



the afterglow

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Honoring the Past and Thinking of Tomorrow:

The Nature Camp Foundation Celebrates 25 Years

By Katie Hoffman, History Project Director (and VP/Secretary, Nature Camp, Inc.)

Who could have known twenty-five years ago that Ben McIlwaine's fortieth birthday would have such positive consequences for Nature Camp?

In pulling together the material for this article, I was once again impressed by the imagination, energy, and hard work that Nature Camp inspires in the folks who are associated with it. It turns out that the idea of a support organization for Camp came about because Ben McIlwaine, a camper from the mid-1960s, was feeling nostalgic about his Nature Camp days and wanted a special fortieth birthday present: a reunion in Vesuvius with some of his Camp friends. Ben and Mary Tiffany Schweitzer (Latham Schweitzer Coates' mother and Ben's contemporary) began compiling addresses and contacting as many of their fellow Campers as they could find. The friends gathered at camp to celebrate Ben's birthday and reconnect. As they convened at Camp in June, 1989, the members of this group decided that they wanted to do more than just reminisce; they wanted to play a part in making sure that Camp would remain open and stable for generations to come.

Connie Sancetta and Zia Howell McConnell remember that Colonel Reeves was at Camp during the festivities. The group asked him for his opinion regarding something significant they could do in support of Camp. Colonel suggested that they create an alumni organization, pointing out that there might be a need in the future for some assistance, especially financial, as the Virginia Federation of Garden Clubs was seeing a decrease in the numbers of women joining their ranks. An alumni foundation might be just the ticket, Colonel suggested, for keeping people connected to Camp and to each other, while offering financial support when the Garden Clubs had larger-than-usual budgetary needs. His concern was that the Garden Clubs, as generous as they were, couldn't continue to maintain Camp forever—at least, not without some help.

This enthusiastic crew took Colonel's suggestion and went away inspired. Connie says that Tom Wieboldt, another of her contemporaries, told them about another group of dedicated former Campers and staff who held regular reunions. That group included his wife, Ali Davenport Wieboldt, who had been at Camp a few years after Tom and Connie. The two groups merged, bonded by their mutual enthusiasm, and pooled lists of contact information. They also researched the best ways to organize into a more formal organization. Connie, one of the founding members of the NCF board, explains that "the very first board was [composed of] self-defined volunteers; pretty much anyone who was willing to put in some effort signed on and we created positions to correspond to their interests."

After working individually, the volunteers again met at Camp and doled out jobs to willing volunteers. Connie Sancetta and Arthur Mizzi drafted by-laws. Chap Goodwin, an attorney and a former Camper, agreed to do all of the work to set up such legal documents as the articles of incorporation. Zia Howell McConnell began the detective work of finding people who might want to be part of the effort. According to Zia, "when [the group was] first trying to reach people and could only think of getting in touch using people's addresses from old Woodland Echoes, it was really a BIG job to synthesize the years of newspapers we had and then match those people who attended multiple years. I remember nights of sitting on the floor in my living room with issues of the Woodland

Echoes spread out before me like a quilt...I really learned a lot about Virginia and the various places Camp people lived. I mailed many a 'search' postcard from the beach during my vacation, and it was such a thrill when we 'found' another person who was interested in reconnecting!"

In order to keep all of these members involved and interested, there needed to be some hands-on activities—especially some that would allow them to come back for visits to Camp. Ali Wieboldt and Dot Spates Wilbur (now Brooks) came up with the idea of offering adult sessions, patterned on what Colonel had done in the 1990s. These would be different from the earlier sessions, in that invitations to participate would be issued not only to the Garden Club ladies who had been on Colonel's early lists, but also to Nature Camp alumni and friends. Connie cites these newly configured adult sessions as one of the most important and enduring legacies of the early days of NCF, along with Walter Mehring's idea that members of the Nature Camp Family should be invited to come to Camp and work on the many tasks that would help keep the buildings and grounds in good shape. This, of course, was the inception of what grew into our twice-a-year service weekends.

The first issue of the Afterglow comprised part of the NCF's initial organizational efforts. Connie says that she remembers it as a two-page document, one page contributed by her and another by Gerry Wass, each of them remembering their respective reunions. Even more importantly, this issue of the Afterglow invited people to participate, announcing the group's intention to support Camp through some form of an organization. The response was very positive.

