

# *the afterglow*

Issue 89 May 2016

## ***Follow the Gleam.... Erin Mckeown***

The first time Erin McKeown went to sleepaway summer camp, she hated it so much she tried to mount an escape. The Fredericksburg native was at a summer academic program run by UVA in Charlottesville, and she was having a terrible time. During an outing at a private school, she told a teacher she had to use the bathroom, “but I went to the payphone in the lobby and tried to call my parents to say, ‘Come and get me out of here,’” she said.

Her mom, who was an active Garden Club member, heard about a different camp that sounded like a better fit for the following summer. From her first day of Fourth Session, McKeown knew Nature Camp was something else entirely.

“Right away I remember feeling at home,” she said, and she never missed a summer after that. “It was always the best two weeks of my life.”

Today, McKeown is a successful musician, though that term is too narrow to describe the arc of a career that’s been referred to as “many-hyphenated.” The genre-bending singer-songwriter has sold more than 100,000 albums since her 2000 debut and played Bonaroo, the Newport Folk Festival and venues across the continent. She’s produced or co-produced most of her own albums, taught writing workshops, co-written an original musical that premieres this fall and over the summer will join the live tour of the popular podcast Welcome to Night Vale.

She traces it all back to that first crucial summer in Vesuvius. “I would not be a songwriter and a musician if I had not gone to camp,” she says.

McKeown grew up taking piano lessons, but it wasn’t until she saw counselors strumming during evening program and rec periods that she really felt inspired to make music. “I was just so taken with that,” she said. At the same time, she felt at home at camp in a way she never had before. “I could be myself and that was OK,” she says.

Growing up, she never felt like a cool kid, or even a normal kid. “But when I was at camp, I felt like we were all cool kids. It was such a great inversion of how I felt at home.”

She wanted to hang onto that feeling. “After my first summer, I really wanted to remember the feeling of camp and of singing those songs,” she says. “That’s how it started with me—wanting camp songs throughout the year.”

Back home in Fredericksburg, she picked up a songbook and a nylon-string guitar at a music shop and got to work. The guitar and her new repertoire came with her to camp the next summer, where she found that the same people who taught her about plant ID and limnology were great music instructors, too. Some talented players took an interest in helping her improve. Steve Vargo, Matt Bain, Joe Cleary, Amber Shiflet Cook, Flip Coulling and others taught her new chords and new songs, “and I would just eat it all up,” she says.



She wrote her first song at camp, inspired by a protest against the construction of a dam on a Quebec river by the Indigo Girls, the folk duo whose ballads have been songbook standbys and bunkhouse lullabies for decades. McKeown remembers that first song itself as nothing special. The experience of performing her own music for the first time, though, was a milestone, and it was the comfort and camaraderie of camp that made it possible.

“It was years before I ever did that professionally,” she says.

Her years at camp also instilled an enduring love of science and the natural world, and when she headed to Brown University, she had plans to study biology. But her interest in songwriting and performing grew in her college years, and she knew her future lay in music.

For McKeown, there’s a common thread in a love of science and a love of art, and it winds its way back to Nature Camp.

At camp, “science was super warm and collaborative and communal and alive,” she says, and so was every other part of the day. “I didn’t see a difference between the way we sang songs after dinner and the way we felt on Sunday hikes, or the way it feels to go out with a wildflower guide.”

And as a songwriter, the way the wonders of the natural world were taught at camp still resonates with her. Class wasn’t a barrage of cold, hard facts. “It was sort of in a storytelling context,” she says, “not just information for the sake of information, but information as part of a big story—how the earth is evolving, or the way climate change is affecting the earth, or the life cycle of a bear.”

Most importantly for her, all those formative experiences and all that learning happened in a place where she felt not just accepted but celebrated and loved for who she was. For her, being the kind of person who eagerly points out a lichen to friends on a hike and being a musician are both outgrowths of the same joyful summer experience. Camp was a place where she was made to feel “totally awesome just as I was,” she says. “I didn’t have to be more this or less that. It was the feeling of letting your freak flag fly, except that your freak flag is a lab with snakes in it, or a library with Newcomb’s Wildflower Guides, or songs you sing after dinner. It was that sense of self and feeling, and for me, I wanted that forever.”

