



The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation

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Activating the Nature Camp Path

Gerry Wass, a camper and counselor from the 1970's, is now a language teacher at Purdy High School in Missouri. Over the last few years he has developed from scratch a magnificent recycling program at the school, for which they recently won a \$10,000 award for Environmental Excellence from Sea World/Busch Gardens in Florida. Here Gerry tells us what they did -- a process that may serve as encouragement for others of us:

"I had the nagging feeling for many years that the passion to which Nature Camp had inspired me lay dormant, that I wasn't really doing anything important to benefit the planet, and thus was not carrying out the intent of the teaching that I had received in Vesuvius. That would finally change in 2006 because my students and I were tired of struggling with fundraising for the Purdy High Spanish Club, and our school had no recycling program. We believed that it would be possible to fund our activities and provide a service to our school and community.



"We began with a borrowed materials trailer from our local solid waste district, cardboard boxes that copy paper came in and only a handful of dedicated students. We began with the high school and then expanded to the whole K-12 complex of this small southwestern Missouri district. We outgrew the trailer within six months, collecting white paper, mixed paper, newspaper, aluminum and #1 plastics. We wrote a grant proposal for a cardboard baler and hooked up with a recycling company that loaned us a semi-trailer. We cleaned out a messy storage space and took it over. We opened to the Purdy community one Saturday per month. In the beginning, all we had

to sell was aluminum, until we were able to collect enough to have a company pick up our materials. We constantly juggled space and solved the problems that arose until we saw the three-year mark coming and talked our school into giving us space to erect our own building.

"We wrote and received that grant, got the building up and wrote another proposal for a second baler, finally having some indoor shelter for our community days, but no heat for that first winter when we added two recycling classes during each school day. To solve that problem we wrote another proposal for a waste oil furnace and an oil filter crusher; we began to collect oil filters from eight different garages and slowly worked out the messy process of crushing them to extract the oil and prepare them for steel recycling. A little investigating helped us confirm that we were the only recycling program in the state of Missouri which accepted them.

"At the four and one-half year mark, we are still alive and still struggling with growth issues.



We have published a book about our model to help other schools do what we do. We have received \$92,000 in grants and awards and we are just about to add four new machines to fully equip our building—two more balers, a can compactor and a conveyor. We have recycled nearly 300,000 pounds of materials since we started and will probably soon reach 150,000 pounds per year. We have made over \$10,000 for club activities and scholarships; we are also beginning to pay for some community needs such as two new barbecue grills for our city park.

We are a full-fledged player in the recycling business with a world of possibilities still open to us. So our focus for the present is on sustaining our all-volunteer, student-run program which we believe to be the only school-based, industrial recycling program in the nation. We are now open two Saturdays per month, and I still do this in addition to teaching six classes per day, and monitoring those two recycling classes. We are open through the summer, and we more and more depend on middle school students to sustain us.

“We have realized that sustainability is going to be a very profound subject for us, and we’ve identified at least eight different levels to work on simultaneously, including economically, industrially, socially, scientifically, academically and linguistically, which is probably the most important, to be able to capture the imaginations of others and interest them in what we do. We are casting a broad net around the idea of sustainability.

“It is an astounding place to walk into on a community Saturday morning, to see the various processes going on and kids going in all directions, as community members come in and work side by side with us to sort and process. We have begun a detailed training program with ten different levels that will be a powerful addition our students’ résumés when they graduate, and we are now graduating students who want to stay involved and will help me give it over to the community before it wears me out. It is an extraordinary undertaking, but we are proving that when they are empowered, young people can accomplish amazing environmental work, even to being at the core of the economic reorganization of their communities. We are really trying to slow down the flow of garbage long enough to return some of that money to our community before it is lost forever to some outside company.

“I no longer have any of those feelings of not following the Nature Camp path. I believe that my first beloved counselors—Tim Melester, Lisa Rossbacher, Peter Mehring, Christine Stinson, Brent Heath (and many others I’m losing track of), would be happy to know that they helped instill the drive in me to do this. Credit also goes to all the people I worked with at camp and to those who have been part of welcoming me back through these years until I could find my way to this point. I needed to keep the camp connection alive to help me remember that early intent, and wherever you are on your Nature Camp path, I hope you can take heart and take the time you need to find your fullest purpose.”

-- Gerry Wass

Notes from Nature Camp, Inc.

