

Braden Castle Park Newsletter

Due Date for
February
Newsletter
Submissions is:
January 26.
to
Pat Grau

Doc Braden's Medicine Show Back by Popular Demand

Doc Braden's Medicine Show will return to Braden Castle Saturday February 8th at 7 pm.



Doc Braden is calling all former and new cast

members to come participate in this amazing, astounding, and life changing show. You will never be the same once you have partaken of this wonderful

experience. You have seen it, witnessed it and perhaps even been a part of it! But now the opportunity knocks again, so come and join in the fun! No particular talent needed—however live bodies are preferred!

Saturday February 8th
7 pm in the Big Hall

Watch the board by the office for rehearsal dates.

Doc Braden's coordinator in the park is Vi Johnson.



Shuffle Club by Wanita Covalt

The Shuffle Club will have it's annual Fifty-Fifty Drawing beginning January 2 through the end of the month. Gay Wells and helpers will be selling tickets at the office Monday through Friday. Tickets sell for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Half of the proceeds will be divided evenly between 5 winners. The other half of the proceeds will be spent for court upkeep. Drawing will be Thursday, Feb. 13.

BC residents are invited to become members and play each day. Games begin at 1:30 except for Sundays which begins at 2:00.

The monthly Shuffle Club Luncheon will be held at 12:00 noon on Thursday, January 9.



recycle
it's easy!



Everyone is invited to attend our annual New Year's Eve Game night in the Leisure Hall beginning at 7 pm the 31st. Bring a friend, a game or cards (Pinochle, Bridge or Euchre) and a soft drink or finger food to share. Come and have a safe, fun evening.

Trouble in Paradise By Rolf Ernst

While this message is relevant primarily to BC boaters, it should concern all residents. Theft at our marina has reached near-epidemic proportions. To name just a few examples:

- Gary Larson recently lost a \$1000 outboard motor
- Terry Collins (our board President) had fishing poles & other gear stolen
- Floyd Hatlee had his boat tampered with

About a year ago, this writer suffered the loss

of a \$300 kayak and just a few months ago had 30 gallons of gas siphoned from his boat tank. I'm sure others could share similar horror stories.

This must stop. It has been stated with considerable wisdom, that to complain about a matter without a proposed solution is "an exercise in futility". I agree. Therefore, I have made several suggestions to Craig and to Terry about ramping up security at the marina, which I believe at present is non-existent.

1. Increased police patrols

The accuracy & opinions expressed herein are exclusively those of Rolf Ernst.

2. Improved lighting
3. Deterrent signage
4. Video Cameras

It's my understanding that the price of video surveillance camera systems have dropped significantly and can be purchased cost effectively. I'm happy to report that Terry has assured me that our Board has this subject on their agenda and will study feasibility of the matter. Finally, I would hope that any resident ideas and suggestions will be welcomed.

Castle Club (CC) News By Janis Johnson

A word of THANKS!!

Thanks to all who donated and purchased items at the Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale. A total of \$428.91 was raised. Castle Club appreciates the continued support from the park residents.

2014 Club Officers—Incumbent officers of 2013 were re-elected at the December 18th business/Christmas party. They are: Co-Presidents: Pat Gross & Jan Johnson; Vice-President: Nancy Bair; Secretary: Ruth Briggs; Treasurer: Carol Wood. The officers look forward to another season of serving the ladies of Braden Castle Park.

Silent Auction & "new menu" Luncheon will be held Friday, January 17, 2014

Start the NEW YEAR with a "cleaning project"! Now is the time to get rid of those useable items that you no longer need or want. You know...the ones taking up precious space! **Bring your donated items to the Big Hall on Thursday, January 16th between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.** All donated baked goods may be brought to the Big Hall, **Friday, between 8:30 and 9:30 a.m.** Volunteers are also



needed for merchandise setup on Thursday starting at 9 a.m. Watch for a colored flyer for more details & exact times for the luncheon and auction.

Mark your calendar for January 20th and 29th. These are the dates we have set for a crafting demo show and a two session crafting workshop where "students" can learn one or two of the crafts/skills taught by our talented men and women of the park. This is an "idea in progress" so watch for bulletin notices and flyers as we put this event together.



A Quest By Rolf Ernst

We are on a Quest to find those who have unique and fascinating stories to tell. We know you're out there. We know that among Braden Castle's 600 or so residents there are some stories that would be of interest to our community. We'd like to share appropriate items in the BC Newsletter—whether you've hiked the Appalachian Trail, water skied in the Keys, travelled cross-country in your camper, or had an unusual job or mission.

If you'd be willing to share—please contact Rolf Ernst at 27 Riverview Lane or Pat Grau. We can help you pen your story if needed. Articles to be 200-300 words (similar in length to the History Corner—Castle Lagoon).



