

Ladies of the Lake - December 2018
By Barbara Galvin

On December 5, 2018, the Ladies of the Lake began their holiday celebrations at Lake Bracken Country Club for the annual Christmas Party. The hostesses were Kay McKinley, Elizabeth Hiel and Lonnie Woodring, who made sure everyone would enjoy the afternoon. Even the weather cooperated with a sunny, dry day with a little brisk wind. Who could ask for anything more?

The dining room was decorated with Christmas trees to set the mood, but the ladies were ready to enjoy, especially after spying the array of cookies set out on a separate table. Imagine, a cookie table all for itself!

Lonnie Woodring greeted all the ladies and reminded them to check out their own holiday decorations with the idea of making room for new "finds," whether ornaments, lights, or wreaths. The Ladies will be sponsoring a rummage sale in May, 2019. Lonnie asked the group to set aside those items they no longer treasured- for someone else to enjoy.

The Lake Bracken staff passed out their menus, which the ladies "studied" before placing their orders. There was something for everyone from the variety of salads to delicious sandwiches, or a combination of the two. Not to mention, fried potatoes in all sizes and shapes, even the "side-winder" potatoes, with a curl, were sampled by the ladies.

Elizabeth Hiel offered a heart-felt prayer before the ladies began the meal. Elizabeth expressed the gratitude felt by the ladies who are so blessed not only with dear friends surrounding them, but also with the lovely area of Little Swan Lake to enjoy as their home.

Once menus were gathered up, the ladies greeted and exchanged "news" with other ladies. Then Kay McKinley moved to the top of the list of hostesses when she invited everyone to help themselves to delicious cookies to help the waiting for lunch to pass more quickly. Name a cookie. It must have been on the official cookie table! There were chocolate chip cookies, sugar cookies, cranberry bars, spritz cookies, brownies, frosted cookies, decorated cookies, and peanut butter cookies.

Time flew by and soon the dining room became quieter as meals were distributed. That quiet atmosphere would not last long, because once everyone finished eating, it was time for the Grab Bag Selections.

Our first lady to select a gift was Bev Ver Steeg, who received a scent-warmer which she was pleased to see. Of course, the rules of two steals being permitted had already been explained by Lonnie Woodring.

Everyone was "playing" nicely as Patty Sloan received a mug full of a variety of cocoas and Darlye Ackers opened a lovely Christmas Red tray. It could only be smoothly running along until Sharon Butler walked to the Grab Bag Gift table. She no sooner opened her gift, a lovely black and white beaded necklace, and Kay McKinley stole the necklace! The game was on!

The ladies tried to resume a cordial atmosphere, and it lasted until Patty Anderson opened her Christmas Door mat. Then open season began once more as Lonnie Woodring opened her gift, a bottle of Rose Wine. But, the ladies were patient!

Nancy Powell opened a "Joy" globe that lit up and Mariana Schrader had it snatched up! Jane Stevens opened a holiday necklace with charms that no one thought she'd keep very long!

Sandy Morrow had to tell everyone she had received Peanut Brittle, so it was promptly stolen by Barb Jonckheere. She had a second steal from her, so she took the Globe lite.

Patty Anderson opened a Scroll Votive Holder with scented candles, while Peggy McGrew was pleased with a lantern, complete with battery candle.

Too quiet for the ladies, so Laura Jennings took care of that! Laura attempted to convince the other ladies that her gift selection was really a rolling pin as she demonstrated her rolling technique. No one bought that! It was a bottle of White Zinfandel Wine!

Judi Joes had the bottle from Laura before she could stop rolling!

Gail Maher selected a Christmas decorated shovel, while Carleen Adams was admiring her little Christmas Tree. Pam Gaskill was not advertising her selection, pearl earrings. Meanwhile, Gloria Bewley showed off a pill case and gloves from her gift bag.

Again things were moving along nicely, until Barb Dunlap demonstrated how the little Christmas tree lit up! Wham! Denise Thomas stole the tree right before our eyes.

But Barb then went after Jane Steven's necklace, so Jane stole an ornamental car of lites.

Who knows what the ladies went home with in those festive bags! Except everyone heard the poinsettia winners' names called by tickets pulled from a bowl.

Congratulations to the lucky ladies who carried beautiful red and white poinsettias home: Sandy Morrow, Mariana Schrader, Darlyne Ackers, Patty Anderson, Barb Galvin, Peggy McGrew, Barb Dunlap, and Patty Sloan.

The Ladies of the Lake enjoying the party were Darlyne Ackers, Carlene Adams, Patty Anderson, Gloria Bewley, Judy Brown, Sharon Butler, Barb Dunlap, Barb Galvin, Pam Gaskill, Elizabeth Hiel, Laura Jennings, Barb Jonckheere, Judi Jones, Gail Maher, Peggy McGrew, Kay McKinley, Sandy Morrow, Nancy Powell, Mariana Schrader, Patty Sloan, Jane Stevens, Denise Thomas, Beverly Ver Steeg, and Lonnie Woodring.

All the ladies were so happy with the Christmas party which ended with more cookies to celebrate. The gracious hostesses, Elizabeth, Kay, and Lonnie, thought of everything! They even had containers and/or zip-lock bags to take some holiday cookies home. The party continued with applause heartily given for a wonderful celebration and all the planning and hard work that made everyone so happy to be at Lake Bracken.

How do we know everyone enjoyed? Because the ladies volunteered to do it again at Lake Bracken in December 2019! That's the true evidence.

"May all the blessings of this holiday season fall like snowflakes and blanket every corner of your world." (The Passionists)

Plan to join us for the New Year on January 2, 2019. We will plan to "Brown Bag" the luncheon, so the weather should not stop us. We'll find out how everyone spent their holidays!

Do utilize the 15% discount card Lake Bracken so graciously gave us. Enjoy!