



# The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation

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## Following the Gleam....

The impact on our world by alumni of Nature Camp is immeasurable but we know of its significance. And we can share with you examples of those that carry the lessons of Camp into their lives and into the lives of others. One such Alum is Lyt Wood. Lyt came to Nature Camp at age 12 and attended from 1964-70 and was a counselor in 70-71. He states "I never outgrew it!"



Nowadays he is a professional tree consultant and can be seen at just about any Service weekend tending the trees at Camp. He has spent countless hours pruning the trees in and around Camp, removing dead limbs, trying to keep most alive and well, but sometimes needing to remove trees that can't be saved and pose a safety hazard. Another claim to Camp fame is that he plays a prominent role in the legend of Percy since he is one of the few living individuals that has ever laid eyes upon the fabled algae monster.

But more importantly he has taken the message of environmental education and a deep love of nature and is passing it along through the Rappahannock Nature Camp. Because of his experience with Nature Camp he was asked by the Piedmont Environmental Council ca. 1983 to serve on a committee that was to establish a new regional educational program that would include several "Natural History Day Camps" -- hence the initial thought of starting one in his community (Rappahannock County, Virginia), which he did in 1986. During its 25 year history it has evolved along with the times as well as along with Lyt's growing experience. His purpose is clear : to guide the children through the quagmire of materialism, atheism, testing, technology, intellectualism and so on that confronts them every day of their modern lives. The children of today need more opportunities to observe real-life things and to think for themselves, and to play.

The influence of Nature Camp is evident in the Rappahannock day camp. It was there that Lyt had his first teaching experience. He says, "Even now, whenever I am working on nature lessons for my campers, I think of my old teachers such as Peter Mehring and Terry Richardson and Dot Wilbur (Brooks), and so continue to be guided by them. All of the activities at Nature Camp -- the seriousness of our studies, the silliness of the July 4th parades, the solemnity of the closing ceremonies, the incredible legacy of camp songs -- all these things are the basis of what is even possible with my little camp." He also tells of the support he has received from the wonderful network of Nature Campers. A loyal coalition of Nature Camp alums, dubbed the "Blue Moon Crew" helped build the barn, a footbridge over the Hazel River, and installed the "Frog Pond" that is the focus of their habitat studies.

You can read more about Lyt's Rappahannock Nature Camp in the following article:  
<http://www.rappnews.com/2011/02/24/natural-wonders/12748/>

Nature Camp Trivia Question #3: We all know and adore our very own camp monster—the above mentioned Percy. When was the story of Percy first told at Camp?

## Elections—Past and Future

Voting in the 2010 election for President and At-large Board Member ended in mid-December. Thanks to Nancy Lowry's careful counting, the results showed that you re-elected Powell Hutton as President and elected Chris Chamberlin as the At-large Board Member. At the same time, Jim Brooks was reappointed as Facilities Chair. Many thanks to Reid Downer, Jen Creasy and Steve Fisher for serving on the Nominating Committee.

This coming year the position of Vice President is up for election and the positions of Communications Chair and Finance Chair are up for reappointment. A nominating committee will be created in June, and nominations will be accepted by mail, phone, or email anytime through August. In September and October the committee will develop the proposed slate of nominees to be approved by the board of directors and the ballots will be mailed by November to all qualified voters. Those who contributed money or in-kind contributions during 2010 or 2011 are eligible to vote and will receive ballots with short candidate biographies.

As Vice President, Cammie Hutton chairs the nominating committee and is coordinating the election this year. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee, or are willing to consider serving in one of the open positions, please contact Cammie (see contact information below). Given the planned schedule of *Afterglow* mailings, this is the ONLY call for nominations that will be published. Watch the Foundation website for announcements about elections throughout the summer.

Campbell Hutton



### The Dark and Mysterious Side of Nature: Adult Session - August 19-23, 2011

This year's theme for Adult Session will address some of the ambiguous aspects of nature -- things not fully understood, mixed blessings, and downright damaging elements. Most of the topics challenge us to stand aside from human values and preferences, to recognize that nature does not operate on moral principles. Predators kill; prey species fight back with poisons and other defenses. The planet is capable of vast destruction on its own, and human activities, intended to make life better, have unintended consequences. Classes will cover such topics as poison and constriction in snakes (Nell Fredericksen), thorns and prickles on plants (Flip Coulling), genetically modified plants (Bruce Williams), earthquakes and volcanos (Chuck Bailey).

On a lighter note, we'll have a return of the string-band classes (Michaux Hood, Molly Pickral and Marc Perdue), yoga classes (Michaux again), two kinds of jewelry projects (Nell Fredericksen and Walter Mehring), and a look at the nature poetry of e. e. cummings (Sharon Spangler). For a longer list of topics, and to register, see the announcement at [www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net) under the Programs tab.

