

Well, here we are in June, the wet weather has slowed down, the heat is building up, and the first days of Summer are upon us! I don't know about the rest of you, but I am not as active in the heat of Summer or the depths of Winter. I did enjoy the snow and skiing when I was young, but never was a lover of the high heat! I am happy in SC because we usually have a nice comfortable long Spring and Fall. Note, I said *usually*!!

Well, this month we did a Storehouse Tours day trip, with Robin McCall to the Charleston Tea Plantation on Wadmalaw Island, in the heart of South Carolina's Low country. It is the only Tea Garden in the US. The person responsible for producing the only tea made with 100% tea grown in the US was William Barclay Hall, a professional 3rd generation tea taster.

When we arrived, we checked out the Gift Shop, where we were able to taste samples of the tea in addition to purchasing tea and other items. The weather was perfect for the tour. The plan was to take a trolley tour of the plantation and then of the production floor, with TV screens describing the process. There was a slight change in the schedule, when the trolley we were to ride in 'refused to move'! One of my pictures shows a tractor trying to pull it out of the way with a chain, but it would not budge! Since it blocked the road, a second trolley behind it had to turn around so we could ride it in a 'backwards tour'!! Yes, we did the tour in reverse, which of course was not a big deal, just funny.

The picture below is of the gift shop. The top picture is a close up of the tea leaves, which I thought you might like to see. Looking at the next picture down you can get a good idea of the work in the fields. The man in the picture is one of a few farm hands whose job is to pull all the weeds out before the machinery comes in to harvest the top few inches of leaves from the tea bushes. Just the very top leaves get harvested. You can see the difference in the ones he has done and the ones he hasn't gotten to yet. Below that picture, you can see the front of the trolley we were supposed to take and the tractor in front of it. The doorway to the right is to the viewing hall, where we can see the production equipment. The last picture is of our tour group with Robin. We stopped and had a great lunch at the *Tomato Shed*, on St. Johns Is.



Charleston continued...

We are not done yet with Charleston on this trip!! We were taken nearby to see the famous *Angel Oak Tree*. Look at the size of the trunk and the heavy branches touching the ground - the size of tree trunks. This oak is estimated to be between 400 and 500 years old or another way to think of it is in generations of human life! Imagine the history that this tree witnessed. This tree produces 17,200 feet of shade. Simply phenomenal and really worth seeing!! Ok...I am done with Charleston now. Did you have fun reading about it? I hope so...

Well, Bob & I are going to be in an informational video....I think?!! Don't get too excited as we simply participated in the making of a local informational piece for the local Chamber of Commerce on the *Falk Family Chiropractic & Wellness Service*. We haven't seen the results yet...too soon. A small group of us were picked to be interviewed on camera. There are two pictures on the right demonstrating this. Linda, of the office staff, is assisting the photographer in focusing in on natural supplements on the shelf in the waiting room. Next to that shows the photographer setting up one of the patients being interviewed for the production. No that is not me in the chair! Everyone knows how highly we view this Chiropractic service!

Early in the month, Bob & I had some maintenance done in the house. A few years ago we met Julio, an independent local worker, who had done some jobs for us. This time he fixed a leak in the roof and painted our garage floor. He is a good worker and did a great job.

The rest of the pictures are of a casual nature, some wild life in the lake behind our house, which is our alternate TV, and which is never turned off. Just love it!!! Out on the deck, after dark, the night sounds of frogs, night birds, and others are hypnotic. The picture below is of Mama Duck, the first mother duck and babies we have seen on this lake this year. Unfortunately, new born ducks are easy pray for vultures. This little lady had 7 babies. The last time I saw her she was down to 5. I have watched her go around the edge of the lake with her babies at her side. The other ducks will sit in the shade under the Weeping Willow tree. My other little buddy, on the lower left, I found on our walkway one day. I stuck Gracie in, on the bottom right, in front of a couple of our great viewing windows of the lake. This is one of her favorite spots, when she is not out on the porch.