And it has lasted. McKeown still feels and fulfills a deep need to be in nature regularly. She keeps up with her friends from her camp days, and she’ll be helping teach the string band class at the 2016 Adult Session from June 9 to 13, something she’s done before and loved. And she keeps a framed certificate on the wall of her home in western Massachusetts, now battered and water stained after surviving a flood: her Best-All-Around Camper award, a daily reminder of the place “that completely changed my life.”

- Interview and article by Graelyn Brashear



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## *Adult Session 2016 - The Unexpected in Nature*

“Expect the unexpected.” This well-worn saying may be more banal than aphoristic, but it could aptly describe what’s in store at this year’s Adult Session. Please join us for the 27th version of this annual event from June 9 to 13, during which we will explore “The Unexpected in Nature.” Discover the unexpected magic of soapmaking; the unexpected intricacies of the sounds of nature; the unexpected delight of crafting Appalachian toys; the unexpected variety of amphibian life cycles; the unexpected efficacy of macro photography with a smartphone; the unexpected story of one of Virginia’s most interesting rocks; the unexpected connections among mice, oaks, and Lyme disease; and the unexpected joy of learning a new instrument and making music together in the always popular string band workshop. Plus, there will be the usual slate of plant, bird, and herp walks, as well as some hikes of longer duration. The dawn chorus of birdsong will greet us in the morning, and Jupiter, Saturn, and Mars will all be visible in the night sky. An all-day field trip will explore some recently (and not quite so recently) burned forests near Nature Camp (and the unexpected effects of wildfire) and will include a picnic lunch along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

In order to give the summer staff a full week of training and preparation before First Session begins, we are shifting the schedule for this year’s session from Friday-Tuesday to Thursday-Monday. Participants will begin gathering on Thursday afternoon and will enjoy three full days of fellowship, food, and fun over the long weekend. The \$300 registration fee includes all classes, other activities, and meals for the weekend and helps to subsidize Nature Camp’s youth sessions. More information and a registration form are available at <https://naturecamp.net/programs/adult-session-programs/>.

## *History Project - From the Archives!!*



Campers leaving camp at Sherando Lake - note Lillian Schilling on the far left!!!

Male staff in 1971 singing for Counselor Talent Night. Col. Reeves on the far left with Walter Mehring next in the plaid jacket. Also Robert Parlett and George Tolley.



Do you recognize anyone else???

## News from Nature Camp - The Nature Camp Roll of Honor

Every so often, one of those moments hits when you think, “Wait, why didn’t we think of that?” or “Why haven’t we done that before?” So it is with this year’s inductee to the Nature Camp Roll of Honor, which was established in 2003 by the former Board of Trustees to recognize significant, non-monetary contributions to Nature Camp. Our single honoree for 2016 has made a lasting impact on Camp in myriad ways over the course of more than four decades. Walter Mehring spent four years as a camper in the late 1950s, but he was never quite hooked by the experience. When his brother Peter served as director of instruction during Brent Heath’s tenure as director, however, he convinced Walter to join him on staff, and Walter returned for the first two years of Colonel Reeve’s directorship—and no doubt exasperated Colonel just a little bit with his teaching of Wilderness Living. Walter himself recorded for posterity the adventures his class had during their overnight camping adventure in Amherst County during First Session 1973:

*“The classes ... gathered more than enough greens for supper—stinging nettle, violets, Indian cucumbers, and, sigh...numerous daylilies. We killed two copperheads and caught a number of small fish which added considerably to our meat supply. We gathered around two fires to keep warm and built a lean-to and throughout the night alternately froze and slept or huddled around the campfire, warm but awake. It was all very exciting. You were never sure whether you were going to be stepped on by a person changing from one position to another. Early the next morning our heroic fishermen caught twenty more fish, which, together with a few mulberries and Indian cucumbers, were our food for the day. The lack of food and sleep left us quite tired so we spent the day torturing one another in the most delicious terms imaginable.”*