## Notes from Nature Camp, Inc.

By the time you read this article, all four sessions may be full for the upcoming summer at Nature Camp. At press time only a handful of spaces remained available for boys in First and Second Sessions and for girls in Second. First Session filled for girls in only 10 days, and Fourth Session filled completely before the end of January. The waiting list already comprises more than 40 applicants, which, as several disappointed but understanding parents have noted, is “a good problem” for Nature Camp to have.

The Nature Camp website ([www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)) has undergone a number of changes in the past few months. Our webmaster, Michaux Lowry Hood, implemented a content management system, which makes it much easier for me to edit content, add new pages, and post files and photographs. The site now features sections describing the history of Nature Camp and our recent efforts to secure more local sources of food and includes more testimonials from current and former campers, parents, and alumni. (I would always welcome additional contributions to this last section.) Future plans include an “online canteen,” where digital copies of *Woodland Echoes* would be posted and perhaps Nature Camp merchandise (T-shirts, bumper stickers, etc.) would be available for purchase (at least during the summer). Stay tuned for these developments.

One annual challenge is to arrange a full schedule of evening programs, particularly since we generally eschew films in favor of outside speakers, and I don’t want to have to ask the same people every summer. Please feel free to suggest anyone who might be able to present a topic of interest (or volunteer yourself!).

As spring advances and the beginning of our 69<sup>th</sup> summer season draws near, let me thank all of you for your loyal, steadfast, and generous support of Nature Camp. It would not be possible to maintain our facilities or to sustain the quality of our educational program without the selfless contributions of so many alumni, campers, parents, garden clubs, and friends.

- Philip “Flip” Coulling

## Proposed NCF Budget, 2011

Note: This budget sets general targets for the Nature Camp Foundation (NCF), a separate entity from Nature Camp Inc. (NCI).

		<u>Expenses</u>	
		Communications/website	13,000
		New PA System for Camp	10,000
		Service Committee/weekends	10,000
		NCI, unrestricted funds	2,500
		Camper Scholarships	2,500
		Office Supplies/Software	1,000
		<u>Professional Fees</u>	<u>1,000</u>
		Total	40,000
		<b>Net Income</b>	<b>26,500</b>
<u>Income</u>			
Contributions	60,000		
Investments	4,000		
<u>Scholarships</u>	<u>2,500</u>		
Total	66,500		

## Fall 2010 Service Weekend

We started reshingling the GBH the third weekend in September this year. We had planned to do the roof during 4 Service Weekends, but we had so many experienced roofers that we ended up doing the back half of the roof and the roof over the porch. Also, there was very little rotten wood that needed to be replaced, and there was only 1 layer of old shingles to remove, so that also speeded the process. Walter, Matthew, Flip, Lyt, Ellis, Amber, Coleman, Riley, 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 should have no problem finishing the GBH roof in May of 2011.

We spread 2 dump truck loads of top soil on the playfield. Every spring since the playfield was reworked, the grass is lush and green. Then, 400 kids run around on it for a Camp season, and it's back to gravel in the fall. Charlie is hoping that a little soil worked down into the gravel will help the grass get a foot-hold. I hope so, too.

We installed 3 ceiling fans up in the trusses of the Lab. This was an especially hot summer, and it is hoped that ceiling fans will help in the future. We will install 6 ceiling fans up in the trusses of each bunkhouse in the spring. We are also installing ridge vents on the roofs as we reshingle each building. This should help to remove the heated air.

We replaced the old wooden step just outside the Kitchen door with a new concrete step. 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, got some stuff done on the Nature Camp history project, replaced a wooden railing post at the bottom of the LS front steps, and generally got Camp ready for the winter.

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 pear tarts with phyllo dough were especially wonderful, as were the 4 pounds of shitake mushrooms that Ellis provided for the weekend. We played music in the LS on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Of the 71 folks who attended, 13 had never been to a previous Service Weekend and 14 folks were on Staff this past summer. We have now had 337 folks who have attended at least one Service Weekend.





### Calendar of Events 2011

Spring Service Weekend	May 20-22
Annual Meeting	May 21, 1:00 p.m.
Adult Session	August 19-23
Fall Service Weekend	September 16-18
Fall Hike	*** We will most likely not have a fall hike due to the upcoming kitchen renovations (see below).
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tions	

### Service Committee Plans Major Renovations

During the 2011 Fall Service Weekend we will remove the kitchen flooring. It is time. It is cracked in several places and needs new linoleum. At this time, we will also replace some of the kitchen appliances that are old and continue to cost a great deal to repair. The Hobart dish sanitizer needs to be replaced. Other appliances, food-prep tables, counters, and sinks might also need to be replaced.

