#### October 2009 \$3.95

Florida Leisure Vacation Homes<sup>®</sup> presents

# JAN BREATHE

IN THIS ISSUE Discovery Cove Scarecations Welcome Baby Slade Home of the Month

Relaxation and Fun for Everyone

# HALLOWEEN HUMOR

Why did the vampire go to the orthodontist?

#### To improve his bite.

Why do witches use brooms to fly on?

Because vacuum cleaners are too heavy.

What do you get when you cross a werewolf and a vampire?

A fur coat that fangs around your neck.

Why don't skeletons ever go out on the town?

Because they don't have any body to go out with.

What do ghosts add to their morning cereal?

#### Booberries.

What did one ghost say to the other ghost?

"Do you believe in people?" What does the papa ghost say to his family when driving?

#### Fasten your sheet belts.

What is a ghost's favorite mode of transportation?

#### A scareplane.

What type of dog do vampire's like the best?

#### Bloodhounds.

What is a ghoul's favorite flavor?

#### Lemon-slime.

What does a vampire never order at a restaurant?

#### A stake sandwich...

What is a skeleton's favorite musical instrument? *A trombone.* 

### Discover Discovery Cove ust recently I was invited to visit Discovery

ust recently I was invited to visit **Discovery Cove** to take a look around as we get a lot of our guests who ask about this wonderful park. Unfortunately I didn't get to don my swimsuit or get into the water but I did have an enjoyable time wandering around and taking notes so I could talk about it in this newsletter.





Discovery Cove is situated very close to Sea World, about 15 minutes from most of our vacation homes and is open from 9.00am to 5.30pm on a daily basis. The park really feels like a tropical getaway and is the only place to experience the most exciting animal encounters the world has to offer. At Discovery Cove you can *swim with a bottlenose dolphin* and make a friend that will live in your heart forever. You can don a mask and snorkel in the

*Tropical Reef*, a breathtaking underwater world teeming with thousands of exotic tropical fish and graceful rays. You will enjoy the <u>freshwater</u> swimming areas all year round as the water is kept in the <u>74 to 80</u> degree range. In the winter it might feel a little chilly so Discovery Cove does provide a full length wetsuit to keep you nice, snug and warm if would like one.



Alternatively, you can simply wander around and take time to enjoy the songs and vibrant colors of birds from all over the world in the *Explorer's Free-Flight Aviary*. *Insider Tip*: Make sure you grab some food inside the aviary to feed the birds…they'll enjoy sitting on your shoulder or your hand as you feed them.

Here are some of my other *Insider Tips* to a great day out at Discovery Cove:

 Discovery Cove is <u>all</u> <u>inclusive</u>...that means <u>everything is included</u>. Once you've paid your entrance fee...that's it...no more to pay.

Discovery Cove provides all guests with swim vests and/or wetsuits, a mask and snorkel, towels and beach chairs.



# NEXT YEAR TAKE A SCARECATION

A II across the state a variety of celebrations will mark "Hallow Even." Besides the usual merrymaking and playing of pranks by children, there are concerts and special events at attractions that provide scary and not-soscary alternatives to celebrate the occasion, making Florida the best place to visit if you want to experience Halloween in style. Florida Leisure has all the information you need to know.

#### **Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream**

Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream event returns for another season; with evil on its mind. Adding one more horrific night of sheer mental madness, guests will run for cover, scream for help and hope they see the light of dawn for 17 horror-filled nights this year. Howl-O-Scream themed food and merchandise will be available throughout the park. Howl-O-Scream unleashes its voodoo spirit on selected Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

#### SeaWorld's Halloween Spooktacular

Halloween meets the sea during SeaWorld Orlando's underwater "fantasea" where youngsters trick-or-treat among friendly sea witches, octopuses, mermaids, pumpkin fish and more. The festivities are included in park admission and begin at 12:00 p.m. each day. Spooktacular highlights include Trick-or-Treat Sea Sweets at several different treasure stations throughout the park, Frozen Fun Zone and strolling entertainment. **Guavaween and Guavaween Family FunFest** This Latin-style celebration is held each year in Tampa's

This Latin-style celebration is held each year in Tampa's historic Ybor City which is known more for its cigars than its guavas. The legendary story behind the celebration is as much fun as the celebration itself.