The previous summer, so the story goes, as heavy rain from the remnants of Hurricane Agnes kept everyone indoors for several days, Colonel was awakened from his afternoon nap by someone pulling on his toe. He looked up to see Walter and Lisa Rossbacher standing by his bed. Walter was grinning as he asked, “Wanna hear a new Camp song?” Walter had composed music that fit perfectly the words to Lisa’s poem, and thus was born “Thinking of Tomorrow.”

When the Nature Camp Foundation formed in 1989, Walter became the first chair of the Service Committee and for several years organized the semi-annual Service Days. (Full weekend events were not held until 1997.) He remains a faithful and tireless participant at these gatherings and has helped make numerous benches for the chapel and outdoor classrooms. Walter has also served as an instructor at Adult Session ever since this event was reinitiated in 1990; his sessions on such topics as early American tools, primitive instruments, and making Tarahumara running sandals are invariably among the most popular offerings every year.

Last year Walter played an instrumental role in the construction of the Gus Deeds Memorial Pavilion. It was he who initially had the idea to incorporate the white oak that had earlier been felled near the swimming pool, and along with Lyt Wood, he spearheaded the engineering effort to move it to the playfield. This tree provided the rafters for the pavilion and two of the benches inside, and Walter generously donated some additional wood from his own stock of lumber, including the walnut which he carefully crafted into two additional benches.

Whether cleaving an oak log with a froe or entertaining a crowd with the story of “Paddy and the Bricks” with his banjo in hand, Walter continues to make an immeasurable, invaluable, and memorable contribution to Nature Camp. Forgive us the oversight in failing to include you sooner, but we are proud to induct you into the Roll of Honor as the lone member of the class of

2016. You’re one of a kind, sir, and we gratefully salute you! - Philip Coulling, NC Executive Director



## ***NCF Development***

Through the efforts of your dollars and sweat equity the Nature Camp Foundation enjoyed a super year providing a great deal of current and future support to Camp. Everything from repairing screens, replacing mattresses, installing lights, and establishing the Gus Deeds and Stuart Craig scholarships. The Nature Camp Foundation can't thank you all enough in exceeding our financial goals for 2015.

The Foundation is looking forward to 2016 and beyond with your continued support.

If you have any questions about the various ways you can help support the NCF please contact Development Chair, Joe Irby at [jmhirby2@gmail.com](mailto:jmhirby2@gmail.com).

## ***Seventh Almost Annual Fall Hike Day at Nature Camp***



October 17th was sunny with blue skies, and with the perfect amount of Fall chill in the air - great weather for a Fall Sunday Hike day! We met on the gravel road in front of the Staff House at 10:00am to discuss and choose hikes. The boldest of the group chose the December Ridge hike lead by former counselors Calder Telep McLellan, Lori Nelson Chamberlin, and me, Louise Bowling Manilla. These fearless leaders hadn't actually been on this particular hike for a few years, so the hike was sure to be an adventure. 20 some hikers, plus 3 dogs, set off up the trail to Table Rock at 11:00am, after a ceremonial name-game and warm-up stretch session on the Rec Field. We turned right off the path just before the creek

crossing to begin our bushwhack up the ridge. The mountain laurel and rhododendron trees were thick and we criss-crossed deer trails as we forged our way up the ridge. The Fall foliage was just beginning to show and there were a few beautiful glimpses of the McClung summit far off in the distance through breaks in the trees. We stopped for lunch around 12:30 at a nice flat spot, perfect for squishy eating, leg resting, and short cat naps in the carpet of leaves.

