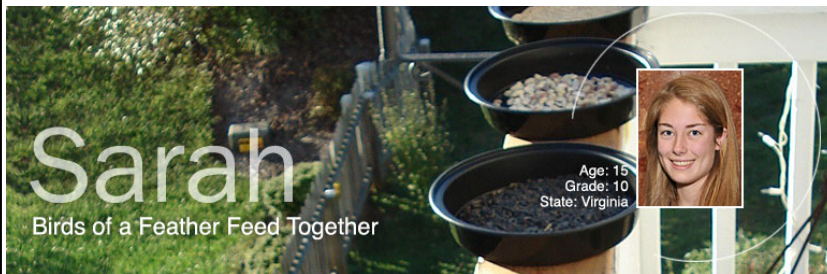




Following the Gleam.....

As we all know, Nature Camp has an important impact on the attitudes and outlooks of all of us that pass through this place. In this issue we are going to introduce you to two former campers who exemplify the influence of a summer (or several) at camp and show how that influence can lead our youth to carry that knowledge into their lives and impact the lives of others.

Sarah Barlow attended Nature Camp for several years, her last year being 2009. She is also one of our second generational campers, her father Cricket Barlow attended camp back in the 1980's. When Sarah was in the 10th grade, she entered the essay competition for the American Museum of Natural History Young Naturalist Awards 2008, and she won.



<http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/2008/Sarah.html>

Hannah Shepherd also attended camp for several years through 2005. As a geology major at James Madison University, Hannah conducted research on volcanism in Yellowstone National Park. Two years ago Hannah, who graduated in 2010, was selected as Virginia's representative to present her findings at the annual Posters on the Hill Conference, a gathering on Capitol Hill during which students from across the nation show members of Congress the importance of undergraduate research. Hannah then participated in a geology field study in Ireland. Hannah now works as a geologic map technician for the Division of Geology and Mineral Resources in Charlottesville.

To read more about Hannah's presentation and to see a video please visit this link:

<http://www.jmu.edu/news/madisonscholar/hannahShepherd.shtml>

The Dark and Mysterious Side of Nature

Adult Session 2011

It seems that each year we report “the best session yet,” and 2011 is the latest in this happy claim. We had over 30 registered campers this time, including several current members of the camp staff. Fully half of the campers were new to Adult Session, and we are proud to report that all of them enjoyed it immensely and felt fully welcomed into the group. Strikingly, several people seem to have learned about Adult Session purely from weblogs and Google browsing, without any previous awareness of Nature Camp. Our fame is spreading even to the Hudson River Valley, where two people found us by Googling “adult summer camp, nature.” Other new folks were relatives of recent campers and counselors, friends of NCF supporters, or members of various garden clubs and Master Naturalists.

Why the claim of “best session yet?” Perhaps the following quotation from our evaluation form sums it up: “Enjoyed all classes. All well worth my time and attention, wish I could have done more. This is the perfect vacation for me -- great people, much to learn, knowledgeable instructors, close to home, low-tech but perfectly comfortable, a setting to die for. If it was longer (a week) I’d like it even more, hard to believe but true”. There was not a single even mildly negative comment on the

forms, and much praise for the “terrific food” and “outstanding instructors.” Particularly popular was a bonfire with the full story of Percy recounted from the darkness by Flip Coulling, the stringband class taught by Michaux Lowry Hood, Molly Pickral and Marc Perdue, and two classes on caterpillars from Amy Beaird and Chris Chamberlin (“Effectively combined classroom and hands-on activity and enthusiasm of instructors was infecting!”). Chris, along with Lucas Gillenwater and Christopher Powell, manned the kitchen, and we note that this also marks the first year that all evaluations raved about the food with no reservations whatsoever.

To mention only a few of the other great activities: Powell Hutton gave an outstanding presentation on “Water, A Defining Global Crisis for the 21st Century” as our keynote lecture. Nell Fredericksen brought her pet snakes for a class on “How Snakes Kill: Constriction or Venom” and several people had the experience of holding a snake for the first time in their lives. Paul Cabe gave a fascinating lecture on “Why Birds Cheat,” and the art and craft classes from Walter Mehring, Nell, and Ali Wieboldt were as popular as ever -- Walter even had to give his a second

time because so many people wanted to make wooden rings.