Long ago, Tampa pioneer Gavino Gutierrez tried to cultivate guava commercially, but was unsuccessful. However, it is noted that a local newspaper columnist was successful in planting the idea that if New York is the "Big Apple," then it follows that Tampa must be the "Big Guava." So, for seventeen years the mythical Mama Guava has lead her followers in the Mama Guava Stumble Parade.

This huge street party draws more than 100,000 people. Party goers not only enjoy the parade, but a costume party and concerts. After 3:00 p.m. Mama Guava welcomes her adult revelers and the party last long into the wee hours of the morning. So, take the "bore" out of Ybor City and join the celebration!

#### Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party

Special ticketed event at Disney World's Magic Kingdom that features "Mickey's Boo-to-You Halloween Parade," Mickey's Mouse-Ka-Rade costume parties, Halloween storytelling, live shows and a special Halloween-themed fireworks display above Cinderella Castle. Families enjoy a complimentary photo, unlimited use of the attractions and opportunities to trick-or-treat throughout the theme park.

#### **Universal Studios' Halloween Horror Nights**

Universal Orlando celebrates Halloween Horror Nights like no other place on earth. Get ready to experience gut-wrenching scares and blood-curdling frights ...

some so gruesome and so shocking, you will wish it was only a movie. There promises to be more haunted houses, hideous new creatures and inescapable scare zones to make you scream. No costumes allowed.



This event is too intense for young children.

#### (from page 1) Discover Discovery Cove by NIgel Worrall, CEO Florida Leisure



They will also provide you with a sample of a specially formulated sunscreen that is safe for use in the animal habitats.

 You should bring your own swimsuits (some people forget believe it or not), and, if

you choose, water socks or rubber pool shoes. Don't forget a hat, sunglasses, cover-up and dry clothes.

Find out when stingray feeding times are when you arrive...it's a lot of fun!

 Make sure you "Come Hungry"... remember the day is all inclusive and you can <u>eat and drink as much as you like</u>. Have breakfast at the park when you arrive!

Do not wear jewelry; it's for the safety of the animals.

Make the day even more special: Ask about a <u>private</u> <u>cabana</u>...it's an exclusive way to spend the day.

So make sure you ask us about a day at Discovery Cove when you plan your next trip to

Orlando...you'll be glad you did.

Until next month Higel



PS. Check out my blog and video on Discovery Cove at www.FloridaLeisureOnline.com and at www.YouTube.com/FloridaLeisure

# What Our Customers Say!

"Had a great time in Florida. The villa and pool were fantastic and in an ideal location. Will definitely return." Joanne & David, UK

"Everything you could wish for from a holiday home in the sun." Ian Morgan, Wirksworth, UK

"My family and I have been staying with Florida Leisure Vacation Homes for the past twelve years, at least. We are in the construction business and often combine a business trip with vacation.

With Florida Leisure, when we reach our destination, we feel that we have come home for a long-awaited rest. Because we are accepted and treated so well, we would not consider staying anywhere else!

Hilda, Glade Spring, VA

# Workout your Brain

- 1. Tenzin Gyatso is more famously known by what name?
- 2. What alcoholic drink is distilled from the agave plant?
- 3. What computer game invented by Alexi Pajtnov celebrated its 25th anniversary in June 2009?
- 4. Terpsichore is the ancient Greek muse of which art form?
- 5. Scottish rebel Robert MacGregor was better known by what name?
- 6. The logo of the Yamaha corporation comprises three interlocking what?
- 7. What is the name of the US President's helicopter?
- 8. Vladimir Ulyanov was better known as which political activist and leader?
- 9. Who was the first king of Rome?
- 10. Who starred as *Trampas* in the 1960-70s TV series *The Virginian*?

