



# *the afterglow*

Issue 87 April 2015

## ***Follow the Gleam....***

### ***Nancy Lowry and the True Story of Percy***

Things were different at Nature Camp in Nancy Lowry's day.

When she arrived as a 10-year-old fourth-session camper in 1959, counselors didn't teach classes—that was the purview of the professors and other experts who stayed a few days at a time to lecture. Everybody slept on straw-stuffed ticking sacks instead of mattresses, an Episcopal priest gave communion at the chapel on Sunday, and campers filled their tin cups from a massive milk dispenser at mealtimes.

And there was no Percy story.

There were yarns told around the campfire, certainly. Lillian Schilling would bring in someone from the Forest Service who told deliciously terrifying ghost stories, Nancy remembers. But the iconic camp tale of the oozing, deadly slime monster that left skeletonized pets and catatonic counselors in its wake didn't exist yet. She knows, because the story started with her.

When she was 15, Nancy was heading into what promised to be her best summer at camp yet. She had her lifeguard certification, which meant she could return for third and fourth session as a junior counselor. But first, early in the summer, she went on a Presbyterian youth retreat at Albemarle County's 4-H camp.

"It rained the whole time, and it was horrible," she said. Cooped up in their leaky bunkhouses, she and a friend would try to out-scare each other.

"We told stories about this wet, rainy time when slimy, nasty things were coming out of the leaf mold in the woods," she said. "They were odiferous, and they were horrible, pungently nauseous things. Probably because I'd learned about mushrooms and things from Nature Camp."

The creepiness coalesced around a single character. They gave him a cheery moniker—Percy Puke was his full name—in direct contrast with his killer nature. And when Nancy got to camp later in the summer, she brought Percy with her.

As a junior counselor, her duties included helping out in the kitchen (she worked alongside an assistant cook named Sandy—but that's a story for another issue), and like all the staff, she was in charge of a table full of campers at mealtimes. People filed up one by one for individual plates in those days, so it took some time for everybody to get their food.

"To make sure that my campers were not unruly, I would tell them stories," she said. "Telling them any old story wouldn't work." It had to be gripping stuff to keep a hungry bunch of kids in their seats. She pulled from the classics, especially the dark and macabre. And then there was her slime monster, whose story took on a local flavor.

"He would come at night to the cabins and seek little puppy dogs, or little cows or sheep, and he worked his way up to humans," Nancy said. "He would drain all the liquids from their bodies and leave the desiccated carcass behind, like a glove without anything inside it. Wherever he went there was this odor, this putrid odor that preceded him and was left behind. But it only happened when it was very rainy. And of course, at Nature Camp, along about fourth session, it rains a lot. You get that funky smell. So it made for a wonderful scary story."

Percy always did the trick. “It would keep their attention,” she said. “I told a truncated version that would take up 20 minutes, until Mrs. Schilling rang the little bell. And then it grew.”

With new installments came new details. The Cash family, who lived down the road, got involved. They started losing animals.

“They would go out with guns to try to hunt this thing, and once in a while, a Cash would disappear, too,” she said. “It was kind of a rambling story that didn’t really have an end, because it had to be around for the next crop of campers, to scare them to death.”

For three years, until her last summer on staff in 1966, she embellished the Percy tale. Then she all but forgot it. Decades later, when Nancy had kids of her own attending camp, she was astonished to learn her old story was still circulating, and had been elevated to campfire status.

“What really hit me upside the head is when the bumper sticker came out that said PERCY LIVES. I said, ‘No way!’”

She’s not sure how it happened, or the origin of some of the details today’s campers can relate in hushed tones: That the monster was named for a brave Forest Service employee, Ranger Rick Percy, who mysteriously vanished while looking for the Cash cow-killing culprit; that Mrs. Schilling’s own beloved dog, Ferncliff, was reduced by the slime blob to a bleached skeleton in the woods by the path to Table Rock; that one Lyt Wood spied a squishy mound with gleaming eyes moving slowly down a swollen Big Mary’s Creek in the wake of Camille in 1969.

She guesses a kid at one of her tables became a counselor a few short years after first hearing the tale, and it grew from there.

“The name is what he kept up,” she said. “And the horrible, smelly, slimy monster.”

There’s a long list of things Nature Camp owes to Nancy Lowry. She’s fostered a multi-generational love of the place, and a commitment to serving it. She was a founding member of the Nature Camp Foundation. And she created a monster.

