

HOLIDAY GREETINGS 2009



Family We have a terrific family. All of our children, except David, live within 3.25 hours of the lake, so we see them and the grandchildren a lot. We had Thanksgiving with Karla's family here at the lake and also Karen, Eric, and Amy that weekend. We will visit David in San Francisco in March 2010, as we plan to fly to SF from Florida for a week. The entire family will get together next August at Amy's wedding.

Costa Rica & Panama A three week trip in February. In Costa Rica we toured San Jose, then the Tortugero National Park on the Caribbean (Saw Anhinga babies, Howler monkeys, tree frogs, and the "JC" lizard that walks on water), then Arenal Volcano (Saw Toucans and a "Hawke-Eagle". Don enjoyed "zip lining"), then Monteverde Cloud Forest (Saw many crocs, a reptilian exhibit, a butterfly garden, an orchid garden, a fox, Howler monkeys, quetzels, humming birds, 3 and 5 toed sloths), next was Quepas on the Pacific Coast (Toured Manuel Antonio National Park. Took an all day Catamaran Cruise. Finally a terrific all day white water rafting trip on the Savage River which included a trip in a Hummer), and then on to Panama. (Took a City Tour of Panama City & its skyscrapers. The main attraction was a full transit of the Panama Canal.)

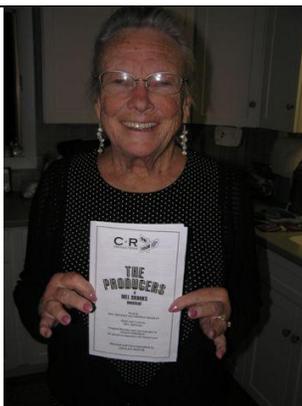


Sara Kinsel Whitney The two oldest of our 9 grandchildren are in college. Ryan Whitney is a junior at University of Denver. Here is Sara on June 8 the day of her high school graduation in Sudbury, MA. She is now a freshman at UVM in Burlington, VT.



Amy She became engaged on June 20 to Tom Kullgren. They are getting married at the Waybury Inn in East Middlebury, Vermont in August 2010.

Mary continued to help doctors and hospitals in 2009. She is doing well after having her right knee replaced in October. We attended an excellent production of the Producers in June in Rutland on her 75th.



Georgian Bay In September we took an 8 day "cruise" in Ontario. Our "cruises" were day trips on various boats. We drove to one of our favorite cities Ottawa (Took a cruise on the Rideau Canal, visited Parliament Hill, and the Farmers Market and had a great dinner at "18"), then one night at the Killarney Lodge in the Algonquin Provincial Park), then a cruise on Georgian Bay out of Parry Sound on the Island Queen (stayed at the beautiful Inn at Manitowish, then two nights in Midland (stayed at the The Little Lake Inn B&B, truly terrific, and took two cruises on Georgian Bay, one on Miss Midland and a 3.5 hour dinner cruise with live music on the Georgian Queen. We also saw an outstanding exhibition of trained birds of prey at Wye Marsh), then Peterborough (We cruised the Trent Canal on the Island Princess which went thru the largest dual hydraulic lift in the world), then to the Thousand Islands on Lake Ontario (The 3.5 hour luncheon cruise out of Kingston had live music. We stayed at the Victoria Rose B&B in Gananoque)), then returned to Vermont thru Lake Placid where we had lunch. Our final cruise was the 3 minute ferry across Lake Champlain.

We wish you all a wonderful holiday season. We look forward to seeing family and friends who come to Vermont to enjoy the wonders of the season and the winter ahead.

Don and Mary Sondergeld