"Recruitment letters went out to parents' addresses, because that was all we had," Connie recounts. "One of the major impacts of those efforts—the most broadly spread—was that so many people who had had their lives changed by Camp received these letters and came forward either to volunteer or give money. [The volunteers' efforts] allowed people to regain contact with each other and to see how the values and ideas that we learned at Camp had continued to influence our lives. Coming together let us see what everybody was doing--how they had put what they learned at Camp into practice."

I was one of the folks who answered their call. Newly married, I had just moved to East Tennessee when Connie reached me and asked whether I might be interested in working with the newly formed Nature Camp Foundation. Pleased to be invited and thrilled to have the chance to work on behalf of a place that had made so many positive changes in my own life, I readily agreed to do what I could to help. Like Connie, I remember the pleasures of getting to know so many people who had been at Camp before me and of hearing about how Camp had figured in their lives. I also remember being impressed and inspired by the sheer number of interesting, talented people who wanted to see Camp prosper; this is something that I've had the good fortune to witness many times over the years, but that was my first glimpse into what Nature Campers were like when they were all grown up.

The first official board was formed, and the members were as follows: Brent Heath, President; Connie Sancetta, Secretary; Nancy Feil Lowry, Treasurer; Walter Mehring, Service Committee Chair; Dot Spates Wilbur and Ali Davenport Wieboldt, Education Committee; Steve Fretwell, Long-Range Planning; Morgan Seargent, Fundraising and Development; Zia Howell, Membership; Arthur Mizzi, at large; and me, Katie Hoffman Doman (now Hoffman), at large.

According to Ali, Kathy Harris took the lead in designing the Nature Camp Foundation logo, and Ali gave her a hand. Ali's memories of the early years of the NCF include the first adult sessions, at which she taught every year until recently. Ali's daughter, Elsa, who is now at Roanoke College, was born in March and came with Ali to adult session the summer following. "I remember bringing Elsa with me in her pack-and-play crib," Ali remembers. "She was a Nature Camper from the very beginning!"

In summing up some of the best things about her experience as one of the members of the first NCF board, Zia declares that "it was really fun coming back to Camp. I remember the idea of adult session coming into being, and thinking, 'Yes! I get to go back to Camp!' It was wonderful!" There was another positive side effect of her involvement with the efforts, too. "One of the best things for me," Zia wrote in an email, "was that since I am the last of 5 children and all my brothers and sisters attended Camp before me, I met several of my siblings' Camp friends -- which was so great! I heard lots of fun stories about my brothers' and sisters' Camp years, which was a window into their lives that I had not known before. Many of the stories were also good

blackmail material for when we all got together.”

As the first NCF board met at Camp and began to formalize their work, there were a number of challenges. Connie remembers some of the more interesting moments this way: “We went along for several years raising money and doing adult session. It wasn’t clear to the Garden Club ladies what we were doing, and really, it wasn’t always clear to us. At first, I think they were a little nervous about just what our intentions were. I think it was actually the money that won them over, at least partially. They realized that we were helping them financially in an important way, and that we weren’t going to interfere in how they were running Camp. A few years after we began, when Barbara Ohmsen was elected president of the VFGC Board, she dove in and learned all about us. She was very enthusiastic, and she embraced our help. I think that really put us in good stead with the rest of the VFGC.”

The NCF still allows us to find and visit one another. Zia says that, on a recent business trip, she made a side visit to a fellow Camper who lives in Arizona. She regrets living so far away that it’s hard for her to make it to service weekends, but, she declares, “I cannot wait for the 2015 reunion, and I love keeping up with what is going on via the Nature Camp Facebook page.” The NCF continues to support Camp in other ways as well. Its most visible current works are publishing the Afterglow and hosting our two service weekends each year. Along with encouraging numerous alumni, staff, and friends to participate in the fun and fellowship of working at Camp on those weekends, the NCF also continues to raise funds and provide money for improvements in Camp’s infrastructure. Examples are a recent well replacement project and the purchase of new equipment for the kitchen this past summer.

We have a lot to thank the Foundation for, since for twenty-five years it has managed the fundraising and friend-raising that help keep Camp in good physical and financial shape, along with keeping us connected through such publications as the Afterglow, the NCF and Nature Camp web pages, and the NCF and Nature Camp Facebook pages. Here’s to Ben McIlwaine and the fortieth birthday celebration that started it all. While I’m at it, here’s to the talented and dedicated people who made the first efforts to form the NCF, to those who are currently volunteering their time and talent, and, thinking of tomorrow, to those current campers and staff who will pick up the mantle in the next twenty-five years and beyond.

