

the afterglow

Number 79 / April 2012

Following the Gleam.....

As we all know, Nature Camp has an important impact on the attitudes and outlooks of all of us that pass through this place. In this issue we are going to introduce you to a former camper who exemplifies the influence of a summer (or several) at camp and show how that influence can lead our youth to carry that knowledge into their lives and impact the lives of others.



Annie White is the Director of Global Green's New York office and Coalition for Resource Recovery where she works with businesses and city governments to find ways to cost-effectively recycle or recover the value in materials that currently aren't recycled, like paper coffee cups, paper food packaging and food waste. To do this she convenes businesses, academics, and city government both to learn about and better understand the opportunities for redesigning materials to make them more recyclable and to recycle them. She uses New York City, the largest city in the U.S., to pilot these new waste diversion technologies and solutions with the goal of identifying solutions that reclaim the value in resources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, save companies money, and can be implemented in cities throughout the United States. She has worked with leading companies such as Starbucks Coffee Company, Solo Cup Company, and Waste Management.

From 2003 to 2005, Annie served as the founding executive director of GreenBlue's Sustainable Packaging Coalition, an industry working group dedicated to realizing sustainable packaging solutions through supply chain collaboration. The Sustainable Packaging Coalition has grown from its nine founding member companies to over 200 members, and has been lauded as "one of the most influential groups in packaging." While working with McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry and through independent endeavors, Annie has consulted with Fortune 500 clients such as Walmart, Ford, and Nike on issues including: sustainable products and packaging; recycling; and sustainability reporting and communications. Annie earned an MBA from the Ross School of Business and a MS in Sustainable Systems from the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Michigan. She also holds a dual BS in Biology and Environmental Science from the College of William and Mary.

When Annie was at Nature Camp, she never intended to work with businesses; in fact, she wanted to be an ornithology professor and taught it for three summers while on staff and majored in biology and environmental science at William and Mary. While at William and Mary, she wrote a paper on Rachel Carson's life and was fascinated by her ability to be a sound scientist and communicate these thoughts and ideas to lay people to encourage them to take

actions to better conserve resources and create a more sustainable world. Annie felt that Rachel Carson's life embodied that which we were taught and what she loved about Nature Camp – the importance of sound science and communicating what was learned to a broader community so that they too can become good stewards of the earth.

What she never expected was that she would study how industrial systems could mimic those in nature, a field called industrial ecology, and that her audience would be the business sector. Industrial ecology is modeled after the field of ecology, noting that in nature, waste from one system is food for another and that material systems can be designed that utilize renewable energy and are made of safe and healthy materials that feed other systems. If we could design the products and systems we use every day to fit within this paradigm, we would come a long way in solving current day environmental problems. Annie's training in ecology from both Camp and college helped her to contribute to this field and advance the concepts of industrial ecology and sustainable design while working in Charlottesville for McDonough Braungart Design Chemistry. Through working with businesses, she discovered that there were environmental champions throughout these organizations that wanted to be better stewards of the earth and that her role was often that of a teacher or a coach, helping those within companies to develop better environmental solutions and to provide encourage and moral support to persevere to create and change within their organizations. This role as teacher and coach in many ways is similar to being a Nature Camp counselor.

When reflecting on her career and the ones of those with whom she works, Annie recounted how Colonel Reeves during closing ceremonies would talk to the campers about how whatever they become, whether a doctor, lawyer, musician, artist, or parent, they can take the values and lessons learned at Camp to help make the world a better place and protect the environment. These words showed the value of all of these professions and vocations in the community and Annie feels this reminder gave her the license to try an unconventional path to embodying the principles of Camp as well as serving as a reminder that those with whom she works also have the opportunity to do the same.

One aspect of Annie's job is to plan, host, and moderate conferences on resource recovery two to three times a year and Annie says that her style of teaching is a skill she honed as a counselor. And, the pilot programs that they conduct are essentially field work, but in an urban setting.

To read more about all that she does here are some links: <http://globalgreen.org/blogs/global/?p=3557>
http://www.youtube.com/watchfeature=player_embedded&v=D4N9Qx00JkU
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncyp4pc6-1s&feature=player_embedded
http://thecorr.org/NYC%20Council%20Testimony%206_30_2011_.pdf



Some of the best management training Annie ever received was from being a counselor at Nature Camp. Being a part of the Nature Camp Foundation continues to inspire and ground her, reminds her of what's truly important in life, and why it is so important that we continue to work to create a more sustainable world.

Annie was a camper from 1991-1993 and was on staff from 1994-1997.