The night-walk for caterpillars was such a hit that next year’s theme will probably be “Nature at Night.” Look for a preliminary list of classes and activities in spring 2012.

- Connie Sancetta



Notes from Nature Camp, Inc.

Although the heat wave that plagued much of the East and Midwest this summer certainly made its presence felt at Nature Camp, it always does cool down (eventually) overnight in the Big Mary's Creek valley, and on each oppressive day I tried to take some measure of solace in the knowledge that it was hotter just about everywhere else. Caretaker Charlie Truxell worked hard to keep the swimming pool in perfect working order (though as the summer progressed he had to dig ever deeper pools in the creek to keep the intake valve submerged). While some nostalgic readers may long for the days before the bunkhouses had electricity or the T-houses had hot water, campers and counselors alike appreciated the addition of ceiling fans in the bunkhouses, which were funded in part by a generous donation from the Ford's Colony Garden Club in Williamsburg and which allowed us to get through the entire summer without once resorting to the substantially more noisy exhaust fans.

Here are but a few highlights from the summer.

The 349 campers this year spanned the country from California to New York and Washington to Florida and included two siblings (and second-generation campers) from South Africa.

While Virginia of course continues to supply the great majority of campers, it is notable that the Best All-Around Campers in First Session both tied for the highest test score and hail from either end of Pennsylvania.

In addition to the standard fare of "-ology" classes with which everyone is familiar, campers took courses in such subjects as Coevolution, Human Geography, Reproduction, and Naturalist Expressions and Philosophy.

The herpetology instructors were kept busy by a large number of copperhead sightings, but managed to capture and remove every individual. It was only fitting that their final challenge should have presented itself in the chapel during Closing Ceremony of Fourth Session.

The new intracamp phone system greatly facilitates communication between buildings and allows calls to be transferred to, for example, the kitchen or infirmary. New external speakers on the sides of the staff house have vastly improved the sound quality of transmissions over the P.A. system.

In addition to outstanding evening programs presented by a number of volunteer speakers, we were fortunate to enjoy live music every session provided by the Poison Bottom Boys, Rivanna River Chiggers, Dave and Beth Nealon, and Bill Wellington with daughter Sophie.

As some may have seen on Facebook, grass actually covered the recreation field (as least for a while), thanks to Charlie's hard work. He has already reseeded the field in preparation for next summer.

In the opening act in the Fourth Session camper talent show, a particularly enthusiastic botany major—while blindfolded—correctly identified plant leaves using his tongue.

This fall, inspired in part by the Ferrum Nature Society Bulletin, which Todd and Nell Fredericksen produce monthly, I hope to launch a new electronic natural history newsletter. The intent of this as yet untitled periodical is to inspire excursions out-of-doors and investigations of nature throughout the year. My goal is to publish three issues a year, one in each of the seasons in which Nature Camp is not in session, and to highlight natural phenomena associated with a particular time of year. This project has generated interest among the staff, some of whom I hope to enlist to provide content. If all goes as planned, the first issue will go out around the time that the *Afterglow* begins to arrive in mailboxes. Please e-mail me (director@naturecamp.net) if you wish to subscribe. If you would like to receive the Ferrum Nature Society Bulletin contact Nell Fredericksen, communications chair and Afterglow editor to subscribe.

It saddens me to report that Charlie and Priscilla Truxell's beloved dog Katie died just before the Fall Service Weekend. Matthew Bain, Jim Brooks, Mike Meads, and I helped Charlie and his son Jeff prepare a place for her below the caretaker's house, and we laid her to rest under the shade of some of the hemlock trees which the Lavenders planted years ago. Please keep Charlie, Priscilla, and Jeff in your thoughts and prayers as they cope with the loss of their dear and loyal companion.

