



Tis the season to reach out to family and friends and brag about our lives during the Christmas Season. But first, let us all agree that we all wish a pox upon the Corona virus du jour.

Let's start by sharing a bit **about the brewery**. We just participated in two markets this year – both on Thursday afternoons. Mark took Prior Lake and Laurel took Farmington. Apparently business success is based on being sure we don't work together. But since we had Saturday's open, we got the bright idea of being open at the brewery for folks that wanted to get their sodas on Saturday. What we discovered was that a few folks picked up their favorite sodas, but most just wanted to sit on the patio and sample our beers, wines, ciders, and meads. Hmmm, who would have thought of that?? Hmmm. So Saturdays were quite pleasant (a.k.a. we did not get too many chores done on Saturdays) right up until mid-November.



In Mark's endless pursuit of eclectic artwork to clutter up the house, yard, and brewery, he and a good buddy of his went down to the Amana Colonies this Spring and picked up the Phoenix sculpture he commissioned to be made. Okay, it is pretty, but what happened to down-sizing in our senior years? But *AJ's Copper Garden* does make some cool stuff down in Homestead, Iowa.

In late October, we took a bit of a **road trip**. With thoughts of possibly travels to Pennsylvania or Tennessee, we only made it to Wisconsin. Our first plans were to spend some time in La Crosse but they were disrupted by lack of places to rest our weary heads. We had to go as far as Wisconsin Dells before we found someone that would take us in. Now, since we were so close to Chicago and it was the weekend, we figured we would see Diana – but she did not want us either. Something about the house was a mess, yadda yadda. So we agreed to meet in Burlington. After some miscommunication we eventually met Diana at *AepfelTreow Winery* who were serving apple cider, some distilled beverages and apple cider donuts – yum. Then off to dinner at the *Waterfront* on Brown's Lake – also yum. After that we went on up to Green Bay (we have to go back for some more *Seroogy* chocolates) and Sturgeon Bay and more of Door County. On the way back, we stopped off in Wisconsin Dells again to check out the Museum of Root Beer. When we took the tour we found a bottle of our root beer up on their display of bottles. We can now say we are recognized in the only public museum dedicated to root beer. Wahoo!!



Oh! Almost forgot; we also stopped by the *Carved Stone Creations* in Kaukauna and picked up 4 cupids carved in pink marble and playing musical instruments. We both think they will make a great addition to next year's events with the live music. Yep, down-sizing ain't happening.

Family Stuff: Mavis Byrson (Laurel's mother) turned 90 this past October and celebrated with a plethora of family and friends in Albert Lea. Congratulations Mavis! Carl Glewwe (Mark's father) is still at Heritage of Edina, comfortable but under assisted living care. And our nephew, Jake Terhark, got married in October to a lovely young lady. Our best wishes for their future.

Highlights of the summer open houses: We had lots of fun this year, 5 planned events and 1 extra one. Some new and favorite musicians came out and played. The unplanned event was with some musicians that wanted to have a jam session and figured our patio was a good location. Some of the special visitors included the *Credit River Antique Tractor Club*, *Michael's Bicycle* Saturday tour group, and the *MG car club*. All in all, it was a bit of a blur and we are pretty sure we missed some other special moments.

We have started planning our beverages for next summer. A big addition for next year is a selection of sweeter options: Two meads (Dwójniak and Bochet) and several desert wines (Vidal Ice, Chocolate & Raspberry, Chocolate & Cherry, and a Port). Apparently our friends and neighbors have a sweet tooth that we have not been satisfying.

The Children: Diana (and her dog Malcolm) is still in North Chicago and still replacing the back deck on her house. Besides home repairs, she is also crocheting and being creative with stained glass and making stuff with her 3-D printer. Her job of global imports is well suited for working from home. Erik & Lauren are living with the dog (Peanut) and the two cats and working in St. Paul. Besides delivering the mail, Erik is still exploiting dad's brewing equipment to make his own spiced meads. Both kids are getting quite good at their hobbies. COVID quarantines have provided them the opportunity to hone their new-found skills and passions.



Thanksgiving was fairly low key with Erik and Lauren joining us for a quiet dinner. In keeping with tradition, Big Foot has donned a bright red bowtie and hat and has gathered the penguins to pull Santa's sleigh through the neighborhood.

Once again, be safe and have a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

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