



Disney FILES

MAGAZINE

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Disney Vacation Club®

WELCOME HOME



Asking me to name my favorite Disney Park is a bit like asking my 2-year-old to pick her favorite place to cover with crumbs. They're all great.

So instead, I tend to separate my favorites by category. Favorite in which to relive my childhood? Disneyland Park. Favorite for margaritas, crepes and couscous? Epcot. (See page 15 for details about the newest margarita hotspot at Epcot.) Favorite to dream about visiting for the first time? Tokyo DisneySea. Favorite in which to annoyingly explain artistic details while my friends and family are just trying to see the okapi? Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.

This edition of *Disney Files Magazine* marks the milestone 20th anniversary of the latter by exploring 20 of our favorite details in the park (pages 3-8). Our celebration of this unique species of theme park also includes notes about new Disney's Animal Kingdom entertainment (page 21) and Jim Korkis' fascinating examination of the Tree of Life (pages 27-28).

There's another question I receive from Members that's equally difficult to answer: "Who have you most enjoyed getting to know through your career?" As I often field this question while surrounded by presenters aboard a Member Cruise, my answer tends to include whoever is standing next to me.

But truth be told, I do have a mental list of people I'd name even if they couldn't hear me, and one of them (written in bold, underlined twice and marked with a little gold star) is Don Hahn. More than just the legendary producer of such Disney classics as *Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*, Don is a multitalented artist, a trusted Disney historian and – as any of you who've met him aboard a Member Cruise can attest – one of the kindest people on Planet Earth.

Following the unexpected passing of Disney Legend and *Disney Files Magazine* columnist Marty Sklar (another person on my mental list of favorites), Don asked if I'd be open to him carrying on Marty's tradition by penning his own periodic *Disney Files* column. Now THAT was an easy question to answer. You'll find the first installment of Don's new column on pages 23-26, and we look forward to sharing more of his perspectives in the months and years ahead.

In the meantime, I'm off to find my hiding toddler. Just follow the crumbs.

Welcome home,

Ryan March
Disney Files Editor

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Update your mailing address online at disneyvacationclub.com

Contact Member Services from 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Eastern weekdays, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Eastern weekends
From the U.S.: call (800) 800-9800 or (407) 566-3800

From Mexico: call 01-800-436-0264

From the U.K.: call 08007832893

Visit the Help & Contact section of disneyvacationclub.com for toll-free numbers serving other countries.
Email Member Services at: members@disneyvacationclub.com

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#DVCMEMBER

No average community



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

While all of us at Disney Vacation Club are inspired by the traits Members share – from the priority you place on vacations to the trust you place in us to make those vacations memorable – we’re equally inspired by what makes you different.

Many of you vacation to renew traditions with your kids. Others with your grandkids, great grandkids or no kids at all. Some use the magic of Membership to travel the world. Others simply to travel World Showcase at Epcot. You represent more than 100 countries and all 50 states. You’re Boomers, X’ers, Millennials and Generation Z. Simply put, your diversity is the reason our formula for success really isn’t a formula at all. To faithfully serve the Member community is to do so with its differences in mind.

It’s why our portfolio of resorts has included such a wide range of accommodation styles since day one, and it’s why we’ve diversified your options further in recent years with everything from split-bathroom Deluxe Studios and Bora Bora Bungalows at Disney’s Polynesian Villas & Bungalows to the Cascade Cabins of Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney’s Wilderness Lodge.

It’s why our slate of Membership Magic experiences continues to evolve with events of such varying style and scale, from Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic events that serve thousands to more intimate gatherings designed to delight as few as 20. And it’s why we continue to present many of these events in new places. The 2018 Moonlight Magic slate is broader than ever (see pages 9-10), and as this magazine arrives in your mailbox, the team behind the Disney Vacation Club Member Cruise is developing a plan to take that neighborhood block party at sea to places it’s never been

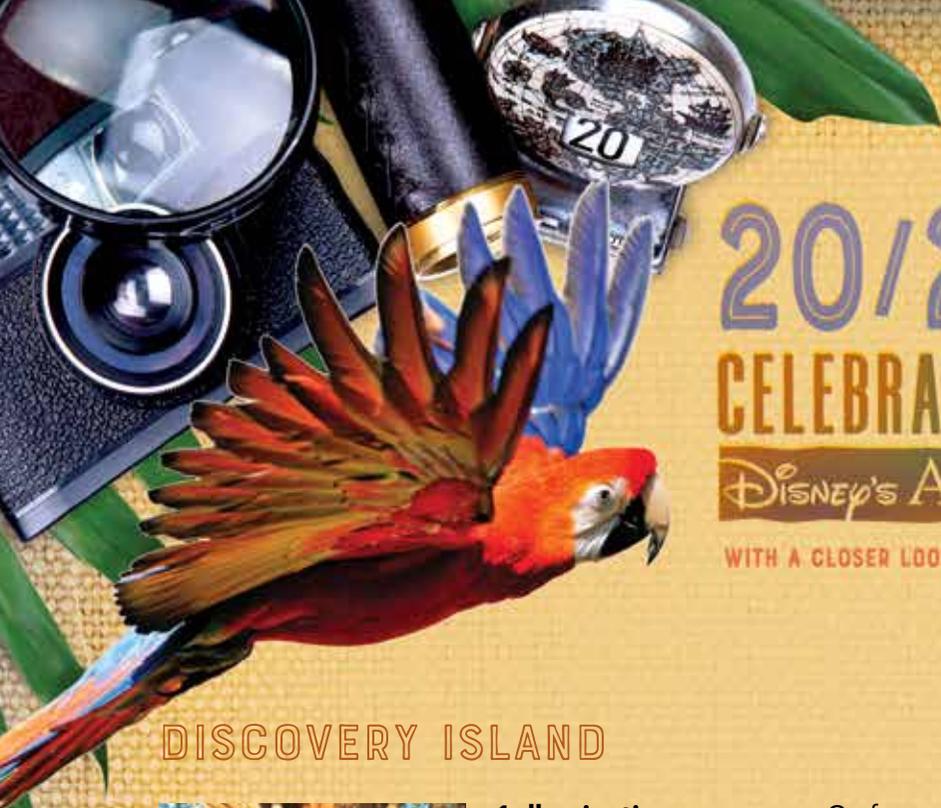
before in 2019 (watch disneyvacationclub.com and [Facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub](https://www.facebook.com/DisneyVacationClub) for 2019 Member Cruise details in the months ahead).

It’s why we continually broaden our services to meet the diverse needs and desires of Member families, from extending Member Services hours (see hours listed at the bottom of page 1) to making Member Services Cast Members available in the Member Lounge at Epcot to providing upgraded housekeeping support at our resorts.

It’s why we deliver Member communications with an “all-of-the-above” approach, sharing news and information in print, online, by email and through social media. And it’s why our latest line of Member merchandise is anything but “off the rack.” (See page 11 for details.)

We’re working to take a more personalized approach to everything we do, as we recognize that serving Disney Vacation Club Members begins with recognizing that there’s really no such thing as an “average” Member. It’s also why my colleagues and I rarely have an “average” day at work, and for that, we couldn’t be more grateful.





20/20 Visions

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF

DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM

WITH A CLOSER LOOK AT 20 OF OUR FAVORITE PLACES IN THE PARK

DISCOVERY ISLAND



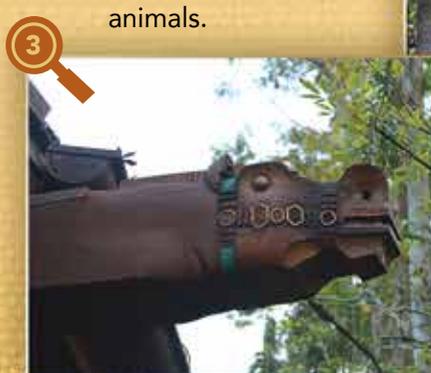
1. Illuminating 'Discovery': The park's hub, Discovery Island, doesn't represent a specific place on Earth but rather a utopia united by a love of animals. While the 145-foot-tall Tree of Life and its more than 325 meticulously detailed animal carvings are the area's

most photographed celebrations of the animal kingdom, look for more subtle salutes throughout Discovery Island. Architectural elements, for example, honor nature's diversity through folk art inspired by Oaxacan wood carving, Japanese Netsuke, Indonesian textile design, Batcheldor

Craftsman tile, Moche and Nayarit Pre-Columbian ceramics and more. Look for light fixtures designed around the hubs of old wagon wheels. More than just a nod to this 'hub' of the park, each wagon wheel hub freed from its wheel symbolizes beasts of burden being unburdened.

2. Out-of-the-box thinking: Tiffins, Discovery Island's signature-dining restaurant, shares its name with the Indian word for portable lunch boxes, examples of which you'll find at the restaurant's entrance. The restaurant's menu and décor draw inspiration from the global travels of Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team, Walt Disney Imagineers and other visionaries who helped bring the park to life.

3. Nod to nomads: The animals depicted through carvings at Tiffins' adjacent Nomad Lounge are all traveling, nomadic animals.



AFRICA

4. Listen to the land: Changes in the landscape of the park's Africa area represent more than 500 miles of African terrain, beginning at the bridge into Harambe Village, where landscaping represents Africa's coastal region, and continuing to the forest and savannah of Kilimanjaro Safaris. Every hill, pothole, plant and tree helps tell the story of Africa. Look for changing colors of dirt during your Kilimanjaro Safaris expedition, as each color represents a different part of the continent.

5. Doctor's orders: The popular Dawa Bar shares its name with the Swahili word for "medicine" and also a slang term for alcoholic beverages. The Harambe local who established this bar took to calling himself "Dr. Dawa."

