



MAY 2005 NEWSLETTER

THE ANNUAL STRAWBERRY PICNIC THE LEUTHARDT FARM SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2005 RAIN OR SHINE!!!

Franz and Annelies Leuthardt have invited the Kansas City Swiss Society to gather at their farm in Smithville, Missouri, for our Annual Strawberry Picnic. We hope that you will be able to join us in celebrating the delights of a beautiful (we hope!) spring day. Smithville is a bit of a drive for many KCSwiss, but the destination is well worth the effort. You will do yourself, your family and any friends you bring along a favor if you take them to the lovely Leuthardt fields and farm.

Cost for the picnic:

ADULTS.....\$7.00/PERSON
CHILDREN.....\$3.00/CHILD

Here is the agenda for our get-together:

- We will begin meeting around 1:00 p.m. at the farm. Franz always sets up a large table in the shed for the salads, casseroles, vegetables and desserts the KCSwiss bring to share. So the first thing you will do is set your lovely creation with the rest. By the time the last members have unloaded their lovely culinary contributions, the table will be covered from end to end with tempting dishes beautifully presented so as to excite the

taste buds of even the pickiest eater and the most determined dieter. And let us not forget the two huge bowls, one of sliced strawberries and the other of whipped cream, which magically appear every year and are enough to make the true Swiss amongst us think they've died and gone to Heaven.

- If you wish, help yourself to a glass of strawberry champagne.
- Then you can wander about and chat with your old friends and introduce yourself and your family to some of our new members.
- Franz will build a bonfire, and soon the odor of burning wood will fill the air and make our mouths water even more as we remember how tasty the cervelat we roasted last year was.
- At about 2:30, Franz will pass out to your group's designated sausage-roaster one of his hand-carved roasting sticks, and, while you are piling your plate with all the goodies from the big table, s/he will be roasting your cervelat, that lovely little wurst, to perfection - just for you! For the klein/e Swiss, there will be frankfurters for their delicate, unformed palates.

- After we have eaten, Franz will take the young and the young at heart on a hayride (hay rack, he tells me). Weather permitting, OF COURSE!
- Franz has promised to play the alpenhorn* for us. If you are not familiar with the alpenhorn, then this demonstration alone should be enough to encourage you to come!

A couple of years ago, Annelies suggested that each family bring one food item to share with everyone at the picnic instead of bringing side dishes just for the family. This has proven to be a good way of picnicking and so we will continue with this plan.

A through G: You get to make the cake this year!! Make one that goes well with the strawberries and whipped cream.

H through O: Make that wonderful salad recipe that you have just discovered.

P through Z: Bring the casserole or the vegetables, done up in whatever way you wish.

The following items will be supplied for you:

- Napkins, paper plates, forks and spoons
- Cervelat, rolls, strawberries, whipped cream and champagne

You should bring:

- A beverage to drink with your meal
- Lawn chairs or blankets to sit on

Please send your reservation to Harry Newby, using the event coupon in this newsletter. Make sure you send it early enough so he gets it by **Saturday, May 14**. He has to turn the number of attendees in to Connie Bollier so she can place the order for cervelat. Also extra cervelat will be sold at the picnic. If you can't get it mailed by then, call **Harry (913-888-0095)** and let him know that you and your entire extended family plus everyone in your

neighborhood are coming and that the check is in the mail.

If you have any questions before the event, call **Carl (816-333-6861)**.

New members, in case you were wondering:

***alpenhorn:** "Natural horn made out of wood, assigned to the Central European, Alpine region. Having almost disappeared in Switzerland, the alpenhorn was promoted systematically for advertising purposes by the **Swiss tourist industry**, and it was completely subsumed and condemned to lifelessness by the Yodel Association. Nowadays it is experiencing a slow but steady revival, even in rather conservative circles. Originally, the instruments were carved out of a small fir that was slightly bent at the base due to its hillside location and the pressure of the snow; today they are almost exclusively produced by modern production techniques, which only now makes possible musical precision and the playing together of several instruments."

This explanation of the alpenhorn was taken from Stimmhorn, the website of Swiss-based musicians Balthasar Streiff and Christian Zehnder (www.stimmhorn.ch), a duo who apparently make unusual - if not beautiful - music together. You can download some of their numbers and judge for yourself!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
THE STEAK COOKOUT
SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 2005
AT THE CHALET**

THE CHALET CLEAN-UP

April 23, 2005, was a perfect day for the Chalet Clean-up. Perhaps we can thank the rantings of the person who protested the unseasonably warm March weather in the last newsletter. Regardless of the reason for the

change, the day of the Chalet clean-up was pleasant and cool, allowing the participants to accomplish more than summer day temperatures would have allowed. However, the days that followed were not so nice. Once again, they were unseasonable - cold, that is. All the delicate annuals that our enthusiastic gardeners had lovingly and optimistically planted in the weeks before April 23 were brutalized by the freezing temperatures which hit the KC Metro area for several nights. Oh, well, we should know that a rant from the mouth of the wrong person is indeed dangerous. Perhaps we should make an effort to keep the ranter bridled in the future. The secretary will do her best to follow through with this task.

Back to the Cleanup: The Chalet was dusted and cleaned and made ready for the new season's activities. Outside fallen limbs of the old trees were picked up - in many cases dragged, because of their size - and hauled away. The garden was weeded and trimmed. The grass around our newer trees was trimmed, and the trees were well-watered, since there had been little rain in recent days. The newest tree, a Pacific sunset maple, is doing well as it adapts to its new location. The grassy lawn of the Chalet looked just like the mountain meadows of Switzerland - a lush emerald green and gently rolling. The grass had been cut and some of the clean-up folks raked in into piles, reminding us of the hay rakers in Switzerland.

We still need to remove the dead pines on the perimeter of the property. Once the dead trees are removed, we can replace them with new, vigorous ones. Our tree consultant, Alan Keimes of Rainbow Environmental Services in Lee's Summit, suggested that we should consider the Norway spruce, the Vanderwolf limber pine, or the Serbian spruce as replacements since they are suited to the climatic conditions of this area. And all three, especially the two spruces will be tall and stately trees - someday. The Vanderwolf grows more rapidly and it is a lovely tree with its grey-green striped needles, but it will not reach the height of the spruces. Your input in this matter is always appreciated.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MAY 5 2005, BOARD MEETING

The May 5 Board Meeting was held at the Chalet. After taking care of routine business and some old business, we returned to the discussion of some of the ideas that are important to this Board, especially Chalet upkeep and improvement. Tree removal and replacement are a part of this topic and were discussed, as well as painting the rail around the dance floor. Other topics included preparing for the Strawberry Picnic and what topics of interest to our Society could be added to our web site www.kcswiss.org. Let us know what you think.