- Philip Coulling



Spring Service Weekend

We finished reshingling the GBH the third weekend in May this year. We had planned to do the roof during 4 Service Weekends, but we had so many experienced roofers that we nearly completed it in only 2 Service Weekends. We just have a small dormer roof over one of the windows left to complete that roof. The corner of the roof in the valley to the right of the porch was badly in need of repair and there were a few sheathing boards that needed to be replaced, but most everything went quite smoothly. Amber, Coleman, Riley, Flip, Lyt, Mike, Matthew, Charlie, and I removed the old shingles and roofing felt on Thursday so we could determine the extent of the rotten wood that needed to be replaced. It rained during the weekend, only lightly, but we can still say that we have never roofed any building at Camp without rain.

We installed 6 ceiling fans up in the trusses of each bunkhouse. Mike Meads wins a hero award for his diligence in ensuring the fans arrived at Camp on time to be installed. I heard that the bunkhouse ceiling fans worked well, and the very loud exhaust fans remained silent during the regular session of Camp. I suspect the ridge vent that we installed on the GBH while reshingling the building also helped to reduce the heat in that building this summer.

We hauled loads of brush and cleaned up a mess that was produced by the power company. We also worked on the road to Buttermilk Spring where the power company cut big ruts in the road getting their big truck through the stream. We replaced some shutter hinges, smeared more sheetrock mud in the Staffhouse, replaced the boards on the Staffhouse porch near the garden, reset the metal signpost down by 608 with 240 pounds of concrete mix so it would be more difficult to steal, replaced some ceiling tiles in the Museum, removed the old rotten shutters from the Caretakers' house and swept the roof and cleaned the gutters, and generally got Camp ready for the regular summer session. Eric Latham and Mack Carr win hero awards for cleaning and power-washing the inside of the big white water tank.

The food was fantastic as usual. Nell was in charge and had lots of help from Katie, Amy, Art, Cathy, Ginna, and Kim. The pizzas and desserts were especially wonderful. We played music in the LS on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Of the 58 folks who attended, 5 had never been to a previous Service Weekend and 4 folks were on Staff this past summer. We have now had 343 folks who have attended at least one Service Weekend.

Thanks to Amber, Amy, Amy, Anna, Art, Barak, Cathy, Chris, Coleman, Doug, Ed, Eric, Flip, Ginna, Jack, Jason, Jesse, Joanne, Joe, Jon, Jonathan, Kat, Katie, Kim, Larry, Latham, Liam, Lily, Lyt, Mack, Maggie, Mark, Mary, Matthew, Mike, Mike, Molly, Nat, Neil, Nell, Paul, Peggy, Penny, Peter, Powell, Riley, Robert, Rosie, Sarah, Sarah, Shirley, Steve, Terry, Tucker, Ventry, Walter, and especially Charlie.

Amy K Gonzales has invited you to look at her photos from this past weekend. Amy has the photos posted at the following website:

http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/sharing/shareRedirectSwitchBoard.jsp?token=525038309407%3A1082291397&sourceId=533754321803&cm_mmc=eMail--Share--Photos--Sharee

Please share any other digital photos you may have taken with me, AmyKG, or Michaux the Webmaster at <http://naturecampfoundation.org/>.

- Jim Brooks, Service Committee Chair



Calendar of Events 2011

NCF Board Meeting	January 28, 2012
Spring Service Weekend	May 18-20, 2012
Adult Session	June 8-12, 2012
Fall Service Weekend	September 14-16, 2012

The Thinking of Tomorrow Legacy Society

Including Nature Camp in your estate planning is a wonderful way to ensure its longevity for future generations. Members of this group, whose name is inspired by the Nature Camp song, are assuring Camp's many tomorrows through their thoughtful planning today.

Including Camp in your estate planning is easy. It is as simple as adding a codicil to your will stating something such as: "I give _____ [\$ amount, description of property, or % of estate] to the Nature Camp Foundation, Incorporated, a Virginia charitable and tax-exempt organization, for its unrestricted use."

Even though our board members may change over the years, our status as a 501-3(c) organization remains constant and thus the Foundation is easily found by any executor via the IRS or GuideStar.org. If you have questions about such estate planning, please contact the NCF Development Chair, Latham Schweitzer Coates.

Pro Bono Support from Larnish & Associates

There are so many ways that former campers have found to give back to Camp. Such is the case with our current relationship with Larnish & Associates, a creative marketing firm. Jonathan Larsen, managing partner and a former camper, was key in naming the Foundation to receive pro bono strategic marketing help from Larnish. So far we have made great strides in developing a new color brochure, updating the look of the Afterglow, as well as a wealth of help on our fundraising strategies. Stay tuned as we all benefit and enjoy the results of this amazing partnership.