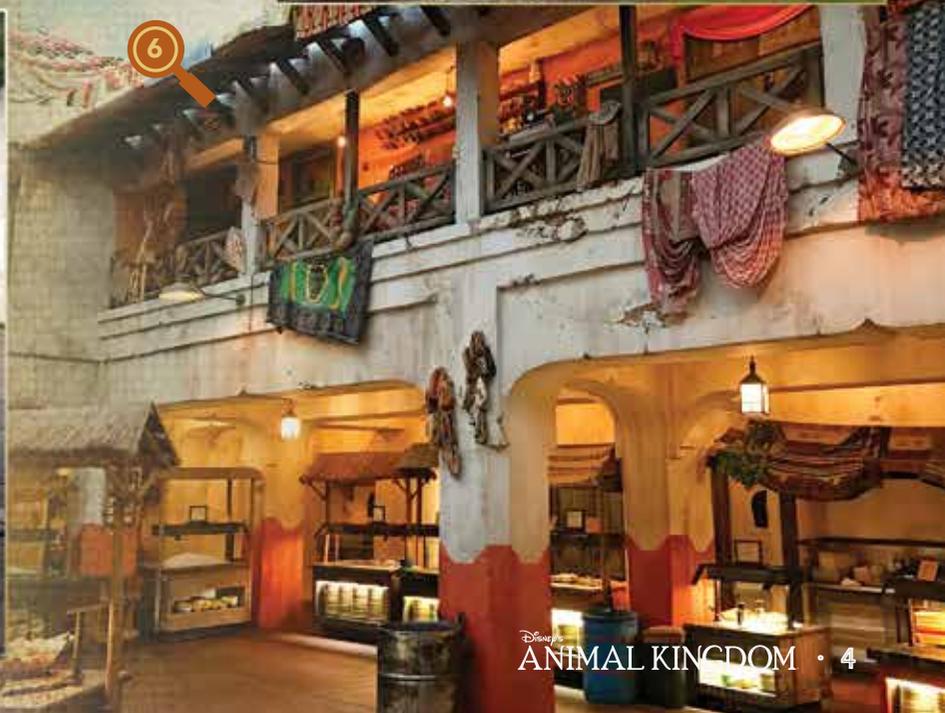
6. Courtyard of commerce: While selecting your food from the bountiful buffet at Tusker House Restaurant, you're in the Biashara Courtyard, an urban space beneath long swaths of overhead kanga cloth. "Biashara" is Swahili for "commerce," a nod to the small local businesses you'll notice on the courtyard's second floor.

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park is home to more than **2,000** animals.

7. Behold the fort: The cannon positioned near the Dawa Bar is a relic of Harambe history. A center for ivory trade from the 15th through 19th centuries, Harambe protected its town and treasured commodity by building a Portuguese fort in the 1400s. Many Arabian, Portuguese and British colonizers came and went through the years until the area gained independence in 1961, at which time Harambe ended the harvesting of ivory and began protecting its local wildlife. Viewing the river from beside the cannon, visitors may notice a local's boat moored against the old fort wall.

8. Train of thought: Imagineers designed the Wildlife Express locomotive that carries visitors from Africa to Rafiki's Planet Watch as a replica of a 1926 Beyer-Peacock 2-4-2T steam train, which commonly operated in East Africa.





PANDORA - THE WORLD OF AVATAR

Imagineering insight: Walt Disney Imagineers employ both “outer” and “inner” berms to prevent contradictory information from entering the worlds they create. The outer berm is typically a massive landscape feature that visually shields the land or park from the outside world, while the inner berm is a series of intricate details that draw viewers’ focus so intently that they stop analyzing and just live in the world. “Detail exists for only one reason, to uphold the narrative reality of the story being told,” explained Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde. “Detail is entirely dependent on how closely people are able to observe. But when they are able to look very closely, and for a long time, then the requirements for detail are absolute. The detail is the inner berm.”

9. ‘Knot’ to be overlooked: The entirely hand-tied knots found on totems and other woven objects on Pandora are among the area’s many striking examples of the inner berm.

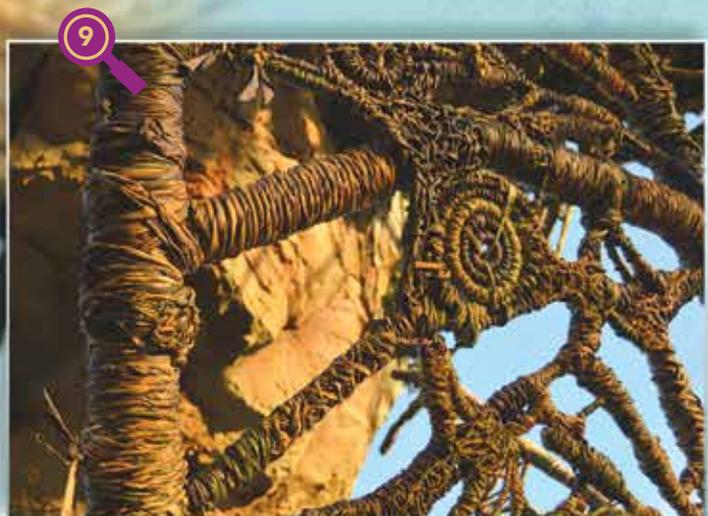
10. More than manholes: What appear to be manhole covers on Pandora are actually corner locks (securing the corners of four slabs) for the abandoned encampment of the Resources Development Association, the Earth-based organization whose mining of unobtainium sparked

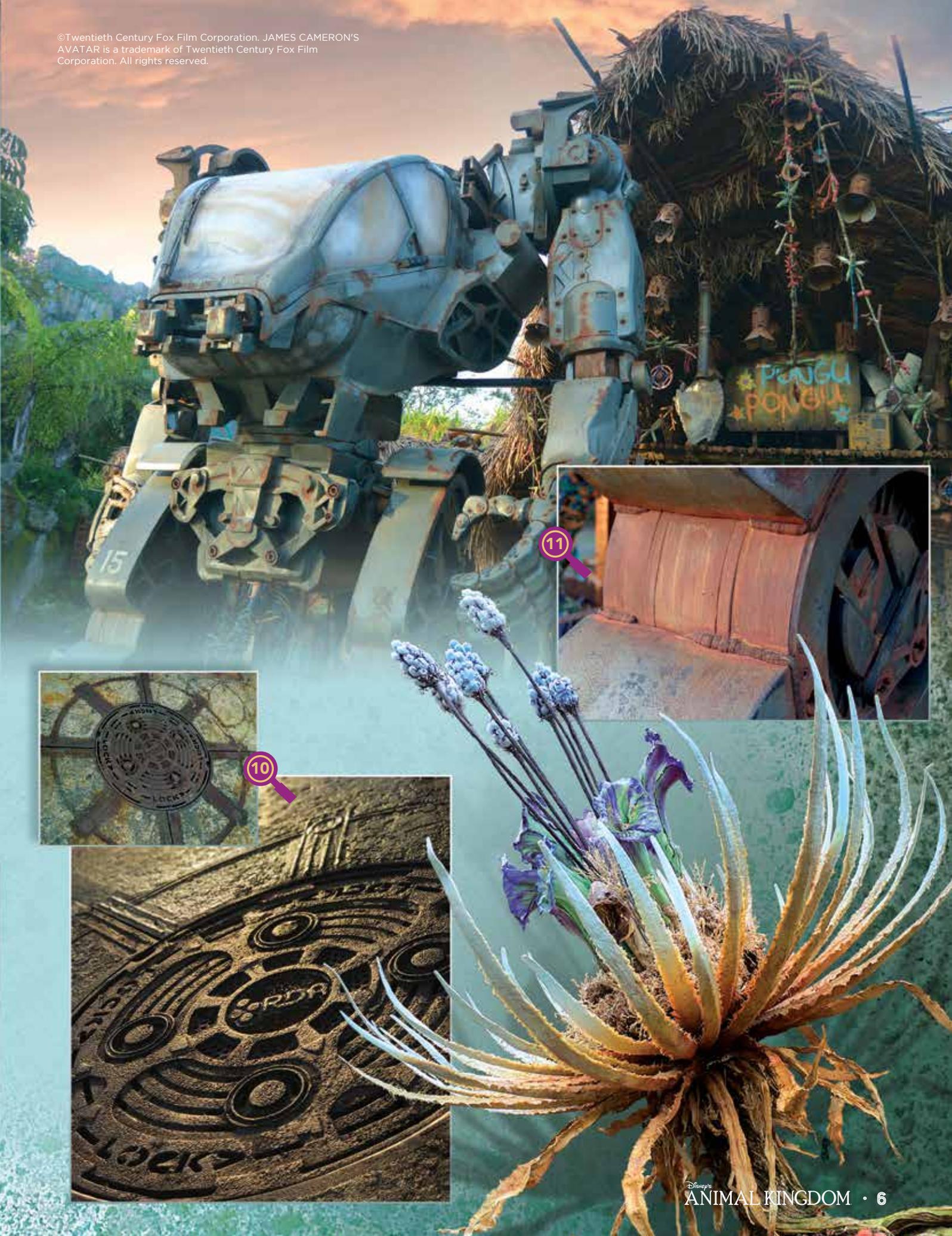
the devastating conflict on Pandora.

11. Have no fear: Look for weld marks along the joints of the old RDA Amp Suit in front of the Pongu Pongu beverage stand on Pandora, as they’re among the area’s very purposeful details. “This huge walking suit, basically a pedestrian tank, is a relic of a long-past conflict,” Joe explained. “How best to signify that it is no longer able to be militarized? Weld off the joints! I grew up in Hawai’i, when Waikiki still had huge bore guns mounted along the beach ... We played on them as if they were just another jungle gym. They, too, had been welded into non-working condition. Big machines are impressive, and for this RDA Amp Suit, we wanted people to enjoy the machine without the connotation that it could still be used to attack. We needed to absorb the very contradictory presence of a big machine in our themes of regeneration, vitality and the power of nature. Rust helps, but the welds are a signifier of choice, not just time. They’re a discreet, respectful, effective way to say, ‘This thing isn’t going anywhere. Have no fear.’”

NOTABLE NUMBERS

Crews used more than **720** tons of steel to create the iconic floating mountains of Pandora.