The uphill trek continued after the break, and even though the leaders knew exactly where to go, they pretended to be unsure of the path to Whetstone Ridge. Luckily, we reached the ridge at the correct intersection where Sunday hikes normally stop for lunch. There was an impressive stick fort leftover from past summers, a good place to spend the night if the hike went horribly wrong. We turned right and followed the ridge trail with the dogs leading the way quickly down the path. Just before 2:00pm we reached the last steep rocky scramble up to the summit of McClung. Success!! Many pictures were taken and we had a long break on the mossy summit after searching for a coke machine that was never found. After a good rest, we headed down the ridge that descends steeply towards Hemlock Forest. The trail slowly disappeared and the mountain laurel and blueberry bushwhacking began. Once again, the hike leaders knew exactly where to go, but decided to err on the side of caution and led the group to the right and ended up coming out on the Nature Trail above the path to buttermilk springs. We made the easy walk back to camp, where we were rewarded with a delicious Sunday dinner feast prepared by the excellent cooks Paul Cabe and Leigh Ann Beavers.



- Louise Bowling Manilla

## *Fall Service Weekend*

Fall Service Weekend of 2015 saw a remarkable attendance of over 80 individuals who came to camp to donate their time and effort, eat some fantastic meals, and enjoy fellowship with the camp family. Service weekend is open to anyone, not just those who attended camp as campers or counselors, and no skills are needed to be a valuable addition to the community. The only requirement for attendance is a desire to improve camp for all those who come to learn about the conservation and preservation of the natural world.

With only the canteen and caretaker's roof to go, nearly every building at camp has been re-shingled in recent years. Most recently the garage roof was completed. Thank you to those who tirelessly devote their efforts each service weekend to replacing the old felt and shingles; our buildings are protected from the weather for years to come.

While some spend their time on the roof, others crawl under the buildings to reinforce the floors with new pressure-treated lumber. These new joists are "sistered" to the existing supports in order to provide reinforcement for aging wood. Many people have contributed countless hours to this difficult project, but Mack and Dave deserve special recognition for their willingness to spend the majority of their weekends under the buildings showing others how to complete this task.

After replacing a remarkable amount of siding in the spring it was time to start applying a fresh coat of carbolineum to the buildings around camp in order to protect the new and old wood from decay. It seemed that nearly every person who attended the fall service weekend spent at least some time contributing to the refinishing of the staff house, the boy's T-house, the infirmary, and the outhouse (which is a laundry building). Drying time presents a bit of an issue with application of large amounts of carbolineum just before camp season, so we will likely continue this project in the fall rather than this spring.

A major museum renovation began last fall and will continue in order to update the contents and improve the space overall in order to provide a more useful and desirable learning space for campers and other visitors. Other projects completed include a new outlet in the center of the kitchen and one in the canteen for a generator, reinforcement of the shower heads in the boys t-house, bunk spring repair, porch repairs on the girls bunkhouse and the LS, library maintenance, and so much more. Thank you to everyone who contributed this past service weekend. Your efforts save camp thousands of dollars and create a safe, beautiful environment for all those who visit.



*Suzanne Stryk shows off a new display!!*

As has become tradition, the kitchen staff, headed up by Nell Frederickson, kept the crew well fed and happy. Some weekend favorites were the "Taste of Bolivia" with a beef stew called Saice over roasted potatoes (Nell lived in Bolivia for 6 years and decided to share some of the traditional dishes with us). We also enjoyed a hearty lentil soup for lunch on Saturday with assorted salads and sandwiches, and the ever popular gourmet pizza night.

Thank you to Katie, Matthew, Sarah, Amy, Leigh, Carly, Samantha, Lucky, Donovan, Penny, Paul, Lock, Han, Peter, Ben, Mack, Gisela, Amy, Rick, Emily, Jill, Steve, Todd, Nell, Lily, Neil, Sue, Ryan, Margaret, Amy, Sandra, Katie, Callie, Joanne, Powell, Joe, Thomas, Celie, Steven, Sarah, Tristan, Caleb, Rob, Kim, Stacy, Max, Mary Frances, Simon, Theta, Shirley, Eric, Stephanie, Joel, Evan, Leah, Dave, Sarah, Hanly, Langston, Robert, Dustin, Olivier, Adam, Sarah, Paul, Ventry, Flip, Sheryl, George, Suzanne, Mike, Martha, Brett, Kate, Jerry, Charlie, Annie, Carolyn, Edward, and Cameron.



