passed up for a promotion after 227 years on the job. The jaded veteran finds himself paired with an idealistic rookie named Lanny for a Christmas Eve mission that pushes them to their limits, threatens Christmas for children across the globe and, in the Nielsen Ratings, loosens Charlie Brown’s longstanding grip on holiday-broadcast dominance.

In addition to debuting as TV’s

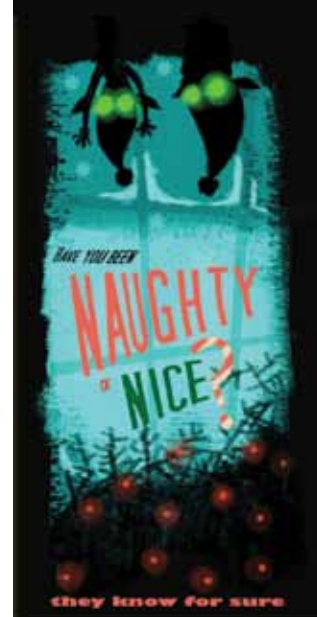
highest-rated holiday special of 2009, the half-hour special earned four Emmy Awards, added the prestigious Annie Award for Best Animated Television Production and, most importantly for fans, inspired executive producer John Lasseter to greenlight new adventures for Wayne and Lanny.

Disney Files Magazine caught up with Kevin and Stevie again last winter as they “prepped” the film for its highly anticipated return to the airwaves (along with a new 7-minute “Stocking Stuffer Short” called “Operation Secret Santa,” which also earned an Emmy) and continued work on a new half-hour special for 2011.

That new special, dubbed “Naughty vs. Nice,” finds our diminutive duo racing to recover classified North Pole technology that’s fallen into the hands of a computer-hacking naughty kid. Desperate to prevent Christmas from descending into chaos, Wayne seeks out the foremost naughty kid expert to aid in the mission: a bombastic member of the Coal Bucket Brigade who also happens to be Wayne’s estranged brother, Noel.

While most Members will learn what happens when the special debuts on ABC this holiday season, those who sailed aboard the S.S. Member Cruise 2011 already know. Kevin and Stevie screened the new film as part of the voyage’s unprecedented “Disney Deck (the Halls) Party,” bringing a little December magic to the September seas. (Have we mentioned how much we like these filmmakers?)

Check your local listings for more details about the broadcast debut of “Naughty vs. Nice.”



Own the original: The “Disney Prep & Landing” special that started it all is available now on Disney DVD, complete with two “Stocking Stuffer Shorts” (“Tiny’s Big Adventure” and the aforementioned “Operation Secret Santa”) and a series of entertaining “Kringle Academy Training Videos.”



Disney FamilyFun

Bax relief

The following “why didn’t I think of that?!” holiday-season idea from our clever friends at *Disney FamilyFun* Magazine addresses four issues: (1) the high price of gift bags, (2) the surprising flimsiness of those bags given the price we pay, (3) the over-crowding of our planet’s landfills and (4) our staff’s obsession with mashed-up words. Get ready to make some Gift Baxes, an ingenious hybrid of boxes and bags that’ll keep your old cereal packaging out of the landfill and give you sturdy, reusable vessels for your holiday gifts. Looking for equally clever things to put in those baxes? Visit www.FamilyFun.com/funshop.

Stuff:

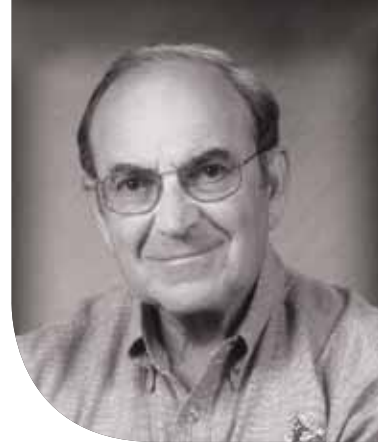
- Cereal boxes
- Gift wrap
- Glue stick or tape
- Hole punch
- Colored ribbons

Steps:

1. Trim the top flaps from a cereal box.
2. Wrap the box as you would a gift, leaving about two inches of paper free around the open end.
3. Fold the excess paper down into the box and secure it with glue stick or tape.
4. For the handles, punch two holes in each side of the box, thread ribbons through the holes and knot the ends.
5. Watch “Disney Prep & Landing: Naughty vs. Nice” on ABC. (Just thought we’d slip that in there.)