And how does she feel about that?

“I’m very proud,” she laughed.

It’s your turn to share, Nature Camp alums: Do you recall the story from your camper days? Did you tell it as a counselor? Tell us what you remember—and from when—on the Nature Camp Foundation Facebook page! Look for a posting of this article and then share your stories! <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp-Foundation/107552817467>

- Graelyn Brashear, NCF Board of Directors Member at Large



## ***Find us on Facebook!!!***

***You can connect with the Nature Camp Foundation at:***

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

***You can stay in touch with Nature Camp, Inc. at:***

***[https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp/324806714283350?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp/324806714283350?ref=br_tf)***

## *The Gus Deeds Memorial Fund*



The plans are approved, the site selected, and the contractor is ready to go. Lithic Construction will begin building the Gus Deeds Memorial Pavilion in April with completion during Service Weekend (May 15-17, 2015). Many of the materials to be used in construction are local, including a previously felled white oak from near the pool which was milled for the project. The pavilion will be located where many of you may remember there once stood an incinerator. For those that don't remember, Nature Camp used to burn its trash! This location is between the Canteen and Girl's T-house adjacent to where folks often park their cars. The dedication of the Pavilion will occur sometime during 1st or 2nd Session.

At the time of this writing, a broad email request for donations went out and a limited direct mail is on its way. We still need to raise over \$10,000 of our \$50,000 goal. These dollars will complete the Deeds Memorial Fund and its perpetual scholarship component. The scholarship fund will provide a camper each year, selected by the staff, with a full scholarship for the following year. A camper who embodied all that made Gus special was selected in 2014 and will receive this wonderful gift to attend Camp in 2015.

## *A Heartfelt Goodbye*



The Boogle, beloved pet of Celie Hayslette left Earth on Jan. 4, 2015. Celie and her family-- her mom Sandra and NC Executive director Philip Coulling -- were claimed by the Boogle for nearly 12 years. A Nature Camp regular, he loved all Nature Camp people, especially those with bacon, beef jerky, or meatloaf. He reminded us all of many important lessons in life: playing outside is fun; being left alone is not; getting enough rest is crucial; you should stop and smell the roses, the compost, the dead animals, the moldy snacks, the poop, etc. We'll all miss his floppy ears, musical vocalizations, and kitchen stealth tactics. Most of all, we'll remember his sweet, genuine affection. Memorial contributions can be made to Camp scholarship funds (we think he'd like that). Rest in peace, buddy -- you are well loved.

## *News from Nature Camp*

While snow continues to blanket western Virginia in early March, planning for the summer sessions at Nature Camp is well underway. The number of camper applications already exceeds the total for all of 2014, and with the exception of Second Session, where only a few spaces remain available for boys, all four sessions are full. This year for the first time we offered the option of submitting an application electronically via a pdf form, and although a few kinks in online registration remain to be worked out, those who took advantage of this method seemed to appreciate the convenience. Tuition payments may also be made online now using a credit card, debit card, or PayPal account. About a third of applicants choose the entirely paperless route. (Welcome to the 21st century!)

NCI and NCF have implemented a new procedure for requesting and dispensing funds for Nature Camp every year. In addition to funding materials and food for Service Weekends and making an annual donation to Camp's scholarship fund (which supports tuition reduction to campers in need), NCF has awarded Nature Camp a generous grant for several capital improvements in 2015, including new mattresses; upgraded LED lighting in the LS, bunkhouses, and T-houses; an automatic chlorinator for the swimming pool; and additional kitchen equipment. We'll be busy spending money this spring so that Camp will be in even better shape this summer. Many, many thanks to all of those whose financial contributions to NCF made this grant possible.