Adult Session 2012: Nature At Night

Last year during Adult Session Chris Chamberlin and Amy Beard led a night-walk to look for grazing caterpillars. (Did you know that caterpillars generally feed at night because the birds aren't active then?) The class proved to be wildly popular, partly because Amy and Chris are such enthusiastic teachers, and so this year it was unanimously decided to have a theme of Nature at Night. During the day-time we'll have all our usual activities, including introductory talks for what we'll be doing once the sun goes down. Craft classes will include Organic Cuttlebone Jewelry with Nell Frederickson and making necklaces from wood scrolls with Walter Mehring. Julie Moore will explain What Plants Do At Night, while Terry Richardson covers Night Vision and Light Pollution. There'll be the usual nature treasure hunt, and sharing of favorite nature books. Night-time will feature star-gazing, a search for crayfish in Big Mary's Creek with Paul Cabe, and listening for night sounds with Peter Mehring. A version of the brochure with full list of classes is posted at the camp web site. Dates are June 8-12, and the cost is still only \$210 /person. Queries to Connie Sancetta or Flip Coulling.

Notes from Nature Camp, Inc.

It has been an exceptionally busy winter at Nature Camp. Shortly after assuming the position of treasurer, Mike Meads worked with caretaker Charlie Truxell to find a pickup truck which would better meet Camp's needs, particularly for transportation of garbage, recyclables, building materials, and refuse from roof reshingling operations. With the invaluable and generous assistance of Scot Marsh, they were able to locate, and secure an incredibly good deal on, an only slightly used 2008 Chevrolet Silverado one-ton truck with dual rear wheels, a dumptruck bed, and a stereo. As part of the transaction, Nature Camp sold the 1997 F-250 truck, affectionately known (at least to some) as "White Lightnin'." Charlie is pleased with the new vehicle (and I suppose he would welcome suggestions for a name in the tradition of the "Blue Goose" and "Silver Fox").

Charlie and Jim Brooks have spent considerable time since last fall working in the kitchen, which now sports a brand new floor and ceiling that will be easier to maintain and clean than their predecessors. They will also help create a brighter work space. Hobart has ended its 23-year run as Camp's dishwasher and has been replaced by a new Champion model. Charlie has the dishwasher and a new ice maker installed and ready to go for the upcoming summer.

The system of smoke detectors which were installed as part of the electrical upgrades in 2008 proved unsatisfactory and increasingly annoying with each passing summer. Last year the incessant sound of false alarms tormented the staff as they replaced batteries during Opening Week and continued throughout the summer at all hours of the day and night. All of these units have now been replaced by a new system, which we hope will prove less finicky and more reliable in protecting the safety of the resident campers and counselors.

IBEC, the company which provided internet service to Nature Camp via existing powerlines for the past two summers, went belly up in January. (Perhaps Nature Camp is somewhat to blame for IBEC's demise, since technicians spent innumerable hours trying to figure out how to get the system to work with our particular electrical grid.) Charlie and Priscilla Truxell now have internet access via Verizon Wireless, and we'll likely go with the same option for the office (at least until Rockbridge County's new broadband infrastructure is constructed).

The most exciting development this off-season has been the long awaited and anticipated construction of a new well for Nature Camp and Charlie and Priscilla. Because Nature Camp serves a population of at least 25 persons for at least 60 days a year, it qualifies as a public water supply under the oversight of the Department of Health's Office of Drinking Water, and hence the Camp waterworks must meet certain requirements and standards that do not apply to a residential water supply. The previous well was grandfathered in as an existing, compliant component when Nature Camp came under the Office of Drinking Water in 2009, but a new well has to meet additional standards, including particular design specifications and a battery of analytical tests on water samples collected during a 48-hour test of the well's yield. The new well was drilled just before Christmas, the pump test was completed on the last day of January, and the test results have revealed a clean water supply. Not surprisingly, there is some iron and manganese to contend with, and the pH is moderately acidic, but the quality of the water is vastly superior to that of the previous well. As this issue of the *Afterglow* goes to press, we are still working on options for a new treatment system in consultation with the Office of Drinking Water, an engineer, and our local service technician, but the new well should be online well before the summer begins.