10



11





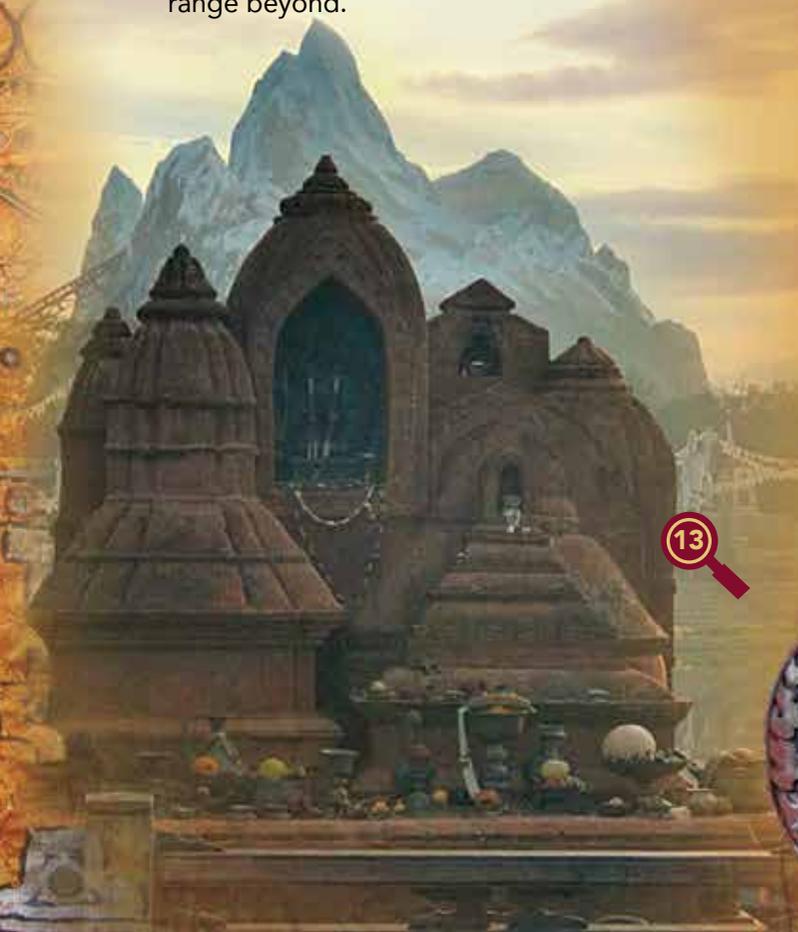
ASIA

12. Blurred lines: Serka Zong, the town at the base of Expedition Everest – Legend of the Forbidden Mountain, roughly translates to “fortress of the chasm,” a reference to structures built out of rammed earth. These structures, found in numerous regions of Nepal, erode quickly into forms that can appear indistinguishable from natural formations. Most of the buildings surrounding the park’s Everest represent this style, drawing inspiration from Tibetan cultural areas explored and studied by Imagineers.

13. A ‘shrine’ of things to come: Just beyond the main entrance to Asia and the Drinkwallah refreshment stand, with the primate habitat on your left, look to your right for an observation site, where you’ll find a bronze Yeti (the Sherpa word for “magical creature”) within a shrine composed of carved stone stupas. Notice how the shrine’s shape is designed to mimic the contours of the mountain range beyond.

14. Listen up: From the Peninsula Shrine, continue to the small collection of buildings that include area restrooms and signage for the still-under-construction Yeti Palace Hotel. Look for the “Shangri-La Trekker’s Inn & Internet Café” on the second floor, and listen ‘up.’ You may hear the voices of locals discussing the Yeti with European and American trekkers. Music accompanying the conversation remixes popular Tibetan, Indian and Himalayan tunes.

15. Getting there is half the fun: The Expedition Everest standby queue is comprised of structures once dedicated to the harvesting and shipping of tea for the Royal Anandapur Tea Company, which for years transported its tea by train from Serka Zong through the Forbidden Mountain pass. When a series of mysterious accidents closed the railroad, the village languished. Today, with Serka Zong having emerged from the shadow of its tragic past, these buildings house local entrepreneurs, including Himalayan Escapes, Tours and Expeditions. While exploring the buildings, you’ll enter the expedition booking office, a temple courtyard, a general store and the Yeti Museum. The Disney FastPass+ queue presents a similar story though a Permit Office, museum annex and other visually engaging spaces in shorter format.



NOTABLE NUMBERS

Crews planted more than **4 MILLION** plants, trees and grasses during construction of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.



DINOLAND U.S.A.

16. Feast for the eyes: The bustling Restaurantosaurus is filled with visual connections to the building's history as a fossil research lab. Paleontologists transformed the former fishing lodge into a makeshift headquarters following the 1947 discovery of dinosaur fossils at a local dig site (a site known today as The Boneyard, which kids seem to "dig"). Encased bulletin boards displaying messages to the lab's interns (to the left of the cash registers) are among the *Disney Files* staff's favorite details. (We're also quite fond of the facility's numerous tongue-in-cheek uses of "osaurus," from an "EXIT-osaurus" sign in a dining room to an "International-osaurus" RV in front of the restaurant.)

17. Refusing to sell: While the scientists continued to purchase land in the area to expand their dig site and eventually build the Dino Institute (in the 1970s), local gas station proprietors Chester and Hester refused to sell their service station. With dinosaur mania drawing more and more road-tripping families to the area, Chester and Hester capitalized by turning their gas station into a fossil-souvenir store – Chester & Hester's Dinosaur Treasures. The shop's success allowed the dino-loving duo to develop their roadside carnival – Chester & Hester's Dino-Rama!

18. Gentle mockery: The Primeval Whirl attraction at Chester & Hester's Dino-Rama! is an irreverent, affectionate spoof of the more serious DINOSAUR attraction at the nearby Dino Institute. The parody begins with a marquee image of a dinosaur sitting in a ride vehicle (referring to the dinosaur being brought back in the time-traveling Dinosaur ride vehicle) and continues throughout the rollicking ride.

19. Playful spin: While little about Chester and Hester – or their "Dino-Rama!" – is subtle, some easy-to-miss details on the Triceratops Spin ride vehicles reinforce the attraction's vintage-tin-toy design, including "metal" tabs, rivets and seams on each Triceratops.

20. Lucky number: Notice that the "Diggs County" highway surrounding Chester & Hester's Dino-Rama! is U.S. Route 498, a number that nicely mirrors the April 1998 opening of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park.



2018 is aglow with Moonlight Magic

Members enjoying bigger-than-ever lineup of parties in the parks

What's more fun than rolling through Radiator Springs, exploring Pandora - The World of Avatar or walking right down the middle of Main Street, U.S.A.? Doing all of that and more without the usual crowd.

That's the "magic" of Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic, a **complimentary** lineup of late-night events that turn Disney Parks into Members' own personal playgrounds. Presented as part of Membership Magic at the end of each park's regular operating day, Moonlight Magic events invite Members and special guests to enjoy shorter-than-usual wait times on popular attractions, photo opportunities with off-the-beaten-path characters, complimentary refreshments, festive dance parties and more.

Moonlight Magic is back and bigger than ever in 2018, with parties already confirmed for every month through November, and with additional dates still to come. The expanded slate began with January and February parties at Magic Kingdom Park and continues this spring with events at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park (as reservations for these March 21, April 17 and May 16 parties opened in February, the events may have

filled to capacity by the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox).

Up next are summer celebrations at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park, followed later in the summer with parties at Epcot. September and October bring Moonlight Magic for the first time to Disney's Hollywood Studios, where partygoers may experience the new Toy Story Land, scheduled to open this summer. Another Pixar play place gets the Moonlight Magic treatment in November, when the event returns to Disney California Adventure Park and its new Pixar Pier (see pages 19-20 to learn more about Pixar Pier).

Page 10 lists more details about the upcoming Moonlight Magic slate, including event and online booking dates. Please note that, in order to allow as many Members as possible to enjoy Moonlight Magic, only one event date for each participating park will be available per Membership.

Trip Tip: While Moonlight Magic events officially begin after the parks have concluded their regular operating days, attendees have the option of getting a jump start on the fun by mixing in with the day guests earlier in the evening.

*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1

Disney Vacation Club®
**MOONLIGHT
MAGIC**





Very Important Dates

While disneyvacationclub.com is the most comprehensive source for information about the veritable Wonderland of Member gatherings, celebrations and other special events* on our community calendar (browse events, sort by destination and more on the site's Event Calendar, located under the Plan Vacations tab), *Disney Files* Magazine is pleased to highlight just a few of these very important dates. Please note that dates and details are subject to change, and that more information (including pricing and registration details if applicable) debuts on the aforementioned online Event Calendar as updates become available.

*With the exception of the Condominium Association Meeting, 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.

Walt Disney World

- **March 21, April 17 and May 16: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park**** (These dates may have booked to capacity by the time this magazine arrives in your mailbox.)
- **May 30 and June 11: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Typhoon Lagoon Water Park**** (Booking begins April 19 for Members with resort reservations on the event dates. Pending availability, booking opens for all Members May 3.)
- **July 16 and Aug. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Epcot**** (Booking begins June 6 for Members with resort reservations on the event dates. Pending availability, booking opens for all Members June 20.)
- **Sept. 19 and 26, and Oct. 3: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney's Hollywood Studios**** (Booking begins Aug. 30 for Members with resort reservations on the event dates. Pending availability, booking opens for all Members Sept. 13.)
- **Dec. 13: Condominium Association Meeting** – Watch disneyvacationclub.com for time and location details for the annual condominium association meeting for all condominium associations, currently scheduled to take place on Dec. 13 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 (look for the Condo Association News section within the My DVC Membership tab).

**Please note that, in order to allow as many Members as possible to enjoy Moonlight Magic, only one event date for each participating park will be available per Membership.

Disneyland Resort

- **Nov. 15: Disney Vacation Club Moonlight Magic at Disney California Adventure Park** (Booking begins for all Members Oct. 4.)

Stay up to date at disneyvacationclub.com

Holiday events: Watch disneyvacationclub.com and upcoming editions of *Disney Files* Magazine for details about seasonal dinners and other special holiday celebrations in the works for Members at both Disneyland Resort and Walt Disney World Resort.

Ongoing events: Check the Event Calendar online at disneyvacationclub.com before your next vacation for details about ongoing Member events, from fitness experiences at Disneyland Resort to fireworks cruises at Walt Disney World Resort and more.

MEMBERSHIP EXTRAS *part of*



Disney Files Magazine is pleased to highlight select Membership Extras available as part of Membership Magic. For a more comprehensive look at available extras, visit disneyvacationclub.com (My DVC Membership, Member Benefits & More).

Personal pride

Personalized Member merchandise available for as little as \$9.95 (plus tax)

Members looking to wear their pride on their sleeve have asked for personalized resort merchandise options, and Disney Vacation Club has responded with a new collection designed to be as flexible as Membership itself. Available exclusively online at shopDisney.com/dvc, the customizable collection of shirts, bags, drinkware and more allows Members to design the details. The line represents each Disney Vacation Club Resort with a unique logo and color, and Members may personalize most designs with their "Member Since" year. Here's a look at just a small sampling of the expansive collection waiting to be personalized online.





A new 'train' of thought

Reunion Station reinvents the Member gathering space

Disney's Wilderness Lodge: What appears to be a repurposed railroad station at the edge of Bay Lake generated a lot of questions around the *Disney Files* newsroom as soon as it appeared on enhancement plans for Disney's Wilderness Lodge. Is it an activity center? A concierge lounge? A place to eat crudité? (We just like saying "crudité.") Can we go there to take a class? Relax with Riesling? Board a train to Portland? The answer, to all but the last of our questions, is yes.

Reunion Station, scheduled to open this spring, is a new kind of gathering space created exclusively for Disney Vacation Club Members* and flexibly designed to serve as a private lounge with foods and beverages by morning and evening, a center for paid workshops and activities by midday, and a relaxing (complimentary!) retreat for Members by night.

