

# The Bainbridge Blabber

**Holiday Edition**

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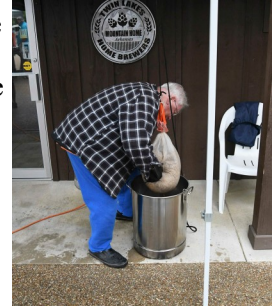
**December 2019**



## *Merry Christmas*

**Christmas Greetings to you all!** Hard to believe it is once again time to write the Bainbridge Blabber. Where did the year go? We hope you all had a good year and that this greeting finds you happy and in good health. 2019 was a comparatively quiet year for us, although certainly not uneventful!

**Brew Club Bob and reverse recycling:** Bob continued his involvement with wine making and beer brewing. He remains active in the local Brew Club and even got his picture on the front page of the paper for a beer brewing demonstration day the club held! Here he is showing the brew-in-a-bag method. He also continues to make several kinds of wine which we very much enjoy. This year, he ordered a bit too much grape juice and realized he would be short of bottles when it was time to cork it up. Not to be thwarted, he announced to Sandy's chagrin that he would get more bottles at the local recycling facility. Bob got a long handled "grabber" and Sandy went along (hoping no one would recognize her). He actually picked out some "good" bottles from the big pile of glass bottles. Sandy tried to justify the act noting that – reusing those bottles is, after all, the definition of recycling – isn't it?



**A private dinner for two:** This year for our anniversary, we went to a private dinner at "Dawt Mill" – a local resort and restaurant built around an old grist mill. We had our own private chef who created a custom dinner in his dining room/kitchen. While there are typically four couples being served at a time, on our night we were the only ones there so had a truly private experience. The food was extraordinary and the experience was a lovely way to celebrate our special day!

**Sandy Stuff:** Sandy continues to putter in her gardens, battling the weeds, and delighting at successes in her ornamental and vegetable gardens. She is now convinced that planting direct from seed produces stronger flowering plants and better vegetables. Next she'll probably want to consult the old Farmer's Almanac and plant by the moon! She also continues to lead a bible study at church, but after 4 years has decided to hang up her hat as the treasurer for the church women's group. She looks forward to spending more time traveling and enjoying her often unpredictable, never boring life with Bob!

**Fishing Update:** Fishing was not as good this year as the water level in the lake remained fairly high most of the year. Additionally, one of Bob's fishing buddies was under the weather and recently moved out of state for health reasons. They still keep in touch, but they both miss fishing together and giving each other a hard time during the process.



**Trailer trashed:** This Fall we made another decision in the passage of life. After 4 years of not traveling, we decided to sell our 5<sup>th</sup> wheel travel trailer and the big truck to pull it. We had many good times and fond memories but it was time for it to go and time for us to change our method of travel to better suit our current lifestyle. After 4 years in storage, the mice had had a field day inside the trailer. We had "mouse-proofed" it before closing it up, but that only lasts for about a year at best and this had been four. They made quite a mess, but did not damage anything permanently. So, after several days of cleaning up the 'eeeyuuu' mess, the trailer was clean and presentable. Bob even mused – gee, maybe we should go somewhere! But we returned to the notion of selling it. Due to Bob's aggressive marking, both sold within a couple of weeks leaving us with only one vehicle (temporarily), and a need to coordinate who gets to use the car today! We still plan to travel but look forward to interesting B&B's, perhaps a cruise or who knows???

*The Bainbridge Blabber* is published annually for the enjoyment of a few select individuals. Any and all viewpoints expressed herein are absolutely the opinions of management. Comments are welcome and may be submitted to:

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**Rats! – Something ate our Christmas tree!!** Speaking of rodents, we recently went to retrieve the Christmas tree out of our storage building. Last year we sprang for a new tree bag to store it in since the other one was torn. As we moved tarps covering the tree bag, we saw the top of the bag covered with acorns. Sandy was thinking squirrels. Then we saw a large hole on one end which also appeared to have acorns and debris inside. Mice??? We brushed off the bag and loaded it into the back of the car and drove back to the house. We pulled the bag out of the car and put it on the garage floor. Sandy went to lift the end of the bag with the hole and out popped a big rat which ran across her thumb and bolted into the nearby shrubbery. Fortunately, it didn't bite her. She didn't have time to panic but figured the rat was probably more scared of her than she of it. Needless to say, the tree was trashed. The rat had obviously been planning a big Christmas gathering with a lighted tree, plenty of cushy cotton stuffed in, and a good supply of acorns on hand for the Christmas day feast. In the process, wires for the lights that were in his/her way were chewed through, ruining the tree. So, while we were more than a little irritated by the loss of the tree, Sandy couldn't help but feel just a little bit sorry for the rat and all of its efforts! We purchased a large, hard-sided resin deck box with a locking lid to store the next tree in – we call it 'the coffin' due to its size and shape! No varmint is going to wreck our Christmas tree again!!!!



**A Hot time at the Springs:** Earlier this month we took a trip to Hot Springs to see the Christmas lights at Garvan Botanical Gardens. These gardens, formerly part of a private estate, were donated to the U of Arkansas years ago and are truly spectacular. It took us almost 2 hours to walk the lighted paths and see the displays sprawling over the 210 acres of rolling woodland. Just when we thought we had seen it all, we would go round a corner and see another fabulous display. We were tuckered out after that much walking, but it was well worth it. As a prelude to our walk, there was a concert by the Hot Springs Flute Ensemble in the chapel in the gardens. All instruments (except a little percussion) were flutes of some variety – from piccolos to the Contra Bass Flute which stood upright over 6 ft tall, and can play notes down to two octaves below middle C. We had no idea such an instrument existed and were fascinated by it. The concert was a delightful way to set the mood before our Christmas excursion through the gardens.

**Medical Report:** How nice it would be to have a year without something medical to report on. This getting old stuff is sort of like tuning up an old car – just when you think you have it working well, something else goes on the fritz that you hadn't planned on. Earlier this year, Bob was having a fair amount of pain in his upper arm. Sandy speculated rotator cuff, but her diagnosis was poo-pooed by Bob. Bob decided to try Physical Therapy first. At his first appointment, the PT declared that he had a developing rotator cuff problem. Sandy had that "I told you so" look on her face. Lots of therapy and exercises to try to avoid surgery, and so far, so good. Later in the year, Bob had procedures to fix foot issues and varicose veins. Sandy is doing well so far, but is to the age when she too is going to start to have things that need 'fixing'. She hopes that her more passive lifestyle will help her age more gracefully. So far, so good.

*We feel so blessed to count you all as family and friends and we hope you are all in the mood for a joyous Christmas - be it a large gathering with friends and family, or an intimate, private celebration. Let us all take time to reflect on the many blessings we have whether home, family, health, or whatever. We wish you all the merriest Christmas.*

**Merry Christmas to you and yours.**

**Bob and Sandy Bainbridge**



*May this Christmas Season be one filled with love and joy for all of you, and may you find the New Year filled with blessings and all good things for you and your loved ones.*