



# Sunshine Doll Chronicles



Volume I Issue 1

October 2013



### In This Issue:

Introducing Summer and Darby  
 A Visit to Tulip Time in Holland, MI  
 Summer Goes to Montana  
 Sending packages to our sister group  
 Darby Meets the Mayor  
 Molly and Emily's pumpkin party  
 News From Our Animal Friends

### *A Step Back in Time*

### *American Girl Program*



We're a bit late starting our newsletter, but we'll make up in enthusiasm what we lack in timeliness!

### Introducing Summer and Darby

We've had a really busy summer with most it spent focusing on our new Ambassador Dolls project. Earlier this year we decided it would be fun to use dolls as Friendship Ambassadors between our group and American Girl programs in other states. We have been so fortunate to have our very first group be Miss Kay and her wonderful girls in Darby, Montana! We chose Summer, an American Girl of Today, to be our ambassador from Florida and the girls in Darby chose an American Girl of Today they named Darby to be their ambassador from Montana.

Summer arrived first, and received her tiara, green sash in honor of our lush green citrus trees,

embroidered with the name of her state, Florida. Her official ambassador dress is made of crocheted cotton the color of the sand on our Florida beaches. Darby arrived not long afterwards and was warmly welcomed by Summer and the girls in our program. Darby was quick to put on her tiara, a special blue dress in honor of Big Sky Country and her matching blue sash embroidered with "Montana". Both girls were given autograph books so they could collect signatures and good wishes from friends they meet in their travels. The girls were excited and eager to begin their jobs as goodwill ambassadors for their states.





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## A Visit to Tulip Time



Summer and Darby's first adventure was a trip to Holland, MI for Tulip Time. Their hostess was Katrina, the doll ambassador

for Michigan. She was dressed in the traditional Dutch costume of Vollendam. She explained to the girls that to participate in any of the festival activities you have to be dressed in authentic Dutch dress and have to pass inspection by the festival committee.

Summer and Darby were fascinated by all the different costumes, the wooden shoe dancing in the streets and the gorgeous beds of tulips all over town. Darby was quite taken with the fact that there is a stiff fine (\$150) for picking or damaging any of the tulips!

The girls got to stay at a lovely house right at the top of a dune on Lake Michigan. They loved going down to the beach and looking at the lake. Chicago is right across the lake but the lake, which used to be an inland sea, is so big you can't see the other side.



Katrina told them about Petoskey stones, which are actually fossilized coral, which can be found in the lake. Miss Kitty made sure to bring one home for our sisters in Montana! Summer told Darby that Lake Michigan is even bigger than Florida's Lake Okeechobee! Katrina told them that the easy way to remember the names of the Great Lakes is by remembering the word "homes"- Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior!



After Summer and Darby returned from Lake Michigan they visited the Florida Aquarium in Tampa. Darby



was so excited when they saw a real alligator in one of the display tanks! Summer told her "Now you know what Albert looks like!"

They loved seeing all the plants, fish and animals. Summer's favorite thing was petting the sting rays, while Darby enjoyed the shark tank and seeing the huge sea turtles!

## Summer Goes to Montana

Summer and Darby went to the "Welcome Darby / Farewell Summer" party at the library and had a ball. The girls signed Summer's book and loved sharing the polka dot balloon decorations. Afterwards, Summer was quite busy packing her suitcase and getting ready to leave for her new post in Montana. The dolls were chattering nonstop listening to Darby's tales of life in Montana. At last the Big Day came and Summer left for her new home promising to write and let us know when she arrived.



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## Sending packages to our sister group

We've had a lot of fun putting together packages to send to our sisters in Montana! In our first box we sent all kinds of souvenir things from Florida- a shark's tooth, Gasparilla pirate beads, a pretend orange, a small piece of silicone- sand hit by lightening and turned to glass from right here in Polk County! In other boxes we sent sand from both our coasts, sea water, some Fountain of Youth water, seashells, beach toys and even a mini Mickey Mouse hat. We're still looking for a sandcastle! Our next box is going to contain some Halloween things for next year, some goodies for Summer, Darby, Felicity and Desiree and some things for Miss Kay to use in future programs.



## Darby Meets the Mayor

Darby went back to Montana in September, but before she left she got to meet the mayor of



Lakeland, Gow Fields! He gave her an official Welcome to Lakeland pin for her sash and told her how happy he was to have her visiting our fair city.

Darby also went down to Lake Morton and got to say goodbye to Becca and Sofie.

## Molly and Emily's Pumpkin Party

For Miss Kitty's October program, Molly and Emily hosted a pumpkin party to help raise money for the war effort. The girls attending dressed up in costumes and had a lot of pumpkin related activities and games. One of the favorite activities was the pumpkin flavor taste test. The girls tasted two types of pumpkin flavored donuts, some

pumpkin flavored Hershey's kisses and some pumpkin smoothies. Then they got to rate them "yummy", "ok" or "YUCK" Amazingly enough, there were hardly any "yucks"! The girls paid to play the games with plastic coins, then we counted up the proceeds. Molly and Emily raised over \$100! The favorite two games were "bowling over the ghosts" (our bowling pins were mini foam stuffed pins dressed like ghosts arranged on a table and the ball was rubber) and trying to ladle ping pong balls from one bowl to another while blindfolded.



## News from Our Animal Friends

Hello, everyone. This is Becca the beaver reporting in. I came to Lakeland this summer with my friend Olivia, the osprey. She carried me in her talons all the way from Montana! The trip was amazing!! We saw gorgeous scenery that I never even knew about. I had no idea that we live in such a huge country.

When I arrived, Sofie, the squireel, met me and introduced me to everyone on Lake Morton. That is a beautiful lake right across from the library, so I get to visit with Miss Kitty and our doll friends quite often. Sofie showed me a perfect place to make my home, and I didn't even need to cut down any trees! The other animals and birds on the lake bring me small branches when the lawn people come to do the trimming, so I have built the coziest little home nestled in the reeds and no one else even knows I'm here!





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I met Gus, the gander, who is like our security patrol. He and the other geese keep an eye on things and help the ducks and smaller birds cross

the street. All of Lakeland is a bird sanctuary and Lake Morton even has crossing signs for the birds!

We have a colony of swans who are descended from the original two pairs given to the city by the Queen of England way back in the 1950s. They are very aware of their royal heritage, too!

I'm very happy here on the lake and am always making new friends. My newest friend is a bat named Bertie! He came down to share our picnic



when some of the dolls came to visit and show us their Halloween costumes. His cousin Bernie liked

my stories about Lake Como and the mountains so much that he is going to Montana to live. He's going to fly solo he says. I told him it will take a lot of nights to get to Montana!



Sofie says the lake is a good place to live because there are always friendly humans who come to feed the birds, so she gets lots of yummys and doesn't



have to stuff her house with food for the winter. She moved into a tree is right outside my house so we visit each other

all the time. She's my BFF!! Tell Miss Kay that's "Best Friend Forever"!

## Cookie, the Girl Scout Traveling Doll

Before Darby left she got a chance to meet Cookie, the Girl Scout Traveling Doll for the West Central Florida Girl Scout Council.



Cookie travels from troop to troop, visiting with the hostess troop and having adventures with them. The troops take pictures and write stories about her time with them. She has been as far as Savannah, GA, where she got to visit the Juliette Gordon Lowe house and museum.

Cookie was very surprised to learn about the American Girl ambassadors and asked Darby to be sure to send her regards to the girls in Montana.

**Happy Halloween to all our friends in Montana and we'll send our next letter in November!**