#### Answers (using a mirror will be helpful):

1. The Dalai Lama (14th), 2. Tequila, 3. Tetris, 4. Dance, 5. Rob Roy, 6. Tuning forks, 7. Marine One, 8. Lenin, 9. Romulus, 10. Doug McClure

### Welcome to your Florida Leisure Vacation, Slade Earlier this week we received a fantastic email and we thought we'd save it for today as it's really a lovely way to

Earlier this week we received a fantastic email and we thought we'd save it for today as it's really a lovely way to start a month ... and really sends the message home to all of us working for Florida Leisure Vacation Homes why we do what we do.

"We thought we were looking for the impossible. To celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary, we wanted to get our 3 children and their families to spend a week together in a large home or lodge. As we are spread around the country so many years go by without all of us getting together. And it gets more difficult -- especially since they keep giving us more grandchildren. So, finding a place for all 16 of us to stay for a week under one roof without stepping on each other would be hard. Enter Florida Leisure Homes. They provided us with a 6-bedroom, 4 ½ bathroom house with a pool, spa, game room, laundry, and plenty of common space for sharing the good times. To top it all off, the price was very reasonable and the unit was in excellent condition. Their staff helped us arrive informed and ready to relax -- there were no surprises!

The week started out with plenty of excitement as our 3 kids, their spouses, and our 8 grandkids got reacquainted and the smiles and laughs broke out. It was fun being able to have the entire group eating, watching TV, hanging around the pool, or just visiting. In a hotel, we would have been scattered around in 5 or 6 rooms. We started visiting nearby Florida attractions on the second day. The location made finding our destinations easy and we could be back at the vacation home in time to swim or play games before dinner.



be back at the vacation home in time to swim or play games before dinner. The 8 grandchildren were having so much fun! With so many people in one house we were concerned that everyone would get stressed out.

The opposite happened - -everyone had more fun and was relaxed because there were so many activities in the house. In fact, our daughter-in-law was pregnant and her new baby could obviously sense how much fun it was on the "outside." So on the third day of our vacation our 9th grandchild decided it was time to arrive! Instead of going to Universal Studios Florida, our son and his wife headed to the hospital. We took everyone else to Universal --every time we emerged from a ride or attraction, we hurriedly dialed the cell phone to find out if the baby had arrived. At 4pm, grandson Slade popped out and screamed, "Let's get back to the vacation house so I can meet my brothers, sister, and cousins!" He came straight to the vacation house when he was discharged from the hospital (going home could wait until the end of the week). When he turned three days old, he rode with us to Silver Springs and spent the day vacationing with his entire family. This only could have happened in a Florida Leisure Home. it was a wonderful week!" Dale & Becky Wadding La Crescent, MN Congratulations Dale, Becky and Slade. We all love the fact Slade is wearing his "Friends Don't Let Friends Stay In Hotels!" banadana. We look forward to seeing you all again in the near future and your gift card for sharing this with us and being our "Story of the Month" is on it's way to you. Fantastic!



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#### A "GOOD NEWS" NEWSLETTER FULL OF FUN AND INTERESTING FACTS FOR OUR CUSTOMERS OCTOBER 2009

All About ...

**Florida Leisure Vacation Homes** <sup>®</sup> We are a locally owned family business with over 15 years experience. We can help you select the perfect vacation home for you and your family. Our vacation specialists are here to assist and anticipate your every need with the desire to make your vacation the best it can be.

#### We proudly offer ...

Homes in close proximity to all the Attractions ... World class golf, unlimited water activities and miles of world class beaches on two coasts just a short drive away ...

A select inventory of privately owned properties, each well-appointed with décor and utilities personalized by each owner and complete with private swimming pools.

## Our #1 goal is to provide a world class, lifestyle experience for the discerning vacationer.

**Tell a Friend!** A referral from one of our satisfied clients is the greatest compliment we can receive, and we have a very unique (and generous) way of saying thank you! Call **1-866-976-9331** for more details.

