

December 2006

Merry Christmas

TAMPA BAY 56'ers ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BANQUET

Sunday, December 9th

Cocktails 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM (Cash Bar)

Buffet Dinner 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Santa will be there with a gift for each
member of the club
8:00 PM – 10:00 PM



RADISSON HOTEL
20967 U.S. 19 North
Clearwater, FL.

TAMPA BAY 56ers
NEWSLETTER



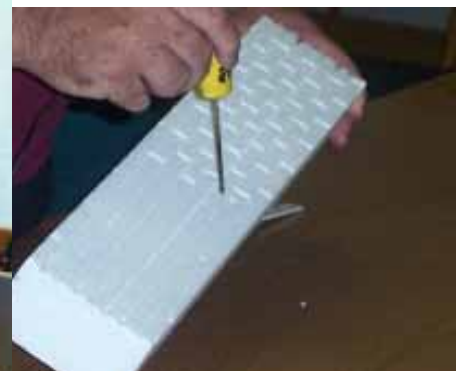
Membership Meeting on November 19, 2006



We definitely know how to eat, despite the sign. Thanks to our great photographer, Domenick. And welcome to our new members.



Denis Gillen had to fill in as our demonstrator at the last minute. Bill Foelker had to leave suddenly after learning that his wife, Mary Ann, helped to deliver their grandchild at home. Both mother and baby are doing fine. Even Grandmom Mary Ann is recovering from being a sudden midwife.





ALL ABOUT CRANBERRIES

The cranberry is a Native American wetland fruit which grows on trailing vines like a strawberry. The vines thrive on the special combination of soils and water properties found in wetlands. Wetlands are nature's sponges; they store and purify water and help to maintain the water table. Cranberries grow in beds layered with sand, peat and gravel. These beds are commonly known as bogs or marshes and were originally formed as a result of glacial deposits.

In Massachusetts we call the place where cranberries grow a BOG. Natural bogs evolved from deposits left by the glaciers more than 10,000 years ago. These deposits were left in impermeable kettle holes lined with clay. The clay prevents materials from leaching into the groundwater. Rocks and other organic materials were collected by the glaciers. When the ice finally melted deposits of heavy materials were layered on top of the clay.

These kettle holes were filled with water and organic matter which created the ideal environment for cranberries. In the early 1800s Henry Hall, a veteran of the Revolutionary War who lived in Dennis Massachusetts noticed that sand blown in from nearby dunes helped vines grow faster. Today, growers spread a inch or two of sand on their bogs every three years. The sand not only helps the vines grow but also slows the growth of weeds and insects. Normally, growers do not replant each year since an undamaged cranberry vine will survive indefinitely. Some vines on Cape Cod are more than 150 years old and are still bearing fruit.

The cranberry harvest takes place once a year from mid-September through early November. There are two methods of harvesting cranberries.

Dry Harvesting

Dry harvesting involves using walk-behind machines to rake the berries off the vines into boxes or bags. Berries are removed from the bogs by either bog vehicles or helicopters. The fruit is delivered to fresh fruit receiving stations where it is graded and screened based on color and ability to bounce (soft berries will not bounce). Dry harvested cranberries are used to supply the fresh fruit market. These cranberries are most often used for cooking and baking.

Wet Harvesting

Cranberries have pockets of air inside the fruit. Because of this, cranberries float in water, and thus, the bogs can be flooded to aid in removal of fruit from the vines. Water reels, nicknamed "egg-beaters" are used to stir up the water in the bogs. By this action, cranberries are dislodged from the vines and float to the surface of the water. Wooden or plastic "booms" are used to round up the berries, which are then lifted by conveyor or pumped into a truck to take them to the receiving station for cleaning. More than 85% of the crop is wet harvested. Wet harvested cranberries are used for juices, sauces, or as ingredients in other processed foods.



The board decided to buy a Thanksgiving meal for two needy family. Barbara Wallis has located the families through Blanton Elementary School and delivered complete turkey dinners. Thanks goes to Barbara Wallis for handling this project.



