Views Around The Lake

by Cindy Klopsteck

"I am beginning to learn that it is the sweet, simple things of life which are the real ones after all." -Laura Ingalls Wilder

I look down at myself for the tell-tale signs which should be quite evident to anyone seeing me: purple fingers, a few scratches and slim thorns on forearms not quite covered by my cotton shirt, high rubber boots, sturdy wooden stick in hand and, though one couldn't tell by merely glancing, a slightly aching back.

Yes, I just completed my first dewberry picking for spring '07.

I always enjoyed "Little House on the Prairie," the TV show and book, so I can easily picture little

Laura Ingalls, bucket in hand and siblings in tow, picking wild berries for a deliciously anticipated pie -- enjoying "...the sweet, simple things of life..."

I'm aging gracefully, and dewberry picking (along with many other things, come to think of it) has become a lot less simple than I remember as a child.

When young and with my parents and sister, I thought there was little pre-planning required and we just hit the nearest promising ditch in search of that mouth-watering, deep purple berry.

The event may have been actually planned, and I was just totally unaware. I do remember watching VERY carefully for snakes or any other varmints that might appear from the thick, trailing vines and shrubs where my search centered.

Back here in present day Eagle Lake, I've spied a few pickers roadside here and there but not near as many as years ago. Is it urban legend or truth to the tale that one should not pick (or perhaps can even find) dewberries in railroad track ditches?

I placed a call to Union Pacific, whose representative kindly informed me that they do spray along railroad tracks at road crossings, right- of- ways and bridges. So no good, healthy berry picking there.

And many people now have their own private, home-grown patches in contrast to the wild berries I have growing on fence lines behind our business office.

Dewberries have competition now with other domestic varieties. Mr. Bill Karlson, our 90A neighbor, says he picks dewberries, but his specialty is now with a boysenberry plant that was given to him.

The plant grew and multiplied in size, providing a bounty of boysenberries each year. (In an addendum to my previous column on the search for four-leaf clovers, Mr. Karlson brought me a sampling of his flowering shamrock plant which produces grass-green, four-leaf clover leaves with a deep purple center. Now I'll always have a lucky quad-leaf around!)

On this particular warm, late afternoon, my two grand-nephews (perhaps a little like the long-ago Ms. Ingalls) are "helping" me pick berries by splashing some standing water, jumping about and, grabbing a berry here and there, not actually adding it to my collection, but plunging the little sweet fruits into their waiting mouths. Again...the simple things...

"Look at this", one quickly gets my attention. "What is it?"

It happens to be a (freshly, I think) shed snake skin.

Berry picking over.

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Family Services Gets Counseling Funds

Youth and Family Services has received funding from and is partnered with Harris County MHMR to provide counseling services to persons who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina or Rita.

These services are funded by Houston Galveston Area Council through a grant provided by Texas Health and Human Services Commission.

The services are available at no charge to persons who were affected by either one of these disasters.

The goal of this project is to provide direct services to survivors residing in Austin or Colorado Counties.

Services to be provided are crisis intervention, formal mental health counseling, education and information as to resources availability as well as informational presentations to community agencies and organizations.

If you or people you know were affected by Hurricane Katrina and Rita and are experiencing any of the following: headaches, stomach problems, problems sleeping or eating, isolating or withdrawing from others, increased conflicts, easily startled, crying easily,

Avoiding places or people that remind you of the disaster, increased drug or alcohol use, reluctant to leave home, unable to cope with death/injury of a loved, distressing dreams or nightmares,

Disturbing thoughts or images, difficulty concentrating or remembering or suicidal thoughts or feelings, please feel free to contact Youth and Family Services at 800-256-7321 or 979-732-8355. Youth and Family Services is headquartered in Columbus and has a satellite office in Sealy.

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Saturday, May 12, 2007
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Political ad paid for by David Baird, Treasurer.

Beta Sigma Phi Celebrates 75 Years

The 76th Anniversary of Beta Sigma Phi International sorority was celebrated April 28, in the home of Ernie Sommerlatte. Members of Alpha Delta Phi and Xi Pi Psi enjoyed a delicious salad luncheon, with Anna Gertson leading the Beta Sigma Phi Grace.

