

2013

May 6th - 21st, 2013 - Cory & Harvey III

My father and I decided to take a few weeks to come up, get some work done, and prepare the cottage for the season. We were treated to a true extreme in weather - some days were in the 80s while other days it was 38° and snowing (true story)! I heard a local say at the coffee shop in Bellefleur: "this is the only place where you'll wear your bathing suit and your winter coat in the same week."

Here's what the pair of Harveys accomplished during our time:

Branches — Cory spent a lot of time pruning the trees along the property, cutting down and burning countless branches.

Roof — Cory also swept all the pine needles and fallen branches off the cottage roof.

Willow Tree — The wobbly-looking branch on the old willow tree was brought down during the winter storms. We used the new chainsaw to chop up the fallen limbs.

Mice — A small hole had developed on the back side of the cottage between the bathroom and the outside. This hole was like a beacon for the mice, and they took full advantage of the cottage during the winter. We found small nests (with dry spaghetti and other bits of food the mice had pilfered from the pantry) — ALL OVER — the cottage — even in the top reservoir of the toilet. We did our best to find and clean up all the nests, but I'm certain there are more elsewhere.
↳ we lost several sets of sheets, a few wash cloths, and a few towels that were chewed up and defecated on. Don't be surprised if you find additional damage and mouse droppings during your stay this year.

Hole in Cottage — Cory patched the hole in the side of the cottage that brought the mice in. He also added wood strengthener in the deteriorating wood in a few areas on the back of the cottage near where the hole was. It still could use some work because it remains soft in a few spots.

over →

May 6th - 21st (Contd)

Beach Improvement - Several big storms apparently hit the region during the winter, bringing ice way up the beach. The good news is that these storms also deposited a lot of additional sand there, too. I took advantage of the work Mother Nature already did and spent lots of time improving the beach even more. I dug out all the soil on the left side of the beach (clocking down from the cottage) and rebuilt the rock barrier there to make a more distinct border. I added several bucket-fuls of sand that I gathered from along the shore by the woods to replenish the beach in the areas where I dug out the soil.

Soil Replenishment - I put the dug out soil from the beach area right next to it near the shore; hopefully that will settle over the next year or so and ~~well~~ we'll be able to plant some grass there.

Jetty Rebuilding - The winter storms also washed most of the ^{ROCKS} ~~rocks~~ we had built up over the years for jetties on either side of our beach area. I transplanted several buckets of stones to both sides to start rebuilding. You can continue to add to these if you feel so inclined during your stay.

The lake temperature was still too cold to get the boat dock and the swimming dock out and set up. We'll leave those tasks to the next motivated visitors.

Here's to a great summer, everyone. Copy &
- Harvey III

2013

June 1-8th Cottage maintenance week John + Carolyn
Tue 6th ~~10~~⁴³ yards of Michigan beach sand delivered \$170.00

the summer project for everyone: spread sand

Small shop vac in cottage

Electric meter reading 12187

Arrived here on Sunday on a sunny + cool Day. The cottage looked great from the previous yard trimming and beach cleaning. Called Buffman's Excavation on Monday for a quote on Beach Sand.

They delivered on Tues with 4 cubic yards of great UP-North Sand. The mound on the beach looks like a buried Volkswagen Beetle.

Started cutting 1/2 the lawn and put of 2 links of the dock that day. Wednesday was a Rainy-wash-out day when Mom + I took a travel day to Charlevoix to pick up supplies and look around. The next couple of days were great warm-sunny days which I was able to set-up the Rest of the dock; By Myself at that!!; and mow and groom the Rest of the yard. No Boats on the water probably because gas prices @ 4.29 a gallon. The 2 Beers I drank during grass cutting cost less than the 1/2 gallon of Gas used in the lawnmower. There was a CAR/HOT Rod CRUISE-IN on Saturday in Central Lake with Live Music and a turn out of a 100+ cars to liven up the town for the day. PLUS++, there's a New Fudge/Ice Cream Shop in C.L. town called none other than: Fudgees. Wow, we are no longer a minority!! Looks like the makings of another great season for the cottage, and everyone staying there this summer. — JOHN/m

