

2014

Monday May 2016, Memorial Day

Joe + I got here Sunday afternoon with the new swim dock Joe built.

Joe built a new one from scratch - the old one was totally kaput - Rotted wood, barrels like swiss cheese.

Joe got as much information as he could get about size, construction, and materials. He then built it down at home. Much of what he did had to be educated guesses. We could not get exact dimensions on many things.

But Joe knows construction, and what he built is immensely better than the old one. He braced the corners with angle iron. He used 2 part epoxy paint to coat the barrels. He knew where to get the best prices on materials. He built it at home, dis-assembled it, brought it up and re-built it.

We had to make one trip into Petoskey to get things we didn't have spec's for - like the cable.

Finished Monday night.

Quite honestly - if I'd know how much work he had to put into it - I never would have asked him to do it.

also: Decking is a product made from re-cycled plastic made to look like wood - I will never split, rot, splinter or twist.

DO NOT PAINT OR STAIN THE DECKING

(Cover)

Joe + Anne - cont

Harvey was here when we got here - he helped with the rebuild.

We are leaving tomorrow - too much to do at home - I'll be back in July -

Anne

Copy + Harvey III May 7, 2014 - June 6, 2014
We arrived at around 3:00 after a pleasant trip
We spent most of our time working in the yard
Harvey trimmed dead branches from trees on the south side. He took a couple off the big white pine.
I cleaned the woods of the north side mulching around 50 wheelbarrows full of pine cones needles

The weather was cold - as low as 32° one evening, but it got gradually warmer after the first week

Copy

June 28 - July 5th 2014 - Jess, Keith, Jenna, Marissa ^{Chili + Roo} + Will
This felt like a slap-dash vacation. Keith cut his hand Fri so we got a late start Saturday & didn't get here til the evening. Then he left on Monday afternoon & went back home for an appt w/ a hand surgeon & work - leaving the rest of us to our own devices. We went to Charlevoix to hit the big waves on Tues but the wind was horrendous & we only stayed for 1/2 hr. Weds was cold and damp & was spent huddled under blankets in total laziness. The rest of the week was beautiful & we went to the beach at Torch Lake City for fun & Petoskey another day (for necessity - we had to get an auger for the toilet). I'm just gonna say, that toilet & I know each other intimately now & we are NOT friends. The grass was about 2 feet tall when we got here so we mowed the

Jess & etc cont -

front right away but I was unable to get the mower started to do behind the boat garage - sorry! The kids & I went through the games list Jenny made & I weeded out some card sets that were missing cards. We weren't able to put up the dock or put out the swimming dock w/ Keith's hand all stitched up, & with no boat I kind of feel like I was never fully here... I guess it's all in what you're used to. The kids had a blast as always & that is what matters. ☺

July 7-19, 2014 Mayjorie, Liz, Karla, Rose, Bea, Leela

As the senior member of this group I must mention what an incomparable joy it was to be here with my daughter, her two girls who have been up here every year since they were as little as the youngest members of our troop, ~~the~~ ^{and finally} two of the sweetest, cutest, adorablest (of course - it's great grandma talking) babies in the whole wide world. Liz will tell you some of the week's adventures, and then I will mention any things that need to be noted.

Very cool @ nights 50's, most days 60's some 70's One Rainy day. Adventures included. Thurs. Bellaire Farmers Market, Picking cherries (First week of picking this year July 14th) Trees were Loaded! Sunday flea market & doughnuts @ Brownwood ☺. Friskies Orchard, Nature Preserve Beach on Rt 31 (35 petoskeys), Charlevoix town & beach (42 petoskeys). Due to cooler weather we swam in our lake only twice. Did not use any boats this year and Karla & Rose put out just 3 sections of the dock. Not a bad job for never doing it before. Floating dock looks Awesome; we just didn't get the chance to put it out. I wanted to sail but pulled a muscle in my back and didn't want to hurt it more.

Liz -
Mom
Petey

@ Shooks

Jiz. Cont.