Development and Fundraising

I just want to thank everyone who has given money, time, and service to Camp thus far in 2014. It can’t be done without you. Below are some updates on what is going on in Camp’s development and fundraising world.

The NCF Board fielded Blackbaud eTapestry™ in 2013 and is on its way to understanding and using it fully. Some of you are already receiving emails regarding Service Weekends. A few of our goals for 2015 are: 1) Allow you to update your personal information in the database via an online form at the NCF Website. 2) Opt in to receive the Afterglow via email. Many have asked for this option and we are now close to being able to offer the Afterglow in a paperless version.

I want to share a great way to increase donations from outside of the Nature Camp Family. You can now sign up and use Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Nature Camp Foundation. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to NCF! To shop at Amazon Smile simply go to smile.amazon.com via the web browser on your computer or mobile device. On your first visit to Amazon Smile, you will need to select the Nature Camp Foundation from their list of organizations in order for us to receive donations from eligible purchases. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make on Amazon Smile will result in a donation to NCF. You use the same account on Amazon.com and Amazon Smile. This is part of Amazon’s Corporate Outreach and Citizenship Program and I hope you’ll consider signing up.

Please see information regarding the Gus Deeds Memorial Fund and the Stuart Craig Memorial Fund in other parts of this edition to the Afterglow.

- Joe Irby, Development Chair

News from Nature Camp



For much of the summer at Nature Camp it felt more like fall, as we, like most other residents of the East Coast, experienced blessedly cool weather during every session. No one appreciated the prolonged extent of below-average temperatures more than our trio of cooks, who, in addition to teaching classes, continued to strive to produce delicious meals with fresh ingredients sourced as close to Camp as possible. This summer nearly two-thirds of our food dollars went to food grown, raised, or produced within about 100 miles of Nature Camp, and we added to our list of suppliers Homestead Creamery (for milk and ice cream) and Old Church Creamery (yogurt), operated by former camper

and counselor Catherine (Cat Hellgeth) Long. The cooks also put to good use a new gas range/oven, located by the brother of NCF Chris Chamberlin (in conjunction with Paul Cabe) and generously furnished by the Nature Camp Foundation. Quidditch established itself as a favorite activity on the rec field, basketball enthusiasts benefited from a new goal and refurbished court (thanks to the hard work of participants at the Spring Service Weekend), campers thronged to a second tetherball pole, and we enjoyed several new pieces of sports equipment provided by Kat Bronson Latham and other dedicated alumni. In addition to our regular strong educational curriculum, Mammalogy returned to the lineup for the first time in



almost two decades, and campers investigated at least one bleached skeleton suspiciously covered with a strange alga-like substance. And Gary Barker completed his first summer as Nature Camp caretaker (and appreciated a couple of welcome visits from his predecessor, Charlie Truxell). He presented an evening program each session telling tales of Lewis and Clark, showcasing his photographic talent, or demonstrating fire-starting techniques using flint and steel. Here's hoping for many more summers with Gary in Vesuvius!
- Philip Coulling, NC Executive Director

Calendar of Events 2014- 2015

Fall Service Weekend
NCF Annual Meeting
NCF 25th Anniversary Celebration Dinner
Fall Hike Day
NCF Board Meeting
Spring Service Weekend
NCF Reunion

September 19-21
September 20
September 20
October 18
January 24, 2015
May 15-17, 2015
May 29-31, 2015

Nature Camp Foundation Reunion 2015

We're excited that planning for the next Nature Camp reunion, set for May 29-31, 2015 has begun! The reunion is a chance for the Nature Camp family - past and present, campers, counselors, and friends of camp - to gather to share stories, relive old memories, and reignite friendships. Come to hike, play games, swim, sing, share photos, sleep in the bunkhouses (or tents), and have a great time getting reacquainted with the place and people we love.

Included in this issue is the registration form for the reunion (see the last page of this newsletter). As camp can only accommodate a limited number of attendees, we want to give everybody a fair shake when it comes to signing up. To do so, we're asking that those who want to come postmark the registration form **no earlier than December 1, 2014**. And don't worry—we'll make the form available on the NCF website in case you need another or need to reprint before then, and there will be reminders by email and on social media (make sure to "like" the Nature Camp Foundation Facebook page!!!) in the months to come!

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.

Fall Hike Day - Mark Your Calendars—It's Back!!!

Sixth Not Quite Annual Fall Hike Day at Nature Camp

Saturday, 18 October 2014

WHEN: 10:00 AM through the evening, RAIN OR SHINE. If the weather is really unfriendly, call Camp to be sure we're still going hiking: 540-377-2491.

