



November 2008

Dear Nature Camp Family & Friends,

**We have successfully concluded our capital campaign launched in 2006 which raised more than \$620,000 in pledges.** Your support has been unparalleled and has made it possible to replace Nature Camp's dated plumbing and electrical systems and make a number of other improvements to our well-loved Camp. Your generosity is a testament to the impact this place has had on its alumni and friends and will continue to play in the coming years.

The overwhelming number of people who have given to Camp not only through the campaign but also through scholarship donations and volunteer events has allowed **the Nature Camp Foundation to grow from a dues-based definition of "membership" to a broader and more inclusive system that better recognizes multiple supporters and means of participation.** For example, all individuals who make a financial gift at any level or volunteer for part of a service weekend in a given year will continue to be gratefully acknowledged in NCF's annual Honor Roll of Donors and will be considered "members" for issues like voting for NCF offices. We have graduated to a system that will ultimately allow us to reach out to more people in the Nature Camp community and better recognize their gifts of time and money.

**But why should we keep giving now that the campaign has ended?**

Like the colleges and universities, churches, and civic organizations that send you financial appeals, Nature Camp relies on your support to meet the needs – including camper scholarships, educational and facilities enhancement, and maintenance – that are simply not covered by the campers' tuition. **Since 2007 (when Nature Camp ownership legally transferred from the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs), the Nature Camp community has become the primary source for Nature Camp's needs.** While acknowledging that the economy may curtail your philanthropic goals at this time, we ask you to keep Nature Camp in mind as you consider your year-end donations. With your continued support, we can fulfill our vision that Nature Camp remains a profoundly positive and formative experience for young people. Thank you for that support!

Gratefully,

Latham Schweitzer, Nature Camp Foundation Development Chair

**If you would like to donate, please feel free to us the annual fund donation form found at the end of the Afterglow and the enclosed return envelope.**



# The Afterglow

The Newsletter of the Nature Camp Foundation in  
Support of Nature Camp

Number 74

December 2008

## Annual Membership Meeting of the NCF

The annual open meeting for the Nature Camp Foundation was held at Nature Camp in conjunction with the fall service weekend, on Saturday, September 20, in the LS Building after lunch. Present were several dozen members together with all the board members who could make it. Powell Hutton, President, called the meeting to order. Flip Coulling delivered the report on the state of camp, including the good news that 328 campers had attended the four youth sessions, more than in any of the past nine years.

Chuck Story gave the treasurer's report, noting that pledges of capital campaign support had exceeded the cost of completed renovations. However, since the third year of pledges had not yet been received, the foundation has taken out \$30,000 in short term loans to cover construction bills. We expect to pay off this loan by the end of the year as further pledges are realized. Fund raising will now be conducted annually through donations rather than dues in order to raise the funds needed each year.

Jim Brooks reported on the success of construction, highlighting that it could not have been possible without the role played by Charlie Truxell, the caretaker, saving camp much time and money. Mike Meads, Volunteer Coordinator, explained the how and why of the recent survey to identify the time and talent volunteers could bring. Nell Fredericksen described new bulk mailing processes that require certification of mailing list accuracy before each bulk mailing, a cumbersome but necessary new postal requirement. Campbell Tuskey Hutton covered the election process underway this fall for elected and appointed members to the board. The meeting adjourned by 2 o'clock.

-- Powell Hutton, President

## Greetings from the Board of Nature Camp, Incorporated!

It has been a successful year at Nature Camp, as described by Flip Coulling in the September 2008 edition of the Afterglow. The Board just conducted a face to face meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup> in Raphine, VA at the lovely home of Paul Cabe and Leigh Ann Beavers.

While the Nature Camp Foundation is an organization composed of Camp alums, family members and other well-wishers of Camp, dedicated to long term support for Camp and its goals, NCI has the job of day-to-day operations for Camp. We discuss things such as facility maintenance (made much simpler by the infrastructure upgrades of this past year), insurance requirements, scholarship planning, camp session dates and marketing plans for Camp. There is always work to be done, plans to be made, but we are fortunate to have talented, dedicated folks working for the success of Camp, and we are pleased to report that things are going well.

One pressing need was identified during our recent meeting. Nature Camp's truck is in need of replacement before the snow flies this winter (yes, it snows quite a bit in the valley between Mine and McClung). We're hoping someone out there has a used truck they would like to donate to Camp. It needs to be a full-size pickup with a full-size bed and 4-wheel drive. If you have a truck that might fill the bill, please contact Flip or Charlie as soon as you can.

We wanted to let members of the Nature Camp community know that the Camp site and facilities may be available throughout the off-season, for a nominal fee, for uses such as weddings and receptions, science class field exploration, and meetings of environmental organizations. Keep Camp's resources in mind and contact Director Flip Coulling with questions or requests.

The members of the Nature Camp, Inc. (NCI) Board are listed elsewhere in this edition.

## Tons of Shingles

We had a very successful service weekend September 18-21, 2008. We had three major projects and were able to complete all three, as well as a number of smaller projects. We painted the walls and ceiling inside the coed counselors room, we re-roofed a section of the LS, and we rebuilt the berm behind the infirmary.

We removed the old shingles, felt, and rotten wood from the kitchen and cooks' room of the LS and replaced them. We knew that we couldn't re-roof the entire LS in a three-day weekend, so we just chose the section of the roof that was the most worn. We will continue with another section of the LS roof in May 2009 and finish the LS roof in September 2009.

