

OPEN Cottage 2020

OPEN

The Year of Corona Virus COVID 19

June 6-13 - Just myself and dog Zeena

Temp. range - low 40's to High 80°

Power out from storm at night - back on 10 AM

Hot water tank has an element out and could not find anyone to replace it. Bought an extra element hanging on wall behind tank. Top element is out because water is still heated to warmish. Tank needs drained to below the opening - part changed - tank refilled then power ON water tank at Elect. Box. If tank is not Full and power is on for tank it burns out this part.

Mice were in cottage and chewed a small entrance through the front door bottom.

On arrival saw a pile of sawdust just inside door. Grass was hip deep and I hired it mowed & trimmed - 65¢ Suzie & Ben Collins from CL 231-350-2993 - Suzie

Was not able to get firewood but could try...?

Dylan Buffwood - 231-544-6411 - I did not have the # of the man from Torch Lake we got wood from last time. Kim nextdoor may have his # still ??? Spoke with Sharon Smith across the street. She wants to remove tree by the road - 1st tree in the row that marks the property line. It is leaning but I think it is an eye sore to her. There is no immediate need to remove the tree even if she does

cover the cost of removal. by a friend of hers I managed one small project of scraping and painting the picnic table. Paint takes a few weeks to cure and can scratch easily until it is set. Window behind table by

2020

Liz Continued -

the recliner is not able to stay shut. It opens up when the wind blows strong. This should be fixed or taped shut for the winter to prevent snow from blowing in. My adventures for the week were rock hunting with the dog. Nature Preserve Rt 31 - No beach water too high. Charlevoix beach and Brownwood for Sunday doughnuts. Farmer Market at Bellaire on Fridays 8-12 open. but I did not go this year to get the homemade dog biscuits from the MH. Kids. Stopped at Kings farm market for asparagus and Cherry Rasp. Pie. Masks are worn by majority here and Hardware Store required a mask be worn. Antrim County has 13 cases of Covid 19 and 0 deaths.

This was an interesting year for me. I was unsure of travel and teaching from home since March 13. I have been here alone before for a few days but never the entire time. My best friend was unable to get off work and I had no other person to bring with me.

I was brave and found the week to be a very relaxing time for self reflection.

Sat on our shore with my feet in the water feeling grounded by the earth. Talked to my mom almost daily and will be able to finally visit her after 3 months of quarantine. As I spoke on the phone to her she was picturing being up here. Thought about Mother & Harvey a lot and admired all of Carolyn-Lenny and Cops's handywork done over the years. Michigan Magic I love it here and am proud of our family. Liz

June

~~July~~ 14th - 20th 2020

Rose, Bea 9, Bryce 3 (Almost 4),
friends Sarah Davis, Abel 9, Noah 4

(Haha)