Lets not get rid of the sailboat just yet! (Please)
4 generations picked cherries @ Shooks
Mom 84, Me 51, Karla 31, Rose 29, Bea 3, Leeka 11 mths
Till next year ☺

Just a few things we need to mention - when we arrived
the screen door (lake front) had a loose section at the bottom
which the girls patched with duct tape. Rose did a thorough
cleaning and bleaching of the shower stall and the rest of
the bathroom. I tried to do a lot of those little extra cleaning
tasks that never get noticed much. But of course, please
don't ever make a white glove inspection on anybody!

Vacation time sorta puts attention elsewhere.

So - off we go. Love to all....

AVG 2-8 - BRUCE + RICKIE WITH PAT + JUDI
BARRETT. RICKIE + I ARRIVED ON SAT AF
4:30 PM. IT TOOK US 8 1/2 HOURS MOSTLY
DUE TO VERY HEAVY RAIN FALL WHICH SLOWED
TRAFFIC TO 40 MPH. THE COTTAGE WAS IN
BEAUTIFUL CONDITION... THANK YOU! THE
WEATHER HAS BEEN PERFECT THE WHOLE TIME
WE'VE BEEN HERE - NO RAIN, SUNNY, LOW
80's. PAT + JUDI CAME UP ON SUNDAY - WE
GRILLED DINNER AND EAT OUT ON THE PICNIC
TABLE EVERY NIGHT EXCEPT FOR WEDS
WHEN WE STAYED IN ST IGNAS FOR A NIGHT.
I MOWED THE GRASS... HAD SOME TROUBLE
STARTING THE MOWER, BUT NO PROBLEM
AFTER READING THE OWNER'S MANUAL ☺.
WE THOUGHT WE COULD SEE LIGHT SHONING
AT THE CHIMNEY FLASHING, SO WE BOUGHT

A TUBE OF CAULK TO FIX IT. THERE WERE SOME
VISABLE CRACKS. AFTER THAT IT STILL LOOKED
LIKE LIGHT SHOWING BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE
REFLECTIONS FROM THE SHINY FLASHING... GO FIGURE!
IT WAS SO WARM THAT WE DIDN'T NEED TO USE THE
HEATER AND THERE WAS ONLY 6 STICKS OF FIREWOOD
SO WE DIDN'T USE IT. I TRIED TO BUY FIREWOOD BUT
COULDN'T CONNECT WITH A SELLER. TRIED TAYLOR
SUTHERLAND WHO CAROLYN USED 2 YEARS AGO, BUT
HE WASN'T THERE ANYMORE. GOT 2 OTHER NAMES,
BUT THEY DIDN'T RETURN MY CALLS.

BILL WILTSE 231-350-0345

DILLON BUFFMON 351-544-6411

WE DIDN'T ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE
TOILET OTHER THAN THE OCCASSIONAL NON-FLUSH.

Most beautiful week of weather I ever remember
in Michigan! Didn't do any projects this year - just
relaxed, ate too much, & played lots of bridge!

Sunday August 10, 2014

Joe, Anne, Michael + Lucy - we got here about 3pm -
The cottage was absolutely immaculate!!

Joe immediately started looking for things to
work on - no firewood, so, he cut the old
dock up, and that's what we used for
firewood - killed 2 birds with one stone.

Toilet stopped working - wouldn't fill - Joe changed
the guts. Joe fixed the bottom of the screen
door - he put in a new piece of wood where the
old was rotted. Also - ceiling of bathroom was down in
the corner - Joe nailed (over) it back up.

weather was nice on Sunday, ok on Monday -
sort of cloudy + 70°.

Tuesday we went to Macinac Island - 70° +
overcast when we left - while there, rain
opened up + temp dropped to 50° - nonetheless
we had a great day - got back - cottage was
cold - I'm surprised how well the oil furnace
heats the cottage.