We will also be helping another family, a single mom with two boys, at Christmas with Christmas presents and a Christmas meal. We are asking members to help by purchasing gifts. Please bring the wrapped gifts to the Christmas Party or drop them off at Barbara Wallis' residence by December 20, 2006. The following are ideas for presents. Please place a tag on each gift to identify who the present is for.

Devon is a 7 year old boy who wears a size 7 regular clothes. He needs outside clothes and school uniform clothes (navy pants, white collar shirt). Devon would also out door toys, remote cars, learning games, books, and electronic hand held games.

The baby boy wears size 24 months for clothes. Any toys, particularly learning activity toys, appropriate to a 24 month year old would be greatly appreciated.

The Mother is 29 years old. She wears size 5 pants, size small in dress shirts, size medium in t-shirts, sweater or jacket . Bath & grooming items would also be appreciated. Gift certificates would be appropriate for mom, but kids like to open boxes.





**THINKING
VILLAGES**

Collectors Gallery in the Twin Cities has a special Snow Village Exclusive Limited Edition called McHattie's Tea House. McHattie's Tea House was designed for Collectors Gallery as a 25th Anniversary Exclusive Edition. McHattie's Tea House is based on a local landmark and is very limited. In fact, McHattie's Tea House will be one of the rarest introductions ever.



Here's two pictures of the Halloween display done by the Colangelos. Now we know why they did not bring it to Robert's Christmas Wonderland for the display contest!



Robert's
**Christmas
Wonderland**
2951 Gulf to Bay Blvd. (Highway 60)
Clearwater, Florida 33759

(727) 797-1660
Out of Area Call: (800) 861-6389
Fax (727) 799-2704



**FLORIDA'S LARGEST
TRAIN STORE**



H&R TRAINS



The annual tour of homes is scheduled for **Sunday, January 7, 2007**. The following families have volunteered for the tour:

1. Roger & Carol Fournier
2. Dick & Ida Johnson
3. Conrad Krause
4. Denis and Joyce Gillen
5. Domenick & Pamela Prestia
6. Kathy Dorsey and Diana Cortright.

The exact route and order of homes is still being worked on by Tour Chairman, Marlyn King. The next newsletter will contain all of the details.

Dinner will be hosted at the last home, the residence of Kathy Dorsey and Diana Cortright. If you would like to bring a dish, contact Kathy at 727-869-7107. Tickets will be given at each house on the tour and door prizes awarded.

941.488.1096
941.488.7551
Fax 941.488.2302

The Christmas Room
A Division of O.K. Tire Service of Venice, Inc.

Venice Shopping Center
Venice, Florida 34285

Featuring Lemax Ralph & Linda Comb Owners

Skip's Florist & Christmas H.O.U.S.E.

SKIP MASLOWSKI

5324 Mile Stretch Dr. (727) 938-2274
Holiday, FL 34690 (800) 938-9048

Happy Birthday!



12/1	Sally	Colangelo
12/10	Barbara	Wallis
12/18	Chuck	McGeary
12/28	Denis	Gillen



Christmas Wish List

1. Peace and Goodwill
2. Membership dues

Family \$30.00

Single \$20.00

Charter Member \$15.00

Contact Conrad Krause 727-461-4480

or Dick Johnson 727-539-1076



Happy New Year!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS



December 9 - Christmas Party
Saturday 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM
RADISSON HOTEL
20967 U.S. 19 North
Clearwater, FL

2007
January 7- Tour of Homes
Sunday Dinner at the end at the home of
Kathy Dorsey and Diana Cortright

No Regular Membership Meeting in January, 2007

Tampa Bay 56'ers 2006 Officers

President: Joyce Gillen
727-796-7606

1st Vice-President: Cindy
Swinehart
941-922-7419

2nd Vice President: Sally
Colangelo
727-784-5324

Secretary: Teresa Williams
727-568-0172

Treasurer: Dick Johnson
727-539-1076

NCC Rep: Bill Foelker
813-657-8949

Director: Vern Schwieterman
727-531-3112

Director: Roger Grieves
727-581-8199

Past President: Marlyn King
727-367-4226

Tampa Bay 56'ers
6100 90th Avenue
Pinellas Park, FL 33782
Ellen Wilcox, News Editor
eswdlh@earthlink.net



**This newsletter printed
especially for**