The food-and-beverage-inclusive lounge, available as an add-on option for Members staying in any Disney Vacation Club accommodation type at Boulder Ridge Villas or Copper Creek Villas & Cabins at Disney's Wilderness Lodge, will operate from 7-10 a.m. (when pastries, fruits, cereals, juices and more will be available) and 4-6 p.m. (when wine, beer, cheeses, salads, soups, desserts and the aforementioned crudité will be among the options) daily. Prices at press time for the lounge-access option are \$50 a night for adults

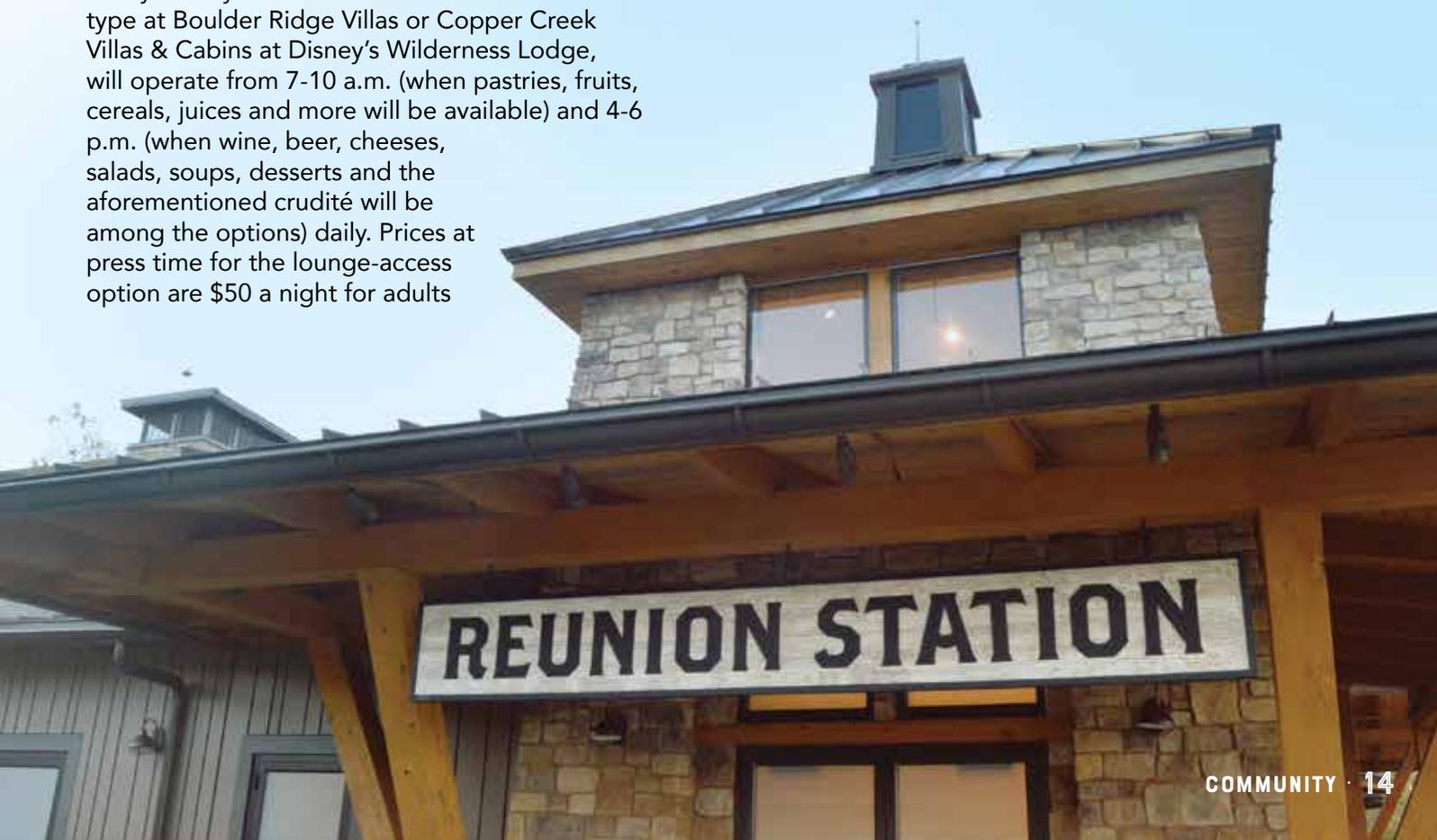
and \$33 a night for kids ages 3-9. (Note that this option is available only for the entire length of stay and for every member of the traveling party.)

From 11 a.m.-3 p.m. daily, Reunion Station will host an evolving array of special paid experiences created with Members in mind, from beverage tastings to a class designed to help you get the most out of that camera on your smart phone. (Fun fact: almost all of the Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park photos in this edition of *Disney Files* Magazine were shot on our phones.)

And from 7-10 p.m. daily, Reunion Station will open its doors to Members* for mixing and mingling. A Concierge host will be on hand during these nighttime hours to answer questions and offer assistance.

Watch disneyvacationclub.com for updates and booking information, and if you do add that lounge-access option, save us some crudité!

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



REUNION STATION



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 the Snyder family of Michigan, Member since 2014.

Some of the *Disney Files* staff's favorite "My Disney Home" submissions showcase spaces that begin with a Disney spark of inspiration but become something entirely new through the personal expressions of their designers. Such is the case with the Snyder family's nursery, initially inspired by a cross-stitch that Mom-to-be Kate lovingly created based on "it's a small world" concept art by Disney Legend Mary Blair. Growing from that charming piece, the joyful aesthetic that now surrounds baby Wilson includes everything from framed and dimensional artwork (both of the Disney and non-Disney variety) to an eye-popping "big top" ceiling that, while inspired by the world of *Dumbo*, also reminds us of a certain small world beneath "just one moon and one golden sun."



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. (Note: Including your email address with your submission allows us to follow up with any questions we may have about your creation.)

RCI[®] presents

PICTURE THIS

The narrow, whitewashed streets of Mijas are among the many charming destinations sought by travelers to the picturesque province of Malaga on the southeastern coast of Spain. See if you can spot the seven things we've altered in this photo, and visit disneyvacationclub.com to learn more about the thousands of World Collection exchange options at your fingertips as part of Membership Magic.

*Resort options in all destinations are limited and subject to availability. Note that vacation destinations offered through exchange opportunities may require a fee 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.

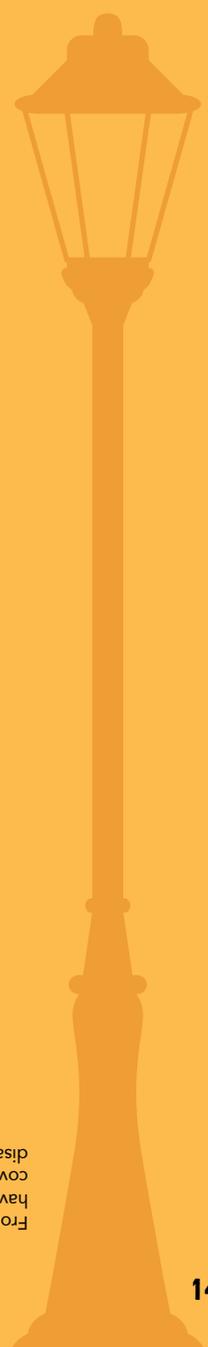


original



altered

From left, (1) a third lamp has joined the pair on the wall, (2) a wall-mounted vase beneath that trio of lamps has grown longer, (3) two new tables have appeared below those four wall-mounted plants, (4) a fourth wall-mounted potted plant has joined the previous trio to form a diamond shape, (5) a new manhole cover has appeared below those four wall-mounted plants, (6) an iron-covered, second-floor window has grown longer and (7) a stanchion has disappeared from the street.





Disney California Adventure Park: The Disney California Adventure Food & Wine Festival expands to six weeks this spring, celebrating flavors of the Golden State from March 2-April 12. Food Network personalities Robert Irvine and Alex Guarnaschelli are among the celebrity chefs scheduled to appear at the festival, which also includes such signature events as the Disney Family of Wines Dinner, Sweet Sundays, Winemaker and Brewmaster Dinners and, for the younger set, Chef Goofy's Junior Chef Experience.

Disneyland Resort: Black Tap Craft Burgers & Beer, known for award-winning burgers, over-the-top milkshakes and distinctly New York vibe, is scheduled to open its first California location across from Catal Restaurant and Uva Bar in the Downtown Disney District at Disneyland Resort in 2018. Black Tap is creating a custom concept for its Downtown Disney location, complete with indoor and outdoor seating.

Disney's Contemporary Resort: The recently refurbished Chef Mickey's on the Grand Canyon Concourse of Disney's Contemporary Resort has added a "Create Your Own Mickey Waffle" station to its breakfast buffet, turning the traditional batter cakes into crispy canvases for everything from chocolate and caramel to bananas and cherries to whipped cream and sprinkles. Can't make a decision? Just go with your gut and keep the line moving. This is no time to "waffle."

Epcot: The new Choza de Margarita has quickly become an Epcot hot spot, having recently replaced the Mexico pavilion's former margarita stand with a bigger-and-better location serving an expanded selection of the signature Mexican cocktail, along with small-bite street foods. Located to the left of the Mexico pavilion's iconic pyramid, the new walk-up window offers on-the-rocks and frozen margaritas, Mexican beers, a non-alcoholic Mexican punch and foods ranging from Tacos al Pastor to Empanadas de Barbacoa to fresh guacamole served with fried flour chicharrones.



Disney Springs: Three new Italian eateries from the Patina Restaurant Group are now open adjacent to The Edison in The Landing neighborhood of Disney Springs at Walt Disney World Resort. Maria & Enzo's, a trattoria set in an abandoned 1930s airline terminal, features 50-foot-high ceilings, air travel artifacts and a family friendly menu of Sicilian favorites. Enzo's Hideaway, a speakeasy inspired by Roman aperitivo bars, serves hearty Roman dishes and prohibition-era cocktails in a rum-runner-tunnel space inspired by Florida's own history of rum running. Rounding out the new trio is Pizza Ponte, a fast-casual pizzeria that also serves sweets and sandwiches. The new eateries expand a growing Disney Springs restaurant slate that recently welcomed The Edison and is scheduled to add Terralina Crafted Italian near the mailing date of this magazine. Other openings on tap include Wine Bar George, Jaleo by José Andrés, and Wolfgang Puck Bar and Grill.