*Nell not only cooks - she catches copperheads too!!*

Please watch your inbox for updates regarding attendance of the upcoming Spring Service Weekend (May 20th-22nd) including projects, supplies needed, safety equipment and training, and accommodations available. Contact Corey Basham at [swvahawker@gmail.com](mailto:swvahawker@gmail.com) at any time with questions or concerns regarding service weekends.

- Corey Basham, Service Weekend Chair



*The beautiful rock wall behind the Gus Deeds Pavilion.*



*and don't forget the crazy things we do...*

## ***Update your information!!!***

The Foundation wants to have the best information on our supporters as possible so please update your contact information at <http://naturecampfoundation.org/my-profile/>. Updated and concise contact information will help the NCF provide the right information to you in the format you prefer.

Additionally, ask your Camp friends to do the same. There are plenty of folk still not in the "Circle" and we certainly want to inform them of the great things going on at Camp.

*<http://naturecampfoundation.org/my-profile/>*

## ***News from Nature Camp, Inc.***

The folks responsible for operation and maintenance of Nature Camp (i.e., the Board of Directors of Nature Camp, Inc.) are pleased to report that the state of Nature Camp is strong. We met in November this past year and welcomed several new members to the board. Stacy Luks, a camper parent from Richmond, joined us earlier in the year to fill the Publicity & Promotions Director position vacated by Emily Richardson. The Director of Education position has been held by Paul Cabe for 2 terms of 3 years each. Ana Edwards, also a camper parent from Richmond, has agreed to fill that position. This year, the board opted to split the position of Vice President/Secretary into two separate positions. The duties of Vice President have grown to the point where that's enough for one person and I have been fortunate to have Katie Hoffman supporting me in that role. The Secretary position has been filled by Sarah Preston, former camper and camper parent.

Many thanks go to these good people who agree to participate so actively in overseeing the operations of Camp. Due to the institution of term limits for board members, we are always on the lookout for new candidates to bring us new ideas and perspectives. Please consider taking a turn on the board – it's not too time-consuming, and I promise we eat well at our meetings!

Topics for discussion at the mid-year meeting in June include appropriate pay levels for our year-round employees and exploring possibilities for the renovation and rejuvenation of the museum and perhaps even the entire Education Building.

Thank you to all who give directly to Nature Camp, and to those who give to the Nature Camp Foundation, enabling them to provide us the support we need to keep Nature Camp in great physical shape and to fund the special needs of Camp.

- Amy Gonzalez, President, NCI

## ***New Virtual “Nature Camp Canteen”***

### ***Ten T-shirts Designs now available!!!!!!***

You can now order T-shirts, sweatshirts, onesies, kids wear, mugs etc from our new online “canteen” We have 10 of the most requested designs available in our shop or you can purchase the designs for use on a huge variety of items.

Please visit our SpreadShirt shop at:

**[https://shop.spreadshirt.com/  
NatureCampFoundation?no-  
Cache=true](https://shop.spreadshirt.com/NatureCampFoundation?no-Cache=true)**

The \$2.50 we earn from each sale goes to support our scholarship fund!!!





## ***Prospective Camper Day***

How did you first hear about Nature Camp? And how did you know that it was ‘the right place’ for you to go? Or to send your child? Or to recommend to a young person whose life you could touch – for what was likely their first – and potentially pivotal – 2-weeks-away-from-home summer camp experience?