The history of the year's activities were presented by Glenda Blair of Xi Pi Psi and Celie Thomson of Alpha Delta Phi. Memories of the past year were shared through a journey of social, service, ways and means and cultural outings. Alpha Delta Phi's kolaches proved to be successful. Under the direction of Danette Cantu and her mom, in the Glueck kitchen. The community birthday calendar, for Xi Pi Psi continues as their ways and means project.

Darlene Argo led members in the Founder's Day Pledge and, the message from International was read by Mary Ann Kaluza. Awards to officers were presented by the president Ernie Sommerlatte and Lesley Carey.

Officers were commended for a job well done and received officer pins for their badge.

Although, it takes all members to make a chapter, one girl is chosen as the Girl of the Year. Last year, Danette Cantu and Glenda Blair were selected and they announced that Lesley Carey and Ernie Sommerlatte were to receive the Girl of Year pins, for their dedication to sorority for this year.

Valentine Sweethearts, Diana Brunner and Darlene Argo for the last year presented the crown pin to Jean Williams, of Xi Pi Psi and Shara Sunderman of Alpha Delta Phi. Congratulations to our new sweethearts!

Robyn Machac announced the new theme, from International, for the coming year. The theme will be, "Sing a Song of Sisterhood". Presentation of gifts to members by Presidents Ernie and Lesley were given to members and all look forward to another successful year in Beta Sigma Phi.

Leading the chapters will be Ernie, President of Xi Pi Psi and Lesley Carey of Alpha Delta Phi.

Xi Pi Psi Planning Benefit For Donnie Wiese

Xi Pi Psi Sorority and friends are finalizing plans for the benefit for Donnie Wiese, to help defray hospital costs.

At this time, he is back in the Virginia Beach, Va. Hospital, after suffering two heart attacks, on Thursday, April 26. They performed emergency surgery, placing seven stints in his arteries and a balloon pump.

At present, he is in stable condition. Our prayers and continued support are with Donnie and Anna Mae, at this crucial time. Their children Melanie Marsalia and David Wiese flew up to Virginia, Thursday night, to be with their dad and mom.

The benefit is planned for June 23, at Didner Hall. Plans include a BBQ, silent auction and a drawing starting at 5:00 that afternoon.

The drawing items will be displayed at Baumgart Insurance and may be dropped off with member Mary Ann Kaluza.

Anyone wishing to donate a silent auction item may take it to Creative Expressions. Please call Shirley Compton, at Creative Expressions 234-3911.

Anyone wishing to make a donation, a fund has been established at Wallis State Bank and First National Bank. Checks may be made out to the Donnie Wiese Benefit Fund.

If anyone has any questions or has something to donate, you may also contact

Ernie Sommerlatte at 234-3452. The committee was well supported with over 20 volunteering their support and efforts to plan this worthy benefit, as well as Alpha Delta Phi. The love of a small town is very heart warming!

When I stand before GOD at the end of my life I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, "I used everything you gave me."

I've been a Registered Nurse since 1972. My entire life has been about service, and helping others. Help me to continue this legacy by writing me in as a candidate for Eagle Lake City Council.

Remember on
May 12, 2007 write in:
Rene' Cooper
for Eagle Lake City Council,
so I can continue my ongoing quest for servitude to this community.
Thank You

Cuando estoy de pie ante Dios al final de mi vida yo esperaria que yo no tuviera ni un solo trozo del talento dejado y podria decir, "use todo que usted me dio,"

He sido una Enfermera Titulada desde 1972. Mi vida entera ha sido sobre el servicio, y los otros de ayuda me ayudan seguir esta herencia escribiendome en como un candidato por el Ayuntamiento de Lago de Aguila.

Recuerde el
12 de mayo de 2007 escriben en:
Rene' Cooper
para Ayuntamiento de Lago de Aguila.
Entonces puedo seguir mi busqueda en curso de servatude a esta comunidad.
Gracias.
Political ad paid for by the Campaign Committee to elect Rene' Cooper to the Eagle Lake City Council, Sandra D. Flowers, Treasurer.

New Arrivals

William Ramiro Tavera

Paola Tavera of Eagle Lake is pleased to announce the birth of her third child, a boy, William Ramiro Tavera born on April 30 at 5:07 at the Gulf Coast Medical Center in Wharton.

William weighed eight pounds, six ounces.

He is welcomed by his siblings Andrew and Perla

Maternal grandparents are Santa Torres and David Augilar.

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