

# Disney FINE



Disney Vacation Club

# Welcome Home

Few places in the grocery store perplex me like the toothpaste aisle, where 4 out of 5 dentists recommend leading brands that break their product lines into a mind-numbing array of uni-tasking varieties. Do you want fewer cavities or controlled tartar? Whiter teeth or stronger enamel? Healthier gums or fresher breath? In what amounts to a can't-win game of oral-hygiene roulette, picking a box feels like volunteering for any number of maladies you've somehow deemed unworthy of prevention.

I found myself at a similar crossroads when selecting an image for the cover of this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine. Do I celebrate the springiest of spring events (the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, pages 7-8), or do I bow to the beauty of *Beauty and the Beast* (this spring's live-action adaptation of the groundbreaking animated feature, pages 23-24)? What's an indecisive editor to do?

So imagine my excitement when the magic mirror through which we source our photos revealed an image that ties *both* topics together in one neat little topiary-Cogsworth bow. It's like having white teeth *and* pleasant breath!

That cover image is one of several dual-purpose items in the pages ahead, including a Membership Magic Ever After feature (pages 3-6) that showcases 2017 Membership Extras while also inspiring me to sing (poorly) the *Enchanted* anthem "Ever After" around the water cooler and a "One on One" interview that explores the challenges of Disney nature filmmaking while also reminding me just how comfortable my desk job is (pages 9-10).

Whatever purposes *Disney Files* Magazine serves in your life - from sparking your next dream vacation to lining the bottom of your bird cage (we're big in the bird community) - we thank you for continuing to welcome us into your home. Now speaking of home, I should probably get back to the sink at mine. These gums aren't going to protect themselves.

Welcome home,



Ryan March  
Disney Files Editor



Illustration by Keelan Parham

## Making memories 'ever after'

By Ken Potrock, Senior Vice President and General Manager,  
Disney Vacation Club and Adventures by Disney



The winter edition of *Disney Files* Magazine took a numeric look back at our milestone celebration of "25 years AND BEYOND,"

sharing statistics on everything from the approximate number of Members and their guests who enjoyed complimentary, after-hours celebrations in Disney Parks (70,000) to the estimated number of Members and their guests who visited the new Member Lounge at Epcot (180,000).

I read my advance copy of that issue (leadership has its privileges) as I flew home in early November from Southern California, where I had the pleasure of visiting with Member families at one of those aforementioned after-hours celebrations - the Disney Vacation Club 25 AND BEYOND Bash at Disney California Adventure Park. The event was a success by every measure, and by the time the flight attendant asked me to return my seat back and tray table to their full upright and locked positions, statistical-recap emails from my team had even more numbers swirling through my head.

I learned, for example, that Members and their guests consumed 4,990 complimentary churros during that memorable evening in Anaheim, which I'm told is enough to circle World Showcase at Epcot, and 7,061 complimentary ice cream novelties, which I now know resulted in enough popsicle sticks to stretch seven regulation football fields. While I'm not exactly sure who takes the time to calculate those comparisons, I do appreciate the picture they paint.

We celebrated our silver anniversary in a big way in 2016, and as we now move from "25 years" to "BEYOND," we have no intention of winding down. Those complimentary, after-hours celebrations in Disney Parks have inspired an equally epic event slate for the year ahead, the Member Lounge at Epcot will welcome you home whenever you visit the Park in 2017, and that's just the beginning as we introduce what we're calling "Membership Magic Ever After." As the year unfolds, you'll also enjoy new exchange options and a continuation of waived transaction fees from RCI, expanded options from Member

Services, a variety of special offers, unique access to Disney experiences, a new pioneering place to use your Vacation Points in the neighborhood (our proposed 14th resort, Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, scheduled to open in 2017\*) and more.

We do all of this as part of our daily commitment to rewarding your loyalty and enhancing the value of your Membership.

This edition of *Disney Files* Magazine shares more details about this next great chapter in our story, and I suppose I should look forward to someday learning how many times the free popcorn you eat at parties could string the length of Main Street, U.S.A., how many times your complimentary Mickey Premium Ice Cream bars at those parties could scale the Matterhorn or how many times the free soft drinks you enjoy in the Member Lounge could fill Bay Lake. Of course, only one statistic will truly measure our success: the number of memories you create. All of us at Disney Vacation Club are honored to be part of those memories, and we look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.



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Update your mailing address online at [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com)

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#DVCMEMBER

The following important information applies to select offerings as noted in the pages ahead: You should not purchase a real estate interest in a Disney Vacation Club Resort in reliance upon the continued availability or renewal or extension of these offers. These offers may only be available to Members at various times and may or may not be renewed or extended. Membership Extras, such as vacation options in the Disney and Concierge Collections, certain discounts, offers and special events, are incidental benefits. These incidental benefits are subject to change or termination without notice, may require the payment of a fee and cannot be combined with any other offers or promotions. Membership Extras are also subject to availability, and block-out dates may apply, including high periods of demand, such as Christmas and New Year's Day. To receive any Membership Extras, purchasers must present a valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with a corresponding valid photo ID. Disney and Concierge Collection options are not available for ownership interests not purchased directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., after March 21, 2011, and, effective April 4, 2016, Members who do not purchase an ownership interest directly from Disney Vacation Development, Inc., will not have access to Membership Extras.

\*This proposed resort is not yet fully registered or available for sale.



Earlier this year, Disney Vacation Club shared a first look at “Membership Magic Ever After,” moving from “25 years” to “BEYOND” with a colorful collection of extended Membership Extras\* from 2016, additional offers\* and opportunities for 2017, and new Disney developments that together will help pen the next great chapter in our community’s collective story. It was a lot to take in on the heels of another busy holiday season, so as we turn the page to spring, *Disney Files Magazine* is pleased to highlight some of the many reasons we all have to be excited about the year ahead.

\*See important “Membership Extras” eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



## *Relax. Recharge. Reconnect.*

The second floor of the iconic Imagination! Pavilion at Epcot has become one of the most popular spots in the neighborhood, welcoming Members home to a relaxing retreat that offers comfortable seating, complimentary soft drinks and Wi-Fi service, assistance from Member Services and more. Whether you use the **Member Lounge** to recharge your devices or yourself, Disney Vacation Club is thrilled to keep the lounge open to Members and their guests visiting Epcot in 2017. Simply present your valid Disney Vacation Club Membership Card and photo ID to the Cast Member at the bottom of the staircase in the pavilion’s merchandise shop, and enjoy your “lofty” place in the Disney community!





## Enjoy "Moonlight Magic" at Disney Parks

Disney Parks became Members' own personal playgrounds in 2016, with complimentary, after-hours events that featured shorter-than-usual wait times at popular attractions, special entertainment and character appearances, complimentary treats and more. Members' enthusiastic response to these grand events inspired an equally epic slate of what will now be known as **Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic\*** events at Disney Parks in 2017, beginning in Florida with Moonlight Magic at Magic Kingdom Park on Feb. 24 and March 3.

Next on the calendar of complimentary, after-hours celebrations are Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic events at Disney's

Typhoon Lagoon Water Park (June 22 and 28, and July 5 and 13), Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (Sept. 6 and 13), Disneyland Park in California (Nov. 15) and – new for this year – Epcot (Dec. 4 and 11). (Note that the Moonlight Magic events at Epcot replace the previously offered "Merry Member Mixer" gatherings as part of an effort to broaden the experience, accommodate more Members and remove the requirement of paid Theme Park admission.)

As always, [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) will be the first place to access the latest details about these and other Member events, including reservation information, so keep an eye on the site's Event Calendar (part of the Plan Vacations tab).

## Save on shopping, dining and more

This year sees the continuation of a **doubled Walt Disney World merchandise discount\*\*** (previously 10 percent, now 20 percent) valid at select Disney-owned-and-operated shops at Walt Disney World Resort, Disney's Vero Beach Resort and Disney's Hilton Head Island Resort, and an **expanded Walt Disney World dining discount\*\***, with Victoria & Albert's at Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa now the only Walt Disney World-owned-and-operated table-service restaurant not offering a 10 percent Member discount.

Members enjoying the Disney Vacation Club World Collection of exchange options also will save money by taking advantage of the **waived \$95 transaction fee\*\*\*** for new RCI reservations in 2017. Visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (Plan Vacations tab, Points & Destinations, World Collection) to learn more about available RCI resorts.



\*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

\*\*The dining discount is valid for the Member and as many as three guests on the Member's check (meaning no check splitting), and doesn't apply to special events. To take advantage of these shopping and dining discounts, simply present your physical or digital Disney Vacation Club Membership Card, along with your valid photo ID. Disney Vacation Club recommends confirming that the discount is available before placing a dining order or making a merchandise purchase, as some shops and restaurants at Walt Disney World Resort are managed independently and may not offer a discount. See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

\*\*\*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities typically require a fee (waived during this promotional period) and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.

## New to the neighborhood

**Sneak peek at the 'Creek':** *Disney Files* Magazine is developing a variety of features exploring **Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge,\*** scheduled to become the 14th resort in the neighborhood in 2017. Look for your photographic tour to begin in our summer edition, and get ready to add this new frontier to your vacation plans!



**Sailing to 'Fantasy' islands:** The Disney Vacation Club **Member Cruise\*\*** sails for the first time aboard the Disney Fantasy ship in 2017, taking Members to places where no Member Cruise has gone before. The already sold-out voyage will depart Port Canaveral, Fla., on Aug. 26 for a 7-night sailing that'll include scheduled stops in Tortola, British Islands; and St. Thomas and St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands; along with Disney's private island paradise in the Bahamas,

Castaway Cay. Like all Member Cruise voyages, this charter sailing will feature a broad range of special gifts and entertainment created with Members in mind.