Save on subscriptions: Disney Vacation Club Members may subscribe to *Disney FamilyFun* magazine at the discounted rate of \$7.50 a year (a savings of more than 80 percent) by ordering their subscription online at www.FamilyFun.com/dvc.



Disney Files Magazine is proud to share 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. Marty retired on July 17, 2009 – Disneyland Park’s 54th birthday. He now writes, makes speeches and does community volunteer work from his own two-person company in Southern California. You may contact Marty at marty@martysklarcreative.com. This edition of Marty’s “Disney Heritage” column is partly excerpted from his highly anticipated memoirs, scheduled to hit book stores next year.

44

Reflecting on ~~40~~ years of magic

By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

I have written in *Disney Files Magazine* before about my first trip to the Walt Disney World property in October 1967, four years before the Magic Kingdom’s opening. That’s why I’ve called this article “44 years of magic,” even though Walt Disney World has celebrated “only” its 40th anniversary in October 2011.

As I write this, I can look on my office wall and see the photo that is a constant reminder of that first trip: design chief Richard Irvine of WED Enterprises, architect Welton Becket and 33-year-old Marty, all standing in a 100-acre clearing where the Magic Kingdom would be built, on a big yellow “X” where Cinderella Castle would one day radiate its magic spell.

Although we arrived in Orlando on the Disney Gulfstream (you can still see it backstage at Disney’s Hollywood Studios), we landed on our private aircraft at the small Herndon Airport. We soon learned that commercial flights to and from McCoy Field – primarily a military operation in 1967 – were almost non-existent. (Editor’s note: McCoy Field later became Orlando International Airport. Now you know why the airport’s initials are MCO.) Four airlines serviced Orlando, with seven flights per day! For a presentation I made 40 years later, I received these numbers from the Orlando International Airport for the 12 months of 2010:

- Annual passengers: 35,100,000
- Daily passengers: 95,157
- Annual flights: 309,000
- Daily flights: 878
- International passengers (2009): 2,977,920

In her 1966 interview with Walt Disney for the *Chicago Tribune*, Norma Lee Browning asked Walt why he chose Florida, and especially Orlando, for Walt Disney World.

“Florida and Southern California are the only two places where you can count on the tourists,” Walt replied. “I don’t like ocean sites because of the beach crowd, and also the ocean



limits the approach. If you’ll notice Disneyland at Anaheim is like a bug with freeways converging on it from all sides. I like it better inland. That’s why we chose Orlando.”

The search had actually begun in the early 1960s. In his book, *Walt’s Revolution*, Harrison “Buzz” Price wrote, “In 1961, after rejecting some other alternatives, Walt asked us to look at the rest of Florida and figure out where the Park should be. Late in 1963, we studied in depth a location in Central Florida. The key conclusion was that Central Florida (not Miami as most people expected it would be) was the main point of interception of Florida tourism, and that Orlando, centrally located, was the point of maximum access to the southerly flow of Florida tourism from both the east and west shores of the state.

In the 25-minute film I wrote for Walt detailing his concept for Walt Disney World and Epcot (shown for the first time in Florida in early 1967, a few months after his death), we referenced Disneyland’s attendance – 6.7 million in 1965-66. That number was the basis of Imagineering’s early planning for the Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World. But sparked

by the popularity of Pirates of the Caribbean (1967) and Haunted Mansion (1969), Disneyland's attendance had increased to over 9 million by 1971. The dilemma for the Disney planners and designers was to commit to construction of attractions and facilities with no attendance track record; an infrastructure originally based on that 6 million attendance figure – the equivalent of Disneyland when our planning began; and expenditures that threatened to break even the Practical Pig's piggy bank – and certainly Disney's.