I well remember Spring 2013, when I was seeking information about whether Nature Camp, sight-unseen to my husband and me, would be ‘that best place’ for our only child, Anna. As a family with no prior connection to Camp, it took some targeted effort to satisfy our parental curiosity and concerns, before even bringing up the subject with Anna – she, after all would be the ‘guinea pig’ in this family experiment. She applied, was accepted, and she attended Fourth Session that year. I remember clearly the sense of trepidation that filled our Subaru that Sunday summer morning. So many unknowns! And yet, we navigated our way from Richmond to Vesuvius. There, we dropped our Anna off. Nature Camp did turn out to be that ‘best place’ for Anna to learn and grow. She has returned every summer since.

Certainly most of us can say, without reservation, that once you visit Camp, you look forward to returning. And on the basis of this bedrock Nature Camp principle, this July 23rd, on the Saturday midway point of Third Session, we will again extend to prospective campers/families and other first-time-visitors the opportunity to experience Camp for an afternoon. Through offering this on-site sneak-peek, including a Camp tour and typical educational and recreational activities, we hope to both address concerns and spur commitment from prospective campers. We also hope to expand outreach and enhance broad-based community awareness of the mission and impact of Nature Camp.

Three years on from Spring 2013, Anna is excitedly preparing for her fourth year as a Camper, enrolled in Second Session, and I sit on the Nature Camp Inc. board with responsibility for Promotion & Publicity. We’ve become committed members of the camp community, and I am privileged to be supporting the board’s efforts to grow and broaden the Nature Camp family. At this time when ever-greater numbers of concerned parents and educators are embracing the vital importance to our planet, Camp offers young people the opportunity to experience direct, sustained encounters with nature. As our campers learn and grow, our mission-driven camp magnifies its impact in many important ways.

You can support this year’s Prospective Camper Day by helping spread the word throughout your networks. The audience, of course, is potential Nature Campers and their families. Flyers will be available in the coming weeks, and we’ll be posting information on the Nature Camp website and Facebook pages. Please direct all inquiries to me at [sphomer@comcast.net](mailto:sphomer@comcast.net) or t. 703.405.3763 as we will be formally registering attendees and requesting RSVPs in advance of the event.

-Stacy Luks, Board member for Publicity and Promotions, Nature Camp Inc.

## ***Calendar of Events 2016***

Spring Service Weekend	May 20-22
NCF Annual Open Meeting	May 21
Nature Camp Adult Session	June 9-13
Prospective Camper Orientation	July 23
Fall Service Weekend	September 16-18
Fall Hike Day	October 15

## **Sidney Coulling III, 1924-2016**

Sidney Mathias Baxter Coulling III, the S. Blount Mason Jr. Professor of English Emeritus at Washington and Lee University, died on February 22, 2016, at Kendal at Lexington. He had celebrated his 92nd birthday earlier in the month. He taught for 35 years at his alma mater, from 1956 to 1991. "When I think of Sid Coulling, I remember that he was called 'the heart and soul' of W&L by our former president John Wilson," said President Kenneth P. Ruscio. "That is the perfect description. And Sid was one of the finest teachers who ever graced a classroom at Washington and Lee." Sidney Coulling was born on February 13, 1924, in Bluefield, W.Va., and grew up in Tazewell, Va. He earned a B.A. in English from Washington and Lee University (1946) and an M.A. (1949) and Ph.D. in English (1957) from the University of North Carolina.

Coulling's service and dedication to his students and colleagues, as well as the numerous honors and achievements attained all reflect the sense of honor and integrity that Coulling conveyed both in and out of the classroom.

Coulling contributed to the Lexington community as well, with service on the board of directors of Stonewall Jackson Hospital from 1969 to 1974, including a year as the board president. He also belonged to the Fortnightly Club and was a longtime member of the Lexington Presbyterian Church, where he served as a deacon and an elder. In 1977, Coulling spoke to the W&L Richmond alumni chapter about the importance of professors' pursuing their own research interests. "I think it's good for me to be on leave, and good for my students; they're never the last to get the point. Seeing me go daily to my office, not to prepare for classes but to engage in my harmless and esoteric study, they gain a new sense of Washington and Lee's commitment to the pursuit of knowledge." Upon his 1991 retirement, his English Department colleagues Ed Craun and Dabney Stuart wrote: "There used to be a podium standing in Payne 21 on which the following graffito had been scrawled: 'Sidney Coulling taught God the English language.' Hyperbolic no doubt, like so many undergraduate utterances, the quotation captured well both Sid's deep commitment to literature and language and the even deeper admiration in which three decades of students have held him.