We enjoyed another successful and gratifying summer at Nature Camp. Enrollment declined slightly from 2009, but the total number of applications topped 400 for the first time in over a decade and at one point this spring each session had a waiting list for both boys and girls. Moreover, I believe this was only the third or fourth year in Nature Camp's history in which at least 85 campers attended each of the four sessions. Forty-four percent of the campers received some form of financial assistance, including 78 who were granted tuition reduction from Nature Camp. The most exciting highlight from this summer was the procurement of many more local sources of food. We now have relationships with two farmers who delivered produce throughout the summer, nearly all our meat comes from a local abattoir/retail store (which processes the proprietor's own beef, as well as local pork and chicken), and nearly all our flour came from Wade's Mill, a local 18th century gristmill which grinds, in part, wheat grown in Stuarts Draft. During the course of the summer we enjoyed a wide variety of local meat, dairy, tofu, fruits and vegetables, jam, and honey—all raised, grown, or produced within 100 miles of Camp. Our dedicated and talented cooks, Lucas Gillenwater and Christopher Powell, deserve tremendous credit for embracing this effort, for taking the time to pick up food from Lexington and other places, and for the greater effort required to make meals largely from scratch. This summer they baked nearly all the bread (including buns) and even made their own chicken patties and pork barbeque, which were incomparably better than what we had been buying commercially. We did wind up spending more money on food, but nevertheless managed to stay within the budget, and 30 percent of our food dollars went to local producers. I often hear compliments about the food at Camp, but this year the number of compliments—and their sincerity—was greater than ever.

In June we inducted six new members into the Nature Camp Roll of Honor:

Helen Worth Gordon—for her leadership and foresight in helping to establish Nature Camp and to forge a lasting relationship with the U.S. Forest Service. Mrs. Gordon attended in January 1941 a pivotal meeting of the Conservation Committee of the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs, under the chairmanship of Lillian Schilling. During the meeting Mrs. Schilling proposed sponsoring someone to attend the Audubon Society camp in Maine and thence to return to Virginia equipped to serve as an instructor for young people in the study of natural resources. To this suggestion Mrs. Gordon is reported to have remarked, "Why a state with all the natural resources [that] Virginia has within her borders should find it necessary to study nature lore in the state of Maine, or anywhere else, excepting within her own precincts is something beyond my comprehension."

Ben McIlwaine—for igniting the very spark which led to the formation of the Nature Camp Foundation. In 1988 Ben organized a reunion of former campers and counselors, during which the notion of creating an alumni organization and tax-exempt foundation was born. The following year the Nature Camp Foundation was established.

Bill Pinkham—for visionary leadership as an early member of the NCF Board of Directors. Bill proposed establishing the Lillian Schilling Fellows program, to encourage NCF members to commit to pledges of annual support and ultimately to donate at least \$1000 to the organization, and secured NCF's purchase of two multi-passenger vans for Nature Camp, including the Chevy van which we still drive.

Nell Jefferson Fredericksen—for generous and boundlessly creative contributions to Nature Camp. For 25 years Nell has created the design for each summer's edition of the Nature Camp T-shirt. This year's

drawing brings back her drawing of hands linked in the Friendship Circle (which she placed over a depiction of the chapel for a shirt design several years ago which included the bear paws of longtime director Colonel John H. Reeves, Jr. in the center) with the iconic image of the bridge over Big Mary's underneath. Nell of course also serves as director of communications for the NCF, in which capacity she formats *The Afterglow*, and this past spring she also designed the beautiful and sublime plaque, featuring a dogwood tree and tiger swallowtail butterfly, permanently honoring major contributors to the NCF's recent Campaign for Nature Camp.

Lyt Wood—for tireless service to Nature Camp, particularly in care of our trees and in the interest of maintaining a safe environment. As a faithful participant in the NCF's semi-annual Service Weekends, Lyt has spent untold hours pruning the trees in and around Camp and removing dead limbs—and occasionally entire trees—which pose a safety hazard or which threaten the structural integrity of buildings. In so doing Lyt has saved Nature Camp countless thousands of dollars.

Amy Beard—for 25 years of exemplary and professional service to the Nature Camp staff, including 13 as Camp's primary emergency medical technician.

Finally, we will implement a change to the application procedure for 2011 (which actually represents a return to the practice of several years ago). Applications will be available in late November as they have for several years, but may not be returned until 15 January 2011. This procedure is intended to allow garden clubs and other sponsoring organizations sufficient time to select scholarship recipients before sessions fill. Dates for the 2011 sessions are posted on the Nature Camp website (www.naturecamp.net).

