

Door County

By Peg Wurzbach

It all started on a Thursday-June 21st-a lovely day in Door County. Jim and I were lucky to join the BMC Club and share in the fun. That evening we met at the pool for drinks and snacks and got reacquainted. Marcy shared a huge chocolate birthday cake, the ladies had flowers in their hair, and the guys wore Hawaiian leis for the Summer Solstice. I asked about this picture challenge thing but only received mysterious answers in return. I had no clue.

After a restless night's sleep, we had an early morning start on the ferry to Washington Island. Driving twisty roads, we went to the Fragrant Isle Lavender Farm. I passed on joining the bitters club at Nelsen's, although I was tempted to take rocks from Washington Island beaches! That evening we all went to The Chop for dinner - delicious and a good time, but they had no white zinfandel!

After a good night's rest, it finally was Saturday and the photo challenge! I eyed my clues and fellow challengers as they zoomed off every which way to parts unknown. Thank goodness for visitor information centers. Three hours later I started to get irritable - though it was funny zooming past other members wondering what they knew that I did not! We saw the entire peninsula in our endeavors: beautiful views and twisty roads. The challenge was completed. Back in our room to rest and ready ourselves for the evening at the Log Den. Beautiful rustic setting, reasonable drink prices, good food, friends and prizes. We got 4th place - not bad for first timers.

Our hosts-Jane and Dennis Schmidt & Ginger and Brian Carney did an excellent job getting this all together. I thank them and look forward to the next adventure.

Summer Solstice Celebration

By Paula B

Thursday, June 21, 2018

Hello Summer!! We are so happy that you have finally arrived! We started our Summer Solstice celebration in Ephraim, WI, for another grand adventure organized by Dennis, Jane, Ginger and Brian. We gathered in the evening at the Sommerset Inn & Suites, filling the outdoor pool gazebo to overflowing. Each of the gents received a lei and the ladies a floral crown. (Felt a bit like a wood nymph with my crown, which I wore frequently during the weekend event. Simply loved it!! Thanks Ginger!)

In addition to celebrating the solstice, we also celebrated Marcy's birthday. She supplied an enormous chocolate cake that was so delicious! Others supplied various munchies and we each had our beverages to enjoy. It is always great to see old friends and to get acquainted with the new members.

It became a bit chilly, and we have an early start in the morning, so we leave the gathering long before it is ready to wind down.

Friday, June 22, 2018

Rise & shine! It's a beautiful morning; sunny but cool. We're off to the continental breakfast at 6:30 am, provided by the Inn as a special perk for our club. There are a few other early birds enjoying the repast of coffee, juice, fruit, yogurt, sweet rolls, muffins, bagels and cream cheese. Yes, carbs a plenty. By 7:00 am the breakfast room was full of zoomers, anxious to start our day exploring Washington Island.

We gather at 8:00 to discuss the day's events, and then off to the ferry dock we go. Clouds have moved in, but they are light and wispy. A separate ferry has been arranged for the club, so we load at 9:00 for the 45 minute ride to the island. It's a bit chilly, but thankfully, quite calm.

Washington Island is surprisingly large! It is 35 square miles with more than 100 miles of road. We experienced those wonderful winding roads as we toured the island. It is quite heavily forested, with many houses that mainly belong to the summer residents. It has all the basic amenities like: groceries, school, medical clinic, performing arts center, golf course, airport, museums, bars, restaurants and coffee shop.

We stopped at the School House Beach for a break. This beach is quite unique, made up of limestone rocks that have been smoothed and rounded by the waves. Because tourists were taking rocks as souvenirs, there is now a \$250 fine for removing rocks from the beach. It's a great place for stacking rocks into all kinds of designs.

After a short drive, we arrived at Nelsen's Hall for lunch. We were served from a limited menu of burgers, chicken, white fish, pizza, soup & salad bar. Nelsen's Hall was established in 1899 and is the oldest continuously run tavern in Wisconsin. This is due to the sale of Angustora Bitters as a medicinal remedy during prohibition. Several of the BMC members joined the bitters club by drinking a shot of the bitters.

Following lunch, we took a short drive to the Fragrant Isle lavender farm, which is the largest lavender farm in the Midwest. Edgar Anderson, one of the founders of the farm, gave us an informative presentation on the history of the farm, the process of harvesting, and distilling the lavender for hydrosol and oil. There are many different varieties of lavender, but they grow

mainly English lavender and a hybrid, which is hardy and produces more oil. We had some time to shop for all kinds of lavender products, even candy and ice cream. Then it was a mad dash to the ferry, so we could meet for dinner at 5:00.

We had a nice dinner at Chop in Sister Bay, having a separate room in the lower level for our group. Unfortunately, the tables had not been set up as requested, so 2 couples sat at a table separate from the group. Otherwise, the food and service were good.

That ended another beautiful Door County day for us. Many of the group gathered at the pool again.