**Agents of change:** A new vacation-planning option in 2016 enabled **Member Services** Advisors to offer their individual phone extensions to Members booking Disney Vacation Club Resorts, allowing those Members to easily re-contact the same advisor to modify that reservation. The service's popularity prompted plans to expand the service in 2017, allowing advisors to offer their extensions to Members for *any* reservation, including those beyond Disney Vacation Club Resorts. The Member Services team plans to begin offering this expanded option later this year.



## Where Magic is Endless (and right next door)

The magic is endless at Walt Disney World Resort, and with nine Disney Vacation Club Resorts located in the middle of that magic (and with a 10th – Copper Creek Villas & Cabins\* – scheduled to open in 2017), the possibilities for Members are equally endless.

Among the new Walt Disney World developments scheduled to welcome Members and guests in 2017 is Pandora – The World of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (see page 20). Featuring two marquee expeditions, magnificent floating mountains, and an iconic and richly layered bioluminescent forest, Pandora will join a fresh slate of offerings that already includes such instantly embraced newcomers as the nighttime offerings at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, *Star Wars: A*

Galactic Spectacular at Disney's Hollywood Studios, the Frozen Ever After attraction at Epcot, the "Once Upon a Time" projection show at Magic Kingdom Park and more.

**Watch *Disney Files* Magazine and [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) for updates as Membership Magic Ever After continues to unfold throughout 2017.**



\*This proposed resort is not yet fully registered or available for sale. \*\*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.



# Epcot in spring

By Dr. Ed Yukatid Gess

Dazzling gardens, fresh flavors, interactive playgrounds and outdoor concerts help turn one of your favorite Disney Parks into a chlorafilled (I know that's not a word, but I like it) carousel of color each spring. This year's Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, blooming from March 1-May 29, will blanket the Park with elaborate gardens and wildlife habitats; nearly 100 topiary sculptures (including a new Figment topiary and re-imagined Belle topiary); interactive play gardens; the weekend Garden Rocks Concert series; and inspirational exhibits, seminars and how-to demonstrations. The festival also serves farm-to-fork fare at 15 outdoor kitchens, including 13 returning favorites and two new additions. Among the returning favorites is Urban Farm Eats, serving up savory bites and sweet treats, along with ideas for planting produce at home.

"A lot of people, including young children, are serious foodies now, and they have lots of questions about gardening," Festival Horticulture Manager Eric Darden explained. "We're getting more and more people in their 20s and 30s asking, 'How can I grow this?' I think we'll be creating more gardeners because people can see what's possible."

My colleagues and I dug up some fertile fun facts from the festival and beyond for this installment of "Quiz Ed" as we test your knowledge of - or ability to make educated guesses about - the Epcot festival and all things spring. Good luck!

**1. How many complete crop rotations must Cast Members execute during the festival's run to keep its floral displays fresh?**

- a) one
- b) two
- c) three

**2. Approximately how many pounds of hairpins do Cast Members use to attach plants and flowers to the festival's topiary sculptures?**

- a) 50
- b) 100
- c) 200

**3. Approximately how many different plants, grasses and mosses create the facial features of the festival's topiary sculptures?**

- a) 25
- b) 35
- c) 45

**4. Playgrounds are among the festival's most popular spaces for kids. What city debuted the first outdoor children's playground in the U.S.?**

- a) St. Augustine
- b) Philadelphia
- c) Boston

**5. More than two dozen nectar plants grow in the festival's butterfly house. What do butterflies use to find that nectar?**

- a) their feet
- b) their eyes
- c) their antennae

**6. The festival features more than 60 species of trees. About how many tree species are believed to grow on our planet?**

- a) 10,000
- b) 100,000
- c) 1,000,000

**7. Herb gardens grow at several of the festival's outdoor kitchens. Based on sales, what's the world's most popular culinary herb?**

- a) cilantro
- b) basil
- c) parsley

**8. The earliest written descriptions of the art of topiary can be traced back to what country?**

- a) Japan
- b) China
- c) Italy

**9. Outdoor concerts are a tradition at the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, which first bloomed in 1994. The world's most-attended concert also took place outdoors in 1994, but it wasn't at Epcot. In what country did that record-setting concert take place?**

- a) Brazil
- b) United States
- c) Australia

**10. What type of flowers bloom in the colorful gardens that float during the festival in the bodies of water flanking the walkway between Future World and World Showcase?**

- a) daisies
- b) impatiens
- c) chrysanthemums

Give yourself 10 points for each correct answer, and see where you rank.

90-100 points: coming up roses  
70-80 points: makin' hay  
50-60 points: garden variety  
30-40 points: shrinking violet  
10-20 points: barking up the wrong tree  
0 points: pushing up daisies

Learn more about the Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival online at [EpcotInSpring.com](http://EpcotInSpring.com)



**ANSWERS:** 1: b; 2: c; 3: a; 4: c (according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the United States' first outdoor children's playground opened in Boston, Mass., in 1885); 5: a (taste receptors on a butterfly's feet help it locate food); 6: b; 7: b; 8: c (according to published reports from the International Association of Topiary Growers & Suppliers, the first written descriptions of topiary are rooted in ancient Rome); 9: a (according to Guinness World Records, an estimated 3.5 million fans attended a Rod Stewart concert on New Year's Eve 1994 at the famed Copacabana Beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil); 10: b



The most ambitious film in Disney nature history arrives in U.S. theaters on April 21 (the day before Earth Day), taking audiences to some of the most extreme environments on Earth to witness some of the most intimate moments ever captured in a nature film. Continuing the great tradition of previous Disney nature releases and Walt Disney's "True-Life Adventures," *Born in China* pulls astonishingly human stories from the animal world, following a panda mother as her growing baby begins to seek independence, a mother snow leopard facing the very real drama of raising cubs in unforgiving environments and a two-year-old golden monkey who runs away after feeling displaced by his new baby sister. The film marks an unprecedented collaboration between eastern and western filmmakers, pairing acclaimed Chinese director Lu Chuan with a team of American and British producers that includes Disney's Roy Conli (*Tangled*, *Big Hero 6*) and premiere nature filmmakers Brian Leith and Phil Chapman. *Disney Files* Magazine Editor Ryan March caught up with Roy to learn more about his first foray into the art of nature filmmaking.

**Ryan:** Would you please share with our readers just how long Disney nature crews spend on location and what those locations tend to offer in terms of infrastructure and facilities?

**Roy:** In most locations, the infrastructure is whatever you bring with you. You're not living in the lap of luxury – that's for sure. Many of these guys will live in a pit – maybe 3 1/2 by 3 1/2 [feet] – covered in some kind of camouflage, and stay there for weeks at a time before they get their first usable shots ... It can take days to get to a remote shooting location, and you're generally there for as long as 3 months at a time, with filming taking place over the course of years – 2 1/2 years in this case.

**Ryan:** My desk job never sounded more appealing. Now while shooting on-location may be new to you, I'm assuming you were comfortable with the lengthy production schedule, given that animated features also take years to produce. What else have you found these two mediums to share in common from a filmmaking standpoint, and in what ways have you found them to be most different – beyond the obvious contrast in environment?

**Roy:** An animated film begins with an idea, and you craft that idea through script and storyboarding as it evolves through a series of drafts and screenings until finally you have a story you want to tell. With a Disney nature film, you essentially reverse the process, sending cinematographers out into the wild to record what's going on around them. They write journals and collect hours and hours of footage until the stories start to reveal themselves and you can begin developing a script ... What comes near the end of an animated production comes at the beginning of a nature-film production. And yet somehow, the two mediums meet in the middle. From a storytelling and filmmaking standpoint, I find them both to be equally enjoyable.

**Ryan:** I thought you were going to say "difficult" there, and you went with "enjoyable."

**Roy:** When I come to work, I don't come to work – I come to tell stories. I think of myself as one of the luckiest men in the world. I've been able to make a living touching people's hearts and making people feel. To do that through this medium and with Disney is an absolute pleasure.

**Ryan:** Speaking of being lucky, your team ultimately had great fortune in its search for snow leopards, but I understand that wasn't the case early in production.

**Roy:** Snow leopards are probably the most elusive animals on our planet, and they were certainly the most difficult of our filming assignments. We sent out a brilliant cinematographer by the name of Shane Moore, a wildcat expert who has filmed more wildcats than probably anyone on Earth. He was out in the field for 3 months, and it was on the last day of that first 3-month stint that he actually got his first shot of a snow leopard. We were having big questions as to whether or not we'd continue this seemingly impossible pursuit. But thanks to Shane's persistence, we were able to send him back for three additional 3-month stints over different seasons, and he returned with footage unlike anything the world has ever seen.

**Ryan:** Another part of what makes *Born in China* such an ambitious undertaking is its teaming of eastern and western filmmakers. How was that experience for you?

**Roy:** One of the greatest joys I had on this production was working with [director] Lu Chuan, who I think is one of the strongest storytellers in China ... I'm proud of this film on so many levels, from the logistical challenges we tackled with three teams on three continents to the footage we captured of animals and places few have ever seen before. But what makes me most proud are the stories we're telling and the relationships we've formed as storytellers. I now call Chuan a brother in storytelling. You learn when you tell stories in the Disney universe that, if you can find themes that touch people's hearts, those themes will cross cultures. Working with Chuan further proved that to me.