WHERE: Nature Camp

WHAT: "Sunday Hikes" (We know they're on Saturday, but like to call them by their traditional name) followed by dinner and relaxation. **BRING YOUR LUNCH!**

WHO: All friends of Nature Camp

COST: \$20 per person over 10 years of age, or \$50 maximum for a family. Those 10 and under free with a parent.

DETAILS: You and your friends and family are invited for a day at Nature Camp. Paul Cabe and Leigh Ann Beavers have come up with a great idea for a fundraiser to benefit the Nature Camp Foundation, which provides generous and invaluable financial and other assistance to Nature Camp. You can help support Nature Camp while enjoying a fall day in the woods, great food, and fun people. Activities will include counselor-led hikes (and possibly in-Camp activities for those who prefer to remain more sedentary). Paul, Leigh Ann, and company will be busily preparing dinner while all the hikes are out, so you can come enjoy a turkey dinner after your hike (vegetarian and vegan options will be available).

We will NOT be able to provide babysitting, so choose your hike accordingly if you have small children. Hikes will **LEAVE CAMP** at 10:30 AM, so please arrive in time to be ready by then. **PLEASE BRING YOUR LUNCH**, trail snacks, and plenty of water bottles with you.

PLEASE RSVP by October 11 to Flip Coulling at director@naturecamp.net or 540-460-7897. Also please note if you are a vegetarian or vegan.

Spring Service Weekend

This spring was the first Service Weekend for our newly installed leadership team of Ventry Smith (NCI Facilities Director) and Art Maguire (Service Weekend Coordinator) with significant contributions coming from Nature Camp Director, Flip Coulling. We were glad to finally give our new caretaker, Gary Barker, his first taste of Service Weekend, and he really earned his stripes having to unclog the drains in the kitchen. Not a pretty task!! We were able to complete a great variety of projects and still managed to take some time to celebrate Powell Hutton's time as president of the Nature Camp Foundation.

The week began on Thursday with Ventry, Gary, and Art starting (and mostly completing) some work around the girls' side of the staff house and the Assistant Director's room. The work started during some nice weather but it was decided that the usual stripping of roof surfaces should wait until Friday due to impending rain. The rain did arrive and gave us quite a drenching! Fortunately, Friday dawned without rain, and the roofing project proceeded. Due to the celebration that was planned for Saturday, we concentrated on roofing as quickly as possible. This allowed us to complete our roofing goals for the Education Building in time for the Saturday evening celebration.

While one talented crew was working on the roofing, another was working on creating access holes to get underneath the Education Building. This allowed us to



clean out old plumbing fixtures and pipes left behind during the 2008 renovation. The space was then prepared by laying down polyethylene plastic, and assessing the status of the rotting joists. We came up with a plan of attack for the joist replacement project that will begin during Fall Service Weekend.

Other tasks completed included important play field updates. A new adjustable basketball goal



was installed and a court created. A second tetherball pole was also installed.

Nell Fredericksen and her talented kitchen crew kept everyone well fed and continued to echo the goals of Camp to source food locally and sustainably. Currently about half of the food served at Service Weekend is locally sourced.

Philip Coulling, Amy Gonzalez, Annie White and Joe Irby met with Jarrod Hood, head contractor with Lithic Construction, to discuss the new teaching pavilion to be built in memory of Gus Deeds. The Pavilion is scheduled for completion in the spring of 2015 and will honor the memory of Gus and his contributions to the camp community (please see the following articles in the Afterglow for more information on the Pavilion).

There was an air of anticipation when Saturday arrived. We saw a flurry of activity throughout camp as folks finished tasks in anticipation of a night of dancing and celebration. The day ended with many projects completed by the numerous volunteers who came for the weekend and who worked with great vigor and



enthusiasm.