Wednesday - cool - mid 60's but sun was
out - Wednesday nite got down to the 40's -
No swimming - too cold -

Thursday - gave it up - going home -

50° Today - predicted colder -
Kids are homesick - see you all at October
meeting -

Love,

- Anne, Joe, Michael + Lucy -

AUGUST 16-25 DANNY, EMILY, RICHIE, HARVEY & 3 FRIENDS JASON TRAUT TORE SYMONDAN PETE RANDING

FULL HOUSE FOR OUR TIME UP THIS YEAR - - SEVEN PEOPLE IN THE
COTTAGE. WEATHER WAS MOSTLY 70s AND OVERCAST - - MUCH
BETTER THAN MANY OTHERS ENDURED. WE STUCK BY THE COTTAGE
MOST OF THE WEEK - SWIMMING AND RELAXING. THE NEW SWIMMING
DOCK WORKS GREAT... WE HAD A GREAT TIME BREAKING IT
IN.

NOT MANY PROJECTS THIS YEAR OTHER THAN PUTTING NEW BLADES
ON THE KITCHEN CEILING FAN AND REPLACING A BROKEN TOILET
SEAT. AS ALWAYS WE'RE BUMMED TO LEAVE AND HEAD BACK TO
REALITY.

Janie Bordner & Carolyn

2014

Sept 9th The continued saga of the toilet. It was replaced [with countless difficulties] with a working Toilet that has an insulated tank. The Tank mechanism was replaced with the one Joe installed, ^{Aug 10th} Janice & I put in a new flapper. The end result it flushes the same but with a little more gusto than the old one. Next step will be getting the septic tank emptied, then deal with the line from toilet to septic tank, hoping it hasn't turned into a root sausage.

Sept 17th Cottage closed for winter, hopefully well.
Meter reading 1556.6

2015

5-3-15 Dust meter 15624 open
9-12-15 " " 17556 close

June 2, 2015 - Joe + Anne - (Tuesday)

Got here about 1pm - made good time,
little bit congested at Ann Arbor.

We have come to clean. Noticed it needed it
last August, + saw no reason to do it in
the fall.

My smart, ingenious husband took care of
the cobwebs - He brought the leaf
blower + it knocked 90% of them down -
even the ones too high to reach -

We turned on fans + blew the dust out -
there was a lot of grit + some nails in the
rafters from the last roof put on.

Then we took out screens, cleaned them,
cleaned windows + dusted some more -
washed curtains, re-hung them.

Doesn't sound like much, but we
worked from 1pm till 9pm -
were beat.

Joe snaked the air vent to the sewer out -
he felt some resistance, then it was ok -
might be my imagination, but drains
seem to be running faster.

Wednesday -

Joe found out trash pickup is tomorrow -
so he put out the barrels to get rid of
them - Barrels gone.

Pulled furniture, etc out - washed floor +
walls - but it needs the floor stripped
with a Buffer.

~~Joe~~

Thurs

Joe put in a new medicine cabinet + light
bar - also installed a GFI plug in - overdue -
this project wasn't on the agenda, but needed
done -

(going home tonight -)

(Taking Aunt Carolyn to dinner) Took her
out, had a delightful visit. She made
my heart happy.

Very pleased & productive by of this trip -
leaving early Fri a.m. -

Joe + Anne

June 6 - June 11, 2015 - Jess, Jenna¹⁴, Marissa¹⁰ & Will⁹ (✓Chili & Boo)
Keith couldn't get away from work this year so we decided to
come up anyway - made the trip in a record 6-1/2 hrs. It's
so nice to travel w/ the kids as they get older! We were all
in "let's get there" mode & only made one stop. Arrived to
the sparkling clean cabin - thanks to Anne & Joe for all
their extra effort. We had "meh" weather - not very warm
(70°-ish), ^{max} but the kids managed to swim anyway. (I also
swam - ONCE! Brrrr.) It was cloudy & overcast most
days (except Saturday) & rained several times. We ventured
out a little bit, making trips to the grocery store pretty much
daily, shopping at Bachman's & the stores in Central Lake/
Bellaire, & had a very nice trip to Alden. But most of our
usual adventures didn't seem very appealing when it was windy/
rainy/chilly, so we just enjoyed each other instead, &
lazed about. We had a very nice time but we are all ready
to go home - we can watch movies/read there - and everyone
is missing Daddy. So I think we're going to pack up & leave
on Thurs. The medicine cabinet is a great addition - and glad
to have the GFI plug too. I brought up some new throw rugs
for the two bedrooms & the bathrooms (Anne had to scrape
one up off the floor when she was cleaning, so it was time). ☺
Mom picked them out for me since I was too busy to get to it
& they are delightfully squishy underfoot. There are bags
from the stuff ^{that was} on the mantel, the stuff that was in the wardrobes,
the stuff that was on the bathroom shelves, & a games list -
I'm going on the record to say that I am good with any &
all of that stuff going bye-byes (and if it's still here NEXT
year I'll do it myself)! ☺ Hope everyone enjoys our little
slice of wonderfulness this summer! Until next year ♥