**Ryan:** This is the seventh theatrical release for Disney nature, with the first six ranking among the seven highest grossing feature-length nature films of all time. Impressive as that is, there's clearly a greater mission here. What do you hope audiences ultimately take away from this film and from Disney nature films in general?

**Roy:** Just how precious the natural world is. These places and species are in danger, and we have a responsibility to nature and to ourselves to protect them. When you see the emotional and physical parallels in these stories between the animal world and ours, you're reminded that we're all in it together.

### Help animals *Born in China*

See *Born in China* during its opening week in U.S. theaters, and Disney nature will make a donation through the Disney Conservation Fund to support the World Wildlife Fund to help protect wild pandas and snow leopards in China. To learn more about these animals and their environment, visit [nature.disney.com](http://nature.disney.com), where you can download the free Disney nature *Born in China* Educator's Guide and Activity Packet. Created in collaboration with Cast Members from Disney's Animals, Science and Education team (including 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise presenter Allyson Atkins, who screened *Born in China* in its entirety, more than 6 months before its U.S. theatrical release), the materials are filled with insightful information, fun family activities, and tips for making an impact on conservation and protecting nature.

## Dining in the great outdoors

### New lakeside restaurant offers comfortable dining in the great outdoors

**Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** The winter 2016 edition of *Disney Files* Magazine featured a first look at Boulder Ridge Cove, the re-imagined pool area scheduled to open this summer near the recently renamed Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.

Careful examination of that story's hyper-realistic artist rendering revealed a rugged range of eye-catching details, including the pool area's abandoned-rock-quarry theme, the prominent placement of salvaged mining equipment and an intriguing structure extending from the edge of Boulder Ridge Cove to the shores of Bay Lake.

That stone-chimney-punctuated roofline in question shelters Geyser Point Pool Bar & Grill, a new dining destination scheduled to begin serving Members and guests shortly after this magazine hits the press. Beyond its breakfast, lunch and dinner fare, and menu of beverage

offerings (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), the quick-service restaurant will offer the comfort and convenience of covered outdoor seating, allowing diners to enjoy their meal on site or on the go.

Named with a nod to the shoreline it shares with the resort's famed Fire Rock Geyser, the new Geyser Point Pool Bar & Grill is part of a broader effort to expand opportunities to dine in the great outdoors at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, including the creation of comfortably covered outdoor seating near the resort's existing Roaring Fork quick-service eatery (scheduled to debut shortly after this magazine goes to print).

Keep an eye out for these and other enhancements to the Disney's Wilderness Lodge experience during your next trek into the woods, and look for your visual tour of the resort's new additions to continue in upcoming editions of *Disney Files* Magazine.



## Community Calendar

As part of Disney Vacation Club's commitment to helping Members plan their vacations, *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to highlight Member events\* on tap for the season ahead and beyond. Please note that event dates, locations and other details are subject to change, and that further details (including pricing and registration information if applicable, as well as new events materializing after this magazine hits the press) debut on the Event Calendar online at [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) when available. Located under the site's Plan Vacations tab, the calendar allows you to browse all events, sort by destination or event type, and more.

\*With the exception of the Condominium Association Meeting and pool hopping, the events listed here are considered "Membership Extras," and eligibility restrictions apply. For details, please see the important information at the bottom of page 1.



### AROUND THE CORNER

#### Disneyland Resort

- June 18: Disney Vacation Club Father's Day Lunch, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

#### Walt Disney World Resort

- May 14: Disney Vacation Club Mother's Day Brunch, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- June 22 and 28, and July 5 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park
- July 3: Disney Vacation Club Independence Day Dessert Party, Disney's Contemporary Resort



### DOWN THE ROAD

#### Disneyland Resort

- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa
- Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disneyland Park
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa

#### Walt Disney World Resort

- Sept. 6 and 13: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park
- Oct. 31: Disney Vacation Club Halloween Event, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Nov. 23: Disney Vacation Club Thanksgiving Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort
- Dec. 4 and 11: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Epcot
- Dec. 24: Disney Vacation Club Holiday Dinner, Disney's Contemporary Resort

Condominium Association Meeting: Watch [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, currently scheduled to take place on Dec. 7 at Walt Disney World Resort. Also note that, as part of its commitment to conservation, Disney Vacation Club offers Members the option of receiving email communications from their condominium association(s) instead of traditional mail. Simply update your contact preferences online at [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).



### ONGOING

**Disneyland Resort:** A variety of Member events take place at, or begin from, Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa, including Disney Vacation Club Fitness in the Park most Tuesday mornings from March-November and the Disney Vacation Club Neighborhood Powerwalk (weather permitting) on most Thursday mornings.

**Walt Disney World Resort:** Bowl with your neighbors during Disney Vacation Club Member Night at Splitsville, at Disney Springs West Side on most Wednesday evenings, compete for the best catch during the Disney Vacation Club Member Fishing Tournament at Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Thursday mornings and enjoy the Disney Vacation Club Member Magic Kingdom Fireworks Cruise from Disney's Contemporary Resort Marina on most Wednesday evenings. Looking to hit the pools? Visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) for complete details about Members' ability to "hop" to other eligible pools at select Walt Disney World Resorts during your vacation. The site lists a variety of important rules and restrictions, including block-out dates.



Artist Rendering — Proposed



# my **Disney** home

Where Members Live

**Disney Files Magazine proudly presents photos and stories from Members who have made Disney part of their home decorating. This edition's submission comes from Dr. Alexandra Baker of Pennsylvania, Member since 1992.**

When the groundbreaking Disney•Pixar film *Toy Story* hit theaters in 1995, it changed, not only the way the world saw animation (and toys), but also the work space – and later, living space – of one Dr. Alexandra Baker. It was during the film's initial run that Dr. Baker purchased a Buzz Lightyear toy for grandson Jesse, who didn't heed grandma's advice to keep it in the box (clearly caring less about the future value of a collectible and more about the immediate value of protecting the galaxy from the threat of invasion). So, Dr. Baker decided to purchase and preserve a second Buzz for herself. And then a third. And a fourth. Countless "Lightyears" later, her dental office had no more space for space rangers, and the collection moved in 2014 to Dr. Baker's home, where her "Buzz Cave" remains the most toy-filled space this side of John Lasseter's offices. With *Toy Story 4* and a new *Toy Story*-themed land at Disney's Hollywood Studios among the Buzz Lightyear vehicles likely to spawn new merchandise in the years ahead, the Baker "Buzz Cave" may soon be in need of expansion.



**Trip tip:** Members and guests looking to add more Disney to their homes are finding a curated collection of Disney-themed furnishings, housewares and décor at D-Living, one of the newest shopping destinations at Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort. Look for this seasonally updated shop adjacent to UNOde50 in the Town Center neighborhood.

Do you have a Disney home? Whether it's an expansive collection of Disney memorabilia or your own Disney-inspired space, we'd like to see it. Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours), along with a letter containing your Member Since year and describing your unique Disney style, to Disney Files Magazine's "My Disney Home," Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include a signed release form, available for download and printing online at [disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform](http://disneyvacationclub.com/releaseform).

RCI PRESENTS

# picture this

Home to more lighthouses than any other area of the U.S., Cape Cod, Mass., has long served as a welcoming beacon for locals and vacationers alike. See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this idyllic photo of Cape Cod, one of many coastal destinations Members may enjoy through our friends at RCI\*. Visit [disneyvacationclub.com](http://disneyvacationclub.com) to learn more about the thousands of exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic Ever After.

\*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities typically require a fee (waived in 2017 - see page 5 for details) and may be modified or withdrawn at any time without notice. RCI and related marks are registered trademarks and/or service marks in the United States and internationally. All rights reserved.



original



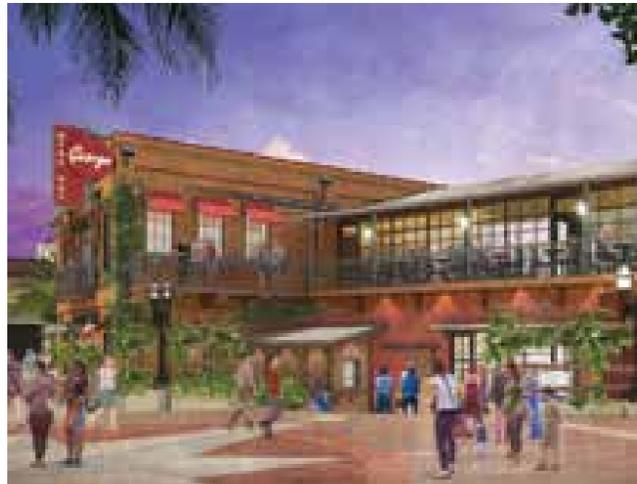
altered

ANSWERS: From left to right, (1) the tree line on the horizon has been trimmed, (2) a boat near those trimmed trees has vanished, (3) the plant life flanking the left side of the lighthouse has become shorter, (4) a window on the left side of the lighthouse tower has disappeared, (5) a Mickey head now appears atop the lighthouse, (6) Pete's dragon friend, Elliot, is not-so-hidden behind the lighthouse and (7) the half-circle window near the peak of the house on the right has disappeared.

**Disney's Hollywood Studios:** The typically quick-service ABC Commissary at Disney's Hollywood Studios has introduced a new fast-casual dinner menu, with entrée choices at press time ranging from Chimichurri steak to lemon-pepper salmon. Guests order at the counter and receive a device that allows Cast Members to locate their table and deliver their meal. Cast Members in the dining room are available throughout dinner service to assist with refills of drinks and condiments. No reservations are required for the fast-casual dinner, and the restaurant continues to offer quick-service lunch.