On behalf of Nature Camp, I thank all of you for your continued support. - Flip Coulling



Donors to the Campaign for Nature Camp Honored

A permanent display honoring donors to the Campaign For Nature Camp now hangs in the front room of the Staff house. The display features a blooming dogwood tree, made up of 52 hand painted tiles, that echoes the Nature Camp logo. The display was designed, painted and donated by Nell Jefferson Fredericksen. Donors who gave in the giving levels of \$1000 and above have their names featured on the different areas of the tree—the leaves, flowers, limbs, trunk and roots.

All members of the Nature Camp family are deeply grateful for the generosity of all our donors to the Campaign. As you all know, Camp is flourishing and this would not have been possible without so much support from all of you.

Thank you.

Nature Camp Trivia Question #3: What year did the floating of the candles on the water during closing ceremony begin?

Shapes and Patterns in Nature: Adult Session 2010

June 11-15 saw almost fifty people at camp for the 21st Adult Session. Among them were about a dozen staff members for the summer session attending as guests of Nature Camp Inc. Almost half of the remaining registrants were new to Adult Session, including members of garden clubs, Master Naturalists, and several parents of recent counselors.

The session was very successful, with excellent talks and activities by new and previous instructors. New or especially noteworthy were: a string band class culminating in a concert (organized by Michaux Hood with assistance from Molly Pickral and friend Marc Perdue), a chapel service by the Rev. Bernard Bangley, a class on new agricultural techniques and a slide show on agriculture in developing countries by Bruce Williams. We instituted a nature treasure hunt on the last evening which was well received and will become a standard offering. Other highlights included Betsy Bangley's class on making leaf prints, a silver-jewelry class by Nell Fredericksen, and an informative review of the controls on stream shapes and the unintended effects of engineering on stream flow by Gerald Pottern. Sunday morning we had a field trip to see the effects of Hurricane Isabel on the South River and discussed the problems of balancing environmental requirements and flooding concerns of landowners.

Adult Session next year will be August 19-23, right after Fourth Session. The spring 2011 issue will carry more information, or you can check the web site in February.

We would also like to share some remembrances of one camper's experience this summer:

Never Too Late To Go To Camp

by Tina Taverna

As a youngster, I never had the opportunity to attend camp. So at the age of 67, I thought – it's never too late! Camping in the woods has always been one of my hidden wishes in life. Another one of my wishes was to someday join a garden club when I retired. Well, six years ago, my husband, Jim, and I moved to Ford's Colony where both of my dreams came true, made possible by my joining the Ford's Colony Garden Club.

The Ford's Colony Garden Club provides Nature Camp scholarships to students in our area. Nature Camp, located in the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains, was started by the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs in 1942 and is one of the oldest camps of its kind in the country. The scholarships are funded to the recipients through profits made by the Club's yearly Hidden Gardens Tour. As Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, I am happy to say that we were able to sponsor five students to Nature Camp this year, plus help provide the camp with a new washer/dryer.

My contacts with Nature Camp revealed that the camp offers an Adult Session each summer! So it occurred to me that if I could convince Jim that this was a chance of a lifetime, camp might be in my future and I might be able to check one of my dreams off my "bucket list". I also thought it

would be fun to invite another couple to join us in the adventure and managed to convince our friends, Ellen and Paul Salvione, to come along. Well, my plan worked!

Needless to say, I was hoping that our four days in the mountains would prove to be enjoyable and memorable for all of us and they were! Each morning at eight o'clock, we arrived at the mess hall for breakfast, one of three meals served each day with a vegetarian alternative as part of every meal. Between meals and on into the evening, we took hikes and field trips, observed flora



and fauna, and attended a variety of lectures taught by experts in the fields of biology, astronomy, botany, geology, forestry, agriculture and environmental science.

We even learned about herpetology, which was a new one to me! In case you are wondering, herpetology is the study of reptiles and amphibians and yes, we saw snakes. Three "counselors" ran tutorials in playing Appalachian string band music, and both Jim and Paul performed in the string band concert on our third evening at camp. It was wonderful!

I kept a diary of my camping adventure, but before putting it away along with all my pictures, collected leaves and memories of a wonderful Nature Camp experience, I just thought I would share it with you all in the event you too have a desire to go to camp someday.

Remember, it is never too late to do something you may have always dreamed about but just didn't have time to do.



Ed Healey

We are sorry to report the death of Ed Healey on July 6. He was the husband of Margaret Healey, who served as president of Nature Camp, Inc. and the VFGC from 2003 to 2005. Margaret and Ed were steadfast supporters of Nature Camp, although declining health precluded their attendance at any events at camp in recent years. After Margaret's term as president ended in 2005 they both made a brief appearance at the reunion over the Memorial Day weekend just to express their appreciation for all that the NCF and its members had done to support camp.