Finally, we are pleased to announce two new inductees into the Roll of Honor, which recognizes persons who have made extraordinary, non-monetary contributions to Nature Camp. Although Dr. John "Rob" Marsh has officially been Nature Camp's physician for only a few years, he has effectively served in that capacity for over a decade. Dr. Marsh and his associates always find the time to treat campers and staff with illnesses and minor injuries during the summer, and he makes himself available even after hours to consult with our long-time emergency medical technician, Amy Beaird. Recently named the 2014 Country Doctor of the Year, Dr. Marsh retired from service in the U.S. Army's Delta Force (where he distinguished himself with honor and courage during the "Blackhawk Down" incident in Mogadishu in 1993) to private practice in the village of Middlebrook in the mid-90s. Three years ago, he opened a second clinic at White's Truck Stop (conveniently closer to Nature Camp). Our second inductee is David Summers, who for many years has owned the house at the end of Nature Camp Trail (the old Cash farm). A law enforcement officer with Virginia State Parks, Mr. Summers maintains this property primarily as a vacation home, but he graciously welcomes Nature Campers in his absence. He regularly mows a path around the perimeter of the "meadow," which is a popular destination for early morning birdwalks, field trips for many classes, and games of Capture the Flag during rec periods. We thank both of these gentlemen for their thoughtfulness and generosity summer after summer.

- Philip Coulling, Nature Camp Executive Director

## *Calendar of Events 2015*

Spring Service Weekend	May 15-17, 2015
NCF Reunion	May 29-31, 2015
NCF Annual Open Meeting	May 30, 2015
Nature Camp Adult Session	August 21-25, 2015
Fall Service Weekend	September 18-20, 2015
Fall Hike Day	October 17, 2015

## *Nature Camp Foundation Reunion May 2015*

The 2015 Nature Camp reunion is fast approaching, and we want to see you there! Set for May 29-31, the reunion is a chance for the Nature Camp family past and present—campers, counselors, parents and kids, and friends of camp—to come together to hike, play games, swim, sing, share photos, sleep in bunks (or tents), and have a great time getting reacquainted with the place we love.

It's also about sharing memories. Thanks to the emerging oral history project spearheaded by Katie Hoffman, reunion attendees will get a chance to set down their recollections with recordings and the collection of camp ephemera.

Camp can only accommodate a limited number of attendees, so please, register ASAP - the registration deadline is April 30th. See the last page of this newsletter for the form, which is also available online at <http://naturecampfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Reunion-Registration-Form-PDF.pdf>. We ask that unless you're sure you're coming, you do not prepay for the weekend, because refunds can be hard to handle. Instead, please plan to pay at the reunion in May. If you're certain that you're going to attend, you may send a check along with the registration form payable to the Nature Camp Foundation. Please take care to fill out the whole form! We'll need lots of volunteers for various duties during the weekend, as well as people to lead hikes and nature outings. And please indicate the gender of each attendee, so we can determine how the bunkhouses will fill up.

**Questions?** E-mail Graelyn Brashear at [ghbrashear@gmail.com](mailto:ghbrashear@gmail.com), and keep an eye on the Nature Camp Foundation Facebook page ([https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp-Foundation/107552817467?ref=br\\_tf](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Nature-Camp-Foundation/107552817467?ref=br_tf)) for updates and further details about what you have to look forward to.

See you in May!

## *Fall Hike Day*

On Saturday October 18th, 2014, a chilly but beautiful fall day, over 85 folks gathered to enjoy a variety of hikes and fellowship. Hikes ranged from the “geriatric hike” to full scale running up Mine Mountain. Needless to say there was a perfect hike for everyone - of all ages and abilities. Here is what one hiker relates:

“I went on the Mt. Pleasant hike during the Fall Hike event at Nature Camp. It was a great hike filled with neat plants and mushrooms. We didn't see many animals, but heard lots of birds. There were two lookouts at the top. Both had spectacular views and great colors. We got to eat lunch at the top. When we came back down the mountain, the cooks had prepared a great dinner. They had a really good peach cobbler for dessert. It was a great time!!”

- Neil Fredericksen, 2014 4th session camper.



And he is right - when we all got back to camp, Paul Cabe and Leigh Ann Beavers had prepared a feast - a traditional turkey dinner with all the fixin's and delicious vegetarian options. Paul and Leigh Ann donate the food and their time to the event and everyone gathered there truly enjoyed every mouthful as they shared stories of each other's hikes.



This years event raised over \$1200 with all proceeds going to support the NCF and through that, Camp. The next Fall Hike Day is scheduled for October 17th so mark your calendars and join us for a truly enjoyable event.

## Fall Service Weekend

Fall service weekend 2014 took place September 19th-21st and was attended by 95 dedicated volunteers! Camp benefits immensely from these service opportunities, saving tens of thousands of dollars in labor costs associated with the various projects completed. As always, everyone enjoyed time at Camp catching up with old friends, meeting new ones, eating wonderful food, and enjoying each other's company.

