

September has been a rough month - and I'm not just talking about the weather.

On September 14th, our dear friend and neighbor, Charles, earned his "Angel Wings" (as they say here in Lakeside Crossing), after a valiant battle with cancer. Charles was a Navy veteran of both WWII and Korea, and highly respected though out our community. Although we were neighbors and friends for all our 5 plus years here at Lakeside, our friendship with Charles & Doris and their family became even closer over the past year. We will miss Charles deeply.

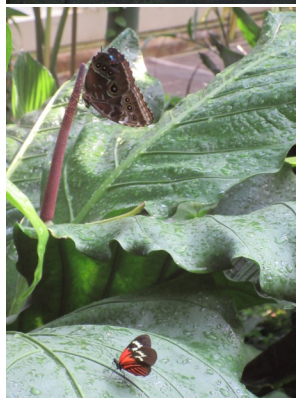


On a lighter note Bob & I visited Calloway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA earlier in the month of September. Robin McCall of Storehouse Tours led the adventure. I always love listening to Robin when she shares her knowledge of the history of the area while traveling. We went on the weekend of the annual Balloon Festival, which really caught our attention! Calm down now, just because I said, Balloon Festival, I know what you are thinking, since we attended the Albuquerque, NM festival twice! This was a small festival that doesn't even come close, but fun just the same. The balloons were inflated but did not fly. At first I was disappointed but thinking about it, they really could not fly easily. What goes up must come down and we were in hill country with heavy forests. The open plains of Albuquerque it was not! It was fun watching the people who were seeing the balloons for the first time up close. The lines to climb into the baskets were long.

Besides the balloons, we visited the butterfly house, attended the birds of prey demonstration and before leaving visited Franklin Roosevelt's 'Little White House'.

Then there were the hurricanes.....The Coastal Carolinas were really lucky this year, BIG TIME!!! Our hearts and prayers go out to those people in the areas that were hit hard!! We were prepared, but thank God were spared.

Below show the balloons being set up. On the right we took pictures from our room of some balloons rising slightly about the trees. We could see them from our balcony, which over looked the lake and the fire works after dark. Next are the butterflies and birds of pray.



Around 2:00 PM on April 12th 1945, while having his portrait painted in the above room, FDR, complained of a severe headache and collapsed. At 3:35 PM he passed away and Harry S. Truman was sworn in as the Commander-In-Chief. The unfinished portrait currently hangs in The Little White House.