None of these improvements to the Camp facilities is cheap, of course, but thanks to the leadership of the boards of directors of Nature Camp Inc. and the Nature Camp Foundation—and the remarkable generosity of numerous individuals, garden clubs, and other organizations—all necessary funds were appropriated without jeopardizing the financial assets of either NCI or NCF. The number and magnanimity of donors to the Nature Camp Foundation permitted substantial gifts to underwrite the cost of the new truck and well. In addition, high enrollment in recent years has kept NCI solvent. At its meeting in December, the NCI board established two invested funds using existing assets: an Operational Reserve for emergency expenditures and future infrastructure improvements and a Legacy Fund to support staff awards and training and educational opportunities for staff development.

We once again expect a full or nearly full house this summer. A handful of spaces remain available for boys in Second Session, but every other session already has a waiting list for both girls and boys. First Session 2012 happens to be the 250th session in the history of Nature Camp. (There were only 14 sessions total during the first 10 years at Sherando Lake, and the season did not expand to four sessions until 1954, the second year at Big Mary's Creek.) To mark this milestone we plan a session-long celebration, with historical tidbits, special evening programs, and a spotlight on the Nature Camp History Project.

- Philip Coulling

Fall Service Weekend

During the Sept. 2011 Service Weekend, the kitchen floor was a major project. We moved most of the kitchen equipment to the dining area and set up the gas range and prep tables on the front porch of the L.S. for a make-shift kitchen. We left the dishwasher in the kitchen until the last minute so cleanup was easier than it would have been without it. It seemed to me that the cooks had more fun than usual, even though much of the scrubbing was done with the garden hose near the water fountain. We couldn't have pizza on Saturday, since we didn't have both ovens, but the burrito buffet was a wonderful substitute. The improvised menu planned by Nell and prepared by her and her team: Sharon, Amy G, Art, Penny, and Joanne, was great. It was fun to be smooched into the dining area of the L.S. with all the kitchen equipment.

Most of the old linoleum was removed before deciding that the entire top level of the plywood subfloor needed to go. Under that layer, several places had rotten lower-level subfloor plywood: under the sinks, under the freezer in the pantry, and under the ice machine. The floor in front of the walk-in refrigerator had 2 layers of rotten subfloor. On two weekends since Service Weekend, Flip, Lyt, Matthew, Mike M, Mike T, and I gathered at Camp along with Charlie to prepare for new tile and baseboard. The rotted subfloor was replaced with 2 layers of pressure treated 3/4" plywood. We installed tongue-and-groove plywood in the other areas, and added boards to back up the new baseboard. Charlie did a phenomenal job of getting all the remaining stuff ready for the new floor and baseboard. The kitchen floor now looks wonderful. It has new white vinyl tile throughout the kitchen, back hall, and pantry. Charlie has since put on many coats of wax to make it really shine. It has a new black baseboard around all of these areas. It has 2 sheets of stainless steel hanging on the wall under the windows where the new Champion dishwasher will replace the old Hobart. Although it has not yet happened, the old false ceiling will be removed and replaced with sheetrock, and new lighting will replace the old drop-ceiling lighting. This will happen before the May 2012 Service Weekend, because that is when the counters, stoves, sinks, tables, pantry shelves, and new ice machine will need to be moved back into the kitchen to prepare for the 2012 regular session of Camp. It will be much easier to get this sheetrock ceiling installed, taped, and painted before the equipment is moved back into the kitchen.

We had 2 other large projects to tackle as well. We reshingled half of the BBH and added new floor joists to the GBH. On Thursday, Charlie had a dumptruck positioned under the eaves of the BBH and Ellis, Flip, Joe, Keith, Matthew, Mike M. and I removed the old shingles from the back half of the building. By now, we have many experienced roofers and the reshingling must have gone smoothly, because I didn't hear any unusual grumbling.





After nearly 60 years, the floor of the GBH sagged. This was due to dry-rotted floor joists. I received a phone call from Charlie the last weekend of 1st session of 2011 to tell me that the GBH floor had sagged. He and some counselors had been able to get a car jack, some cinder blocks, and a couple of 4x4s under there to support the floor long enough to make it through the summer session. Many of the floor joists are dry-rotted to the point that they can be pulled apart by hand. Enough of the joists cracked last summer that about a quarter of the GBH floor was sagging. Luckily, there is a 1x6 diagonal subfloor below the 1x4 tongue-and-groove flooring, so the girls didn't end up in the crawlspace.