Coulling is survived by his wife of nearly 58 years, Mary Greenwood Price Coulling, whom he married on June 23, 1958; their children, Margaret Coulling Miller and her husband, Brock, Anne Baxter Coulling and her husband, Dr. Timothy McMahon, a member of W&L's Class of 1987 and Philip Coulling and his wife, Dr. Sandra Hayslette; and six grandchildren, Nathaniel Tracey-Miller, Rebecca Miller, Elizabeth Miller, William McMahon, Mary Catherine McMahon and Maria Celeste Hayslette.

Sidney Coulling had very strong ties to Nature Camp through his son Philip Coulling, who is the Executive Director of Camp. Flip says "What I keep coming back to was how incredibly and unfailingly supportive of Nature Camp he and my mom always were. Nature Camp was not his "thing;" he was a man of books and letters who didn't have a bent for learning plants and birds and rocks. But he was delighted that it was MY thing--and at least as delighted when his three granddaughters also fell in love with Nature Camp and had their own meaningful and life-changing experiences there. My parents graciously and generously opened their doors to Nature Campers on numerous occasions and provided a rock of support--financial and emotional--when the long-term future of Nature Camp seemed in doubt in 2006. I will forever be grateful to them for making Nature Camp possible for me and for helping to make it possible for generations of campers to come."

## **Una Stith Pegg, 1938-2015**

Una Jane Stith Pegg, 77, peacefully continued her journey of life on December 24, 2015. She was born in Lakeland, Florida in 1938. She moved to the Peninsula in 1960 after graduating from Crawford Long Hospital Nursing School in Atlanta, Georgia as a Registered Nurse. In addition to being a homemaker, she also worked in the area for many years as an RN. She was also a member of both the Hampton and Williamsburg Baptist churches. Una served as the Nature Camp Nurse from 1969-1971. The Nature Camp Family extends its warmest condolences to Una's family.

## ***Clare Hayden***

Clare Hayden passed away on Tuesday, October 13 in Maryland after bravely battling cancer. Clare was a Master Naturalist and a Tree Steward. She was devoted to protecting the natural resources of her home in Arlington Village and more broadly in her community. She was instrumental in founding Arlington Village's Environmental Resources Committee and continued to serve on it as well as on the Grounds Committee and the Board of Directors even as she struggled with her health. She also devoted her time and talents to organizations such as Earth Sangha, Arlington Independent Media, and DC Books to Prisons. She had a wide range of committed friends and a large and dedicated family. We will miss her tremendously in Arlington Village.

Clare was a much loved and respected member of Adult Session for several years at Nature Camp where we came to know and love her. She will be missed sorely here at Nature Camp as well.

## **John Brooks Curry II, 1944-2015**

The Honorable John Brooks Curry II, 70, of Waynesboro, Virginia, passed away unexpectedly at his home on Sunday, February 1, 2015. The son of the late John Brooks and Ruth (Phillips) Curry, he was born in Waynesboro, Virginia on April 1, 1944. Curry dedicated his life to community service, including serving as former President of the Waynesboro Rotary Club, as well as a board member of the Wayne Theater Alliance, the SPCA, and the Salvation Army. He was also involved in Renewing Homes of Greater Augusta, the Boys and Girls Club, CASA, the YMCA, the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, and was a member of the Stonewall Jackson Boy Scout Council. In addition, Curry served as former President of the Bridgewater College Alumni Association.