**Disney's Port Orleans Resort:** Disney's Port Orleans Resort French Quarter, just a boat ride away from Disney Springs, recently reopened its Sassagoula Floatworks and Food Factory after a reimagining that added even more New Orleans flavors to a menu that still features the eatery's popular pizza, pasta and salad options. New specialty burger choices at press time, for example, include a "Crawfish Mac & Cheese Burger," while other New Orleans-inspired fare includes Jambalaya and Po' Boys. Breakfast options range from Cajun grit bowls to Pain Perdu (a baguette French toast with warm fruit). Also new are raspberry, caramel and chicory-coffee-ganache dipping sauce options for the eatery's made-to-order beignets.

**Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** The popularity of Territory Coffee Company service inside the Territory Lounge (adjacent to Artist Point) at Disney's Wilderness Lodge recently prompted the extension of its operating hours to 7 a.m.-2 p.m. daily (previously 7-11 a.m.). The Territory Coffee Company serves a variety of wilderness-inspired beverages (from a Gold Rush Latte with vanilla, caramel drizzle and whipped cream to a Wilderness Bark Latte with Nutella, chocolate drizzle and whipped cream) and baked goods (including the delightfully named Humphrey Bear Claw).



Artist Rendering — Proposed

**Disney Springs:** Guests attending the Party for the Senses at the 2016 Epcot International Food & Wine Festival got a "sense" for the expertise of Master Sommelier George Miliotes, who presented Triton de Toro 2014 to represent his new wine bar scheduled to debut this fall at Disney Springs. Located across from The Boathouse, the 210-seat Wine Bar George will resemble a winemaker's home and serve wines representing both established and up-and-coming wineries. Plans call for the wine bar to feature a menu of small plates, cheese and charcuterie designed to complement the wine list. Wine Bar George adds to a still-growing Disney Springs dining scene that also includes Paddlefish and Planet Hollywood Observatory (each slated to open by this spring), as well as The Polite Pig and The Edison (both scheduled to open this year). The Polite Pig will serve a variety of wood-fire grilled and smoked fare (including "The Pig," a grilled pork sandwich with mustard barbecue sauce and heirloom carrot slaw), along with wine, cocktails and local beer. The Edison, inspired by a Los Angeles venue of the same name, will offer live entertainment, classic American food and craft cocktails in an industrial-gothic space resembling a 1920s electric power plant.



## Shrimp and Grits

Among the popular plates returning to outdoor kitchens at this year's Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival (see pages 7-8 for more details about the festival) is the Florida Fresh kitchen's "Shrimp and Stone-Ground Grits with Andouille Sausage and Sweet Corn" – a dish that couldn't be more Florida if it was served by a manatee with a side of sunscreen. Whether you're whetting your appetite for a spring return to Epcot or comforting loved ones unable to make the trip, all of us at *Disney Files Magazine* hope this rustic-yet-refined recipe brings happiness to your home and sends images of manatee Maitre d's swimming through your head.

Serves: 4

### Broth Ingredients:

1 teaspoon olive oil  
1/4 cup diced Andouille sausage  
1/2 cup finely diced yellow onion  
1/2 cup finely diced green pepper  
1/2 cup finely diced celery  
1 tablespoon minced garlic  
1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning  
1 cup chicken broth  
4 cups water  
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter  
1/2 cup finely diced tomatoes  
1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh cilantro

### Grits Ingredients:

4 cups water  
1 cup quick grits  
1 teaspoon coarse salt  
1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter at room temperature, cut into pieces  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

### Shrimp Ingredients:

1 teaspoon olive oil  
3/4 cup finely diced Andouille sausage  
1/2 cup finely diced yellow onion  
1/2 cup finely diced green pepper  
1/2 cup finely diced celery  
1/2 teaspoon Cajun seasoning  
1 pound medium (16-20 count) fresh shrimp, peeled and deveined  
1/2 cup fresh sweet corn  
Fresh cilantro for garnish

### Broth Steps:

1. Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add Andouille sausage, cooking until golden brown (about 5 minutes). Add onion and garlic, cooking until translucent. Add celery, peppers and Cajun seasoning, cooking until tender (about 5-6 minutes).
2. Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer for 30 minutes.
3. Puree with a hand blender or carefully pour broth into a blender and blend until completely pureed. Blend in butter until well combined.
4. Stir in tomatoes and cilantro.

### Grits Steps:

1. Bring water to a boil. Whisk in grits and salt. Cook, whisking, for 1 minute.
2. Cook 5 minutes, stirring occasionally, or until grits are tender. Stir in butter and Parmesan cheese.

### Shrimp Steps:

1. Heat a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add Andouille sausage, cooking until golden brown, about 5 minutes.
2. Add onion, pepper, celery and Cajun seasoning, cooking until vegetables soften, about 4 minutes.
3. Add shrimp and cook until opaque and cooked through (about 2-4 minutes). Stir in corn, cooking for about 1 minute.

**To Serve:** Divide grits among four serving bowls. Divide shrimp and vegetable mixture over grits, ladle broth over the top and garnish with fresh cilantro.

This recipe has been converted from a larger quantity in the restaurant kitchens. The flavor profile may vary from the restaurant's version. All recipes are the property of Walt Disney Parks and Resorts U.S., Inc., and may not be reproduced without express permission.



# neighborhood notes

new or noteworthy in our magical community

## Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i:

Members and guests are discovering a variety of new experiences inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Moana* during their Aulani vacations, including Moana-inspired makeovers in the resort's Painted Sky Teen Spa and meet-and-greets with the film's title character. Members and guests of all ages, meanwhile, are enjoying Mo'olelo Fireside Stories with Moana, gathering around an ocean-side fire pit as Moana and Uncle (Aulani's beloved storyteller) bring legends of Oceania to life. Moana and Uncle swap more stories at Uncle's Kahakai Canoe Race, sharing seafaring tales illustrating the importance of the canoe (wa'a) to the ancestors of Native Hawaiians before inviting Members and guests to build their own wa'a models for a spirited canoe race at the lagoon. To further explore the islands' cultural roots in canoe exploration, don't miss the new KA WA'A, A Lu'au at Aulani, an evening that includes a lavish island feast and an enchanting performance inspired by the vessels that brought Native Hawaiians to the shores of Ko Olina. Reservations for KA WA'A, A Lu'au are available as many as 60 days in advance by calling (808) 674-6850 between noon and 8 p.m. Hawai'i Standard Time. Check your in-room *Daily 'Iwa* publication for details about the new Moana offerings and other unique experiences available during your stay.



▲ **Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge:** More Members and guests than ever now have the opportunity to experience the Wanyama Safari at Disney's Animal Kingdom Lodge. Previously available only to those staying at the lodge but now available to all Walt Disney World guests ages 10 or older, this premium experience begins with a pre-safari reception and continues out on the resort's savannas, where small groups enjoy unparalleled animal viewing from a private safari vehicle. Members and guests learn more about the resort's architecture and animals throughout their safari, inspired by an African "afternoon game drive." The experience, priced at \$209 a person, concludes at Jiko - The Cooking Place, where this signature dining destination presents a multi-course meal of menu favorites, complete with wine pairings. Call Member Services to book your Wanyama Safari.

## Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort:

Disney's Magical Express service, which provides complimentary luggage delivery and motor-coach transportation between Orlando International Airport and select Walt Disney World Resort hotels, has added a new pick-up and drop-off location at the entrance to Bay Lake Tower. The new location makes the service more convenient than ever for Members staying at Bay Lake Tower, eliminating the walk to and from the pick-up and drop-off location next door at Disney's Contemporary Resort.



▲ **Disney's Vero Beach Resort:** The nine-hole, pirate-themed Port Holes Miniature Golf course at Disney's Vero Beach Resort is now complimentary for Disney Vacation Club Members and their guests. Simply present your valid room key imprinted with "DVC MEMBER" at Eb & Flo's Rentals to receive complimentary mini-golf equipment for your entire traveling party. Note that operating hours for the course and rental counter vary seasonally.

**Disney's Vero Beach Resort:** The Disney Conservation Fund and Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team are working with the University of Florida to reverse the decline of at-risk butterflies in Florida and California. The Atala butterfly was believed to have gone extinct in the 1960s but was rediscovered decades later as a small population in South Florida. Members and guests have a chance to help increase populations of this special butterfly by releasing Atala butterflies in a newly planted garden at Disney's Vero Beach Resort. Cast Members from Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team rear the butterfly eggs, caterpillars and pupae at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park before sending the emerged butterflies to Disney's Vero Beach Resort for weekly release, making this the only place on Disney property to see Atala butterflies. Be sure to inquire at the front desk to find out if a butterfly release is scheduled during your next stay. In the meantime, use your smartphone's QR code reader to enjoy a sneak peek at the fun and informative video Members and guests see before releasing their butterflies.



# PARDON OUR Pixie Dust

Refurbishment news from around the neighborhood\*

**Disney's Animal Kingdom Villas:** The refreshment of Kidani Village accommodations, noted in the winter 2016 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, is scheduled for completion by the time this magazine mails. Similar to the previous update to villas at Jambo House, the project created a lighter living space with updated décor and larger televisions.