Re-shingling the roof and reinforcing floor joists in the education building were some of the larger projects of the weekend. Volunteers spent hours upon hours removing shingles, repairing the roof, replacing the shingles, and cleaning up around the building after the job was done. No Nature Camp roofing project would be complete without the threat of rain and a few of us found ourselves carefully placing tarps on the bare roof just after nightfall on Saturday to avoid damage to the building and its contents from passing showers. The joists under many of the buildings have been "sistered" (reinforced) with new pressure-treated lumber installed alongside the existing, untreated joists. This process is always a challenge and places a few volunteers under a building, the library in this case, for long

periods of time, sending out measurements for cutting, and wrestling the new joists under the building and into their new place. Siding on the Educational Building was also replaced because of damage done by carpenter bees. This new siding required treatment with carbolineum to preserve the wood and to match the existing siding on the buildings around camp. The path in front of the boy's bunkhouse saw some improvements through the placement of new logs to line the path and retain new gravel.

Some of the trails around Camp were cleared a bit including the trails to Table Rock and Buttermilk Springs - favorites during summer recreational periods. The drainage ditches beside the pool were cleared as well to direct water off the roads and away from Camp. Gravel for the tether ball court was contained with half-buried logs so that its spread would be decreased. It sees heavy use during the summer! The staff room in the girls' bunkhouse had new shelving added and lighting was relocated in the boys' bunkhouse staff room to remove the "strobe light" effect that was caused by the motion of the ceiling fans. Hangers were added in many places around Camp for brooms that lacked a good storage place. Invasive plants have made their way in to Camp and volunteers spent many hours removing these invaders to allow for our local species to flourish.

The front office saw a face lift with the addition of cork tiles around the Tile Donor wall, not only to make it look much better but also to allow that space to be used for posting photos.



One highlight of the weekend was the Saturday evening commemoration of the Nature Camp Foundations 25th year of existence. Before dinner, a slide show presentation was made by the History Project leaders, Katie Hoffman and Nancy Lowry. Dinner included the traditional gourmet pizzas followed by cake and ice cream.

Service Weekends provide the camp community with an opportunity to come together and enjoy Camp while providing a remarkable savings in labor costs. It's estimated that labor for the roofing and floor joist replacement of the Educational building would have cost 10 to 15 thousand dollars alone had the job been contracted out to a builder. Those funds saved can now be utilized for scholarships, supplies, and materials for future projects.

Thank you Alia, Nina, Matthew, Gary, Sarah, Amy, Penny, Louise, Barrack, Devon, Ben, Liam, Mack, Gisela, Flip, Chris, Ed, Alex, Mark, Sam, Joe, Jill, Mary, Reid, Bob, David, Parker, Anna, Steve, Lily, Neil, Nell, Jennifer, Margaret, Weston, Paul, Amy, Art, Kenzie, Anna-Beth, Shannon, Celie, Sandra, Katie, Brett, Corina, Michaux, Callie, Sarah, Maggie, Louise, Simon, Kim, Cat, Nancy, Catherine, Rian, Mary, Mike, Peter, Walter, Alexandra, Theta, Emily, John, Shirley, Beth, Dave, David, Evan, Leah, Stephanie, Sarah, Emily, Adam, Ben, Paul, Abigail, David, Mimi, Sheryl, Ventry, Arden, Francis, Mike, Kate, Eleanor, Tony, Kevin, Annie, Laurel, Bill, Lyt, Doug and Sylvia for your hard work during the Fall Service Weekend of 2014.

I'm honored to have been chosen to serve NCF as the Service Weekend Chair. I've been privileged to have had the time to get to know much of the Camp family and if I haven't, I look forward to meeting you soon. I came to Camp originally in 2013 as a member of the summer staff. In only a few short months of educating future environmental stewards I came to realize I would regularly find myself at Nature Camp for the rest of my days in order to help ensure the future of such a wonderful place. Please contact me with any questions regarding Service Weekends you may have. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Watch your inbox for updates regarding the upcoming Spring Service Weekend (May 15-17) and the exciting projects that will be completed then.