P.S. Jenna
cut her foot
very badly on
something in the
lake - it was a
smooth slice so
probably
glass?
And Boo cut her
paw as well. We
didn't find either
piece so be
careful!

JUNE 13-20 - HARVEY III

I took some time to come up on my own this week and allowed this place to inspire me a little bit. And as you can imagine, the 'Michigan Magic' has accomplished exactly that during the days I was able to spend here.

The cottage looks truly wonderful and you can see all the hard work Anne, Joe and my father put into the interior/exterior. All the TLC Anne and Joe spent on the place really shows, and I for one appreciate all that hard work and elbow grease.

As for as cottage-related work, I mowed the lawn once - but you can't tell thanks to how quickly the grass has grown right back. I had much better weather than my predecessors this year, so I took that as an opportunity to go beachside and get some work done as well (as I tend to do).

The lake freeze wasn't too rough this winter but there was definitely some sand erosion - and lots of stones in place of the sand that were deposited. To help compensate for this, I reclaimed about 100 gallons of sand from the water back onto the beach by hauling buckets of sand back and forth. It's always a lot of hard work, but it's kind of therapeutic in its monotony. The end result is that the beach looks much better - and it's a lot nicer to walk on.

Glad to spend a bit of time here reenergizing and I'm looking forward to coming back for more sand + sun later this summer. Until then.

-HARVEY

P.S. THANKS TO JESS'S WARNING I FOUND SEVERAL PIECES OF BROKEN GLASS ON THE BEACH - HOPEFULLY I FOUND 'EM ALL BUT BE CAREFUL EVERYONE!

2015

July 2-5 John + LeeAnn

Although we stayed at the house in C. In., we hung out at the cottage for the holiday festivities. Great summer weather and tons of lake activity. The place is beautifully clean and the best I've seen. Couldn't do much more to the inside - it would probably be counterproductive.

- LeeAnn brought 2 battery lanterns for outdoor use. John
LeeAnn

July 5-18 Liz, Ryan & Julia Stone 5th-9, Friends Mimi & Mike came 9-13th, Rose & Bea¹⁰⁻¹⁸, Karla & Leela 10-16.

Walking dock put up by Ryan and I brought the hammock for lounging lakeside. Enjoyed the beach and the usual Brownwood and Charlevoix. Rock Hunted 5 times and found a record total of 395 Petoskeys this year. No problems with anything regarding Cottage. The weather was 60's-80's and as low as 50's at night. No wood for fires in cottage but we found enough in side woods for a few beach fires. Dead brush cut off of Bush at corner of lot by keepers corner and most of it burn at beach. Looks better trimmed. The hedges have a lot of dead wood also after the winter. Michigan Magic on the 45° parallel ☺ Liz

2015

July 18-26 Harvey + Ricque & friends ^{JASON TRAUT,}
^{TORI SIMONIAN & CORY CARR}
DANNY AND EMILY WERE UNABLE TO COME UP THIS YEAR DUE TO THE RECENT
ADDITION OF THEIR TWINS, AND THEY WERE SORELY MISSED. DESPITE THEIR
ABSENCE, RICQUE AND I BROUGHT FRIENDS AND DID OUR BEST TO ENJOY THE
PLACE WITHOUT THEM.