Saturday night proved to be a big hit with all. After our traditional dinner of assorted gourmet pizzas, we honored Powell Hutton's tenure as the Nature Camp Foundation's President. The NCF presented Powell with a beautiful etched wooden plaque and a lovely stoneware platter crafted by Nell. These gifts were a small token of appreciation for his years of service and guidance. Alia Anderson read a tribute to Powell written by Amy Clark, who could not be there for the celebration. Amy's tribute described what a perfect fit Powell was for the organization especially during our time of transition. She went on to review some of Powell's life experiences that equipped him to lead us through our transition from VFGC ownership to NCI and NCF governance. Amy Gonzalez shared some history of his tenure and passed along



some appreciative sentiments from Anne Balto, the first NCI president. The clincher was Philip Coulling, Camp Director, choosing three words that he felt best described Powell's tenure as President of the foundation and how these words described Powell. This brought tears to more than a few eyes. After eyes were dried and hugs given, this all proved to be a wonderful lead in for a cake and ice cream dessert and a long night of dancing. Gary Barker, our new caretaker, jumped in and taught us a new dance. His Paddle Dance proved to be very entertaining to all.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who came and joined us for the weekend. There were at least seven new individuals or families who joined us for the weekend. The total number of people who attended Service Weekend was close to 85. There isn't room to mention every name here, but we appreciate the continued support of people who come to Service Weekend and contribute their talents to the huge variety of tasks - construction, labor, cooking, painting, cleaning and advice on projects. Every contribution helps!

- Art Maguire, Service Weekend Chair



(photos by Amy Gonzalez)

Adult Session

This year's adult session, held June 6-10, was the 25th Adult Session since Dot re-initiated this annual event as one of the flagship activities of the then fledgling Nature Camp Foundation. Sixty-five campers and staff gathered for a weekend of "Back to Basics," emphasizing fundamental natural history and skills of observation and identification. Campers were able to experience nature drawing and journaling, getting down in the creeks to



learn about crayfish, making deerskin drums, night-time hunts for caterpillars, reflective writing, learning the difference between grasses and sedges, enameling nature silhouettes on copper disks, star and planet gazing, discovering unusual plants in and around Camp, and the always popular Appalachian string band workshop. The weekend culminated with an all-day field trip to the Apple Orchard Mountain area of Bedford and Botetourt Counties, where we learned about the geological landscape and its rich botanical, avian, and herpetological delights (including finding the endemic Peaks of Otter Salamander!!)



(photos by Steve Fisher)

Fashions with Flowers

Continued Generosity from the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs

For the 3rd year, I made my plans to attend the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs Fashions with Flowers event. It is such a classic outing, complete with flower arranging demonstrations, fashion show, silent auction and a great luncheon with great women. It's usually scheduled on a Friday in early February, and 2014 was no exception – February 14th – Valentine's Day. Accordingly, the event theme was "Everything Sweet". Not sure if you remember, but Richmond had quite a snowfall that week. The Council decided to postpone the event until April 11th, same time and place – Epiphany Lutheran Church on Horsepen Road. One of the major reasons why I like to attend this event is because all the funds raised from it are given to Nature Camp. The Council has been doing this for 16 years now, and every year they exceed the generosity of the previous year. The organizers even let me get up and say a few words about Nature Camp and to express our gratitude. Let me know if you want to go next year – we'll get a table together!

The Council meets in May every year to conduct their business, have a luncheon and biannually, install new officers. I was privileged to be invited to attend the 82nd Annual Luncheon on May 9th, at the Commonwealth Club in Richmond. At the luncheon meeting, the Council donated gifts to Meals on Wheels, the Maymont Foundation and then called me up to present a check for \$6300 made to the order of Nature Camp. This amount includes all the proceeds from the Fashions with Flowers event plus monies from Council lifetime memberships. As usual, it exceeded the amount given to us last year by quite a bit. In my words of thanks to the members assembled, I told them of the half scholarship we have established in the name of the Richmond Council of Garden Clubs. Their donations have ensured we will be able to award this scholarship every year from here on out. As I have said in previous descriptions of this strongly committed organization of women: "Never, ever, argue with the ladies who lunch – they get things done!!"

- Amy Gonzalez, NCI President



May Celebration of the Life of Gus Deeds

On May 3rd, the Nature Camp Foundation sponsored the Celebration of the Life of Gus Deeds at the Nature Camp Chapel. A little more than a hundred people gathered for the service at Camp on Saturday afternoon. The service included music played by Gus's friends and some of the 'elders' of the Nature Camp musical family as well as a recording of a string quartet that was written by Gus. For a good hour, current campers and counselors told stories and remembrances about



their time with Gus and what they had learned from him. It is a testament to Camp and Flip that campers felt so comfortable contributing, participating, and sharing from the heart. The service ended with the friendship circle and the Lord's Prayer. Soon after the service ended, a kickball game commenced that lasted until well after dark. This was an important event for the community, providing some closure, healing, and a meaningful and fun time. Thank you Philip Coulling, Shirley Napps and Amy Gonzalez for planning the event, the Deeds family for giving us the opportunity to celebrate Gus's life with you, and all who joined us for this meaningful day.