**Boulder Ridge Villas at Disney's Wilderness Lodge:** Work continues on the transformation of the former Hidden Springs Pool area into Boulder Ridge Cove. The re-imagined pool area, highlighted in the winter 2016 edition of *Disney Files Magazine* and scheduled to open this summer, will feature an expanded sun deck and zero-depth-entry pool in what appears to have been an abandoned rock quarry.

**Disney's Old Key West Resort:** A two-year renovation of villas at our community's flagship resort is slated to begin later this year. While design elements are still in development at press time, plans call for redesigned bathrooms, updated floors, refinished furnishings and refreshed décor. *Disney Files Magazine* will share updates as new details become available.

**Disney's Vero Beach Resort:** The sweeping enhancement of Inn rooms and villas reported throughout 2016 is scheduled for completion by the time this magazine mails, with work continuing on beach cottages into this summer. Beyond accommodations, these enhancement efforts at the resort included the creation of "Wind & Waves" — a re-imagined dining experience that includes a table-service restaurant, grab-and-go market and dedicated pool bar.



▲ **The Villas at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa:** With the renovation of villas now complete — enhancing the accommodations with new platform beds, upgraded televisions, refinished furnishings and new carpeting — crews have begun a pool-area renovation that includes routine pool maintenance and the replacement of the pool deck, with work scheduled for completion later this spring.

\*Due to the nature of construction, dates and designs are subject to change.



## 'Magic' meets 'Marvel-ous'

### New Marvel Day at Sea debuting aboard select Disney Magic voyages this fall

**Disney Cruise Line:** While every Disney Cruise Line voyage is filled with magic, seven special sailings departing New York City this fall promise to be particularly "Marvel-ous" as Super Heroes and Super Villains climb aboard the Disney Magic for a Marvel Day at Sea.

The new, day-long event will celebrate Marvel comics, films and animated series through special entertainment, food, merchandise, youth activities and more. Planned highlights include exclusive interactions with Spider-Man, Captain America, Thor and other Marvel Super Heroes; Marvel trivia games for the entire family; Marvel-themed games, activities and crafts for young heroes-in-training at the Marvel's Avengers Academy in the ship's Oceaneer Club; and a spectacular, music-filled deck party that'll culminate with a stunning display of themed pyrotechnics, lighting, sound effects and the largest collection of Marvel Super Heroes and Super Villains ever assembled on a cruise ship.

Exclusive at-sea screenings will feature fan-favorite films from the Marvel Cinematic Universe,

including the newest theatrical releases, along with special presentations of the Disney XD animated series "Marvel's Avengers Assemble," "Marvel's Ultimate Spider-Man" and "Marvel's Guardians of the Galaxy."

Marvel Day at Sea will debut with 7- and 8-night Bahamian voyages departing New York City on Oct. 6, 14 and 28, and Nov. 4, 11 and 18, 2017, with each itinerary including scheduled visits to Disney's private island paradise, Castaway Cay, and Port Canaveral, Fla., from which guests may depart to enjoy a day at Walt Disney World Resort. Also featuring Marvel Day at Sea is a 7-night Canadian Coast voyage departing New York City on Oct. 21, 2017, with scheduled stops at Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, and Sydney and Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Visit [disneycruise.com](http://disneycruise.com) for more details before calling Member Services to book your next voyage.\*

\*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1



Use your smartphone's QR code reader to go behind the scenes of Pandora – The World of Avatar!

Disney's  
**ANIMAL  
KINGDOM**

## A bridge to another world

### Pandora – The World of Avatar scheduled to debut this summer

**Walt Disney World Resort:** Humans recently caught their first glimpse of the bridge that'll soon lead them to the base camp of Alpha Centauri Expeditions, the eco-tour group preparing to lead explorers on unprecedented journeys to Pandora – The World of Avatar.

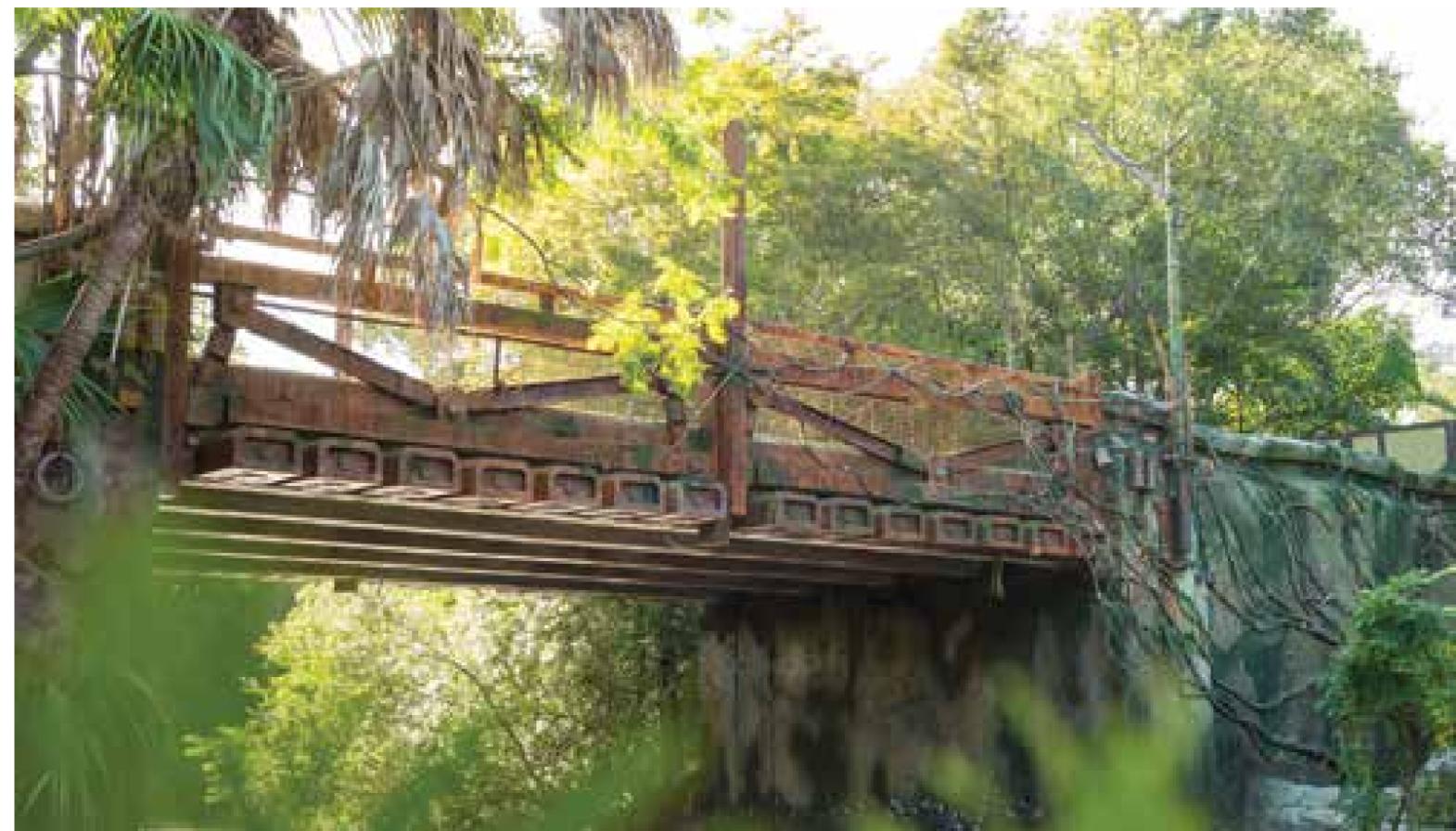
Located at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park and first revealed during D23's "Destination D: Amazing Adventures" event at Walt Disney World Resort, the bridge (pictured here) dates back to a period of destruction on Pandora at the hands of the Resources Development Administration, whose unregulated mining activities and subsequent conflicts with the native Na'vi led to environmental damage across the area. With the RDA now long gone from Pandora, nature has begun breaking down evidence of the group's damaging presence.

Explorers who cross the bridge and embark on expeditions to a once-again thriving Pandora will discover two distinctive adventures: the