Long-term Afterglow Editor Retires

Connie Sancetta, editor of the Afterglow for the past zillion years, is retiring. Connie began pulling together and formatting the Afterglow in 1988 - consisting of Xerox copies, handfolding, stuffing into envelopes and mailed with stamps!! It was the big time once we got our membership up to the point that we could make use of bulk mailing, and we moved even more into the modern age when Nell Fredericksen joined Connie's team in 2005 and began formatting the newsletter on the computer and using a printhouse for publication on recycled paper and bulk mailing.

Now the Afterglow is mailed to more than 2300 of our alums and friends and reflects the continuing role that camp plays in all our lives. Connie is to be honored and commended for the years of work she has put into building and supporting the mission of the Nature Camp Foundation. Connie, our gratitude is immense.

Nell will now take on full editorship of the Afterglow. Please send all updates and information to her.

Giving back..... in praise of our volunteers.

In addition to those who devoted countless hours of volunteer labor at this year's Service Weekends to improve the safety and quality of the facilities at Camp, Nature Camp, Inc., wishes to express its appreciation and thanks to the following persons for in-kind contributions to Nature Camp during the past year.

Bill Baer, Louise Bowling, Max Caskie, Kerry Devine, Scott Dubit, Joe Garvin, Sharon Keith, Kim Lanzarotta, Sarah Larsen, Maurice LeFranc, Cathie Maguire, Stuart McCausland, Nat Miller, Hillary Nicholas, Cinda Payne-Smith, Paul Rabatin, Doug Sanford, and Jean Still—for donating time to prepare and present evening programs

Helen Chew—for graciously welcoming class field trips to her property at Glenn Falls

Peyton and Mary Craighill—for donating a new telescope

Nell Jefferson Fredericksen—for donating new kitchen equipment

Local Food Hub (based in Charlottesville)—for donating tomato, pepper, chard, and basil plants for the Nature Camp garden

Scot Marsh—for georeferencing the location of the planned new well at Nature Camp

Chuck Story—for procuring and installing new PA speakers and a new intracamp phone system through Central Virginia Communications

David Summers—for graciously welcoming Nature Campers to his property and keeping a path mown through the "meadow" near the intersection of 608 and Nature Camp Trail

Maggie Irby and Mike Meads—for manning the Nature Camp booth at the Lexington Camp Fair on Earth Day

Helen Sanders and Steve Fisher—for manning the Nature Camp booth at the Fredericksburg Earth Day Fair

Amy Kasdorf Gonzalez, Art Maguire, Jason Farr and Joan Plotkin Han—for manning the Nature Camp booth at the Richmond Earth Day Fair, Joan paid for the booth fee.

Kim Lanzarotta, Clare Van Montfrans, and Hannah Trible—for manning the Nature Camp booth at the Charlottesville Earth Day Fair.

Shirley Napps—for annually organizing all the volunteers for the Earth Day Fairs throughout Virginia and for attending many of the events. If you are interested in helping out at future events or know of Earth Day fairs in your area, please contact Shirley.

Many others have donated food for the kitchen, books and posters for the library, and other items; space precludes listing everyone who has made an in-kind contribution to Nature Camp, but know that we are grateful for each and everyone of you and truly appreciate all your continued support. We regret any inadvertent omissions.

Upcoming NCF Elections

We are preparing for another election season for the Nature Camp Foundation. This year, Vice-President is up for election and the Communications Chair and Finance Chair are up for appointment. There will be a vacancy for the office of Vice-President.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by the current Vice-President, Cammie Tuskey Hutton, is now developing the slate and all those eligible to vote will receive a mailing announcing the slate chosen with a ballot for voting in November. The results of this year's election will be posted on the NCF website in January.

We are always interested in getting more people involved in the leadership of the NCF. If you are interested in serving on the Board or any of the committees (including the Nominating Committee), please contact Cammie Hutton



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Contact us: The Nature Camp Foundation, PO Box 3091, Lynchburg, VA 24503