2013

Dogs-
8 Petey &
9 Bessie

June 11-22

8 months
Letro

2 1/2

54

6 1/2

Liz⁵⁰ Karla³⁰ (Leela), Rose²⁸, Bea, Danni & Destiny Horton

Cool nights in the 40s and sunny breezy days. 60s-70s

Huge sand pile was fun for the kids to play on so we left it and moved the fire pit. Weeded and watered

the flower bed with blue water. Enjoyed 3 beach fires

Since there were no "bars" and Smokey Bear said "Low"

The neighbors were gone the entire time and came home the day before we left. The engine on his truck was still hot

and he was out mowing his lawn! We enjoyed their absence!

Took a day trip to Friskies to pet the goats & feed them. ~~and~~

~~We~~ then headed south on 31 and saw Guntzwillers

~~Food~~ Store and animal display. Then to the

Nature Preserve Beach on 31 to find Petoskys on

the private beach. Only a few other people were around

~~there~~ and there were tons of petoskys!!

We had another cool day trip to Charlevoix and there

was NO way the kids could swim in Lake Mich so

they played in the squirting fountain by the boats.

We walked the beach and waded in calm lake Mich waters

Found only a few petoskys. We saw Carolyn then sat in the

Central Lake Park visiting with her & eating ice cream ☺

We did not use any boats or put the floating

clock out. Sand pile and swimming and watching

kids and watching dogs and eating were our focus.

Pregnant Karla Power Walked and I would walk the

dogs on the road. Found a deer skull in the ditch.

The poor thing got hit. ~~Whitney~~ Whitney's is closed in

Charlevoix. Brownwood is open with

Sunday Flea Markets

Love to All, Liz

June 22, 2013

What an awesome place, to reset your buttons
Destiny (6 1/2) LOVED IT!! @. So much to do, so
relaxing! It has been 10 yrs since I've been
here, & Nothing changes. Good, CLEAN, FRESH &
the best part - (after Kids Asleep) NO NOISE!
We had a wonderful time. Karla & Rose & Bea
& Elizabeth were awesome, it was so much
fun just hanging with the women! Watching
Rose, teach Bea, the ways of "Michigan" was
just surreal, but so cool. Next generation starts
now! Thank You for inviting us. I have had
a rough year & with Destiny I need this vacation
like I have said before - I kittle piece of
heaven!

June 29th - July 6th 2013 - Jess, Keith, Jenna, Marissa, Will & Chili
We got off to a later than usual start ^(8am) in Ohio but made the trip in good time - our kids are all getting old enough to handle the long car ride like champs. Had a week of absolutely beautiful, perfect weather - sunny & ~80° most days w/ rain overnight one night. We didn't have a whole lot of adventuring this year - we took a trip to Petoskey & stopped at "our" beach in Torch Lake City one day but other than that we stuck pretty close to the cottage. We fished, caught crawdads, swam, & did lots of "Big Mabel-ing" w/ the towable & the bass boat. We took the boat down to Central Lake for the fireworks display... we kept waiting for the Grand Finale but maybe it wasn't in the budget this year. ☺ We also went to pick cherries @ Shooks - the next week or so is the ideal picking time but we managed to find a bunch of ripe ones. There were a bunch of swans this year (23 at once were here), some tiny baby ducks, 2 baby loons w/ their parents, & for the first time that I can recall, geese. Also saw a bunch of turkeys & the resident bald eagle who lives in a tree down by the islands. The only project we tackled was to spread the pile of sand around the beach, which was a bit exhausting but turned out looking quite nice, we thought. The kids were a little bummed to lose their sand pile though. ☺ All in all had a lovely, relaxing time together that just went by way too quickly!! Already looking forward to next year.