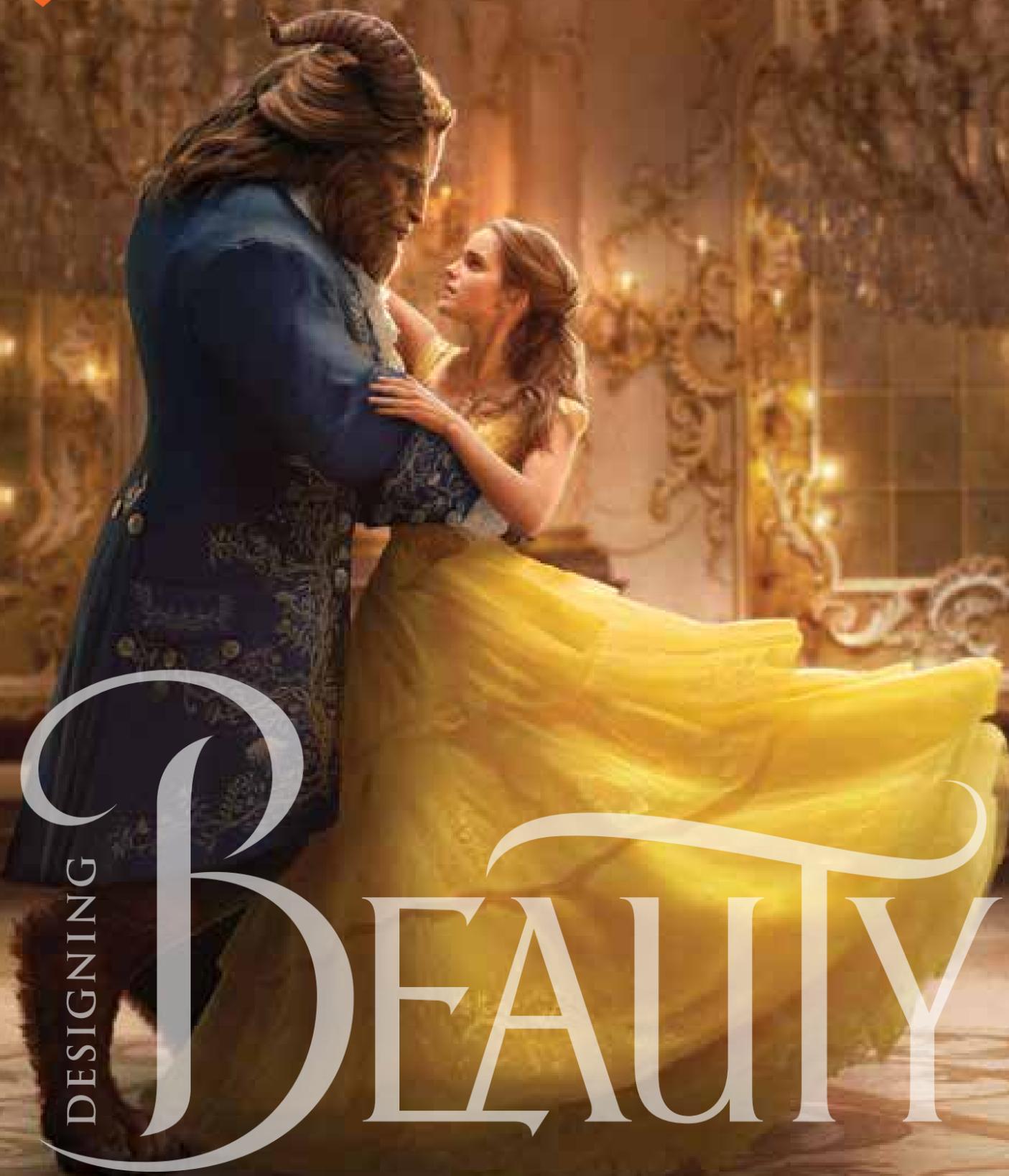
beautiful, family friendly Na'vi River Journey boat ride through the deepest and darkest reaches of a bioluminescent forest and the thrilling Avatar Flight of Passage, through which guests will employ Avatar technology to experience a pulse-pounding flight over the jungles of Pandora on the back of an Ikran (known to humans as a Mountain Banshee).

Nourishing and refreshing explorers during their travels will be the Satu'li Canteen, Pandora's main dining establishment, and Pongu Pongu (Na'vi for "party party"), a drink location with a design as eclectic as its Expat owner. Tangible memories of one's expedition, meanwhile, will be available at Windtraders, an exotic marketplace offering Na'vi cultural items, toys, science kits and more.

With Pandora – The World of Avatar scheduled to debut this summer, *Disney Files Magazine* is gathering more insights to share in our summer edition.







DESIGNING

# BEAUTY

## A visit with the production designer of *Beauty and the Beast*

Few films in Hollywood history have earned the kind of pre-release buzz generated by *Beauty and the Beast*, this spring's live-action adaptation of the 1991 Disney-animated classic.

The May 2016 teaser trailer for this new take on a timeless tale did what few dreamed possible, attracting more views in its first 24 hours online (nearly 92 million) than that of pop-culture phenomenon *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (the previous record holder at 88 million). Fans' excitement grew to beastly proportions from there, propelling the film's first full trailer to shatter another record months later with more than 127 million online views in its first 24 hours. Early coverage of the film even extended beyond traditional entertainment media, with *Architectural Digest* writing late last year that "design fans will want to mark their calendar for March 2017."

To learn more about that design, *Disney Files Magazine* caught up with *Beauty and the Beast* Production Designer Sarah Greenwood, known for her standout work on such period pieces as *Atonement* (2007), the *Sherlock Holmes* films (2009, 2011) and *Anna Karenina* (2012).

"All films are period pieces, really," Greenwood said. "Whether your story is set in the past, present or future, production design begins with taking the audience to a specific time and place - 18th century France in our case."

With that real time and place defined, Greenwood and her team set out to create a fantasy world that wouldn't aim to replicate the look of the 1991 film, but rather to visually capture the spirit of the animated classic.

"The goal isn't to have the audience think, 'That looks just like the castle in the animated film,'" said Greenwood, who deliberately limited herself to a single viewing of the animated film during her creative process. "Instead, you want the audience to *feel* that this is, in fact, the Beast's castle, because every detail faithfully supports the story they know and love."

The castle proved to be the film's most exciting and daunting design challenge, with a wide range of concepts considered until the design team arrived at a "key" that would become their guiding principle: the castle is alive.

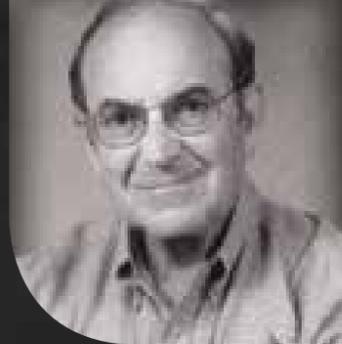
"Belle's bedroom in our film is a great example," Greenwood explained. "It was once the most beautiful room in the castle but has been neglected since the spell. Understanding that key - the castle being alive - we didn't cover the neglected bedroom in green vines but instead designed those vines as part of the plaster work, suggesting that the castle itself is becoming overgrown. It's true in the kitchen as well, where the china has become part of the architecture ... You start to get a sense that, if the last rose petal falls, the entire place could implode on itself."

Asked if she finds herself evaluating a film's production design when watching as a fan, Greenwood offered an illuminating answer.

"If I'm truly enjoying the film, I'm not thinking much about the production design at all," she said. "While I may focus on design the second or third time I see a film, I only tend to notice it on first viewing if the story doesn't keep me interested or if something in the design doesn't appear to fit ... So as proud as I am of the design work in *Beauty and the Beast*, I actually hope audiences - at least the first time they see it - don't think much about the design and instead simply get lost in the story."

Helping to bring that story to life is an all-star cast that includes Emma Watson (of *Harry Potter* fame) as Belle, Dan Stevens ("Downton Abbey") as the Beast, Luke Evans (of *The Hobbit* films) as Gaston, Josh Gad (*Frozen*) as Lefou, Golden Globe nominee Ewan McGregor (*Moulin Rouge!*) as Lumiere, two-time Oscar nominee Ian McKellen (*Gods and Monsters*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*) as Cogsworth, Oscar winner Kevin Kline (*A Fish Called Wanda*) as Maurice and two-time Oscar winner Emma Thompson (*Howard's End*, *Sense and Sensibility*) as Mrs. Potts, just to name a few. The film's soundtrack, meanwhile, features new recordings of the 1991 film's original songs by Disney Legends Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, along with new songs from Menken and fellow Disney Legend Tim Rice. Directed by Oscar winner Bill Condon (*Gods and Monsters*) and produced by Mandeville Films' David Hoberman and Todd Lieberman, *Beauty and the Beast* opens in U.S. theaters March 17.

Disney Files Magazine is proud to feature the unparalleled perspectives of Disney Legend Marty Sklar, a longtime Walt Disney Imagineering leader who continues to inspire in retirement, penning such insightful books as *Dream It! Do It! My Half-Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms* and *One Little Spark! Mickey's Ten Commandments and the Road to Imagineering*. Disney Files readers may email Marty at [marty@martysklarcreative.com](mailto:marty@martysklarcreative.com).



## Even more of the best advice I ever heard (or read)

### By Disney Legend Marty Sklar

When I first developed “Mickey’s Ten Commandments” in the early 1980’s, I never imagined there would be more than one set of these very special principles. But soon I had to apologize to Moses. He stopped at that incredible 10, but I now have 30 more “commandments” about leadership and “followership.” (The last 10 were called “Part IV – Followership: “How to be a great team player and help your leaders succeed.”)

I’m the kind of person that always needs to be “doing something” – even at age 82. I don’t “retire” easily (although it happened “officially” from Disney after 54 years in 2009). I’m finding there are great new opportunities for learning in this kind of freedom. And chances to reflect (and add to) work that you thought was your best thinking, as new doors open through travel, reading, technology breakthroughs and just plain old “experience.”

I was recently asked to present one of my favorite speeches again. It’s called “The Best Advice I Ever Heard.” *Disney Files Magazine* published (in its winter 2014 and spring 2015 editions) my column that pulled from that speech, sharing the wisdom of 10 great achievers, including, of course, Walt Disney, as well as George Lucas, UCLA basketball coach John Wooden and Don Hewitt (creator of TV’s “60 Minutes”).

So when asked to present my speech again this year, I began rummaging through my notes and, lo and behold, I found a brand new list I wanted to talk about – not a “better” list, but ideas and advice that are just as strong as the original 10. And it includes the advice of only two people – Walt Disney and Coach Wooden – from my original 10.

As a special treat for *Disney Files* readers, I

asked Ryan March if I could introduce Part 2 on these pages. So here, in capsule form (the speech is longer!), are the first of those new additions, with others to follow in the summer 2017 issue. I guarantee you a great ride into creative imagination!