I had also written the film that was viewed by 1,332,927 visitors to the Preview Center for Walt Disney World, located in Lake Buena Vista (on what's known today as Hotel Plaza Boulevard). Less than 24 hours after the Preview Center's closing, on Oct. 1, 1971, the most important visitor in the history of the state of Florida (notwithstanding the arrival of Ponce de Leon in 1515 in search of the Fountain of Youth) walked through the turnstiles to enter the Magic Kingdom. Mr. and Mrs. William Windsor, Jr., and their two sons, ages 3 and 1 of Lakeland, Fla., were the very first Guests. Unlike the Spanish explorer (who was not expected), the Windsors were the first of a shockingly small – to Florida's official expectations – attendance of only 10,422 visitors on day one of the Magic Kingdom. It was a far cry from the planning and predictions of the Orange County, Fla., government.

Earlier that year, in January, the Orlando Sentinel quoted Ralph Poe, Vice Chairman of the County's traffic commission, who said, "Sure, we're going to have a tourist problem, a traffic problem ... but I'll tell you this – we know what to expect ... when how many people turn up for the opening – half a million, a million? We can expect traffic jams and delays."

It seemed as though everyone from Jacksonville to Miami

was watching the reported trickle of cars on Interstate 4 and was ready to panic before the sun had set on Oct. 1, 1971 – everyone but the Disney team.

"We're not disappointed by the turnout," Walt Disney Productions President Donn Tatum told the *Atlanta Constitution*. "It's just what we want."

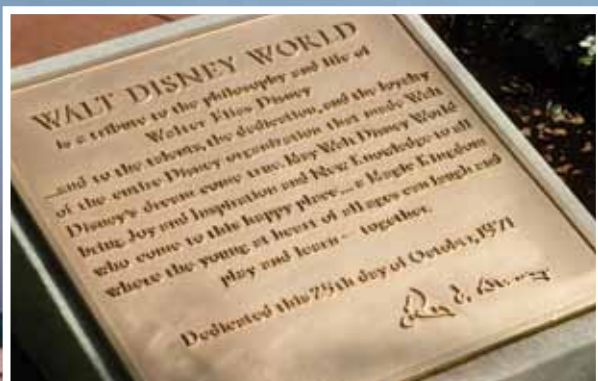
Jack Lindquist, the head of Attractions Marketing and later President of Disneyland, explained further, "There's a reason we open a new Park in October. The kids are back in school and it's the slowest month of the year. It's a great time to train our staff. We call it a 'soft opening.'"

We saved the Grand Opening for the end of the month for maximum impact, including the 90-minute TV special on NBC on Oct. 29 that starred Julie Andrews, Bob Hope, Glen Campbell, Jonathon Winters and Buddy Hackett.

On Oct. 25, with Florida governor Reubin Askew looking on, Roy O. Disney read the Dedication Plaque I had written to mimic Walt's Disneyland dedication:

"Walt Disney World is a tribute to the philosophy and life of Walter Elias Disney...and to the talents, the dedication, and the loyalty of the entire Disney organization that made Walt Disney's dream come true. May Walt Disney World bring Joy and Inspiration and New Knowledge to all who come to this happy place...A Magic Kingdom where the young at heart of all ages can laugh and play and learn – together."

By the day after Thanksgiving, traffic on Interstate 4 was bumper to bumper for 12 miles, from the City of Orlando to the Walt Disney World Resort. By Sept. 30, 1972, 10.7 million visitors had made the Magic Kingdom Park the most visited Theme Park in the world.



Roy O. Disney surveys the Florida property.

A dreamer's guide to the galaxy

By Jim Korkis

Earlier this year, in the silent darkness of outer space, with the tantalizing mysteries of the twinkling stars almost close enough to touch, the majestic Space Shuttle Atlantis dipped its nose and returned to Earth for the last time.

As a Florida boy who has watched several launches in the past decade and is a big fan of science fiction films, I had mixed feelings about the end of NASA's Space Shuttle program. While I look forward to newer technologies taking us to even greater adventures in the decades ahead, I'm a little sad to see the end of a program at the heart of a dream Walt Disney shared with audiences more than 50 years ago.

I know what you're thinking. "Walt passed away three years before the moon landing and 15 years before the first Space Shuttle launch. Jim must be confused." Allow me to explain.

Both of the aforementioned achievements in spaceflight owed their success to the vision of Dr. Wernher von Braun, one of the most prominent spokesmen for space exploration and the first director of NASA. Von Braun was a consultant at the Disney Studios and had many private and lengthy discussions with Walt about outer space exploration. When Walt Disney premiered his weekly "Disneyland" television series in 1954, he adapted film-vault material for episodes themed to Frontierland, Adventureland and Fantasyland. Nothing in the vault, however, could be used for Tomorrowland.