During the September 2011 Service Weekend, many folks helped clean under the GBH and get plastic spread over the ground to make our job a bit more pleasant. Then 5 of us (Bess, Bob, Jason, Tony and I) settled in for 9 hours to add new pressure treated 2"x10"x12' joists next to the old rotten 2"x8"x12' joists. This is called "sistering" when a new board is added to the old board without removing the old board. We sistered 24 new joists to the old joists. One end of each new joist rested on the cinder block foundation wall on the outside of the building. We used a floor jack, because we were lifting a sagging floor, to lift the other end of each new joist into place and then added a double-wide joist hanger to the old central beam. Luckily, the old central beam that runs the entire length in the middle of the building had not dry-rotted. I don't know why. There is a total of 88 joists in each bunkhouse that need this treatment. This takes time. We can do a quarter of each building in a weekend, so the project will take 8 weekends. When we are finished, these floors will be stronger than they were when the buildings were new. The quarter of the BBH that is closest to the swimming pool will get the next treatment, since it is the worst of the remaining sections of the 2 bunkhouses.

The heroes of the weekend are Tony Walters and Braxton Worsham, although their task was accomplished a few weeks before the Service Weekend. During closing week of regular session, these 2 guys crawled under all the buildings in Camp that have crawlspaces and looked at every joist to determine the extent of the dry rot. They compiled an excellent list for our future enjoyment. According to their list, both bunkhouses are bad, there are some problems under both T-houses, and there is just one bad joist under the Staffhouse. The rest of the buildings are in pretty good shape.

Some folks played music in the LS on Friday and Saturday evenings. Of the 69 folks who attended, 17 had never been to a previous Service Weekend and I think 20 folks were on Staff this past summer. I heard someone say that there were only 6 current Staff members that did not attend. We have now had 360 folks who have attended at least one Service Weekend.

To get the full picture check out the photo gallery:

<http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/creativeapps/slideShow/Main.jsp?token=909317740507:2017279183>

- Jim Brooks, Service Committee Chair



Fashion with Flowers XIV

Well, it was that time of year again, to spend time with the ladies who lunch. Very powerful, productive ladies, who have supported Nature Camp through thick and thin. I'm speaking of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs annual Fashions with Flowers annual event, held at the Ginter Park Woman's Club on February 17th. The decorating theme this year was "A Day at Nature Camp" and the centerpieces reflected this very naturalistic approach. One arrangement even had a live fish swimming in the middle! The floral design program "Natural Interpretations" was by David Pippin and the fashion show was sponsored by Steinmart. Members of Richmond Council clubs served as fabulous models and an appetizing lunch was served by the Ginter Park Woman's Club. As usual, the place was packed. A silent auction was held with items donated by members, local businesses and our own Shirley Napps and Katie Hoffman. The stunning arrangements created during the floral design program were raffled off. Not a single opportunity to gain more cash was wasted by those enterprising women!



Jane VanDenBurgh heads up the event and she wrote: "We of RCGC are excited and honored by the establishment of the "Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship" and we will continue our enthusiastic support of Nature Camp." Last year, the grand total donation to camp from this event was over \$3000. Did I mention this was the fourteenth annual luncheon? For the past two years this event has generated more than \$3000.00 for Nature Camp.

Lynne Still has been the Nature Camp Incorporated liaison to the garden clubs, serving as the scholarship chair. She was asked to speak about camp at this year's Fashions with Flowers and she included me on the agenda, to speak about Adult Session. Lynne explained the new Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Scholarship and then announced the induction of four Richmond Council members into the Nature Camp Roll of Honor.

Here are some of her notes from that presentation: "You may know that Nature Camp has, in recent years, revived the tradition of periodically honoring special friends of Nature Camp as inductees to the Nature Camp Roll of Honor. Those included have made significant non-financial contributions that have strengthened Nature Camp for future generations of young people. For example, while we remain deeply grateful to the Richmond Council –really, to all of you here today – for holding this annual event that represents so much hard work and generosity and that results in a greatly appreciated financial contribution, we know that ongoing collective support often stems from the commitment of a smaller group of individuals. How fitting that such great support comes from garden club members, who well understand that the seed of an idea can grow into something real and substantial. I would like to honor 2 individuals posthumously. Pat Brewster had the vision to start this event years ago to support Nature Camp. Each year the event has grown and sells out almost immediately. I know that it is an event that I look forward to yearly. And more recently, Linda Simon became a vigorous supporter of Nature Camp when she was President of Richmond Council. She was a strong supporter even though she never even saw Nature Camp. Many of the Camp's current volunteers never got to meet Pat or Linda; they feel their loss nonetheless and will recall their names with gratitude because of their commitment to shared ideals. Two more individuals I take great pleasure in honoring are Jo Casler and Martha Saunders. When Jo was President of VFGC in the late 1980s her tenure overlapped with the establishment of the Nature Camp Foundation, of which she was an enthusiastic supporter. She also served for many years on the Nature Camp Board of Trustees. Martha was the treasure of Nature Camp for 10 years. Both Jo and Martha are fierce and loyal advocates for Nature Camp and became involved with Nature Camp because they understood that the seed of an idea could grow into something real and substantial. Over the years they have remained steadfast supporters of Nature Camp and their support for the mission of Nature Camp helped channel the talents and enthusiasm of you, their friends, into very real support for Nature Camp. These 4 individuals' names will be added to the Nature Camp Roll of Honor plaque that hangs in the office of Nature Camp."