July 8th - 12th 2013 HARVEY III & RICQUE

Ricque and I MADE OUR ESCAPE FOR A FEW DAYS TO RELAX AND UNWIND AFTER OUR WEDDING (IT'S OFFICIAL!) . WE STUCK CLOSE TO THE COTTAGE MOST DAYS MINUS A DAY TRIP TO PETOSKEY AND SOME CHERRY PICKIN'.

WE LAUNCHED THE SWIMMING DOCK BUT SOMETHING LOOKS OFF WITH IT (IT'S LISTING) . I CHECKED THE BARRELS AND THEY'RE NOT TAKING IN ANY WATER, SO I'M NOT SURE WHAT'S UP.

RICQUE AND I ALSO SPENT SOME TIME BUILDING A STONE JETTY TO HELP LESSEN SAND EROSION A BIT. THE NEW SAND IS A GREAT ADDITION TO THE BEACH - THE LAST THING I WANT TO SEE IS ALL OF IT WASHING AWAY. ☺

WE'LL BE BACK AGAIN IN AUGUST, SO 'TIL THEN...

July 9 - 19 2013

Carolyn and Marjorie at Carolyn's in Central Lake

After Harvey and Ricque left, ^{when} ~~and~~ we went to the cottage, the first thing we saw was a note from the Darling Newly-Weds. They had left us each a bottle of their special Green brew that they had created for their wedding. In addition there were some special marinated cherries! Thanks so much. You guys know how to keep little old Senior citizens happy!

Now, in regard to the mouse situation, we found one remaining nest in the blanket cupboard. The mice had built a nice apartment in the middle of Bruce's contour foam pillow. Young Harvey had done a good job cleaning out the chest of drawers; however, all the sheets therein were destroyed. The corner blanket cupboard was crammed with many extra old heavy blankets, comforters, and quilts.

July 9 - 19 - 2013

that are good for using in the tents, so we put those in the boat house in a plastic container Carolyn supplied. In our cleanout we had to discard an old electric blanket, two mattress covers, and a couple other blankets. We are going to leave the blanket cupboard clean and empty. Everybody can refill as seems appropriate.

Now, about our stay here at Carolyn's; it's been great. We spent two days with a case of Cherry Fever picking big shiny black cherries.

Believe it or not, we each stood under a tree and picked ^{a total of} 19 lbs in one hour. I canned those (13 qts) and we went back the next day to pick 5 lbs for us to eat. In our last few days here, we did return to Shooks Orchards to ~~bring~~ pick cherries to bring home. The weather has been beautiful - bright and hot. Another great Michigan memory.

JULY 25 TO AUG 3 - BRUCE & RICKIE WITH PAT & JUDI BARRETT - THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL ON THE DAY WE CAME UP BUT THAT DIDN'T LAST FOR LONG - IT WAS RAINY AND IN THE 50's - 60's FOR MOST OF OUR STAY - WE SPENT THE FIRST NIGHT AT THE BLUE PELICAN... IT WAS THURSDAY AND WE WERE THE ONLY ONES THERE. ON FRIDAY WE VISITED TRAVERSE CITY, DOING THE DOWNTOWN AREA AND THE HUGE MEIJER STORE. WE SPENT SATURDAY CLEANING. GOOD GRIEF, WE FOUND MOUSE DROPPING EVERY WHERE. I GET THIS MENTAL IMAGE OF THEM ALL OVER THE PLACE DOING THEIR BUSINESS. WE CLEANED OUT THE DRAWERS OF THE SINK