The Plaza Inn's Apple Pie

Among the *Disney Files* staff's latest book obsessions is *Eat Like Walt: The Wonderful World of Disney Food*. Written by noted food-and-wine authority Marcy Carriker Smothers and published by our friends at Disney Editions, the coffee-table-worthy hardcover is a culinary tour of "Walt's Disneyland," which the author notes was ahead of its time in recognizing that food could be not just family *fuel*, but family *fun*. The book also goes "beyond the berm" to explore Walt's favorite foods at home and at the studio before ending with "Recipes of Yesteryear" – borrowed from Walt's kitchen, Disneyland restaurants and the studio commissary. Each edition of our "Disney Dish" column in 2018 will proudly feature one of the book's featured recipes, beginning with this Apple Pie recipe from the Plaza Inn, Walt's favorite Disneyland restaurant. Look for *Eat Like Walt: The Wonderful World of Disney Food* wherever books are sold.

SERVES: 8-10

Crust Ingredients:

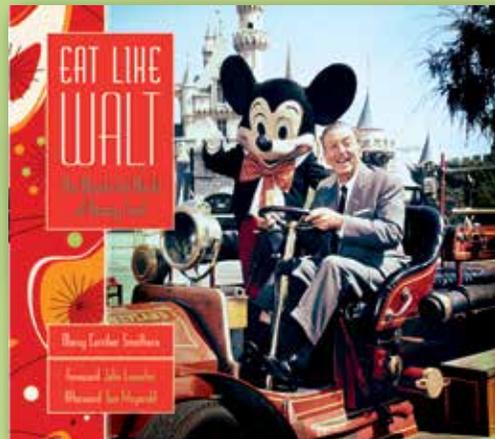
2 cups flour
½ teaspoon salt
6 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening
2 tablespoons butter, chilled
½ cup orange juice, chilled

Filling Ingredients:

3 pounds baking apples
1 lemon, juiced
¾ cups sugar
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/8 teaspoon salt
4 tablespoons butter

Steps:

1. Mix your 2 cups of flour and ½ teaspoon of salt in a bowl. Add shortening and the 2 tablespoons of butter, cutting these ingredients into the flour-salt mixture with a fork until crumbly.
2. Gradually add orange juice until dough holds together. Knead dough lightly and form into two equally sized balls.
3. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate while preparing filling.
4. Peel and core the apples before cutting into ½-inch slices. Place in a bowl. Sprinkle with the lemon juice and mix in the sugar, cinnamon and the 1/8 teaspoon of salt. Let mixture sit at room temperature for 10 minutes, preheating oven to 425 degrees Fahrenheit while you wait.
5. On a floured board, roll out one ball of pastry dough and fit it into the bottom of a 9-inch pie plate.
6. Add filling and dot the top with your 4 tablespoons of chilled butter.
7. Roll out remaining ball of pastry dough and place atop your pie to cover the filling, sealing the edges carefully. Prick the top of the pie with the point of a knife to allow steam to escape.
8. Bake for 10 minutes before reducing the heat to 350 degrees. Continue baking at 350 degrees for 40-50 minutes. Remove pie, and allow it to cool before slicing and serving.



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NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

new or noteworthy in our magical community



Aulani, A Disney Resort & Spa, Ko Olina, Hawai'i: Ko Olina Golf Club, host of the LPGA's LOTTE Championship, recently dedicated a new Mickey Mouse-inspired bunker on its 10th hole, fronting Aulani, as part of the course's three-month renovation. LPGA superstar and Hawai'i native Michelle Wie, who spent her childhood honing her skills at Ko Olina Golf Club, joined Mickey for the bunker's dedication. Visit the Member Benefits & More section of disneyvacationclub.com for details about Member discounts* available through the Ko Olina Golf Club during your Aulani vacation.

Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa: Disney Vacation Club Members are among those enjoying a variety of new amenities at Disney's Grand Californian Hotel & Spa as part of the most extensive refurbishment since the resort's 2001 opening, including expanded pool cabanas. Designed to accommodate six guests, each of the six cabanas features two chaise lounge chairs, a wraparound sofa, a 55-inch smart TV, a dining and gaming table, a ceiling fan, a mini-refrigerator stocked with water, a phone for internal resort calls, a valuables safe and more. Cabana guests

also enjoy food-and-beverage service (including a complimentary fruit platter) and towel service. Full- and half-day pricing details and reservations are available at the resort's Guest Services desk or by calling (714) 635-2300 and selecting option 5. The enhanced Eureka Fitness Center, meanwhile, features treadmills, stationary bikes (upright and recumbent), elliptical machines, free weights, a universal machine, and plenty of open space for stretching and warming up.

Disney Cruise Line and Adventures by Disney: Two of the most popular exchange options* in the Member community – Disney Cruise Line voyages and Adventures by Disney river cruises – have earned top honors from Cruise Critic, a leading online cruise guide. Through its 10th annual Editors' Picks Awards, Cruise Critic ranked Disney Cruise Line No. 1 in the ocean liner categories of "Best Entertainment" and "Best for Families," while placing Adventures by Disney atop its list of "Best for Families" in the river cruise industry.

Disney Vacation Club: Our friends in Member Accounting would like to remind you that, for your protection, Associate Members do not have access to financial information related to your contract(s). Should you wish to grant such access to Associates on your Membership, please visit disneyvacationclub.com/AFA to print and complete the Associate financial authorization form before faxing the completed form to (407) 938-4117 (attention: Member Accounting) or mailing it to Disney Vacation Club Member Accounting, P.O. Box 470727, Celebration, FL 34747.



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



On the nose

Canine conservationist Dory finds success on Treasure Coast

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: The summer 2017 edition of *Disney Files Magazine* introduced Dory, the sea turtle-egg-detecting dog who would follow in the pioneering paw prints of canine conservationist Captain Ron as a uniquely talented assistant to Cast Members from Disney's Animals, Science and Environment team as they locate, document and protect sea turtle nests near Disney's Vero Beach Resort. With the next sea turtle-nesting season now on the horizon, *Disney Files Magazine* is pleased to

report that Dory's first year on the beach was a tremendous success.

The shelter-rescued pup achieved 100 percent accuracy in sea turtle-nest recognition, using her fabulous nose to detect the eggs' location within a foot an astounding 72 percent of the time.

"Often during our morning survey, we would receive a distress call from another sea turtle group that came upon a challenging nest and would ask for Dory's help," Conservation Programs Manager Rachel Smith told *Disney Files Magazine*. "We would zip down the beach in our ATV (specially outfitted for Dory to travel in style) and respond to the call. Generally, Dory would find these nests in under a minute, saving these folks hours of time searching!"

Looking ahead: As conservationists return to Florida's Treasure Coast this summer, Members and guests at Disney's Vero Beach Resort will once again have the extraordinary opportunity to participate in Sea Turtle Night Walk experiences. Equipped with night-vision goggles and radio earpieces, participants join specialists on a beach walk to search for and hopefully observe sea turtles laying their eggs, covering their nests and returning to the sea. The registration fee of \$35 a person helps support Disney's sea turtle conservation work. These unique programs, available to participants ages 8 or older (participants ages 8-17 must be accompanied by a paying adult) are scheduled for June 1-2, 7-9, 14-16, 21-13 and 18-30, and July 5-7, 12-14, 19-21 and 26. The walks' itinerary, content, duration and availability are, of course, subject to change. Call Member Services for details and reservations.

Disney's Vero Beach Resort: As part of a continuing effort to reverse the decline of butterflies in the wild, Members and guests at Disney's Vero Beach Resort have released more than 1,150 rare Atala butterflies to their native habitat along Florida's Treasure Coast, with hundreds more planned for release. Cast Members house and care for the insects in climate-controlled terrariums (made from recycled, reused or repurposed materials) on their desks at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park as the animals undergo their metamorphosis before heading to the beach. Disney's Animals, Science and Environment Team works closely with Disney's Vero Beach Resort and other communities in the area to maximize the availability of nectar plants on which butterflies can feed and pesticide-free Coontie plants on which butterflies can lay their eggs. As reported in the fall 2017 edition of *Disney Files Magazine*, Disney's Wilderness Lodge and Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground are among the Walt Disney World Resorts to have recently added butterfly gardens to their living landscapes.

Visit DisneyAnimals.com to learn more about the conservation of sea turtles, butterflies and other creatures.



Artist rendering – proposed

PIXAR PARADISE



Pixar Fest and Pixar Pier coming soon to Disneyland Resort

Disneyland Resort: While Pixar Animation Studios may call Emeryville, Calif., home, the center of the Pixar universe for many fans will travel about 400 miles south on Interstate 5 beginning this spring. The limited-time Pixar Fest, beginning April 13 at both Disneyland Park and Disney California Adventure Park, sets the table for a permanent, Pixar-themed transformation of Paradise Pier at Disney California Adventure Park this summer.

PIXAR FEST

A new fireworks spectacular and the return of two favorite parades headline the limited-time Pixar Fest, the biggest Pixar celebration ever to come to Disney Parks.

Dubbed **"Together Forever – A Pixar Nighttime Spectacular,"** the new fireworks show will light up the

sky over Disneyland Park, blending pyrotechnics with memorable music and a heartwarming story celebrating the ever-present Pixar theme of friendship. The story begins with an unlikely meeting of Pixar pals before following their shared adventures as they overcome obstacles and forge everlasting friendships. While Main Street, U.S.A., and Sleeping Beauty Castle will be at the center of the action, "Together Forever" also comes to life through projections on Rivers of America water screens and the façade of "it's a small world," allowing guests to enjoy the experience from a variety of vantage points. Look for Buzz Lightyear to channel his inner Tinker Bell during the show, taking flight over Sleeping Beauty Castle.

Also at Disneyland Park as part of Pixar Fest is the daytime **"Pixar Play Parade,"** the former Disney California Adventure processional that returns in a new location and with some new stars in tow, casting Pixar's iconic "Luxo Jr." lamp in a "leading" role while also adding characters from *Up* and *Inside Out*.



©Disney•Pixar



Also finding a new home during Pixar Fest is the guest-favorite **“Paint the Night”** parade (formerly of Disneyland Park), which will set characters from *Toy Story*, *Monsters, Inc.*, *Cars* and other Pixar favorites aglow at Disney California Adventure Park.

Additional Pixar Fest entertainment on tap for Disney California Adventure Park includes photo opportunities with Pixar pals, Pixar-inspired musical performances at Paradise Gardens and, for most of the festival, screenings of such Pixar-animated shorts as “For the Birds” and “LAVA” in the Sunset Showcase Theater. Add festive décor, Pixar-themed foods and beverages, and event-exclusive merchandise), and you have the biggest collection of all things Pixar this side of Emeryville.