NATURE CAMP REUNION 2010

It was a simply wonderful fall weekend at Nature Camp for the 2010 Reunion! The sun was shining and the humidity was low as over 100 alumni of Nature Camp, spanning from the 1950's to the present, reunited to share memories and revisit old haunts. Early arrivals on Friday enjoyed a lively social hour on the L.S. porch, complete with hors d'oeuvres (squishies, gorp & bug juice) served by Ryan Farr and Barak Brashear dressed in tuxedos! Everyone had fun catching up with old friends, as well as making some new ones. After supper, everyone gathered in the L.S. to watch a slide show on the history of Nature Camp presented by the current camp director, Flip Coulling. Additional commentary was given by Catharine Tucker and Ken Karb on some of the older pictures taken in the '50's and '60's while they were at camp. The evening concluded with a short music and singing session.

Saturday was a fun-filled day, with numerous activities for everyone to choose from:

- ◆ Early morning bird walk led by Tom Wiebodt
- ◆ Unicycling lessons on the play field with Kristin Brubaker
- ◆ Shopping at the Canteen (thanks to Amy Beard!)
- ◆ 'Show & Tell' displays on the L.S. porch
- ◆ Playing in Big Mary's Creek & creating artwork with paint rocks
- ◆ Multiple hikes around camp, including Lookout Rock, Mine Mtn., McClung Mtn., and Table Rock
- ◆ Leisure time to visit with friends or just relax

Saturday evening activities included an NCF open membership meeting, campfire complete with Percy, and music & singing in the L.S. Those who were able to stay through Sunday morning enjoyed the options of another early morning bird walk (led by Barak B.), chapel service, and a Botany/Nature walk around camp with Catharine Tucker. The cooks worked hard to create great meals with homemade desserts throughout the weekend. When it came time to leave, everyone was already talking about and anticipating the next reunion!

- Jet Lawler



A Good Case of Shingles: Service Weekend May 2010



It took four weekends, from September 2008 to May 2010, but the job is done: the L.S. Building has a new covering of shingles. Several people arrived on Thursday afternoon to remove the two layers of old shingles and roofing felt and install the tar paper. Shingling was completed during the weekend by the rest of the loyal gang of 55 people. In addition, a pair of squirrels got into the Education Building over the winter through gaps in the shutters of the lab and also made their way into the library and museum. They trashed all three rooms and destroyed

some books, pencils, fish nets, and other equipment. The lab hinges that caused the gaps in the shutters were replaced and the mess the squirrels produced was cleaned up .

Andrew, Lyt and Flip met Charlie Truxell at camp the previous weekend to do some tree work, then a large crew moved the brush they created and a lot more during the weekend. We also established a perennial culinary herb garden behind the kitchen; replaced some fascia boards; replaced some rotten benches; collected trash along 608 and up the New Road; cleared the culverts; cleaned up the vegetable garden beds; smeared some sheetrock mud on the ceiling of the staff house; and installed a permanent display recognizing the major donors to the Campaign for Nature Camp in the staff house. Nell Fredericksen created the display using 52 hand painted tiles. We used a router to create a wooden sign that asks visitors to check in at the office, and got a good start on the Nature Camp history project.

The hero award goes to Nell, who learned four days before she was to arrive at camp that she was to be chief cook and bottle washer, which included designing a menu, buying all the food, and transporting it to Camp. She had lots of help in the Kitchen from Amy, Art, Shirley, and Rosie. The food was wonderful as usual, especially the pizzas and blueberry pies. We played music in the LS on Friday and Saturday evenings.

Service Weekend has cumulatively attracted 323 different people during the years I have

been Facilities Chair and many of them faithful helpers who return every year. The contribution these people have made to keep camp functional is literally incalculable.



— Jim Brooks, Facilities Chair

EARLY SPRING MAILING PROBLEMS

Did you send in a contribution in early 2010?

Has it not cleared your bank account?

If so, please contact the treasurer, Chuck Story.

We had a problem with our Post Office delivery in February-March, and we've discovered, to our dismay, that some donors sent in contributions that never reached us. We apologize for the inconvenience and will work with you to resolve any problems this has caused.

Answer to Trivia question #3: 1953 was the first year candles were floated on the water at Nature Camp during closing ceremony. Mary Jane Gannaway Layne was a counselor that year and brought the tradition from another camp where she worked during the summer of 1952—the summer that Nature Camp was closed due to construction at the new Vesuvius site.

