



Hello, friends and family. We hope that 2009 has been kind to you, and that you have a joyous holiday and all the best in 2010.

Notes from Linda's World:

Surprise, surprise, my year has been wrapped up in animal activities. In my pet sitting business, I've now cared for everything from a parakeet named Psycho to a beautiful, cranky chocolate donkey and her herd of 13 angora goats. She keeps them in line with the personality of a Marine drill sergeant. It's never dull, though sometimes hard work, especially when the weather is rough, but much healthier than being a state bureaucrat. I'll take Cadoodles over a desk job any time. No, nothing kinky, a Cadoodle is a collie/poodle mix. Though sometimes I feel more like a Bich-poo (Bichon Frise/poodle mix, that is).

As I refuse to get old, my long-term goals remain the same: full time work in habitat restoration and animal rescue, on a small, manageable scale (Ha! Chad says.) I hope to develop and write about projects to show how much of a difference a small effort can make against urbanization that's pushing wildlife into smaller and smaller areas while cutting out native plants that the animals depend on.

Lecture over. I'll shut up now (Ha! again says Chad), but if you want to see more info about my pet sitting business, I have a web site that you can visit at : www.hillcountrypetcare.com. Most of the pictures on the site are of our own wonderful and crazy animal family. Who are all doing well this year. Whew!



Chad says:



What a change from last year, which I mostly spent clearing cedar. Full time hard work, but enjoyable. This year, reinforced by record heat and drought, I've rationalized away the need to clear more land (to better accommodate Linda's habitat plans!), but not wanting to become a full time couch potato, I'm spending more time with volunteer work. And waaay too much time at the computer, though of late I'm experimenting with building a web site that is at least somewhat productive. Keeping active in our neighborhood programs has pretty much rounded out my routine.

The web site, www.swedtex.info, is intended to share our photos and a little bit of info without overloading your email box or attention span. I had hoped to have it up already and am still hoping to have it up by the time you get this, but it's taking more time than expected (surprise) to get it right. Over time, I may be putting up complete photo archives for friends and family to enjoy at their leisure.

In August we had a very enjoyable trip to Montreal and Quebec City, Canada, with our very good friends and perennial travel companions, Paul & Kathy. Photos of that trip will be up on the web site. In February Linda traveled to Hilton Head, NC to visit family and a dear aunt. I took a trip "home" to Sycamore, IL, in June to visit friends and family and even got in a couple of rare golf rounds, including a very worthy local charity event.

Fortunately we remain healthy and, knock on wood, all our critters are doing well - their pictures of course will have top priority on the web site.

Please come to Texas soon and sit on the porch with us, enjoy a margarita, and forget the world's problems. We'll have a great time. We'd love to see you here. Take care and have a peaceful and joyful holiday.

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