PIXAR PIER

A re-imagined coaster and four uniquely themed “neighborhoods” are scheduled to turn Paradise Pier at Disney California Adventure Park into Pixar Pier beginning this summer.

The permanent transformation of the sun-splashed land along the southern shore of Paradise Bay will mark the debut of the highly anticipated Incredicoaster, giving the recently closed California Screamin’ coaster a midcentury-modern makeover inspired by the Disney•Pixar hit *The Incredibles*. Look for a new queue and loading area, new vehicles, new character moments, new scenes and special effects, and a new musical score connecting the attraction’s story to *The Incredibles 2* (opening

in U.S. theaters on June 15).

Just as the Incredicoaster will anchor *The Incredibles* neighborhood, the pier’s *Toy Story*-themed neighborhood will make playful use of the area surrounding the popular *Toy Story Mania!* attraction.

A new, family-friendly attraction will anchor a third neighborhood inspired by *Inside Out*, while a fourth neighborhood will celebrate a colorful collection Pixar favorites. At the heart of this neighborhood is Mickey’s Fun Wheel, which will celebrate a different Pixar character with each of its 24 gondolas while also honoring Pixar’s cherished place in the Disney family by retaining the iconic face of Mickey Mouse at the center of the wheel.

Other planned changes to the pier range from midway-game makeovers (look for new games to include characters from *A Bug’s Life*, *WALL-E* and the charming short “La Luna”) to a new Pixar-themed lounge replacing the recently closed Ariel’s Grotto restaurant and Cove Bar. (Trip Tip: “World of Color” dining packages remain available at the park’s Carthay Circle Restaurant and Wine Country Trattoria.)

Remaining areas of Paradise Pier – including Paradise Gardens, Silly Symphony Swings, Jumping Jellyfish, Goofy’s Sky School, Golden Zephyr and *The Little Mermaid ~ Ariel’s Undersea Adventure* – will become a new land called Paradise Park.

Watch the Disney Parks Blog (disneyparksblog.com) for the latest updates from Pixar Fest and Pixar Pier.



Use your smartphone’s QR code reader to enjoy a video that takes you behind the scenes of Walt Disney Imagineering’s creation of the Incredicoaster.

BUZZWORTHY

8 STORIES • 2 PAGES • 1 SPACE RANGER



Artist rendering – proposed



Disneyland Resort: The first new hotel at Disneyland Resort in nearly two decades is scheduled to begin construction this summer and open in 2021. Walt Disney Imagineering has released the first concept images for the 700-room hotel, which will anchor a new Disneyland Resort gateway near the existing Disneyland Hotel. Extensive landscaping and water elements will create a resort oasis, showcasing nature on every level of the hotel, while a dedicated Disneyland Monorail platform will give the hotel's guests convenient transportation into Disneyland Park. Speaking of transportation and convenience, work is scheduled to begin this spring on a new, 6,500-space parking structure next to the Mickey & Friends parking garage on what was previously the Pinocchio surface parking lot. The new garage is expected to open in 2019.

Walt Disney World Resort: The 2018 Epcot International Flower & Garden Festival kicked off on Feb. 28 and will continue through May 28, filling the park with lavish garden spaces and wildlife habitats, dozens of Disney topiary displays, flavor-rich cuisine at outdoor kitchens, inspirational exhibits and seminars, special play areas and exhibits for kids, weekend concerts and more. Learn more online at EpcotInSpring.com.

Walt Disney World Resort: Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park begins its 20th year this Earth Day, April 22, with a multiday "Party for the Planet." Running through May 5, this conservation-focused event features special entertainment, experiences, photo opportunities and merchandise. Among the planned highlights are complimentary mini-tours of Rafiki's Planet Watch and a limited-time badge location within the kid-favorite Wilderness Explorers experience.

Walt Disney World Resort: Russell and Dug from the Academy Award-winning Disney•Pixar hit *Up* join a colorful cast of exotic birds in a new live show at Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park beginning this spring. Replacing "Flights of Wonder" in the park's Anandapur Village, the new show finds the lovable Wilderness Explorer and his furry friend discovering bird species from across the globe as guests enjoy *Up*-close encounters with these amazing winged creatures.



Artist rendering – proposed

Walt Disney World Resort: First-look renderings of the NBA Experience coming to Disney Springs reveal a sleek design inspired by modern NBA arenas. The state-of-the-art space will include interactive games and competitions for all ages, immersive NBA video productions, a retail store and an adjacent restaurant. Plans call for the NBA Experience to open at the former site of DisneyQuest at Disney Springs West Side in summer 2019.

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Disney Files Magazine highlights Walt Disney World tours, events and add-on experiences ideal for Members whose frequent returns “home” and more casual pace afford them the luxury of veering off the beaten path. Learn more about the many available “Enchanting Extras” online at EnchantingExtras.com.

Backstage Magic: While millions are enchanted by the legendary magic of Walt Disney World Resort, Backstage Magic tour groups are among the select few who enjoy an up-close look at the vacation kingdom's intricate artistry, mechanical marvels and behind-the-scenes secrets. Members and guests embarking on the 7-hour tour explore the inner workings of The American Adventure show at Epcot; navigate the “utilidor” tunnels beneath Magic Kingdom Park; get an up-close look at the work of uniquely talented teams in Creative Costuming (outfitters of parade and show performers), Central Shops (home to machinists, welders, carpenters, painters, scenic artists, sculptors and more) and Textile Services (one of the world's largest laundry facilities); enjoy a family style barbeque lunch at Whispering Canyon Café at Disney's Wilderness Lodge and more. The cost of \$275 a person includes a commemorative gift, and Disney Vacation Club Members receive a 15 percent discount* as part of Membership Magic. Call Member Services for details and reservations.



Disney Cruise Line: The Disney Magic is scheduled to emerge from dry dock in Freeport, Bahamas on March 8 with enhancements to everything from dining experiences to kids' and adults' spaces. Headlining the changes is the transformation of the former Carioca's restaurant into Rapunzel's Royal Table, the first table-service restaurant inspired by Walt Disney Animation Studios' *Tangled*. The re-imagined dining room will welcome guests to the kingdom of Corona for an evening of food, music and interactive entertainment featuring Rapunzel and the Snuggly Duckling Thugs. A sophisticated, tropical redesign of Cove Café (a hotspot for specialty coffees and teas by day, and wine, cocktails and light bites by night), the Quiet Cove Pool and the adjacent Signals Bar will welcome adults, while teens ages 14-17

will discover that Vibe is sporting a new, urban-loft-inspired look and a variety of new offerings, from a coffee and smoothie bar to virtual reality games and moviemaking activities. Younger kids, meanwhile, will find new Disney Junior-inspired additions to Disney's Oceaneer Club. Rounding out the enhancements is a makeover of the Rainforest Room in the Senses Spa. The new additions debut on the Disney Magic with the ship's March 9 sailing from Miami to the Bahamas.

Shanghai Disney Resort: In recognition of its outstanding engineering, project design, planning and construction technology, Shanghai Disney Resort recently received the China Construction Engineering Luban Prize, the highest honor for engineering quality in China's construction industry.

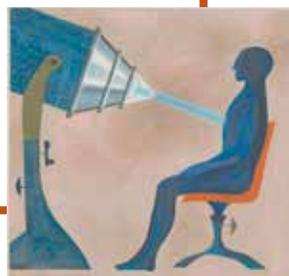
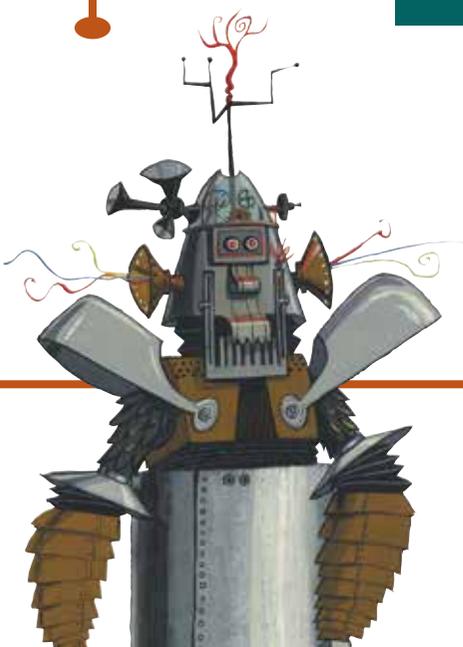
*See important eligibility information at the bottom of page 1.

Disney HERITAGE



WELCOME HOME DON HAHN

Disney Files Magazine is thrilled to welcome legendary filmmaker Don Hahn (*Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*) as a contributing columnist, carrying on a cherished tradition established by the late Disney Legend Marty Sklar. "It's a thrill to write for *Disney Files Magazine* and very humbling to follow in the footsteps of my friend Marty Sklar, who shared so much of his wisdom on these pages," Don said. "I'm not sure how much wisdom I have, but I share Marty's love of all things Disney and of the culture that makes Disney one of the most beloved names in entertainment." A multi-time Member Cruise presenter and longtime friend to Disney Vacation Club, Don recently released his visually stunning and remarkably insightful new book, *Yesterday's Tomorrow: Disney's Magical Mid Century*, examining the extraordinary creative output of the Disney Studio in the years following World War II. In this first installment of his new *Disney Files* column, Don shares what inspired him to explore this pivotal period of Disney history.





MAGICAL MID-CENTURY MODERN DISNEY

BY DON HAHN

The middle of the 20th Century at the Disney Studio is a source of breathtaking innovation and productively that always inspires me, so much so that I wrote a new book about it called *Yesterday's Tomorrow: Disney's Magical Mid Century*. We've all heard stories of Walt's childhood in places like Marceline and Kansas City, but the place that forged Walt's character more than perhaps any other is the place where people have gone to reinvent themselves for centuries. It's the home of mythological characters like cowboys, gold miners, movie stars and moguls. It has been romanticized in the books of Raymond Chandler and the stories of larger-than-life characters like William Randolph Hearst, Amelia Earhardt and Will Rogers. It was a place of possibility far away from the rules of the old world — California.