The compressor for the walk-in refrigerator went out this winter. By the time you read this, we will have replaced the entire refrigeration unit, inside and outside. The new refrigeration unit will be much more efficient than the last unit. The last unit was actually designed to be a freezer unit and was retrofitted to work in our walk-in. The 2-horse power motor necessary for a freezer unit will be replaced by a 1-horse power motor in the new refrigeration unit, so we should see a significant drop in our electricity consumption. We are also exploring ways to use less energy during the 8 months when there is nobody using the walk-in.

We plan to add ceiling fans in the bunkhouses during either the spring or fall service weekends. The exhaust fans that were installed more than a decade ago are quite loud and never worked as well as was hoped. Each bunkhouse will receive 6 ceiling fans. These fans and the necessary electrical cable and boxes will be purchased with a generous donation from the Ford's Colony Garden Club.

-- Jim Brooks, Chair Service Committee



### Find us on Facebook!!!

The Nature Camp Foundation has a Facebook page!!!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp-Foundation/107552817467>

This is a great way to keep up with what is going on at camp and all our activities—service weekends, reunions, Fall Hikes and annual meetings. You can also connect with other alums, find lost friends, and hear news of what our Nature Camp family is doing throughout the world. If you are on Facebook, become a fan and help us “network”!!

## Fashions with Flowers XIII

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2011 was the thirteenth annual gathering of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs. When Garden Club ladies get together, they are pretty powerful, and they have been exerting that power in Nature Camp's favor for many years. One example is their donation of profits from the annual Fashions with Flowers event. In 2010, the Council sent \$3000 to Camp. In an email after this year's event, Jane VanDenburgh, Chairperson for the event, said: "Remember, I told you my goal for the event's profit was \$2000. Well....sit down now! We made \$3179.28!!! I am so pleased! Hope we can come near that again next year! The money will be sent out in April. You all keep up the good work with Nature Camp."

The event itself was held at the Ginter Park Women's Club. The room was packed. Lynne Still, NCI Scholarship chair, gave an informational talk about Nature Camp and the good work that the Richmond Council so generously supports. Proceeds came from a silent auction for donated goods, a raffle sale of beautiful flower arrangements made by the Colonial Heights florists who demonstrated the latest techniques and materials during the luncheon, and a sale of clever paper doll centerpieces clothed in dried plant material. To deliver on the "Fashions" part of the event, garden club members served as models of lovely Chico's fashions. If you're in the Richmond area next February, you will want to be on the invite list for this entertaining event that delivers much needed support for Nature Camp.

Update: Lynne made such an impact at the Fashions with Flowers event that she's been invited back to the Richmond Council of Garden Club's spring luncheon in May to accept the Council's donation check.



## NCF Announces a New Scholarship Account

Now that the major capital improvements to Camp have been completed the Foundation's focus has shifted to creating a stronger financial base for tuition assistance and scholarships, in addition to assuring that funds are available for future capital improvements. Tuition assistance has gained increasing importance in today's troubled economy, and the need can be expected to continue. The Foundation has set up a new investment account that is designed to provide income that will be allocated to scholarships for campers. We have allocated start up funds of \$50,000 to this new investment account and hope to build on this to generate a 5% annual return. These dividends will be provided to camp annually to support scholarship awards to campers that otherwise would not be able to attend. We continue to build our Legacy Account to provide a stable long term financial future for camp and to provide a safety net so that Camp will never again face the danger of closing. Your donations, and we are ever grateful for the support our membership has given, can now be designated as unrestricted, for our Legacy Account, and now earmarked for the Scholarship Account. Again, it is only due to your continued support that we have been able to start up the Scholarship Account and we hope that you will join us as we build a stable future for Nature Camp.

Answer to Trivia question #3: From the creator of the story, Nancy Feil Lowry—"I told Percy when I was a junior counselor in 1964, fourth session. I told it to my table at dinner (or lunch) while we were waiting for Mrs. Schilling to finish and do the after meal announcements."

## Camp in Need of a New PA System

The Nature Camp Foundation will be helping Nature Camp with some capital improvement projects this year. One of the projects will be replacing the telephone and PA systems in the camp. The current system is in various states of disrepair. If you were a parent or camper this summer and had trouble hearing the PA announcements during check-in day, you probably know what we mean. With the new system, camp will have the ability to communicate between buildings and on the PA system with much greater efficiency, thus improving camper safety and staff coordination. Chuck Story, the NCF treasurer, works for the company that will be installing the systems. They have agreed to donate the new equipment but the installation costs will be significant (estimated at \$10,000). If you would like to help with the installation costs, please send your contribution in the enclosed donation envelope, along with a note that this is for the PA system to the Treasurer.



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