Undeterred, Walt assigned Disney Legend Ward Kimball to develop three forward-looking episodes for the series: *Man in Space*, *Man and the Moon*, and *Mars and Beyond*. Kimball immediately looked to consultants, including such scientists and space experts as von Braun, Willy Ley and Heinz Haber, all of whom had recently penned popular magazine articles focusing on the possibilities of space travel with existing technology.

Ward later recalled that, "Von Braun was a fascinating guy to talk to. Walt really liked to sit down with him and ask a long list of questions. Thanks to these conversations, Walt would become an instant expert. He'd get a kick out of going

around the Studio telling everyone what he'd learned from the space experts about the future of space exploration."

Man in Space debuted in March 1955, attracting almost 42 million viewers to their grainy, black-and-white television screens. (To put those numbers in perspective, "American Idol," the highest rated television series in the U.S. in 2011, drew about 25 million viewers to its season finale.) Thanks to that hit show, Americans from coast to coast, reportedly including President Eisenhower himself, were convinced that the United States needed to venture into the unknowns of outer space.

"Great new discoveries have brought us to the threshold of a new frontier—the frontier of interplanetary space," Walt said as he introduced what he called his "science factual" (not "science fiction") show. During the broadcast, Dr. von Braun described an entirely new concept: a four stage, orbital rocket ship. That fourth stage was a winged module carrying 10 crew members, and equipped with landing gear and its own small rocket motor. After orbiting, it was designed to return the crew safely to Earth like an airplane and be reusable for the next flight.

Thanks to the artistry of the Disney designers, not only was an impressive model of that prototype

space shuttle built for audiences to enjoy, but concept art and animation showed exactly how such a spacecraft could logically work. Walt ensured that illustrations of the innovative vehicle appeared prominently in publicity photos, comic books and text books that were produced in connection with the historic television episode.

In 1956, *Man in Space* was edited down to 33 minutes and released to theaters as a documentary featurette with the feature *Davy Crockett and the River Pirates* (a compilation of the final two "Davy Crockett" television episodes) en route to earning an Academy Award nomination for documentary short subject (a category won that year by a film titled *The True Story of the Civil War*). The featurette was equally beloved by moviegoers, who eagerly embraced the opportunity to see outer space shown in color and on the big screen.



Walt with Dr. von Braun

It would be more than 25 years before such a working craft would be built and flown.

In 1964, roughly 10 years after *Man in Space* first aired, Dr. von Braun was concerned about the lack of enthusiasm about putting a man on the moon. He wrote in a letter to Walt, "It was really only a few short years ago since I had the pleasure of working at your studios [on the trilogy of Tomorrowland space programs] which, it turns out, was quite prophetic. I understand that over the years you have kept up a rather lively interest in the space program and, particularly, in manned space flight. For this reason, I thought you might like to have an opportunity to see just how prophetic [we were]."

It was apparent that von Braun was hoping he could convince Walt to create another series of Disney television programs to enthruse the public to actively support a more aggressive space program.

In April 1965, Walt, accompanied by his brother Roy and several Imagineers, visited NASA space centers at Houston, Tex., Cape Canaveral, Fla., and Huntsville, Ala. In addition to meeting with space experts and seeing the latest developments in technology and astronaut training, Walt was given the opportunity at the Houston space center (renamed the Johnson Space Center in 1973) to try his hand at flying a couple of spacecraft simulators.

At the time, Walt was 63 years old and a grandfather. He never graduated high school and had very little formal education in math and science. His constant cough sometimes became so violent when he got excited that it shook his entire body. He also wore reading glasses,

although never in public appearances like this one. In addition, Walt had gotten larger and was on a restricted diet in an attempt to lose some weight.

And yet, ever the determined explorer, Walt squeezed into the small simulator, raised his right eyebrow as so many of his artists had seen him do before, and impressively piloted the Gemini to what was described as a successful "space rendezvous" or "docking maneuver."

In the next simulator, Walt guided an LEM (lunar excursion module) to a perfect moon landing, right after the two professional airplane pilots who preceded him had well overshoot the target area.