**“It has to be magic – but it doesn’t have to be seamless.”** Michael Eisner, Chairman and CEO, The Walt Disney Company (1984-2005)

Michael Eisner and his executive partner, Chief Operating Officer Frank Wells, injected new life into The Walt Disney Company when they became Disney’s top management team in the fall of 1984. The Disney Parks and Resorts, motion pictures and television (with the purchase of ABC) all grew by leaps and bounds. And new ventures – theatre productions and Disney Cruise Line among them – came into being. But it was Eisner’s clarity and focus on storytelling that drove us in creating new Disney Parks and Resorts projects.

In my book, *Dream It! Do It! My Half-Century Creating Disney's Magic Kingdoms*, I included a number of my favorite Michael Eisner quotes: “This is so large and impractical – that’s what appeals to me” and “I like this because it’s driven by entertainment – and not by office buildings.” But his best was [the above quote] about “creating magic.” It connected perfectly with another of my favorite quotes from UCLA’s great basketball coach, John Wooden: “Perfection is a goal that can never be achieved – but it must be the objective.”

Michael understood that the Disney Parks are living organisms that can – and must – be re-shaped on an ongoing basis to meet guest expectations and competition, and to take advantage of new ideas, new technologies and new times. Always strive for the very best you can do. But very few things are “seamless” at birth,

especially if they are new, innovative and “magic.”

Walt Disney Imagineering creative executive Kevin Rafferty (whose wisdom also is included in the next installment of this *Disney Files* column) has put it this way: “Once that orchestra starts coming together, constant changes can be costly and disruptive. It’s okay to do a little ‘arm waving’ as the project evolves because unexpected things always happen, but major changes and redirection brought on midstream means the idea was not rock solid to begin with. Be smart about the up-front. Be thorough. Rally the troops around a good, solid idea and say, ‘We’re going this way.’”

**“Love what you do!”** Daniel Jue, Portfolio Creative Executive, Tokyo Disney Resort, Walt Disney Imagineering

At the risk of promoting another of my books, this advice appeared in my second book, *One Little Spark!*, published in 2015 by Disney Editions. Daniel wrote about passion. His full quote: “Love what you do. To me, this is more important than ‘Do what you love.’ Whatever job you can get, no matter how small or simple, have the passion to do it well.”

I liked this advice so much that I asked Daniel to expand on his thinking in another section of the book, *Become the Best*. Daniel wrote: “When you do your job with passion, you will excel and you will become the best at what you do. People want to work with people who love what they do. They will want you on their team. They will mentor you. They will give you opportunities. If you take advantage of enough of these opportunities, then someday you may have the luxury to do what you love.”

**“None of us is as smart as all of us.”** Warren Bennis, Distinguished Professor of Business Administration, University of Southern California Marshall School of Business

Believe me, it was not easy for this old UCLA

Bruin to include this quote from a professor at that school across town in Los Angeles. But Professor Bennis’ book, *Organizing Genius, The Secrets of Creative Collaboration*, co-written with Patricia Ward Biederman, is one of my very favorite explorations of leading and developing new, creative projects.

I love this quote from *Organizing Genius*: “Life in great groups is different from much of real life. It’s better ... On those rare and happy occasions when you are part of a great group, you know the truth of Noel Coward’s observation that ‘work was more fun than fun.’”

Please count me in!

**“Everything’s a lobby!”** Stanley “Mickey” Steinberg, Senior Advisor, The Portman Holdings Companies, Atlanta; former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Walt Disney Imagineering

Mickey Steinberg was my favorite “partner” at Imagineering in the development of the Disney Parks. From a management standpoint, no one was more responsible for the successful launch of Disneyland Paris, the foundation for Disney’s Animal Kingdom Theme Park and the organization of Imagineering’s 140 disciplines into its most efficient working team.

Coming to Walt Disney Imagineering from the respected and successful John Portman Architectural firm in Atlanta, Ga., Mickey was initially taken aback by the difference between designing a hotel – a Portman specialty – and Disney Park projects.

“In the hotels,” he said, “we concentrated on making the lobby the focus of our best design. After all, it’s the one-of-a-kind feature in a hotel. But in a Disney Park, *everything’s a lobby!* You have to treat every design as an important feature, because that’s how our guests experience them.”

So you think your little piece of the project – your part in the storytelling – is insignificant? Don’t tell that to Mickey Steinberg!

Look for more of Marty’s “best advice” in the summer edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.



# The Wonderful, *natural* World of Walt Disney

By Jim Korkis

While Walt Disney may not have been with us to enjoy the first Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival back in 1994, history would suggest he would've warmly embraced this spring tradition.

Walt's love of nature is well documented, reflected in everything from his cinematic, television and Theme Park creations to the subject matter of numerous books that once again line the shelves of his recently restored Burbank offices (familiar to those who enjoyed exclusive footage of Walt's office suite during the 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise).

Walt's love of the planet we all share is evident in many of his writings, including one of my favorites, a piece he penned as part of the foreword for the book *Secrets of Life* (Simon and Schuster, 1957), saying, "... landscapes of great wonder and beauty lie under our feet and all around us. They are discovered in tunnels in the ground, the hearts of flowers, the hollows of trees, fresh-water ponds, seaweed jungles between tides, and even drops of water. Life in these hidden worlds is more startling in reality than anything we can imagine on other planets."

So as we welcome another spring, celebrate another Earth Day and revel in the colorful pageantry of another Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival, I thought it would be fun to till up some of Walt's many connections to the natural world.

## Walt's complicated relationship with gardens:

Walt's wife, Lillian, maintained a personal garden for decades at the home she shared with Walt in the Holmby Hills, where she famously vetoed plans to run his miniature backyard railroad directly through the garden, forcing him to build a tunnel beneath it.

While Walt tried his own hand at gardening, seeing how it proved to be an after-work stress reliever for his older brother Roy, he soon found he simply didn't have the patience. Walt's gardening woes even inspired the 1935 short "Mickey's Garden," in which Mickey battled

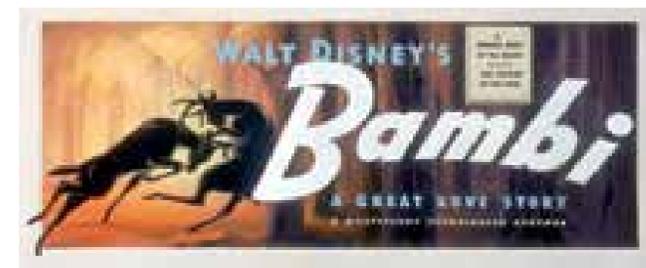
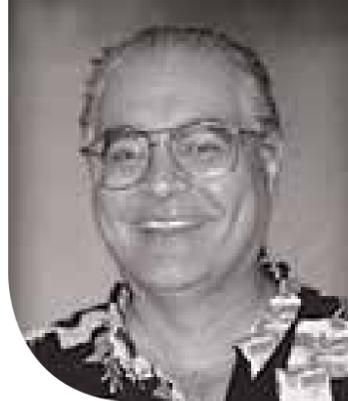
(unsuccessfully) with a variety of insects invading his garden.



"I don't like formal gardens," Walt later concluded. "I like wild nature. It's just the wilderness instinct in me, I guess."

Formal gardens did, however, play a big role in Walt's Disneyland dream, including a rose garden reflecting Lillian's love of roses. Today, both Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park showcase a special rose developed in 2001 called the Disneyland Rose. This unique variety of the Floribunda Rose features multi-color blooms ranging from orange to pink and is available to the public at select nurseries.

Another Southern California tribute to Lillian's love of flowers in general and roses in particular can be found at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, where architect Frank Gehry designed the hall to represent a blooming flower in a garden, saying, "Lillian Disney loved flowers and gardens. I promised I'd build her a garden." The venue includes the Lillian Disney Memorial Fountain, designed by Gehry to resemble a rose crafted from 200 shattered vases and 8,000 tiles of Delftware - white-and-blue porcelain from the Netherlands that Lillian loved to collect.



**Man is in the forest:** Walt's love of the wild is clearly reflected in the animated classic *Bambi* (1942), which he made in part to inspire audiences to be good stewards of nature.

"There is always need for vigilance and further education in all public channels, on matters of conservation," Walt said. "I regard it as a privilege of the American citizen. We are entitled, by common consent, to experience the delights, the beauties and wonders of living creation in the world around us - just as we have asserted a common right to visit woodland, mountain, desert and seashore areas in national parks and monuments. We claim these privileges for our children, as well as for the present generations."

Painter and Disney Legend Tyrus Wong (who recently passed away at the remarkable age of 106) created the film's impressionist water color backgrounds, emphasizing the ethereal beauty and mystery of the forest by eliminating the busy detail. He created grass with just a few streaks of actual blades and allowed patches of light to bring out necessary details like the trunk of a tree or a log.

*Bambi* and friends became the first animated ambassadors for the prevention of forest fires, starring in a popular advertising campaign that later inspired the U.S. Forest Service to create Smokey the Bear. When *Bambi* joined the National Film Registry of the Library of Congress in 2011, Registry representatives called the film one of Walt's favorites and recognized the importance of its "eloquent message of nature conservation."

**True-Life Adventures:** *Bambi* inspired Walt to explore a new path of filmmaking, bringing relatable stories of nature to the big screen through 13 live-action films that would form the "True-Life Adventures" series, which went on to inspire kids in public schools for decades after their theatrical release.