A Message from NCI:

With each passing season, our gratitude toward the many garden clubs that continue to support Nature Camp grows. While many clubs directly sponsor Nature Campers each summer, others make contributions to the Nature Camp Foundation or to Nature Camp, Inc., through Philip Coulling, that allow us to offer scholarships to dozens of campers. These gifts and scholarships play a great role in Camp's at-capacity enrollment and financial stability – thank you!!

In addition, several garden clubs periodically hold events which benefit Nature Camp. Once again, we extend our most sincere thanks to organizations that choose Nature Camp as the beneficiary of their efforts, and we would like to do what we can to help publicize any such upcoming events. If you would like to have your future event mentioned in "The Afterglow," please send details to Shirley Napps or Nell Fredericksen.

"Afterglow" readers in the Richmond area, mark your calendars for this fabulous event which recently came to our attention:

"Fashions with Flowers XIII" will be held Friday, Feb.18, 2011 at 10:00 am at Ginter Park Woman's Club, 3016 Seminary Ave., Richmond, VA 23227. This event includes a floral design demonstration by Mark Landa of Boulevard Flower Gardens, Fashions by Chico's Fashions, Inc., Lunch by Ginter Park Woman's Club, and a Silent Auction. The floral designs will be raffled. Tickets for the event are \$25, and you can reserve a spot by sending your check in that amount, made payable to Richmond Council of Garden Clubs, to Jane VanDenburgh, 6235 Madonna Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23111 by Feb.11th.

Proposed NCF Budget, 2010 Revisited

There was an error in the budget figures published in the previous Afterglow. The correct 2010 Budget figures are:

Income

Contributions: \$50,000
Investments: \$5,500
Total Gross Income: \$55,500

Expenses:

Publications and Mailings: \$8,000
Service Committee: \$5,000
Special Projects: \$5,000
Camp Scholarships: \$2,000
Office Supplies: \$500
Professional Fees: \$500

Fall Hike Planned

The fourth annual Fall Hike Day will take place on Saturday, 16 October 2010. Paul Cabe, Leigh Ann Beavers, and Chris Chamberlin have once again generously and graciously agreed to provide a turkey dinner with all the trimmings (a vegetarian option will be available) to follow a day of hiking the ridges and valleys around Nature Camp. For the past three autumns, this event has drawn a delightfully broad cross-section of the Nature Camp family — current and former campers, counselors, parents, and friends — together for a memorable time of recreation, fellowship, and enjoyment of the season's changing palette — and to raise funds for the Nature Camp Foundation. We will gather at camp at 10:00 AM and depart by 10:30; there will be several hikes of varying difficulty and length from which to choose. Bring your own lunch, snacks, water, etc. (squishies not provided). The cost is \$20 per person, or \$50 maximum per family; children 10 and under with a parent may eat for free. Please bring checks made payable to the Nature Camp Foundation. To reserve a space (and to request vegetarian fare) please e-mail director Flip Coulling at director@naturecamp.net by October 10. Note that no baby-sitting service will be available during the hikes. In the event of inclement or uncertain weather, call Flip or camp (540) 377-2491 the morning of October 16 to see if hikes are still on (dinner will be in any event). We hope to see many of you there!

News of Friends

Tom and Ali Wieboldt spent “two amazing weeks in Italy and France” in June. Tom was there for a botanical class in Switzerland, and Ali and daughter Elsa took the opportunity to tour the art of Firenze and then joined Tom for visits in the towns of the Cinque Terre and a short drive into France.....**Betsy Bangley** has become a market gardener, selling produce from her large vegetable garden at a local farmer's market in western Pennsylvania. She and David hope to be in their new solar-powered house before winter starts.....**Phyllis Kline Appler** has also been gardening, working with her high school biology students and others on a community garden. **Cammie Hutton** says that husband **Church Hutton** is now back in Iraq on his second tour with his engineer bridging company, scheduled to return next summer. **Cuth Hutton** married Laura Jensen on July 10th, and both are now back at the Federicksburg Academy, where he teaches middle school science.

NCF Upcoming Elections

It is election time again for the Nature Camp Foundation. This year, President and At-large Board Member are up for election and the Facilities Chair is up for appointment. The current President and Facilities Chair are eligible for re-election and re-appointment, respectively, and are willing to serve another term. We have a vacancy for the At-large Board Member.

The Nominating Committee, chaired by the 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 web site 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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Nature Camp, Inc. Board of Directors

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