Without any previous experience, Walt had to quickly learn to operate and "fire" the retro-rockets that provided capsule control, accounting for drift and the other momentum factors that plague space travelers. The man was a natural.

On the front page of the April 13, 1965, edition of *The Huntsville Times*, under a headline proclaiming "Walt Disney Makes Pledge to Aid Space," Walt was quoted as saying, "If I can help through my TV shows ... to wake people up to the fact we've got to keep exploring, I'll do it."

So more than 50 years ago, Walt Disney showed the world that, with existing technology, it was possible to launch into space, build a space station, visit the Moon and even explore Mars. Working with Dr. von Braun, Walt introduced, among other things, the revolutionary idea of a reusable, orbital spacecraft known today as the Space Shuttle. When man finally sets foot on Mars and looks up into the starry heavens, I wouldn't be surprised if Walt's up there smiling and asking, "What took you so long?"



photo**finish**

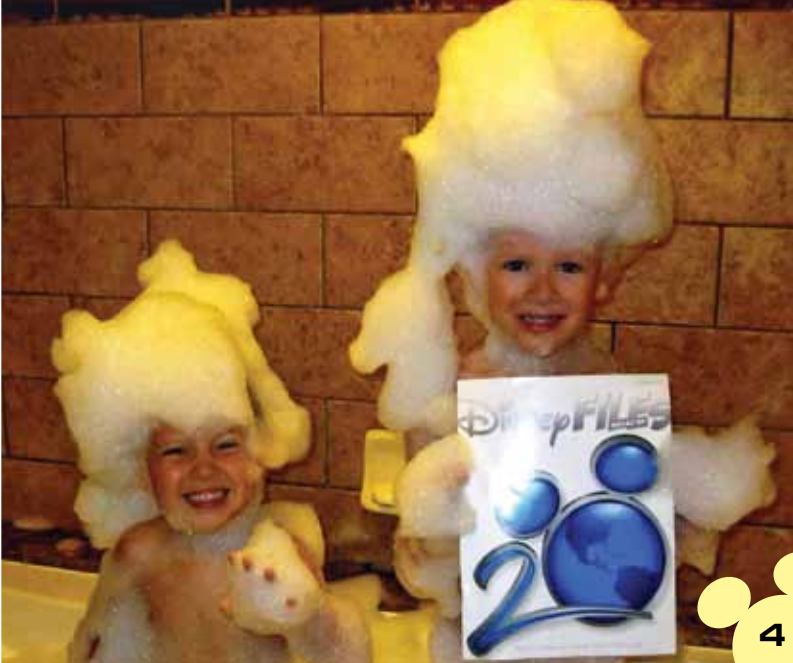
We dedicate page 29 to the Sheehan family of New York, Members since 2009, who submitted our favorite "featured family album." Should we ever seek a new staff photographer, we're calling the Sheehans. Page 30 showcases some of our other favorite photos from traveling Members. Keep those photos coming!

1. "Now remember, we turn back into regular kids at midnight."
2. "Well I'll be. The pirate's life really *is* for me."
3. "Seriously, Ms. White, is there something on my forehead?"
4. The Brooks kids of Georgia, Members since 2009, enjoy some good clean reading.
5. Karen Gleason of Wyoming, Member since 2007, stays connected in Switzerland. (Think there's an abominable snowman in that Matterhorn?)
6. Troy and Tina Donehue of Missouri, Members since 2008, remember *Disney Files Magazine* at the Alamo.
7. The talented Stephen and Kathryn Bernath of Indiana, Members since 2002, paint a chair with logos old and new.
8. Steve Babineau of Massachusetts, poses with two priceless treasures: *Disney Files Magazine* and the NHL's Stanley Cup.
9. The Manasan family of California, Members since 2006, introduce 20-minute-old Aiden to print media.

Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to Disney Files Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form is available online at www.dvcmember.com/releaseform.

Better your chances of seeing your family in the magazine by capturing compelling, candid moments, which almost always beat posed photos. We do, however, enjoy when you pose with the magazine, particularly when you do so in exotic locations beyond the Disney Parks.