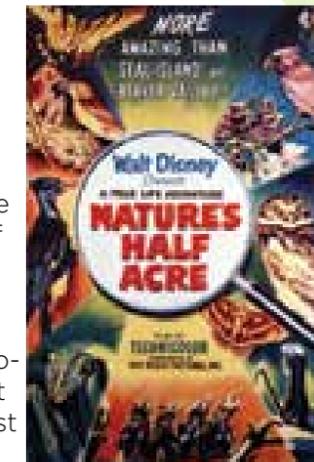
"In all my years of picture making, I have never had more satisfaction or felt more

useful in the business of entertainment than I have in making the 'True-Life Adventures' features," Walt said. "When I walk in my garden, I now see a world of life I never noticed before setting out to make films of living things in their natural setting. In the dusk of evening, one of my favorite occupations is to find a web-building spider and watch it work. This is one of the most fascinating and thought-provoking acts in nature."

In 2008, The Walt Disney Company resumed its commitment to telling nature stories on the big screen with the launch of DisneyNature, a label that now boasts six of the seven highest-grossing nature films of all time (*Earth*, *Chimpanzee*, *Oceans*, *Bears*, *Monkey Kingdom* and *African Cats*).

**A legacy of conservation:** Many of the world's leading animal and conservation organizations bestowed prestigious honors upon Walt Disney, including the American Forestry Association, the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club and the American Humane Association.

Walt even served as honorary chairman for the National Wildlife Federation, filming Public Service Announcements in 1956, 1957, 1961, 1964 and 1966. Appearing on camera for the 1956 piece, Walt said, "You've probably heard people talk about conservation. Well, conservation isn't just the business of a few people. It's a matter that concerns all of us. It's a science whose principles are written in the oldest code in the world, the laws of nature. The natural resources of our vast continent are not inexhaustible. But if we will use our riches wisely, if we will protect our wildlife and preserve our lakes and streams, these things will last us for generations to come."



Jim Korkis' newest book *Walt's Words: Quotations of Walt Disney with Sources!* is now available through leading online booksellers.

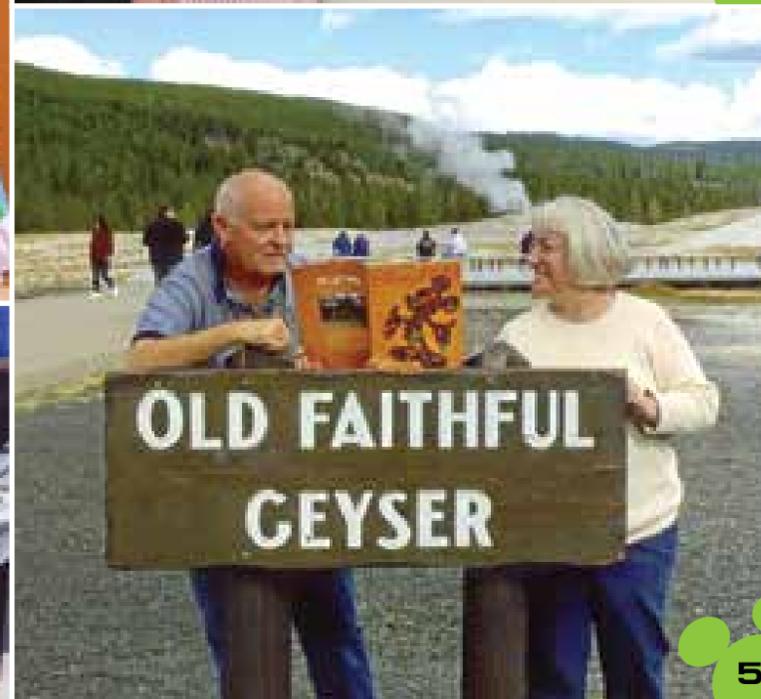
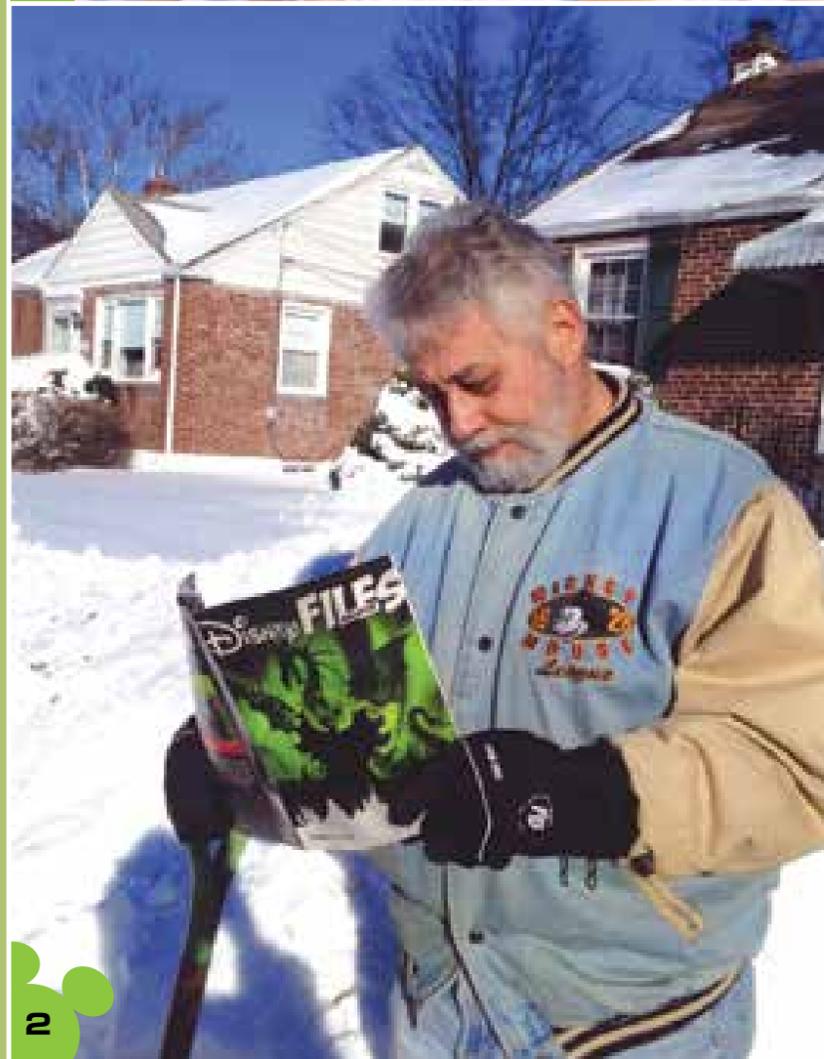


**FAMILY ALBUM**  
Meet Our Members!

1. Caleb and Lily Belle, part of the Stremcha family of California, Members since 2013, enjoy the 2016 Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise in distinctly stylish fashion, with Lily Belle's custom couture generating considerable buzz aboard the ship.
2. Pete Crisanti of Pennsylvania, Member since 1992, takes a break from winter to warm his soul with *Disney Files* Magazine.
3. Alice Mattern of Pennsylvania, Member since 2002, helped Disney Vacation Club paint a *Finding Nemo* mural for a Pennsylvania pediatric hospital at which Alice and granddaughter Emily are volunteers.
4. Preston, part of the Cavalier family of Louisiana, Members since 2010, spends a moment with a fellow space ranger.
5. Dan and Linda Brantner of Florida, Members since 2000, do some light reading at Yellowstone National Park.
6. The kids of the Kim family of Pennsylvania, Members since 2009, help Olaf discover what frozen things do in the Turks & Caicos Islands.
7. Ava, part of the Fresolone family of New York, Members since 1997, peacefully (and adorably!) naps among friends.
8. Hannah, part of the Liberatore family of California, Members since 2003, passes time in her Alcatraz prison cell by reading some good news from the outside.

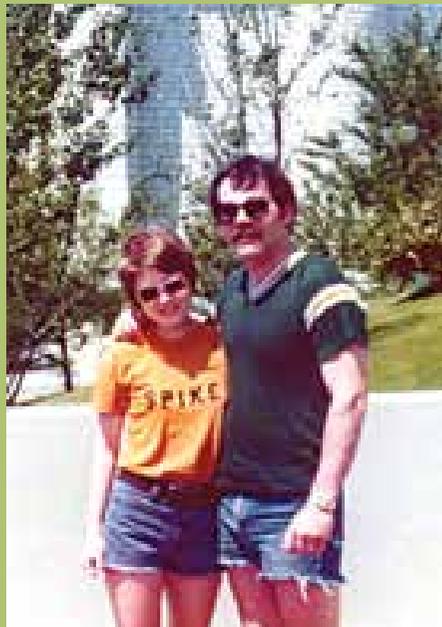
Send your photos (keeping copies for yourself as we won't return ours) to *Disney Files* Magazine, Disney Vacation Club, 1390 Celebration Blvd., Celebration, FL 34747. Remember to include your name, hometown and "Member Since" year, along with a signed release form for each person pictured. The form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



# THE LAST WORD.

*Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to dedicate its back cover to the playful purpose of turning Member memories into editorial exclamation points, with each installment celebrating moments that we think are worthy of having the last word.



Ed and Peg Wiora of Illinois, Members since 1995, recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with a stay at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, where they spent their honeymoon four memorable decades earlier. To mark the matrimonial milestone, Ed and Peg recreated one of their favorite honeymoon photos at Cinderella Castle, even going so far as to mimic their vintage outfits. For fashionably embodying the enduring spirit of "vacations you never outgrow," *Disney Files* Magazine proudly gives the happy couple this edition's last word.