WE WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE TRULY OUTSTANDING WEATHER OUR
ENTIRE STAY WITH CLEAR SKIES AND TEMPS IN THE 80s. HOPEFULLY THAT
TREND WILL CONTINUE ON FOR THE REST OF THE SUMMER! AS ALWAYS THE
COTTAGE LOOKED GREAT. WE ALL ENJOYED THE HAMMOCK AND OUR FRIENDS BROUGHT
A 2ND HAMMOCK AS WELL. NEEDLESS TO SAY, WE HAD LOTS OF DAYS FILLED
WITH SWIMMING, LOUNGING, BEER, AND GAMES.

WE TOOK IN ALL THE TYPICAL SIGHTS & SOUNDS INCLUDING SHORT'S FOR DINNER AND BEERS,
A BIKE RIDE TO CENTRAL LAKE, AND WAITING IN LINE FOR DONUTS AT BROWNWOOD.
WE ALSO TOOK SOME LONGER TRIPS TO CHARLEVOIX/PETOSKEY AS WELL AS TRAVERSE CITY
AND SLEEPING BEAR DUNES FOR THE LOOOONG DUNE HIKE / DIP IN THE BRISK (BUT
OH-SO-SATISFYING) LAKE MICHIGAN. WE FOUND SOME OF THE BIGGEST PETOSKEY STONES
I'VE EVER SEEN 'IN THE WILD' TUMBLING OUT THERE ON THE LAKESHORE.

AS FAR AS COTTAGE-RELATED STUFF, I CHAINSAWED A FEW BRANCHES FROM A PINE
THAT WERE HANGING LOW & DUMPING TOO MANY NEEDLES ONTO THE ROOF. I SWEEPED
THE LARGE PILES OF NEEDLES OFF THE ROOF, TOO. WE ALSO REMOVED ALL THE
OLD NAILS FROM THE BOARDS THE SWIMMING DOCK SETS ON WHEN IT'S OUT
OF THE WATER SO THAT NO ONE ELSE GETS A NAIL THROUGH THE TOE LIKE
I DID ^{LAST YEAR} - OUCH!

ALSO - SOME OF MY FRIENDS HAD A PRETTY GNARLY ENCOUNTER W/ A COLONY
OF ANTS IN THE BEDROOM ADJACENT TO THE BATHROOM. WE SPRAYED A
TON OF RAID, BUT BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR MORE.

THAT'S IT FOR THIS YEAR - HAVE A GREAT STAY EVERYONE!

-Harvey

2015

Aug 1 - Joe, Anne, + Josh -

Got here Sat afternoon - cottage was very nice,
just lolled around.

Sunday -

Big, Big Storm - Power knocked out about
11 am. Sat here in the dark all afternoon - then
just gave up + went to the show in Charlevoix -

Didn't know if the power would be on, so tried
to get something to eat in town - guess everyone
else had that idea too - It was packed - the
pizza parlor closed early because they ran out
of ingredients - finally got something in Central
Lake - Pizza - for Sunday dinner - ugh.
Papa II's in Bellaire was the closed one.

Power was on when we got home at 9 pm.
mon.

went to Mackinaw Island. Packed.

Joe put up shelves in the bathroom - Bathroom has
bothered me for a long time. I'm satisfied with
this year's improvements

Tues -

mowed, did odds + ends around here

August 10-15 Ethan, Stephanie + Nora

This is our first time at the cabin since 2010. I don't think we realized how much we missed the place until we were back. We've had a couple of nights of great stargazing, as this is the week of the Perseid meteor shower. Overlapped with Bruce and Rickie Thursday and Friday for nice dinners at the Blue Pelican, with wine and dessert at the cabin afterwards. Took day trips to Charlevoix and Alden with Nora, who's eleven this year. Other than that, I spent most of my time lying on the dock! Thank you everyone for all the work you do to maintain the magic!