Several weeks before, there had been a big rain storm at camp. The water was coming off McClung Mountain so fast that it jumped the berm that we had built behind the infirmary in November 1999. The water was running near the foundation and starting to erode the dirt and rock near the lower back corner of the building. Charlie hired a local backhoe operator to use his backhoe during the storm to widen the ditch on the mountain side of the berm, so the rainwater wouldn't undercut the footing of the building. If the footing had been undercut and dropped several inches, we would have had a big mess. During service weekend we removed a lot of the rock that remained in the ditch, spread new landscape fabric to retard future erosion, built the berm higher, and covered the landscape fabric with local stone riprap. The ditch is now about twice as wide as it was before and hopefully will accommodate the next big rain.

There were a number of other projects that were accomplished. Most of those involved repairing screens and screen doors and encasing the wiring in the chapel inside conduit.

Of the 68 folks who attended, twelve had never been to a previous service weekend, ten folks were on staff this past summer, and five were campers this past summer.

Chuck was chief cook and bottle washer with help from many others. The meals were, as usual, just fantastic. We sang in the LS after dinner on Friday and Saturday. We danced the Salty Dog Rag, a circle mixer, and a contra dance on Saturday evening.

The hero awards go to Doug, Peter, Leslie, Matthew, Amber, Flip, and Ellis for arriving at camp on Thursday, September 18th to remove the shingles from the roof of the LS. The original shingles that were installed in 1952 were still on the roof. Some 20 years or so ago, the caretaker had installed new roofing felt and shingles over the old felt and shingles. I figure these folks removed between three and four tons of old shingles and felt in about five hours. Charlie had arranged for a dump truck to be there to receive the old shingles.

Amy K Gonzales has invited you to look at her photos from the weekend. She has them posted at the following website: <http://www.kodakgallery.com/l.jsp?c=x44a7h7.1ldjm0kb&x=0&y=-ena7lu&localeid>



-- Jim Brooks, Chair, Service Committee



## The \*Other\* Election

By chance (honest!) this issue of the *Afterglow* is being compiled on the national Election Day. But there is another election in November of importance to our beloved bit of the world: that of Vice-President for the Nature Camp Foundation. All members in good standing should have received ballots by the end of October, and we hope you will return them within the month. Results will be posted on the web site in early December.

## William Keeton Honored

**Dr. William Keeton** ("Bill" at the time) attended Nature Camp during its early years at Lake Sherando, and subsequently married fellow-camper **Barbara Orcutt** (Bobbi). Their three children, now **Nancy Keeton Pereira**, **Bill Keeton Jr.**, and **Lynn Keeton Gamwell**, were also campers, and Bill Sr.'s mother **Doris Keeton** was a long-time supporter of the NCF. Bill went on to become a respected biologist and professor at Cornell University, researching the homing devices of pigeons and writing what is still one of the most popular textbooks in biology. We are proud to announce that a new residence for upperclass students at Cornell has been named the William Keeton House. **Ann Shumate**, another Sherando camper who spent many years at Cornell herself, reports that a flock of homing pigeons was released as part of the dedication ceremony.

## In Other Breaking News.....

**Jill Stein Tietjen's** new book "Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America" (Harper Collins 2008) features over 850 women in U.S. history from 1587 to 2007. The vivid, visual timeline is getting rave reviews from readers ([www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)) and the Tattered Cover book signing can be viewed on C-SPAN2/Book TV.....**Phyllis Klein Appler** tells us that she attended the national convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs in Chicago, and is still teaching high school biology.

## Attention Richmond Shoppers!

Thanks to all the Richmond area Ukrops Grocery Store shoppers who submitted their Golden Gift Certificates. Your receipts totaled over \$300 for the Nature Camp Foundation!

For those of you who don't know, the Nature Camp Foundation was approved as a participating non-profit organization in Ukrop's Golden Gift program. Here's how it worked, if you used your Ukrop's Valued Customer card between February 4<sup>th</sup> and March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, your purchases were totaled (as "points") on your card account and mailed to your home in the form of a "Golden Gift certificate" in May. Many members of the Richmond area Nature Camp community mailed their receipts to me. We collected, tallied, and submitted those certificates to Ukrops, which translated to a cash donation for Nature Camp! The Nature Camp Foundation plans to participate in the 2009 Golden Gift program. So, what does that mean for you?

Only purchases made with the "Valued Customer cards" at Ukrops stores during the designated shopping period will be eligible. I am told by Ukrops that the shopping period will begin in February and end in March. The specific dates have not been published yet. Details will follow as more information becomes available. So, if you have a chance this winter, do a little shopping at Ukrops while helping Nature Camp at the same time!

A special thanks to Sarah Van Auken Hulcher, who suggested that the Nature Camp Foundation would be a good candidate to participate in this program. Thanks again for your support!

## Donors to the Campaign for Nature Camp

These giving circles reflect the total value of pledges and gifts made to The Campaign for Nature Camp. These generous donations, plus the fundraisers held in 2007, have brought the campaign total to more than \$620,000! Tremendous thanks to all these supporters.

### Big Mary's Creek Guardians (\$20,000 or more):

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John Powell  
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## Scholarship Sponsors for Summer 2008

Many thanks to the following organizations, which provided financial assistance to some of this summer's campers. These generous garden clubs, bird clubs, foundations, and other organizations offered partial and full scholarships to help light the spark for a lifetime of commitment to the environment. Thank you!

Albemarle Garden Club  
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The Nature Camp Foundation can be contacted via mail to:  
 PO Box 3091, Lynchburg, VA 24503

***The 2009 Annual Fund for Nature Camp***

Name of Donor(s) or Family as you would like it to appear in the Honor Roll:

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Address:

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

My enclosed check, *made payable to the Nature Camp Foundation*, places me in this giving club:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$1 - \$99: Foundation Friends

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100 - \$249: Reveille Circle

\_\_\_\_\_ \$250 - \$499: Reeves Guild

\_\_\_\_\_ \$500 or more: Schilling Society

***Thank you for supporting Nature Camp!***

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