June

~~July~~ 19th - 26th

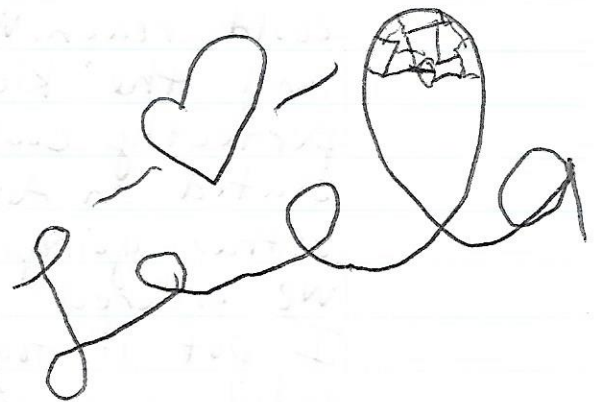
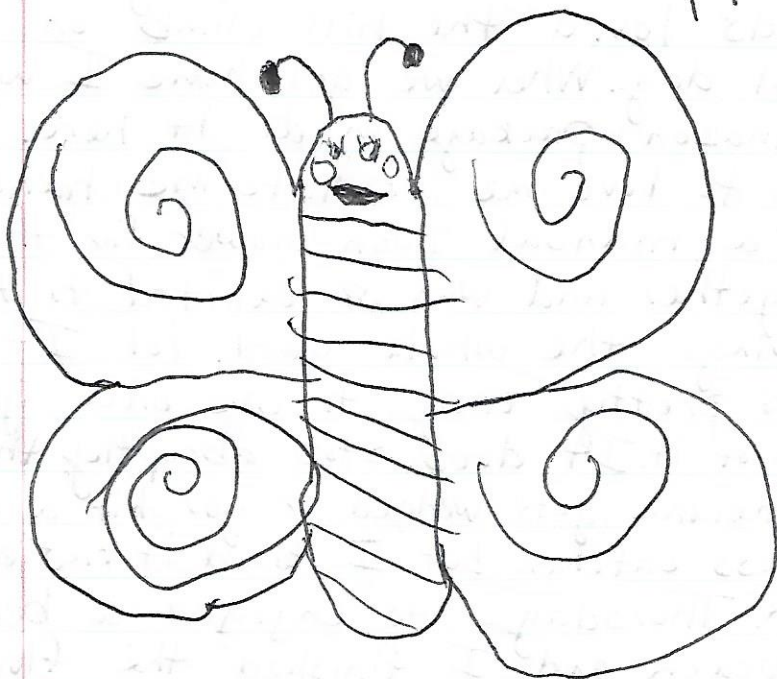
Karla, Todd, Leela 6, Theo 4, Laila the GS.
We arrived on Friday afternoon to a full but FUN house! We spent 24 hours with Rose, Sarah and the kids and made the MOST of every minute! We swam, snorkled, set the crawdad catcher (and even ate them!), went for a boatride, started to weed the flower beds and even went for a flashlight night hike in the woods down the road. Abel was SO excited to catch a fish with Todd "barehanded" out of a barrel down in the water. Saturday we played with the kiddos all day while the girls packed and they headed out that evening. Sunday we headed to Brownwood for the famous doughnuts and a hike to see Torch Lake. Monday the kids LOVED visiting Guntzvillers Taxidermy Museum and then we ventured into Traverse City. Tuesday was a gray day so I deep cleaned the cottage with the shop vac and got all the cobwebs I could reach. Wed we went to Sleeping Bear Dunes and the kids loved the hill climb on a perfectly cool day. When we got home I was elated an Amazon package made it here. You're either going to love me or hate me haha but we ordered a manual push mower for the cottage. I put it together and was so excited to try it I ended up mowing the whole yard. lol It works great and is pretty easy to use once you get the hang ~~of~~ of it. It does stop abruptly though if a stick or pinecone gets wedged or you hit a root. It also has a grass catcher but I found it easier without it on. Thursday we enjoyed a beautiful day on the beach and I finished the flower beds.

→

Karla, Todd, Leela, Thee, Laila Cont.

Early in the week I saw flowers for 50¢ off at the Corner Store and thought "how nice would those be at the cottage!" So I then realized after buying said flowers that the beds REALLY needed weeding. I then realized after beginning said weeding that the rocks needed to come out. Well... it took me all week but I got them done and am so proud of how great they turned out. Todd and I also dug out most of the stumps and I transplanted one of the hostas into 3 in the left flowerbed. Todd got up on the roof and swept/blew off ALL the pine needles on both cottage/garage. We spent the rest of our time as a family enjoying the Michigan Magic and headed home Friday night. Counting down the days until next year!!!

♥
Karla



June 27-July 7, 2020 Stephanie + Marnie

This was our first time here without Ethan, whose anxiety makes it hard for him to relax at a place he feels so responsible for.

It hasn't rained during our entire stay and has been in the upper 80s to low 90s every day.

It gets as hot inside as it does outside, with a record of 98° in the cabin one day! Fortunately, the backyard was still lovely between the hammock and the lake. We're so grateful to have the kayaks here! We took them out almost every evening at sunset.

It's been nice to see almost everyone wearing masks indoors here. We felt comfortable doing a little shopping in Central Lake, Bellaire, Alden, and Charlevoix. We celebrated Marnie's 16th birthday with a lake ride on the Little Traverse Wheelway between West Park and Charlevoix along Lake Michigan, which was gorgeous but hot. On our last day we hunted for peloskey's at Fisherman's Island State Park.