Vi Johnson wants to express her sincere gratitude for the \$345 donated by BC residents for our Adopt-a-Family Christmas project. Vi purchased a \$125 gift card plus \$220 in Christmas gifts (that were also wrapped by BC elves).

Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theater Bus Trip to Orlando 2/27



Mark your calendar for the Bus Trip to Orlando to see "THE SHOW MUST GO ON" at the Sleuth Mystery Dinner Theater on Wednesday, FEBRUARY 27th. The bus will depart for Orlando from the office area at 9:30 am.

Bring along *your investigative skills and your appetite* to this hilarious comedy show. The show climaxes with a surprising development, a murder, a confession, and the director's decision to cover it up. *Watch for anything suspicious, listen closely for clues to help solve the crime.*

\$89.00 Per Person Includes:

*Round-trip Motor coach Transportation

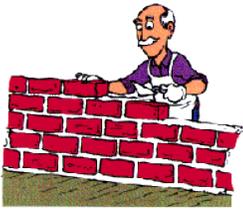
*Matinee Performance of "The Show Must Go On"

*Table-side Luncheon, Taxes, Gratuities & Driver's Tip

—Your served Lunch includes: Hors D'oeuvres; Fresh Garden Salad; Choose ONE- ENTREE- AT- TIME- OF- BOOKING: Cornish Hen, Prime Rib or Cheese Lasagna; plus Rolls with Butter; **UNLIMITED Beer, Wine, and Soda;** and Mystery Dessert.

For Reservations Contact: PAT GRAU or LINDA PEREZ
Or sign up on the list by the office.

Reservations with payment are **Due: February 4, 2014**



When the Winds of Change Blow some build Walls some build Windmills By Pat Grau

It's time to welcome in 2014. At

our age most of us consider it a wonderful blessing to still be here greeting a New Year. So in our golden years, do we need to make New Year's resolutions? Well, we've certainly lived enough years to know who we are and our personal priorities. Most would probably say by now, we are who we are. However if we're being honest, we know there are still self-improvements we could embark upon.

A bigger question might be how we should approach change. There's a Chinese proverb that states—when the winds of change blow some build walls and some build windmills. Implied within the proverb is discernment. As each of us experiences the winds of change, we need to discern whether it's best to build a wall or barrier to protect ourselves or to somehow strive to capture the power of that wind.

Looking back on the history of windmills, we find they've been built in many different sizes and configurations. As early as the 1st century AD there are reports of small windmills being used to create rotational power for a machine. Probably the most famous organized use of windmills was in the Netherlands



where they were used to drain ground water to create workable land. Where I grew up in the Great Plains, our windmills were normally found near a barn where it pumped ground water to be utilized for thirsty animals or crops.



Now we find



wind turbines soaring over 250 ft in height installed in groupings called wind farms generating electrical power.

So, even if we were to decide, as the Chinese proverb says, to build a windmill when we experience the winds of change; we would still need to determine what size and type of windmill is needed. Maybe due to our age we actually have a better ability to decide how we will approach any change that 2014 brings.

When we're young our resolutions are most often self-help health goals or family oriented goals, i.e. building for our future financial stability. Now that our families are grown, besides the continuing need to focus on health goals maybe

this is the time to make resolutions aimed at what we can do for others. Instead of storing-up should we be looking at where we can give of ourselves to assist others?

As 2014 approaches we know it will bring change, just as every year before it has delivered changes. Will we build protective walls as we face our challenges? Will we look at change as an opportunity, as a motivation to make improvements? And, how will we decide what changes require us to build a wall or a windmill? At a minimum, we could each resolve for 2014 that we'll strive to use the wisdom we've gained throughout our life before we take action.

Just as windmills have evolved over time, generations of people have seized control of the winds that blow thru their lives to capture its power. So maybe we are the perfect age to make New Year's resolutions. Maybe we should be looking at what changes we could take hold of to create opportunities for improvement in our lives, our relationships, our communities. As long as we breathe, we have the privilege of choosing what we'll do with our lives and how we'll approach change. Sometimes we'll need to build a wall as a shield but most of the time we'll be able to build a windmill to capture the power of a change.

Happy New Year!

Red Hat Ladies

We went to the Anna Maria Oyster Bar in Ellenton Thursday Dec. 12th for our annual Christmas Party. Santa visited and fun was had by all. I want to thank all the girls for my special Christmas gift. Our next outing will be Thursday January 23rd, leaving from in front of the office at 10:30a.m. We will be going to a wonderful new place FIRE & STONE PIZZA. It also has Italian food. All women in the park are invited to join in the fun. Sign up sheet is hanging next to the office. See you then.

Your Red Hat Queen Mother, Ann Zelen



Put your email address in the can in the office to receive your newsletter electronically. Your email address will ONLY be used to deliver your Newsletter. Pat Grau



Please stop by the office to make a cash donation for the purchase of new park Christmas decorations. Pat Corriea will coordinate the purchase of discounted decorations after 12/25/2013.

