



Our family reunion in July. See our web site for names.

JOHN & CHAROLETTE SWEET

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Dear Friends and Family,

The biggest single thing for Char this year was her 75TH birthday party and family reunion in July. For John it was finally getting cataract surgery on his right eye in November. For the two of us it was buying an adjoining tract of land that filled out our property to more logical boundaries. For the family it was the

October marriage of our youngest daughter, Kathy, to Jeff Smith. More on all of these things coming up.

Since we already owned 340 acres, buying 50 more was not something we really *needed* to do, but John has been eager to fill in this gap on the east side for a long time and our neighbor was finally ready to sell. We will post a map of this on our web site as part of our 2011 News page, hopefully within a couple of weeks. <http://johnrsweet.com/personal/2011.html>

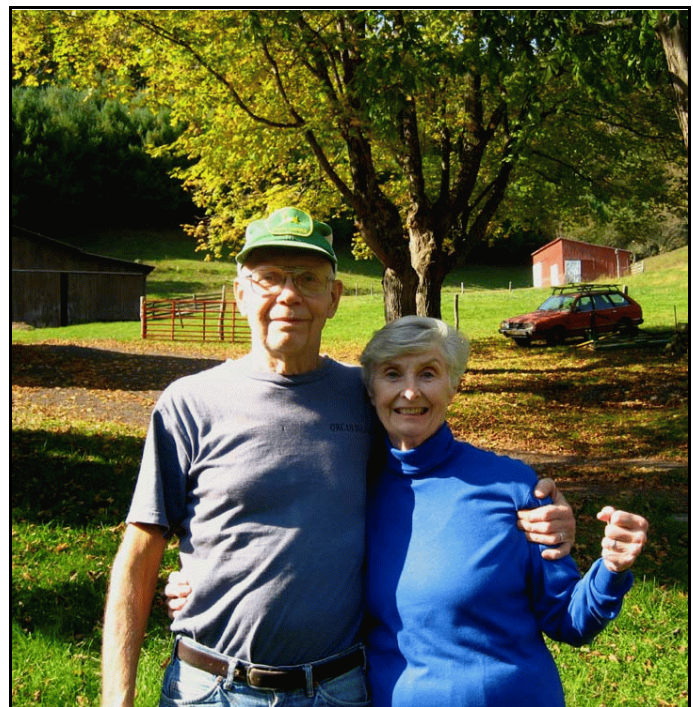
Char's actual birthday is in December but that is a lousy time for a family reunion, so we postponed it for seven months. July is much better for camping, hiking, and generally enjoying the country. Sadly, the appointed weekend was one of the hottest in memory so we mostly just sat around with our feet in the kids' plastic wading pool. All of the immediate family was here, as shown in the photo at top, and a good time was had by all despite the heat.

Kathy's wedding in October was even more of a family reunion, as we had attendees from both sides of the family. Char's niece, Deb Hansen and her daughter, Kate, came all the way from Washington state and stopped to visit us on the way to the wedding. (the photo at right is by Kate). The weather was perfect (people say that often, but it really was!) For more details take a look at Kathy and Jeff's wedding page:

<http://weddings.theknot.com/pwp/pwp2/view/MemberPage.aspx?coupleId=5656189327542183>

Kathy and Jeff took a honeymoon trip to The Netherlands and Char house-and-cat sat for them while they were away.

We did three major projects this year and a number of smaller ones. We started building high-tensile fence up Locust Hollow in May. Shane Wiseman came to help with this between



college and his summer job. Chris Moore was in his last year working for us before going to college and Isaiah Carter was a new hire, so we had a crew of four part of the time. We finished tree and brush removal in May before taking a break for hay making, then built half of the fence in June, followed by a longer break, with the last staple finally driven in September.

We had talked about redecorating Char's bathroom for some time but she had privately begun to doubt that it would ever happen; however, the stars fell into line. First thing Char knew she was picking out tile and paint and the closet and medicine chest were being emptied and the ceiling and floors were being torn out and all sorts of things were being replaced. Char is delighted with the results (though the trim color didn't turn out quite like she expected – she may yet repaint it). It will be on our web site as soon as John gets the News 2011 page posted – check it out!

Chris and John built a new dock for our pond in late June, then started painting the cabin in mid-July, just before the reunion. We wrapped up that job in the week following the reunion, then did second-cutting hay in early August and insulated the attic of the Dawson wing of our house before resuming the fence job. As soon as the last post was driven, Chris left for college.

John was actively caving early in the year, as the exploration and mapping of Wishing Well Cave was nearing completion. These were strenuous, 10-to-12-hour trips, which took a lot out of the old man. He left the final wrapup to the younger generation as the weather warmed and farm chores loomed but went back for one final killer trip in June, the day after finishing hay season. Almost all of the leads have now been pushed and the cave length stands just shy of five miles.

Char has continued taking violin lessons in Monterey and performed in semi-annual recitals. She is joined in this enterprise by four adults, as well as 20 or so students aged from 7 to 18. The adults are represented by violins, viola, and cello – perhaps they can form their own chamber quartet! She had neglected playing traditional music for the last two years in the effort to improve technique and get ready for recitals. One of our neighbors plays guitar and he came over a couple of months ago and got her to get out her fiddle and play some fiddle tunes. Now we get together every Sunday afternoon that we can and the tunes have improved a lot already.

Char & John