- Corey Basham, NCF Service Weekend Chair



## *Adult Session*

The 26th annual Adult Session will take place August 21-25. The theme for the weekend has yet to be determined, but tentative plans call for continued exploration of the Blue Ridge Parkway near Nature Camp. Our field trip this year will likely take us to the northern end of the Parkway to explore the world of metabasalt as we examine some globally rare plant communities and consider Virginia's volcanic past. The five day session will also include classroom lectures, field studies and craft projects. Most of the classes are spent outdoors and are taught by volunteer instructors, many who are former campers and now professionals in the sciences.



Details and a registration form will be forthcoming on the Nature Camp website ([www.naturecamp.net](http://www.naturecamp.net)).

## *Helping the Nature Camp Foundation through Goodshop, Goodsearch, and Amazon Smile*

The Nature Camp Foundation has become a participating cause on Goodshop & Goodsearch in addition to our continuing involvement with Amazon Smile.

### **Goodshop & Goodsearch**

Since 2005, Goodshop and Goodsearch has helped organizations raise over \$11 million to support their important programs and efforts. Over 110,000 nonprofits & schools have joined.

#### How it works:

Goodshop & Goodsearch are an easy way for you to help raise funds for the NCF and be engaged with our mission on a daily basis. You can use these sites for everyday activities like searching the web with the Yahoo! powered search engine or shopping at over 5,000 partner stores (including Amazon and Target)! Each November, the NCF will receive a check for the total amount raised by our supporters.

Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/> and click on "Find a cause to support", select the NCF and sign up. Then click on Goodshop and link to your favorite online shopping sites. A percentage of what you spend will be donated to the NCF.

### **AmazonSmile**

We continue to participate in AmazonSmile. It works pretty much in the same way. Go to AmazonSmile (<http://smile.amazon.com/>) and select the NCF as the organization you want to support. Do all of your Amazon shopping from this site (it is no different from the regular Amazon site) and a percentage of what you spend on Amazon is donated to the NCF.

Both very easy ways to increase your support of the Nature Camp Foundation!

## ***Nature Camp History Project***

In November 2014, several of us gathered at the home of Ellen White Hart (Richmond, VA) for a weekend of oral history training led by NCHP Director Katie Hoffman. The group included three members of the current staff: Abigail Simon, Shannon Hart, and Mason Davis. Ellen, along with playing hostess, participated in the training. So did Mary Frances Mays, Abigail's mom and a faithful Service Weekend volunteer. Participants learned how to conduct an archival quality interview, with the goal of having at least two interviews apiece under their belts in the coming year. It was a productive weekend; the trainees managed to record oral histories of Ellen and Katie on the afternoon after the training session ended. On Sunday, we took a group field trip to the Old Church Creamery in Manquin, Virginia. There, we interviewed Catherine Hellgeth Long, who runs this popular and beloved creamery with her husband, Keith, and her daughters and son-in-law. We heard about the Longs' tasty and healthful products and how, using organic methods, they are able to provide a tasty and very high-quality product from their small operation. We toured the creamery and saw their herd of 51 beautiful Jersey cows, and during the oral history, Catherine told us how Nature Camp figured into this whole picture. We ended the weekend with three interviews to submit to our oral history collection. We also ended having enjoyed each other's company and ready for our next field adventures, which will begin this spring.



## ***From the Archives - Nature Camp in the Past***



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

The Board of Directors of Nature Camp, Inc. met most recently in November 2014. At that meeting, we welcomed our newest board member, Ben Rottenborn (brother of former NCI Board President, Anne Rottenborn Balto). Ben has recently returned to the Roanoke area with his family from California and stepped up to take on the Treasurer role as Mike Meads completed his term. The Board thanks Mike for his great service and looks forward to continued stewardship support from Ben. In addition, we are grateful that Kajsa Svarfvar agreed to a second term as the Financial Aid Director.

As we review the costs of running and maintaining camp, the Board carefully considers the impact of each increase in tuition. In fact, the first few years after we took responsibility for Nature Camp in 2007, we kept the tuition the same as it was (\$700). Yet, as you are painfully aware in your personal lives, costs continue to grow for us, and we must raise tuition. This year, the tuition for each 2 week youth session will be \$850 and the 5 day adult session in August will be \$275. We keep tabs on rates charged at other residential camps and we continue to feel that we offer quite a bargain. Garden Clubs and other organizations continue to generously subsidize the cost for campers, either through scholarships they award directly or through donations to Nature Camp. We then offer tuition assistance as it is requested by campers and their families since there are many worthy campers who could not otherwise attend without assistance.