I was really happy to discover Providence Organic Farm on 88 in Central Lake. They have a ~~cute~~ little indoor market/cafe that just opened last year.

The only project I undertook was trying to reinflate Humphrey Bogart the owl, but he wouldn't hold air, though I couldn't tell where the leak was coming from to patch it. Pretty sure we'll be able to carry on without him. The magic is undiminished, as ever.

July 8-13 Stephanie + Logan

I drove Marnie home on the 7th and came back up with a friend on the 8th. It finally rained on the 10th for the first time all month. After that, it was a relief to have 80° weather instead of 90! We just lazed around and went kayaking every evening. Had some glorious sunsets, and a stunning night of stars on our last night, complete with Milky Way and a few shooting stars. It was fun to introduce someone new to the Michigan Magic and to be reminded that this place is a treasure in more eyes than ours.

2020

July 12-17, 2020 Paul and Sandy Davis

We arrived on Sunday July 12th about 4:45 PM. It was in the 70s here - partly sunny - slightly windy - beautiful none the less. We easily ~~unpack~~ unpacked - as we left our daughter Gwen w/ her grand parents this year. In 2018, we came while pregnant and went into labor here at 33 weeks. We've been awaiting a vacation ever since that "babymoon" attempt ". Lovely first day enjoying the lake and getting beer & pizza's from Shorts in town. Monday was great, enjoying our beach + lake. Loved playing around in the kayaks. Got some sun - a bit  Tuesday - got up and went to the ~~Glacial~~ ^{Tripp's} Glacial Windy! Park in Bellairre. - 1 mile from town of Eckhardt Rd. 2.9 miles through the woods - over 31 miles of trails there! Had a fire - got the wood refilled in the garage - Stacked. Relaxed with hot dogs & smores. Wednesday - relaxed and did yard work - mowed + trim. Thunderstormed right after for the rest of the trip. We truly enjoyed the peace & quiet especially being new parents. We love this beautiful getaway. And look forward to bringing our daughter next year to experience the magic.

Peace & Love

Paul and Sandy Davis

Cory Carr & Sara Fredette
Jason & Bri Traut
Forest Taylor.

July 22 - August 7 Harvey ~~III~~ Rigue, Dan + Emily and Oli + Joey (S) + friends:

Rigue and I arrived Wednesday, then slowly welcomed our family and friends in the proceeding days. We drove here this year from Tampa, FL - lots of stops to family's houses along the way! Our general anxiety related to Corona inclined us to bail on our flights - as to whether or not driving so many places and stopping is SAFER than flying, well I don't really know. ~ ~ ~ Driving did afford us a few extra chys here, so I'm grateful for that much.

At our peak, there were 11 people here including two five-year-olds. Um, that's a SHIT load of people for this little place. We had people on couches, friends sleeping in the yard in tents, and maybe someone slept on the roof one night (I can't confirm or deny). Our friends are great and understand the way things work here, so things like eating and bathroom turns were usually fine. But the tensions of our world alongside most of us really only spending time with our immediate household loved ones added some extra challenges to this stuffed cottage. A few blow-ups here and there, but far and away it was a fun, action-packed time with everyone. Having canceled so many trips back to Erie, I was especially grateful for the time together.

We had one trip to T.C. for the shopping and the Lighthouse Park on the peninsula, but otherwise it was most of us sticking close to home. The Brownwood Flea Market donuts were on-point as usual, Although there was no - actual - marketplace this year (understandably so). So we spent our days swimming, playing yard games, navigating the kids, and picking pine needles out of our toes.

We really admired and appreciated all the work that went into the flower beds - they look great. 😊 Also, I enjoyed the push mower for a bit, but I did inevitably relent and used the regular mower (w/new air filters Paul ordered). The auto-push wasn't working and I didn't investigate, so that was a fine arm workout going up-and-down the hills. I also did a bit of weed-whacking in some harder-to-reach spots.

(CONTD.) —

2020

July 22 - August 7 Harvey III et al. (contd.)

NOT COMPLAINING - THOUGH!