Braden Castle Park

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E-mail: bradencastle@verizon.net
Office Hours: M-F, 8-11 am



Craig V. Marquart, Manager

Braden Castle Association, Inc.

News from the office:

We are preparing a mailing to all Braden Castle Home Owners Association members. This will include your 2014 invoice. This year BC must comply with the State requirements for a 55+ Survey and Age Verification—so you'll also receive a Survey form. A photo copy of your driver's license is required when you return the Survey. Additionally, you will find a form for the updating of our Emergency contact files.

CASTLE LAGOON

By **Glenna Shanahan**



HISTORY CORNER

When the first "Snowbirds" came to Braden Castle they were confronted with a large swampy area in the southwest part of the property. In the center was a tidal pool inhabited by an alligator; hence they called it Alligator Pool.

The community was still young when in 1928 John Gallop was given permission to set about beautifying the area. He brought in tons of sawdust and scrap wood from a sawmill located near the Braden River Bridge over SR 64 to use as fill. He also set out a multitude of small Royal Palms that he raised from seed. The tall Royal Palms along Palm Ave. are the remnants of his foresight.

In the 1930's the Board delegated a committee to format plans that included raising the necessary funds to dredge the pool and fill in the swamp.

A former missionary to Africa now

a resident, (his name apparently not recorded in the historical records) came up with a plan for the shape of the new lagoon. And somewhere around 1940 his ideas were approved and the beautiful water feature was successfully implemented.

In 1984 the lagoon was dredged and photos show that the work took long enough to become a pedestrian observation point of interest. In 2013 most of the inlet has been dredged and deepened, making the tides rise and fall more noticeably.

Water birds and even our own resident alligator call the Lagoon home. Mullet jump joyfully and the view out over the quiet water is spectacular. How fortunate we are to have such a valuable asset and keeping it viable should be our goal.

Watch the Board by the Office for events and times that were not available in time to be included in the newsletter. Check the back side of the board for sale or rent offerings.

Bike Club—Wednesdays at 9 am all are welcome to meet at the back gate for a ride followed by the group driving to Ellenton for Brunch at Poppi's right after they get back usually about 9:45 am. Bob Pier coordinates.

Bike Rides- Daily at 1:30 pm (2:00 Sunday) all are welcome to meet at the back gate for a 4 mile bike ride ending on the River Walk. After a gab session by the water we return back to BC. Barney Sommers coordinates.

Indiana Day January 23rd BH at Noon

The Gulfcoast Sandpiper Barbershop Chorus will be coming to the Big Hall on Saturday, January 18th, 2014 at 7:00PM. This chorus is an all-male cappella chorus singing in 4-part close barbershop harmony. Current chorus members we expect to see—include our own Braden Castle resident Ralph George as well as former resident John Colkert. There will be a \$3 free-will offering taken up.



Braden Castle Choir

- All are welcome at our Hymn Sings— held on Friday @ 7pm in the Big Hall
- Choir practices are Friday at 9 am in the Big Hall, new members are welcome.



January 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5	6 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bridge LH 6:30 pm Line Dancing BH 7pm	7 Bridge LH 6:30 pm	1 8 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bicycle Club 9am Poker+ LH 6:30 pm	2 Pinochle LH 6:30 pm	3 Exercise LH 8:30 am Hymn Sing BH 7 pm	4 Coffee LH 8:30 am Pinochle LH 6:30 pm
12	13 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bridge LH 6:30 pm Line Dancing BH 7pm	14 Book Club LH 10:15 am Bridge LH 6:30 pm	15 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bicycle Club 9am Poker+ LH 6:30 pm	16 CC Silent Auction set up BH 9 am-2 pm Pinochle LH 6:30 pm	17 Exercise LH 8:30 am CC Silent Auction & Luncheon Hymn Sing BH 7 pm	18 Coffee LH 8:30 am Pinochle LH 6:30 pm Sandpiper Barbershop Chorus BH 7 pm
19	20 Exercise LH 8:30 am CC Craft Demo BH Bridge LH 6:30 pm Line Dancing BH 7pm	21 Bridge LH 6:30 pm	22 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bicycle Club 9am Poker+ LH 6:30 pm	23 Red Hats 10:30 am Indiana Day BH noon Pinochle LH 6:30 pm	24 Exercise LH 8:30 am Hymn Sing BH 7 pm	25 Pinochle LH 6:30 pm
26	27 Exercise LH 8:30 am Orlando Bus Trip 9:30 am departure Bridge LH 6:30 pm Line Dancing BH 7pm	28 Bridge LH 6:30 pm	29 Exercise LH 8:30 am Bicycle Club 9am CC Crafts BH Poker+ LH 6:30 pm	30 Pinochle LH 6:30 pm	31 Exercise LH 8:30 am Hymn Sing BH 7 pm	