# Home of the Month



Make a 2009 or 2010 reservation to stay in this month's featured home before October 31, 2009 and receive this special <u>BONUS:</u>

Book 5 nights or more and receive one extra night for free.

Call (866) 976-3494

www.FloridaLeisure.com/HoM

### **Universal's Harry Potter park gets Hogwarts**

Details are starting to emerge for the highly anticipated "park within a park" 20 acre **Wizarding World of Harry Potter** due to open next spring at Universal Orlando. There will be three major Potter-themed attractions including a *"Forbidden Journey"* ride set in the iconic Hogwart's Castle, Dragon Challenge and Flight of the Hippogriff.

Dragon Challenge is a high-speed ride described as "definitely for the brave" and is based on the Triwizard Tournament, a fictional 13th century contest between students of the three most prestigious magical schools of Europe.



Another is Flight of the Hippogriff, a coaster based on Rowlings' magical creature with the head, wings and front legs of a giant eagle and body, hind legs and tail of a horse.

Also keeping faithful to author J.K. Rowlings' seven-book Harry Potter series visitors will be able to sample *butter beer* and *pumpkin juice* at the Three Broomsticks Restaurant, relax in the Owlery and be fitted for a magical wand in Ollivander's Wand Shop, all of which are familiar to Potter fans.

The "Wizarding World" had been under development for five years and park details have been tightly held since the project was announced in 2007. We'll have further details in this newsletter as soon as we get them... so watch out! It promises to be amazing!

Talking of amazing, isn't it amazing how quick 2009 has flown by? Wow...we're almost at the start of another decade.

As 2009 comes to end, it's time to look forward to next year and to start planning your next vacation. Of course, there's still plenty of time left this year for you to take a deserved break in Orlando if you are able to but if not, don't despair as we've got you covered regardless of when you make your reservation:

<u>Offer 1</u> – Thanksgiving is coming...and if you make a reservation by 15<sup>th</sup> October for 4 or more nights, we'll give you an extra night <u>*FREE*</u>!

Offer 2 - Make your 2010 reservation by 15<sup>th</sup> October and we'll give you a whopping **\$100** off!

And all you have to do to get one of these amazing offers is call us on (866) 348-2092

Or visit our web site <u>www.FloridaLeisure.com</u> and enter the code "Hogwarts" when you book online.

### Friends Don't Let Friends... Stay in Hotels!

Occasionally you get a reminder about why you have been put on this planet and why it is your duty to serve others. We were looking through the submissions to our *"Friends Don't Let Friends Stay in Hotels"* competition recently and we came across the following:

It's the story of a family that still comes together to celebrate life and it's revealing...



"We believe that our Father and our Mother though they've passed away, are in heaven looking at us as we move from day to day.

They would love this idea of us coming together once or twice a year, to eat meals together, laugh with each other, and if need be shed a tear.

If they were alive they would appreciate you for being so gracious, allowing us to use this house that is very, very spacious. In this house on Cumbrian Lakes Drive we've reflected on times gone by. We've eaten meals together, laughed with each other, and have sometimes shed a tear.

We are sending you a picture of us. You'll see we've placed the bandanna on an empty chair. This is where our departed sister would be standing if GOD had chosen to allow her to be here. Our time here was nearly perfect, nearly perfect you see. The only reason it isn't so is that we are missing those three."

THANK YOU SO MUCH! Nellie (JC), Helen, Jennette, FannieK (Jesse), Luther (Mary)

Thanks for the reminder...it's important for all of us to treasure the life we have and to use it to serve others. It's also a reminder that taking time out for ourselves and our loved ones is just as important. In this day and age we don't get much vacation time so the time we do get has to be treasured even more. Your note reminds us of those things and it's why we, at Florida Leisure, will always strive to go the extra mile to make your time together so special. Thank you.

If you'd like more information on how you can enter our competition, share your story and maybe win a \$50 gift card, please visit http://www.FriendsDontLetFriendsStayInHotels.com