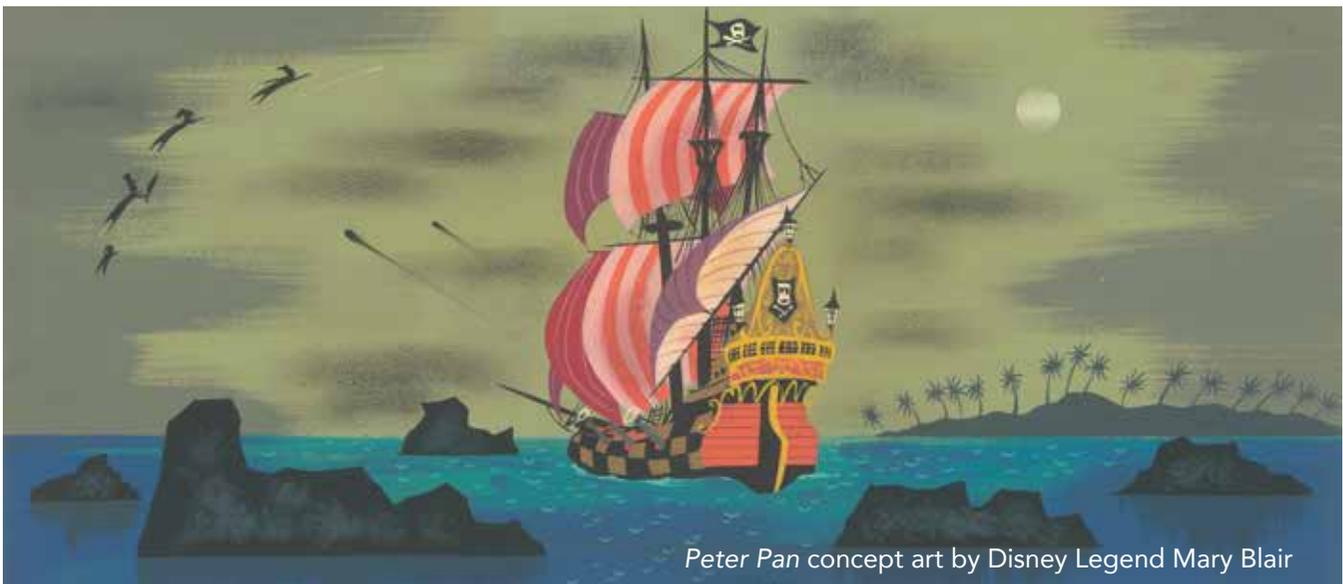
After the first World War, veterans looking for a fresh start made Los Angeles a boom town. It was a place of new beginnings in new technology like motion pictures and aerospace. By the time Walt Disney arrived in 1923, the city's population topped one million people. His brother Roy was recovering from tuberculosis in an L.A. veterans' hospital. Together, they bought kit houses from Pacific Ready Cut Homes and built them side by side on Lyric Avenue in the Los Feliz neighborhood, not far from downtown.

By the end of the second World War, Mickey

Mouse was an American Folk Hero, and Walt's feature films — *Snow White*, *Pinocchio*, *Bambi*, *Dumbo* and *Fantasia* — had dazzled Depression-era audiences and established Disney as a master filmmaker. The Disney brothers had built a modern creative campus in Burbank — the first of its kind — that exploded with young talent who had come to L.A. to work with Walt.

At the same time, the suburbs of L.A. exploded with returning veterans and their young families eager to put years of Depression and war behind them. It was a unique time in history, when social attitudes, prosperity, sunshine and the culture of possibility could make dreams come true, and Walt and his artists were about to be a primary players in all of it.

Walt started in the 1950s by rejuvenating his animation team with films like *Cinderella*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Peter Pan*. Meanwhile, he and Roy diversified the studio beyond its core business of animation by developing live-action films. This included using post-war funds frozen in Europe to produce the live-action *Treasure Island* in the U.K. The film was a box office hit, and Disney was in the live-action business. Within five years, Walt was all over the new medium of television with a Sunday night show called "Disneyland." American families were buying millions of television sets that broadcast a new kind of entertainment right into their home: Walt Disney entertainment.



Peter Pan concept art by Disney Legend Mary Blair



An astronaut band plays on the Flying Saucers attraction, which floated on a cushion of air at Disneyland Park from 1961-1966.

ABC was the perennial third-place network behind CBS and NBC, so they jumped at the chance to get Walt's programming. But the ABC deal also gave Walt funding for a companion piece of outdoor entertainment to be built in Anaheim, Calif. It was a "theme park" that welcomed the audience to "walk into the television" and enjoy the lands of tomorrow, fantasy, adventure and frontiers. It was named after the TV show: *Disneyland*.

By the mid-60s, Walt Disney had created a modern media company that was in many ways the first media empire, with *Mary Poppins* dazzling audiences, animation work on *The Jungle Book* underway, Disney stories on shelves as Little Golden Books, music released on Disneyland Records, "Walt Disney's Wonderful World of Color" leveraging the latest advancements in television and Disneyland welcoming guests from across the globe.

Walt loved to defy all odds and build the impossible into reality. He was courted by New York City uber-planner Robert Moses to collaborate on the 1964 New York World's Fair, where Corporate partners Ford, General Electric and PepsiCo funded attractions like "it's a small world" and the Carousel of Progress. His own workshop, WED Enterprises, was able to design and build experiences to move and entertain crowds like no other company. So after the fair, his attentions turned to the future of our cities. He believed he could engage corporations to team up with him to collaborate and invest in futuristic ideas. He would host all this innovation by building a small city in Central Florida that would demonstrate a vision for the future – self-driving cars, flat-screen televisions, microwave cooking, video phones – that would enhance the quality of life for future generations. The Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow,



Walt and Disney Legend Ward Kimball check out a model spacecraft featured in the 1955 television production "Man in Space."

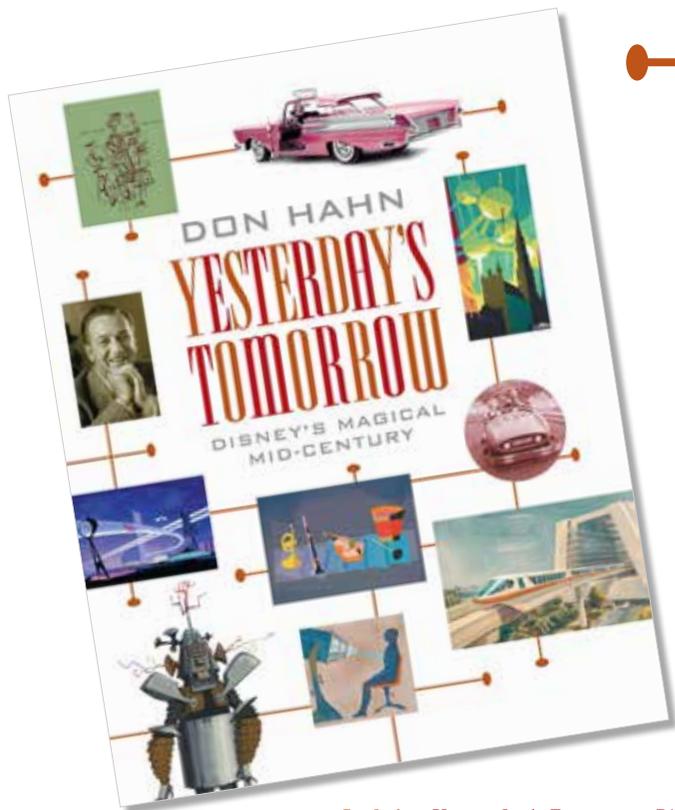
"We, the last of the pioneers and the first of the moderns, will not live to see this future realized. We are happy in the job of building its foundations." — Walt Disney

as Walt called it, was put on a low shelf with Walt's passing in 1966. Roy turned his efforts to building the Magic Kingdom on their Florida land instead.

To Walt and his crew, tomorrow was always just a dream away. "We, the last of the pioneers and the first of the moderns, will not live to see this future realized," he said. "We are happy in the job of building its foundations."

I think you can see why I get so excited by this dynamic period and why I wrote *Yesterday's Tomorrow*. In coming issues of *Disney Files Magazine*, we'll dig deeper into the world of Disney's magical mid century. Until then.

Don's column is scheduled to return in the fall edition of *Disney Files Magazine*.



Walt visits a mid-century family in the Monsanto House of the Future, which showcased cutting-edge home furnishings (including some set in the futuristic year 1986), appliances and gadgets from 1957-1967 in Tomorrowland at Disneyland Park. The exhibit's planned one-day demolition in 1967 ended up taking two weeks when the wrecking ball simply bounced off the house's fantastically plastic exterior.

Look for *Yesterday's Tomorrow: Disney's Magical Mid Century* from Disney Editions wherever books are sold.



The Tree of WONDERS OF LIFE

By Jim Korkis

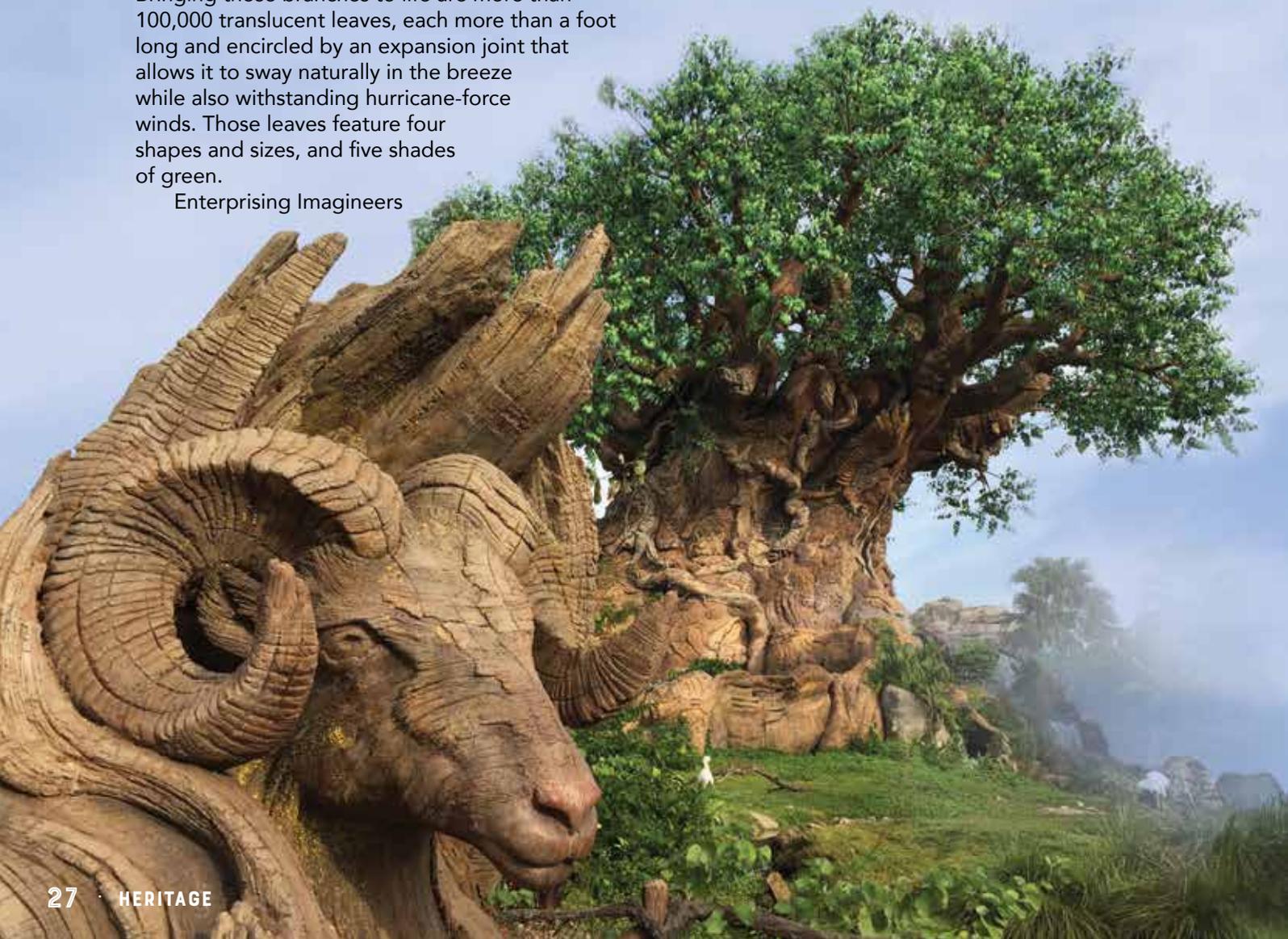
Conceived as a tribute to the majesty of nature and the diversity of the animal kingdom, the Tree of Life stands as the castle-like symbol of Disney's Animal Kingdom Theme Park, representing the rise of nature's value system over that of humans. As part of *Disney Files Magazine's* celebration of the park's milestone 20th anniversary, I thought it would be fun to take a closer look at this intricately designed icon.