However, at our recent board meeting, a troubling trend was noted: in 2014, Nature Camp provided more tuition reduction assistance than in 2013, in terms of a total dollar amount, yet there were fewer campers attending in 2014 than in 2013. The amount of money we have *not* collected from campers has been increasing each year. Since our ability to defray cost is not infinite, something must change. The Nature Camp Inc. Board decided to alter the process we have been using since 2007. A pool of money has been designated from Nature Camp's expected revenue and expenses. Financial assistance will be drawn directly from this pool. Assistance requests will be received by our Financial Aid Director, Kajsa Svarfvar; a deadline of 1 April 2015 has been set for all requests. In the month of April, a committee headed by the Financial Aid Director will review all requests to determine who will receive assistance and to designate amounts. Applicants will be notified by 1 May 2015 whether they will receive tuition reduction. In the interest of fairness, the committee will collect written requests from applicants using a very basic form, and then review all applications simultaneously. The ultimate goal of the change is the most appropriate distribution of a limited amount of assistance money. We hope this change will not deter anyone from seeking assistance who could truly benefit, and we will work to keep that from happening. Of course, there will be ongoing discussion and adjustment of the process at our board meetings.

In other news, not only is Nature Camp, Inc. a federally tax exempt organization, we are now registered with the state of Virginia as a charitable organization and are now exempt from state sales tax. We hope that this will aid in our efforts to keep operating costs as low as possible and will keep the gifts we are given directed to the improvement of our programs and services. Thank you to all who give so generously of their time and resources to Nature Camp and the Nature Camp Foundation.

- Amy Gonzalez, President, Nature Camp, Inc.

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

We are continuing our efforts to provide our Nature Camp Family the option to receive our communications electronically. Our new ability to send mass emails also allows us to keep you up to date on our events such as Service Weekend, Special Projects, Reunion, Elections, and just sharing news of our Camp family.

If you would like to receive electronic communications please visit the Nature Camp Foundation website at the link below and update your contact information.

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

## ***NCF Elections***

The 2014 election results are in! With 117 votes submitted, Graelyn Brashear won the seat for At-Large Board Member while Chris Chamberlin retained his seat as Vice President. Corey Basham has been appointed as our new Service Weekend Chair and he'll be greeting everyone at our upcoming service weekend on the third weekend of May. You'll find a short bio of our new members below. This coming election year we'll be offering electronic voting for those who wish to use it. Our election committee will work out the details and publish instructions in the fall edition of the Afterglow. Thank you to everyone who participated in the election last year!

### **Graelyn Brashear - At Large Member**

I'm the news editor at C-VILLE Weekly in Charlottesville, and have seven years' experience as a journalist in print publications. My written and oral communications skills are solid, but working as a reporter has also allowed me to hone other skills I believe I could put to good use as a member of the NCF board: I listen, learn, and absorb well; I can get a lot out of a single conversation; I'm good at taking a complex message and delivering it in a relateable and understandable way; and I live by deadlines that are important not just to me but many others.

Nature Camp shaped me in powerful ways. I minored in plant science in college because even though I knew I was headed for a non-science career, the love of the natural world I developed in my summers in Vesuvius demanded that I keep one foot in the sciences. I also grew into an adult deeply valuing the feeling of community Camp gave me, a sense of having a stake in something bigger and more important than me or my dear friends who joined me in it. I'm ready to do more to pour some energy back into that community!

### **Corey Basham - Service Weekend Chair**

It took a green bumper sticker and the Fredericksen family's (former camper and counselors Nell and Todd) recommendation to get me to camp for the first time in early 2013.

After departing Ferrum College with a biology degree I entered the work force as an Environmental Health Specialist with the Virginia Department of Health in Franklin County and served in that role for three and a half years conducting various different inspections of food service and manufacturing plants. I was driven to leave VDH and join an industrial emissions testing company in an attempt to utilize my background in science a bit further. Unfortunately, smoke-stack testing for a private firm required such disregard for one's own well-being that I quickly decided to end my time there and began looking for a place that would allow me to utilize my falconry bird, a red-tailed hawk named Eleanor, in environmental education.