Jo Casler and Martha Saunders were surprised and pleased to be recognized in such a way, and it was an honor to pay tribute to their support. I look forward to Fashions with Flowers XV. Won't you join me? But make your reservations early – that thing sells out quickly!!

- Amy K. Gonzalez

Saving the Camp Hemlocks

For at least a decade, the eastern hemlock trees in and around Nature Camp have been infested by the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Aldeges tsugae*), a true bug introduced into the eastern United States from Asia more than half a century ago. The telltale cottony white egg sacs along twigs are the adelgid's unmistakable calling card—the insects themselves are extremely small and much less conspicuous—and are now familiar to an entire generation of Nature Campers. Adelgids feed on the sap of young hemlock shoots, and prolonged infestation often results in defoliation and leads to mortality. Although we have been fortunate to have lost very few trees within Nature Camp, the iconic hemlock near the Boys' Bunkhouse has been in decline for several years, and the dense hemlock stands within the Big Mary's Creek valley have been largely reduced to skeletal ghosts.

A number of treatment options have been employed to control hemlock woolly adelgid. The most commonly used chemical agent is imidacloprid, a systemic insecticide which is typically injected into the soil around the base of an infected tree. Other options include horticultural oils or insecticidal soaps. Last spring we developed tentative plans to treat a few trees in front of the Staff House with horticultural oil. If that treatment appeared effective, we would then expand the program by inviting members of the Nature Camp family to "sponsor" individual hemlock trees around Camp by donating funds to pay for the cost of treatment.

On the first day of Fourth Session last summer, the parent of a new camper approached me with the offer of his assistance in treating the hemlocks in Camp. Scott Salem is a professor of entomology at Virginia Tech who leads a research team investigating biological control of hemlock woolly adelgid. Over two days this winter Dr. Salem and lab specialist Tom McEvoy systematically treated several dozen hemlock trees around Nature Camp with imidacloprid, all of which had been donated by the manufacturer. They also released about 200 predatory beetles (*Laricobius nigrinus*), which feed on hemlock woolly adelgid in the western U.S. and which are related to a specialist predator in the adelgid's native range in Japan. Raised in the lab from stock collected in the field, these beetles have been released on public lands from throughout the East. Beetle larvae hatch in late winter and feed on adelgids throughout the spring, then burrow into the soil to pupate during the summer. Hence we won't be able to observe any activity while Nature Camp is in session, but it will be interesting to monitor the health of our resident hemlock trees over the next several years. Thanks to Scott and Tom for their generous efforts to save such an important component of the forest around Camp.

For more information about this biological control program, see <http://www.research.vt.edu/resmag/2007summer/bugs.html>



News from our Nature Camp Family

Wedding Bells are ringing for our very own Camp director **Philip Coulling**. He has finally found a wonderful woman to put up with him, **Sandra Hayslette**, and she said YES!! Sandra also has a beautiful daughter, **Celie Hayslette** so Flip will be getting two wonderful women in the deal. A lucky trio.

Family news keeps rolling in from the Hutton clan, with four future campers lining up. **Cammie and Church Hutton** welcomed their first child, **Lanier**, in June 2011. She was preceded a month earlier by **Cooper**, son of **Charlotte and Austin Cox**. But **George and Liz Hutton** will likely get one to Camp before those two, since **Annie** was born in June

2010. Young **Henry** followed her in December 2011.

On Feb 3rd **Eric and Kat (Bronson) Latham** welcomed their daughter, McKenna Hope Latham to their family. Congratulations!!

Nell and Todd Fredericksen are expecting again. In May of this year, right around Service Weekend she will become the "mother" of a baby Paso Fino foal. Baby pictures will be available at Service Weekend!!!

Calendar of Events 2012

Spring Service Weekend
 Adult Session
 Fall Service Weekend

May 18-20, 2012
 June 8-12, 2012
 September 14-16, 2012

The Nature Camp Foundation has a new Mailing Address:

**P.O. Box 265
 Studley, VA 23162**



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