AUG 13 to 22 - BRUCE & RICKIE, PAT & JUDI BARRETT
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAY TRIP NORTH. WE SPENT THE FIRST TWO NIGHTS AT THE BLUE PELICAN IN THE #2 BLUE ROOM. WE WERE THE ONLY ONES THERE THE FIRST NIGHT (THURS). HAD A GOOD TIME OVER LAPPING WITH ETHAN, STEPH, & NORA. THE WEATHER WAS VERY HOT (INTO THE 90S) AND SUNNY. THE LAKE FELT LIKE BATHWATER. I WAS ABLE TO GET IN SOME GOOD SNORKELING. THE COTTAGE LOOKS GREAT! REALLY LIKE THE BATHROOM IMPROVEMENTS! DID THE USUAL MICHIGAN STUFF; THE BROWNWOOD SUNDAY FLEA MARKET, TRIP TO ALDEN TO RESTOCK ON MIRACLE BLEND, VISITS TO THE BELLAIRE SMOKE HOUSE, ETC. WE ATE AT THE PELICAN'S NEST FOR THE FIRST TIME. SCOPED OUT THE LAKEVIEW RESTAURANT AT SHANKY CREEK BUT DIDN'T EAT THERE.

IT HAS A GREAT SUNSET VIEW OF LAKE BELLAIRE.
ON WEDS, WE SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE APPLE TREE INN
IN PETOSKY AND HAD DINNER AT WHITE CAPS...
EXCELLENT MEAL! CAROLYN WAS AT HER PLACE
AND WE GOT TO VISIT SOME. WE PLAYED
A LOT OF BRIDGE, EAT SOME GREAT MEALS,
AND ENJOYED LOTS OF WINE. DISCOVERED THAT
THE "MADE IN JAPAN" CERAMIC TAINGY ^{on the mantle} WAS BROKEN
SO I GOT RID OF IT. I WOULD BE VERY
INTERESTED IN HEARING THE "BACK STORY"
ON THE REPLACEMENT OF THE FAN BLADES.
MID WEEK THE WEATHER HAD A DRAMATIC
SHIFT TO RAIN AND COOLER, GETTING INTO
THE LOW 60'S, WITH SOME VERY HEAVY SHOWERS.
WE ONLY USED THE PICNIC TABLE ONCE BECAUSE
IT WAS EITHER TOO HOT, TOO WINDY, OR TOO COOL.
OVERALL, HAD A GREAT TIME.

PS- I'VE TAKEN HOME THE LOG BOOK TO
SCAN IT. I LEFT 2014 & 2015 HERE.
NEW NEIGHBORS MOVED IN JUST AS WE WERE
LEAVING. THE NEW TOILET ROCKS!

Aug 22-30 Karla, Todd & Leela (2) Hall
and good friend/old neighbor Brandi McDuffy.
After a nice ride we arrived at the cottage
to sunshine and a beautiful sunset. The
cottage looks great! Love the new bathroom
shelves and floating dock! It then
turned gray, gloomy, rainy and cold
for 3 days! We made the best of it by
catching up on sleep, watching movies
and having fires with smores! Thursday
was FINALLY somewhat nice and we

enjoyed the sun, sand, swimming and boat rides. Leela had a blast and had no fear of swimming. We made it to Brownwood for doughnuts, Guntzwillers and Traverse City, Charlevoix and went rock hunting at Lake MI twice! We met the new neighbors Brett and Kim (I think! :) of the blue road house and they seemed nice and very excited for their new getaway house! We brought the floating dock in, mowed and raked the yard and cleaned up the beach. Overall we had a wonderful week and really enjoyed our relaxing ~~stay~~ stay here at our heaven on earth. Until next time ♡♡♡

Sept. 4 → Sept. 12 John, Janice, Jim.

Arrived on Labor Day weekend to hot, beautiful weekend weather. Very much Boat activity on the Lake for the end of Summer. Then the cold front came in for the weekdays. Good nights for several beach fires. Began to close down the cottage toward the end of the week. Had difficulty taking down the dock and had to recruit outside help. Janice and Jim left for Akron/Florida on Wed. Cottage tucked away for the 2015 season.