I remembered Todd Fredericksen's preference for a place called Nature Camp and I contacted him to see if camp might be a good fit. Three months later I pulled up to the LS, ready to teach.

Since my time as a counselor I've been able to support camp's mission and return the overwhelming love I've felt from everyone I've met there through giving my time and energy in many ways including service weekends, giving evening programs during the summer, and teaching during adult sessions. I'm currently back with VDH inspecting restaurants but I spend a portion of my time evaluating summer camps, swimming pools, and septic systems and would be able to share that knowledge with the board when guidance regarding compliance with the Virginia regulations is necessary. I also have a solid background in carpentry, construction, and maintenance that would allow me to contribute to discussions regarding facilities repair.

I've spent most of my life moving here and there and found difficulty in identifying with a place enough to call it home. Nature Camp has become that home for me; a place I can go to retreat, develop, and focus on the propagation of what I believe to be truly good in the world. I will continue to serve camp in any capacity I am able and am honored to be named Service Weekend Coordinator. I look forward to seeing many of you in May!

## *It is with heavy hearts we say farewell to Robin Jones Eddy*

Robin Jones Eddy, 58, of Lexington, passed away peacefully Tuesday, November 25, 2014, at her home. Marietta Robinson Jones was born December 14, 1955 in Richmond, a daughter of Marietta Barnes Jones of Richmond and the late Wayland H. Jones. Robin enjoyed many summers as a camper and counselor at Nature Camp in Vesuvius, Va. After graduating from the Collegiate School in Richmond, in 1974, she attended Sweet Briar College and graduated in 1978. After college, Robin enjoyed teaching school in Lexington, Va. She then married and moved to Little Compton, R.I., where she worked as a commodities broker. Robin returned to Virginia to teach in Lexington and later began a career in the real estate profession. Robin's interests included history, gardening, land conservation, historic preservation and brightening the lives of many others. She spent the later years of her life entertaining friends and family on her porch overlooking Buffalo Creek. In addition to her mother, she is survived by her son, Stetson Blackwell Eddy of Lexington, Va.; sister, Rebecca Jones Wickham of Richmond; brothers, Wayland D. Jones II of Richmond and Freeman E. Jones of Alexandria, Va.; four nephews and two nieces.

Robin is remembered by many of us as a dear friend, fellow camper and wonderful counselor.



### **Nature Camp Foundation Board of Directors**

Annie White, President.  
Chris Chamberlin, Vice-President  
Sarah Hulcher, Secretary  
Amy Wingfield Clark, Treasurer  
Graelyn Brashear, At-Large Member  
Alia Anderson, At-Large Member  
Nell J. Fredericksen, Communications  
Joe Irby, Development  
Chuck Story, Finance  
Corey Basham, Service Weekend

annekwhite@yahoo.com  
topher.chamberlin@gmail.com  
hulchers@yahoo.com  
breezyhillva@verizon.net  
ghbrashear@gmail.com  
aliadanderson@gmail.com  
nfredericksen@ferrum.edu  
Jirby@teradact.com  
vmi91chs@gmail.com  
swvahawker@gmail.com



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

Amy Kasdorf Gonzalez, President  
Katie Hoffman, Vice-President  
Ben Rottenborn, Treasurer  
Philip Coulling, Executive Director  
Kajsa Svarfvar, Financial Assistance  
Paul Cabe, Expanded Education  
Promotion and Publicity  
Ventry Smith, Facilities

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

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

# NATURE CAMP FOUNDATION

## Reunion Registration Form - *Deadline April 30th, 2015!!!!*

Friday May 29 (starting at 5:30pm) –May 31, 2015 (ending at 2:00pm)

Contact info for future correspondence (address, e-mail, AND phone number):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Please return this form to:  Graelyn Brashear 304 13th St. NE Charlottesville, VA 22902		Check meals each person plans to attend						T-SHIRT SIZE	FEE (\$50/PERSON & DONATION AMOUNT)	CHILD < 12 (FREE)
		Fri	Sat	Sat	Sat	Sun	Sun			
Name	M/ F	D	B	L	D	B	L			
I would like to make an additional donation to the Nature Camp Foundation										
<b>TOTAL COST</b>										

Are you interested in leading a hike? If yes, when and where?

Would you be willing to help volunteer for any duty during the weekend (yes/no)?

Please indicate lodging plans, if not bunkhouse:

Dietary restrictions (if any):

