

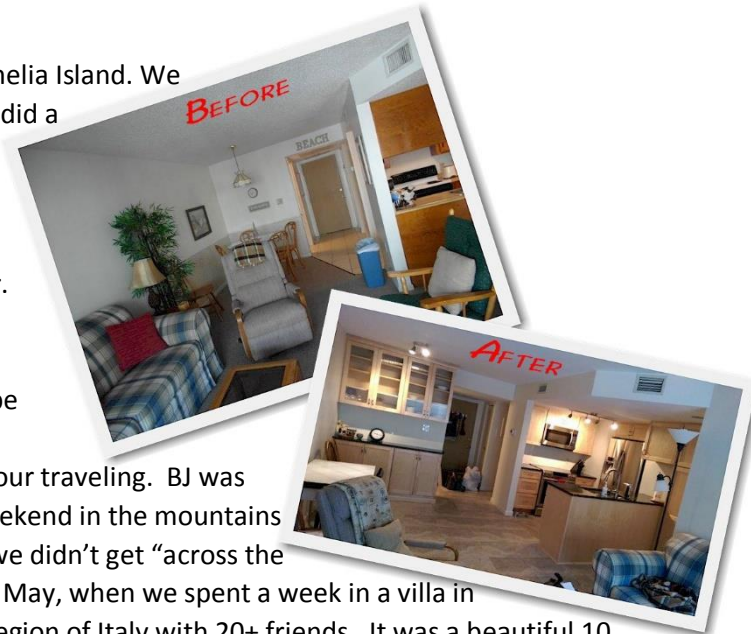
Ho Ho Holy Cow, it's been another busy year!

Most of the early months were spent at our new-to-us condo on Amelia Island. We are affectionately calling it "Paws Awhile at Fernandina Beach". We did a major renovation of the kitchen and living area. We tore out a dividing wall and replaced the flooring, cabinets, appliances and lighting. The end result is much more bright and open!



The condo wasn't the only place needing a work this year. The rental house in Chicopee Village that BJ & Mary Jane inherited needed a new bathroom. We were surprised to find that a family of opossums living under the bathtub needed to be relocated during the construction!

These projects really cut into our traveling. BJ was able to fit in a girls' weekend in the mountains in April, but we didn't get "across the pond" until May, when we spent a week in a villa in the Umbria region of Italy with 20+ friends. It was a beautiful 10 bedroom villa with two pools, and a patio with a wonderful view of the Umbrian countryside. We hiked and did day trips to nearby towns and had great family style meals that we took turns cooking in the villa's spacious kitchen.



BJ spent time with her sister at Paws Awhile in June and we spent a couple of weekends in Blue Ridge with our "German Daughter".

July took us back across the pond for a river cruise on A-ROSA. This time we cruised from Lyon along the Rhône and Saône rivers to Macon, Chalon sur Saône, Avignon and La Voulte before returning to Lyon. We took the optional bicycle tours almost every day and enjoyed wonderful evenings on the boat. A special treat of the trip was lunch at Paul Bocuse in Lyon!



August found us back in Fernandina Beach, putting some finishing touches on the remodel.



In September, we chartered a barge with 22 friends from Amsterdam to Brugge. We bicycled during the day while the barge motored to the next port, then we met the barge in time for dinner. We biked about 30 miles/day on flat terrain along canals, through pastures and forests. The scenery was spectacular and the weather could not have been more perfect. The barge had a crew of 4, including a bicycle guide who also gave tours in each port in the evening. We both agreed that it was one of the best vacations we have ever taken!



As soon as we got home, BJ flew to Jacksonville to spend a couple of nights at Paws Awhile before the Delta Women's Golf Tournament in Palm Coast. It was the 40th anniversary of the tournament so she resurrected some of her old outfits for the occasion. Mrs. Every Putt was the life of the party once again.



After the tournament, BJ and her sister met their cousins back at Paws Awhile for a little reunion. It was so much fun spending time together at the beach.

BJ went back to Paws Awhile again in October to spend time with our great-nephew, Jack and his parents. It was fun playing on the beach with Jack and going to the zoo.

We traveled to Washington, DC to get a sofa for Paws Awhile. Yes, we know there are closer sofas, but we like this one! Later in the month, we took a trip to Sapphire, NC to see the beautiful leaves.

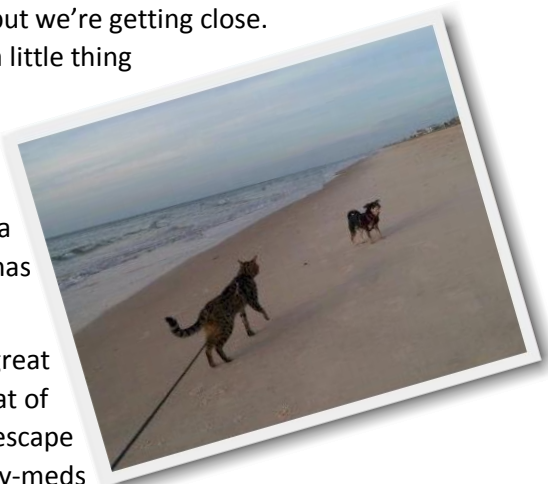


We were fortunate enough to find a few days in November when our vacation rental house, Beauty and the Beach, on St. George Island was available. It was great to get back to the soft sand of the Gulf Coast! Lucy and Lola loved it too! We split the rest of November between Atlanta and Fernandina Beach, spending Thanksgiving week at Paws Awhile.

Looks like we'll be enjoying this great Atlanta weather for most of December, but we'll be spending New Year's Eve at Paws Awhile again! We haven't spent quite enough time there to claim Florida residency but we're getting close. BJ took 19 round trips to JAX this year. Tony didn't make quite as many trips due to a little thing called "work" (but he's not bitter).



Tony is still contracting at LGE Community Credit Union and BJ is still dabbling in Travel Agency work, and is transitioning to a new agency that specializes in cruises and has a division for interline travel.



Lucy and Lola are still doing well. Lucy is a great little traveler, fitting perfectly under the seat of the airplane. Lola tried to fly once but expressed her indignation loudly and tried to escape from her carrier. We're not sure we'll try that again until we find the right mix of kitty-meds to keep her calm. She does seem to love the beach, and gets lots of attention when we walk her!

We have been blessed with good health, good friends and good fun again this year. We hope you have been equally blessed. We would love to hear from you!

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year!



*Love,
Tony, BJ, Lucy & Lola*