AND PUT DOWN NEW LINERS. WE USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO WEED OUT SOME ITEMS. I CLEARED THE MANTLE AND REMOVED MANY OF THE PERSONAL MOMENTOS WHICH ARE STORED. WE ALSO CLEANED THE STOVE. THE NEW SHOPVAC IS GREAT!...JUST WHAT WE NEEDED. THE INSIDE & OUTSIDE SHOWS THE EFFORTS OF EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE UPKEEP...THANK YOU! THE SWIMMING DOCK WAS HALF SUBMERGED WHEN WE ARRIVED AND SEEMED TO GET WORSE AS THE WEEK PROGRESSED. MY RECOMMENDATION IS TO REPLACE ALL 4 DRUMS... A PROJECT FOR NEXT YEAR. NOTE TO HARVEY: IF THE DOCK IS LISTING, THE DRUMS ARE TAKING IN WATER.

When we got here, the cabin was already the cleanest it has been in a long time, which was great! We got to do some extras, like a thorough cleaning of the porch & porch furniture, clearing off the mantle, etc. I can't imagine how disgusting it must have been dealing with all those mouse nests! We didn't find any more, but the spice & utensil drawers were loaded with their droppings, and we also took everything out of the pantry cupboard & cleaned with Mr. Clean antibacterial after we found more droppings in there.

Bruce had plans to take inventory this year, but it is a daunting task & we just didn't have the time to get into it. It would probably take a couple people several days to get through everything, I think.

Maybe it should be tackled one room at a time, and not all would have to be done by the same people - spread the work around a bit and let everyone chip in on doing it.

The weather has been decidedly on the cool side - low 60's mostly, with a couple of days in the low 70's but still very cool because it was also very breezy. We have had rain every day at some point, but only one day that was really soaked-in dreary. The rest of the days were a mixed bag of rain, periods of partly cloudy, & little bits of sunny mixed in. No chance to use the nicely refurbished picnic table - just too chilly to be comfortable!

We've had a relaxing week, eating & drinking too much in the time-honored Michigan tradition, playing cards, reading etc. No lake activities whatever. We saw only 4 swans and one duck family - don't know where they all went after the Bakers left?! We also made a tour of the resale shops: Rainbow in Charlevoix, Nifty Thrifty, and a couple in Ellsworth & one in Central Lake. Unlike in previous years, there were no deals to be found - all the prices had been marked way up. Maybe that coincided with the publication of the guide "The Resale Trail." They've made the switch from junk to jungle!

One other note - there is an ant's nest somewhere in the stove. Everytime we used the oven they* would appear in the clock area of the stove (behind the glass). Then they would disappear again. But we never saw a single ant anywhere else in the cottage.

We all also "enjoyed" a week of playing toilet roulette -

Sting Black
*ants &
eggs

will you get it all down in one flush without ^{the} assistance?

SAT AUG 3rd - 9th Harry, Jenny & Max.

Hey Everyone! The inside and outside of cottage looks amazing this year! Everyone's hard work was evident. We didn't find anymore evidence of our little guests "presents" so Thank you Everyone!!! The beach looks like a real beach. I love the rock work done by Harvey & Rique to hold in the sand. Us Grtters and Rocks!!!

We mowed and trimmed front hedges by Road. Green cuttings in woods to dry out for burning. I took clothes out of bedroom closets and put in marked garbage bag in back bedroom. Please sort and grab what is yours or what you want. (Some of the items are very retro). We will donate remainder next year. Harry did his yearly fix on the porch door handle & latch to make it close tight.

There is also a green suitcase in the closet of twin bedroom. Is this someone's? If no one claims, I will throw-out or donate next year.

We cleaned up "games" area on top of closet in bedroom. I wrote out an inventory of games for all to review. It seems to me that some can be donated or pitched but I will send out List to all via facebook/email to review & have their input.

→ I found more mouse evidence in top drawer of dresser in Full-Bed-room. This drawer has cords, toys etc... Maybe someone can

Oops - wrote too soon - see below ↓

Sort & count card decks. Do we even need this dresser anymore?

Since I am on a roll, I wrote "To Do" suggestions on the board.

Just ideas... ran out of time.