The weather was mostly good but cool for us Florida folks! Most of the time the temp. didn't break 80. We had only one gloomy day, though, so we really got lucky. And the lake was nice and warm from all the hot days in prior weeks.

A few other this-and-that points of interest:

Porch Screen: we used some screen tape to patch up the damaged porch screen. It ain't pretty, but it works. There's more of the tape in the garage.

Soft Spots on Cottage: We have a few new soft spots on the cottage in various locations (mostly the back). I used some wood hardener in a few areas which helped. I also ordered some rotted wood treatment but didn't get a chance to use it. Feel free to use it if you remember. But it's something we'll need to keep an eye on.

Sink "Drain": I cleaned the exit point and shoveled it out. What a FINE smelling job... I think my fingers still stink like death.

The Ant Armies: Ants continue to dive bomb, hitting part of the chimney in the front and back bedrooms as well as the mantle. They likely will have new deposits when you read this. The vacuum is an excellent dead ant remover, FYI.

Nintendo!: My friend Cory left a little Nintendo retro system with a few NES 8-bit old school games. It plays SNES, too. You may have to wiggle the cartridges and cord, but it DOES work. The twins loved it!!

New KNIVES: Cory also bought a few new knives that are SHARP compared to our duller-than-dull ones. Heed my cut fingers and be careful. We also got a sharpener in the "random crap" kitchen drawer.

Cooler: We brought a big cooler and left it. It works quite well as a substitute for the now-defunct garage fridge (RIP). If no one uses it, I'll take it back w/me next year. Or I'll quietly throw it away in a dumpster and you'll NEVER KNOW. It's in the garage. For now.

our - Owl: Shit! Forgot to address the deflated owl! Rescue him, you're his only hope. P.S. it was bought July 1987. His name is

Humphrey DOGART

CNTD.

July 22-Aug. 7 Harvey^{III} et al.

Shower: Big one of the bunch; it's rusting out and leaking pretty bad. Not sure how to proceed, but we will address it together at the next meeting. I'm sure.

Ricque and I had an extra day as I said already, so we took some time for major cleaning - particularly in the kitchen. It's nice and shiny, but damn do my hands hurt. Ricque also laundered a bunch of blankets and pillowcases/towels at the laundromat. A good washing of these things is due every 5-45 years, I'd say.

I'm ready to go, but also sad. It's been tough, but also so great. I suppose that's really how it's been to the world this year, Michigan or not.

Love you all.

- Harvey^{III}

Sat Aug 8 - Sun Aug 16th Jess, Keith, Jenna, Marissa, Will, Julie, Roo + Kono

Had a nice drive up. Cottage was spotless when we arrived + Harvey + Rigue surprised us by putting up the rest of the dock so we didn't have to mess with that before being able to put the boat in - which we GREATLY APPRECIATED!! ☺

Lucked out with weather all week - a bit of rain here or there, but mostly 80's + sunny. We swam, fished, Big Mable-d, snorkeled, kayaked, put out the crawdad trap, etc etc. Masks were required statewide so we also ventured out a bit: Alden, Charlevoix, Brownwood + Bachman's, etc. We bought a portable pellet grill so we didn't even turn on the stove/oven one time - grilled + even made pizza on it! Best purchase we've made in a while. It's funny how the cycle of life goes up here - right now I'm writing in the log book while Jenna is at the laundromat + Will, Marissa + Julie are taking down the dock. (Keith is in search of RV antifreeze.) Seems like not that long ago they were playing on the beach all day - maybe one day they'll have their own kids running around here, you never know! ☺

Realized there is not a lot of consensus/a lot of unknowns about the procedure for opening/closing. I'm taking home the chunk of logbook entries that Dad hasn't scanned yet + I'm planning on updating the opening/closing instructions. It's stressful to not know what you're doing exactly (at least for me) + I think if we're going to rotate the responsibilities that it will help a lot to have a checklist.

Overall had a great time. This has been such a weird + crappy year - it was nice to escape reality for a bit. Really appreciated all of the nice TLC that was evident - thanks to everyone for their hard work!!

Until next year! ♥ Jess + co