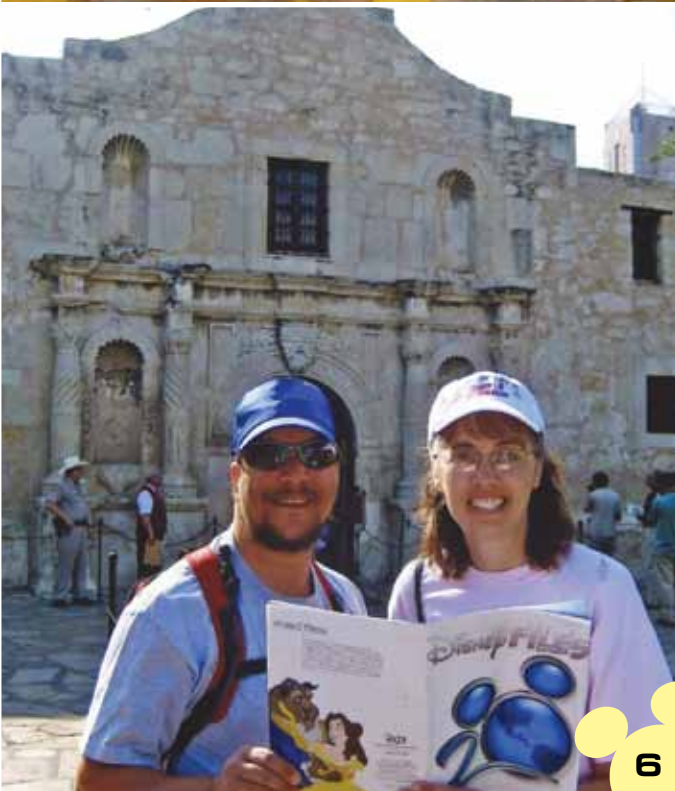




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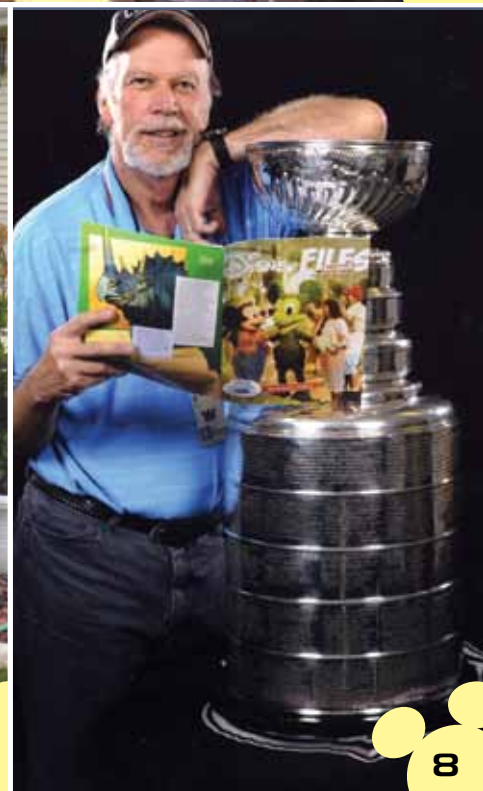
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Picture Pointers from



Back up your memories. We used to worry about fire damaging our photo albums. Now we fear computer error. Remember to back up your digital photos regularly to preserve your family's memories.

back files

As Southern California gets ready to punctuate another holiday season with Pasadena's beloved Tournament of Roses Parade, *Disney Files Magazine* and D23 present this archival photo of Walt Disney serving as the parade's 1966 Grand Marshal. The Disney family holds the distinction of being the only family to include two Grand Marshals in the venerable parade, as Roy E. Disney assumed the honor in 2000.

Oh, and in case you're wondering who won the Rose Bowl Game in 1966, the UCLA Bruins knocked off the top-ranked Michigan State Spartans by a score of 14-12. (A note from our Editor: Consider this Bruin shout-out a little editorial gift to proud UCLA grad and *Disney Files Magazine* columnist Marty Sklar. Happy holidays, my friend.)



D23

The Official Disney Fan Club

Give the holiday gift that keeps on giving. Disney Vacation Club Members may take advantage of a 10 percent discount off the purchase of a new Gold or Silver D23 Membership*. Visit www.disney.com/D23, click "Join D23," add a new D23 Membership to your cart and enter the promotional code D23DVC during checkout.

*Offer valid for new D23 Memberships only and therefore doesn't apply to renewals.