He is survived by his wife, Theresa Elizabeth Curry of Waynesboro and three daughters; Jennifer Curry Hollar, esq., of Raleigh, North Carolina; Amanda Brooks Curry Graziano and husband, John, of Richmond, Rachael Curry Neckowitz, and husband, Aaron, of Staunton.

John's daughters, Rachael Curry Neckowitz and Amanda Curry Graziano, both attended camp for many years, and it was part of the family's summer ritual that they would each leave for two weeks.

"Dad had such a love of nature," Amanda said, "and was thrilled when his daughters took interest in attending nature camp. Every summer he helped pack up our trunks and drive us to Vesuvius for our two-week home away from home."

Amanda recalled that her father was a friend of Colonel Reeves from working in the courts of Lexington. "He seemed to think this gave him permission to bend the rules a bit. No parents were allowed to call or visit the campers while they attended, although an abundance of notes and care packages were welcomed. However, every session that I attended, he would show up one day in his old blue jeep just to say hi. My friends and I welcomed these impromptu visits! "

Several years later when Rachael attended camp, she was counting on a similar visit from her father. She was terribly homesick. "I knew dad was coming to visit so I had my bags packed and ready to go," she said. "When he arrived, I told him I was leaving with him and he said no I wasn't. I cried and cried and begged and begged and he still said no. He left and I think I was probably in shock that he didn't take me with him. (Looking back, I'm not sure how he left me there-he was so tender hearted!)

I ended up staying the remaining part of the two weeks and having a great time. I attended for seven more years and he never came to visit again.

In early summer or fall when the girls were not attending camp, their family made many trips to the familiar countryside to hike Table Rocks or St. Mary's Falls.

John continued to support Nature Camp foundation by attending fundraisers and donating yearly to the camp. His love of nature lives on in his daughters and grandchildren who he hoped will also attend one day.

## ***Elections 2015-2016***

Voting in the 2015 election for Secretary, Treasurer, and At-large Board Member ended in mid-December. Thanks to Nancy Lowry's careful tallying, the results showed that you re-elected Amy Clark for Treasurer. Louise Bowling Manilla was elected as Secretary and Elizabeth Knapp won the At-Large Member seat. Joe Irby was re-appointed as Development Chair.

This year the positions of President and At-Large Member are up for election and the position of Facilities Chair is up for reappointment. A nominating committee will be created in June, and nominations will be accepted by mail, phone, or email anytime through September. 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 2015 or 2015 are eligible to vote and will receive ballots with short candidate biographies. We hope to encourage more people this year to use our electronic voting option, but will continue to offer traditional paper ballots.

As Vice President, Chris Chamberlin 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 Chris (see contact information below). Watch the Foundation website for announcements about elections throughout the summer.

Chris Chamberlin, 150 Olton Pl., Charlottesville, Va 22902; (434) 426-5550; ncfnomcom@gmail.com



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Annie White, President.  
Chris Chamberlin, Vice-President  
Louise Bowling Manilla, Secretary  
Amy Wingfield Clark, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Knapp, At-Large Member  
Alia Anderson, At-Large Member  
Nell J. Fredericksen, Communications  
Joe Irby, Development  
Kevin Wheeler, Finance  
Corey Basham, Service Weekend

annekwhite@yahoo.com  
topher.chamberlin@gmail.com  
louise.bowling@gmail.com  
breezyhillva@verizon.net  
KnappE@wlu.edu  
aliadanderson@gmail.com  
nfredericksen@ferrum.edu  
Jmhirby2@gmail.com  
kevin.t.wheeler@gmail.com  
swvahawker@gmail.com



### **Nature Camp, Inc. Board of Directors**

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amykgonzalez@gmail.com  
hoffmankatie@rocketmail.com  
prestonsv@verizon.net  
Ben.Rottenborn@gmail.com  
director@naturecamp.net  
svarfvar2000@yahoo.com  
cabep@wlu.edu  
sphomer@comcast.net  
ventry@juno.com

***Contact us: The Nature Camp Foundation, P.O. Box 265, Studley, VA 23162***