For those interested in the numbers, the Tree of Life stands at about 145 feet (or 14 stories) above "ant level," anchored by a 50-foot-wide trunk with a 165-foot "branch span" that includes more than 40 "secondary branches," more than 750 "tertiary branches" and nearly 8,000 "end branches." Bringing those branches to life are more than 100,000 translucent leaves, each more than a foot long and encircled by an expansion joint that allows it to sway naturally in the breeze while also withstanding hurricane-force winds. Those leaves feature four shapes and sizes, and five shades of green.

Enterprising Imagineers

computer-designed the tree using two types of secondary branches that could be mixed and matched with two types of tertiary branches, each capable of being turned and adjusted to create believable, organic shapes. Employing a structure similar to that of an oil rig, Imagineers designed the tree's "skeleton" to be strong enough to uphold the branches' massive weight while featuring enough open space at its base to house a guest venue.

Among the concepts considered for that venue was an upscale "Root Restaurant," a "Wonders of Nature" show and a live-theatre experience based on 1994's *The Lion King*, the latter of which eventually took root at Camp Minnie-Mickey (the



area that later became Pandora – The World of Avatar) before finding a climate-controlled, and more thematically fitting, home next door in Africa.

Then Disney CEO Michael Eisner reportedly suggested the concept that would become “It’s Tough to Be a Bug,” drawing inspiration from the Disney-Pixar film *A Bug’s Life*, which wouldn’t open until seven months *after* the park. (Note: the original Disney Theme Park icon – Sleeping Beauty Castle at Disneyland Park – also preceded its namesake film, debuting with the park in 1955, years ahead of the film’s 1959 premiere.)

Look for more than 300 animals sculpted into the tree’s branches, trunk and roots (a number that increased with the roots’ recent extension). Drawing inspiration from the universal experience of imagining shapes in the clouds, artists designed the animals to appear to have grown organically from the tree. Walt Disney Imagineer Zsolt Hormay supervised a team of 11 artists who sculpted the animals directly onto the towering structure.

“In the beginning, it was a little difficult to get used to creating a sculpture every day,” Zsolt recalled of the time-sensitive process. “We just spray the cement on, you form it, and by the time the sun goes down, the animal has to be done.”

Each artist dedicated animals to family members. Zsolt, for example, included a koala for his daughter, a baboon for his wife and a scorpion for his son.

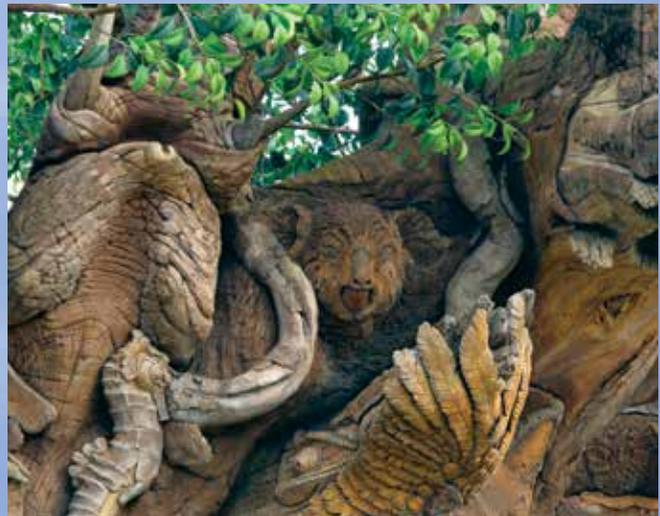
During early work on the tree, famed wildlife researcher Jane Goodall walked the site and asked her guide, animal care expert Rick Barongi, where the chimpanzee would be placed.

While there were no such plans to include a chimp at the time, Zsolt and his team added (in about three days) a chimpanzee near a door at the attraction’s entrance. Fittingly, the chimpanzee design was inspired by one of Goodall’s photographs of David Graybeard, the first chimpanzee to accept Goodall into his society, thereby “opening the door” for her groundbreaking research.

Ultimately, of course, the Tree of Life isn’t about measurements or illusions. It’s about the

immeasurable beauty and diverse reality of life itself.

“The Tree of Life is a technological marvel, but it’s also a symbol of the beauty and diversity and the grandeur of our animal life on Earth,” said Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde. “We want you to look up at it, to regard it with awe and wonder, and to translate those feelings to the real animal world.”

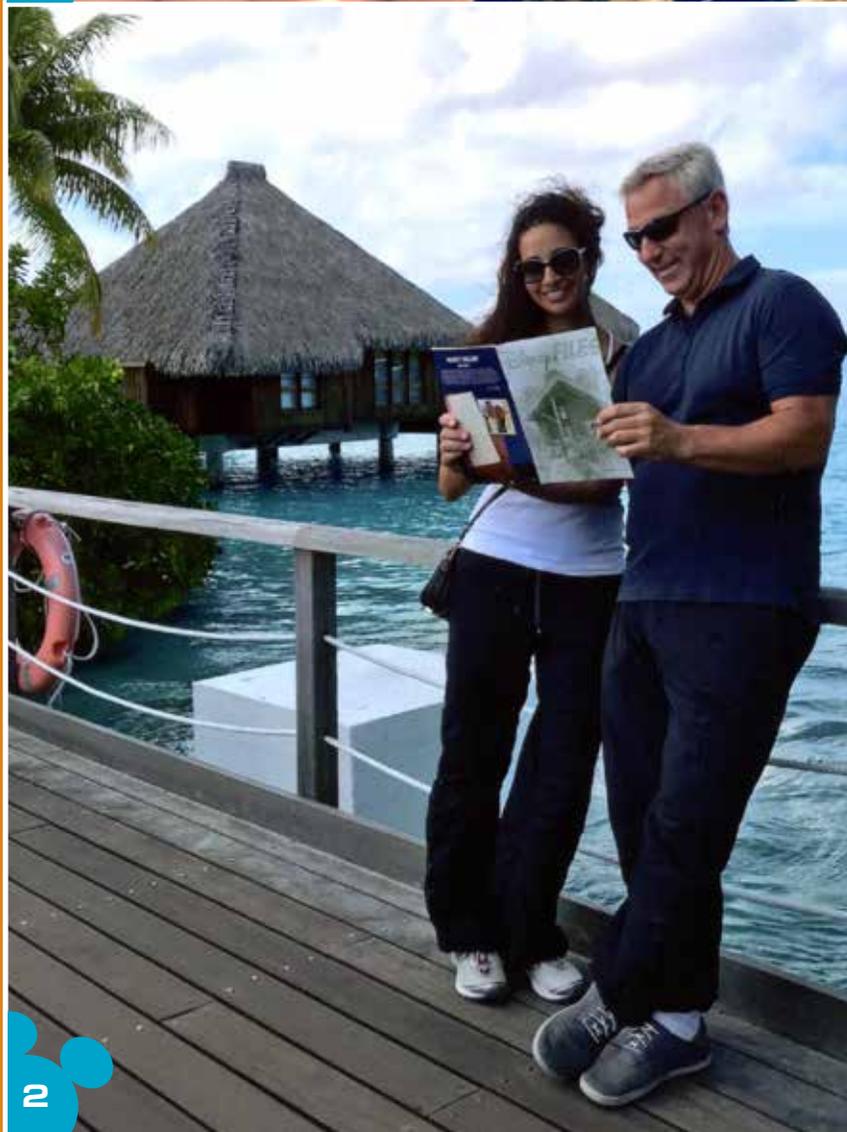




1. Our fall 2017 "Family Album" included photos of Members carrying *Disney Files Magazine* to impressive heights of 4,062 and 9,740 feet above sea level. Seeing those images as a challenge, the Truesdell family of Colorado, Members since 1997, took their magazines to 11,776 feet without leaving their home state. Everest, anyone?
2. Inspired by Bora Bora Bungalows at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort, Jeffrey and Kristina of Illinois, Members since 1994, enjoy Bora Bora Bungalows in actual Bora Bora.
3. Baby William of Massachusetts, whose parents became Members in 2017, enjoys some snuggly ducks.
4. Noah, whose Virginian grandparents have been Members since 2000, isn't loving Cinderella's public display of affection.
5. Kaori of Japan, Member Since 2015, defies gravity at Disney's Wilderness Lodge.
6. Larry of Nebraska, Member since 1998, laments the end of a vacation at Disney's BoardWalk Villas.
7. Katie of Rhode Island, Member since 2006, happily gets some sugar from Dale.
8. Josephine and Penelope of Massachusetts, part of a Member family since 2014, contemplate the meaning of Stonehenge.
9. Dillon of Pennsylvania, whose parents have been Members since 2004, isn't sure what to make of the Mouse at Disney's Polynesian Village Resort.

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.

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.





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Walt Disney Imagineer Joe Rohde

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