Family of very tame ducks - they almost jump up into your lap.

We had a great time and are already looking forward to next year!

Aug 11-17

Hi all! We arrived (Dan & Emily) late Sunday.

We found mouse droppings in the bathroom & on top of the chest in the far bedroom.

There are traps out, so we are keeping our eyes peeled. We love the "To Do" list, & started on it right away! Emily organized the medicine cabinet & bought replacements for anything that was expired or emptied. Our next project is the top drawer.

August 14-18 2013 -- HARVEY III, Ricque, & Melanie (a family friend)

We arrived to meet Dan & Emily for a few more days of escape up north. The weather actually took a turn for the better, giving us plenty of warm and sunny days. We spent most of our time enjoying the basics - swimming, heading to Short's for a few beers, taking our annual pilgrimage trip to Sleeping Bear Dunes, and drinking some more beers, too. →

Aug 14-18 (contd.)

We retrieved the half sunk swimming dock - a true sight to behold floating out in the lake. We drained the barrels out but there are a lot of holes in two of them. It's pretty clear that it's time to put these barrels out of commission. The swimming dock itself is in pretty rough shape, too, so we'll all have to figure out what to do for potential repair or replacement.

The cottage itself was looking great (as usual). It's easy to see how much TLC goes into each visit by everyone who enjoys it up here. ☺

We're sad to leave like always, but we definitely had a great time. ~

8/31 → 9/4 ☺ John & LeeAnn

Sharon R. Davis and Debbie Gronbank July 31st - Sept 4, 2013
Friend from Columbus of John & LeeAnn.

We were here 2 yrs. ago. and it is still as beautiful and relaxing as it was then. Debbie said we had a wonderful time. Looking for being invited back again. We love it here!!!

We got to meet Carolyn for the first time and she is a real sweetheart. Bell Aire is a fun place to go visit. Sharon R. Davis

August 31st - Sept. 15 John & LeeAnn Vann Order - Biscuit (Dog-Byes)

Arrived up here late on Sat. with friends Dan & Theresa, Sharon & Deb. We celebrated my 57th B-Day on Sun. 9/1 in grand style with a day of boating and a B-Day party at The Club in C.O. A Classic Rainy day on Mon/Labor Day sent us All to the Local Establishments and fun at the (or inside) the cottage. Friends left on Wed and left LeeAnn & I alone time (☺ Biscuit) at the cottage. God Bless!! Mom for baking us a cherry pie with cherries. She & Aunt Marjorie picked up here in July. It was truely The Best!!! → Continued →

8/31-9/15 John/LeeAnn Continued →

Since School is back in session, We attended a Central Lake Trojans home Football game on a Fri-Night. They play 8-Man Teams, but manage to have 12 cheerleaders.?? few people in the stands because most park their vehicles around the field like a drive-in Movie and watch it from there. (Central Lake Won-yeh!!!). Most of the rest time was spending classic cottage time at our own time and pace. Most of our outings were contained to C.L., Bellaine, Ellsworth

COTTAGE Close-Down:

- ★ Big Thanks to all involved with the improvements!!!!
- Beach sand, Jettie, no mouse turds, Empty Drawers, Fire Pit in yard, Simple Mantel above Fireplace, Fresh Meds in the Clean Med Cabinet, additional Groove on Flush Assistor, Blankets in the boat house went I'm kicked out, to Keith!!! → Great job on the cement encasement for the drainout pipes - it settled in well after a year and a winter; Hedge trimming along the Road and actually able to spot on-coming traffic, and spot-cleaning that keeps the cottage felt Loved. I noticed that the dock settled crooked after my Solp set-up this year to my surprise after the time I spent. Had to hire some help this year with the take down to assist me with dismantle. Bot!! it got done for another Year. Cottage winterized c Carolyn's expertise!! ~~~

9/16

Electric Meter 13626

Mouse bait put in bath room + utility room

The cottage Looks Loved