Gus Deeds Memorial Teaching Pavilion



Above is an artist's rendering of the future Gus Deeds Memorial Teaching Pavilion to be built in 2015 near the Nature Camp Canteen. The building is designed to be constructed from re-purposed and local materials. There are numerous opportunities to get involved in its construction, including monetary donations, material donations, and a community build. The NCF will send out a letter in early 2015 sharing more details on ways people can get involved. The pavilion design and construction lead is provided by Lithic Construction of Charlottesville VA. The open-air, gazebo-like structure will be accessible for all to use on rainy and sunny days for class instruction, playing music, and spending time with friends. The pavilion will fill a key need for classroom space during bad weather and will also serve as a gathering spot for campers and counselors during recreation periods on sunny days.

News from Nature Camp, Inc.

The Nature Camp, Inc. board, comprised of 7 members, meets twice a year in late fall and again in late spring. At our May 2014 meeting, we welcomed our newly engaged attorney, Tripp Franklin. Until now, we have enjoyed quite a bit of pro bono legal advice from many of the Nature Camp family who practice law. We've decided that in the course of running a business such as Camp, it makes sense to have committed legal counsel. It is also our practice to include the president of the Nature Camp Foundation board, and the treasurer of NCF at our meetings. This ensures immediate communication on issues that concern us both.

If you come to Service Weekend, and I hope you do, you will note that we are now asking you to sign a release and waiver form. These waivers are considered a best practice and many service organizations use them. We believe it prudent for us to have these waivers in hand. We know you all love Camp and wouldn't want anything to happen to it, so we are taking steps to ensure Camp is protected. We'll post it on the Nature Camp and the NCF web sites so you can review in advance. The language is similar to that used in many waiver forms of Habitat for Humanity organizations. In addition, we will ask parents of minor children who send their kids to service events at Camp with non-custodial adults to sign an additional release form.

We are also in the process of adjusting our facility rental agreement and scheduled fees. Did you know you could rent Camp facilities for a function during the temperate seasons? Some lovely weddings have taken place in the Reeves Memorial Chapel. More to come later on that front.

Paul Cabe has been leading an action team of recent Camp cooks to evaluate kitchen equipment requirements. During this summer, with assistance from Chris Chamberlin's brother Kevin, and funding from Nature Camp Foundation, we installed a new gas range with griddle top. The new oven provides much more ease in preparing the pizza dinner on the first night of each session. We are also looking for a large stand mixer (40 quarts) to aid in bread baking, a commercial grade/size food processor (min. 6 quarts), and a large grill with smoker box.

As you can tell, there is a lot of work to be done to take care of Camp and keep it running. We are most blessed that the linchpin of Camp, the central figure who ensures continuity and excellence, remains with us. Philip Coulling, the Executive Director of Nature Camp, completed his 10th year in that position at the end of the 2013 season. His affiliation with Nature Camp extends long beyond these recent 11 years, as a camper, as a staffer, as a past president of the Nature Camp Foundation, and many other roles. We are so fortunate to have Flip taking care of our campers, working with the caretaker, and overseeing curriculum and staff in his committed, passionate way. Please join us in thanking Flip for all his contributions to the future of Nature Camp.

- Amy Gonzalez, NCI President

Stuart Craig Memorial Fund

A. Stuart Craig of Richmond, VA, departed this life at his own hand on July 13, 2014. He was the son of Ann Craig Nelson and the late G. Lewis Craig.

He attended Nature Camp in the '70s, graduated from Waynesboro High School and Virginia Tech. He spent his entire career in the banking industry. He loved everything about nature—plants, flowers, the sunrise, and loved looking at stars. His favorite place in the world was at Wintergreen in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Stuart was brilliant. He was a finance guy who wrote poetry, painted watercolors, was a gourmet cook, and loved plants and gardening. He also loved martial arts, and enjoyed Eastern philosophy and meditation. He was in recovery and had been sober for 3 years. To watch him play golf was a thing of aching beauty. A patient golf coach, he could improve anyone's game in a few short hours.

He is survived by his mother, Ann, his teenage son Maxy, and his loving friend Julia Groom. Julia established a Memorial Scholarship in Stuart's name and requested that memorial gifts on his behalf be sent to: The Nature Camp Foundation, PO Box 265, Studley, VA 23162, or www.naturecampfoundation.org/support/donate to establish an endowed scholarship in Stuart's name at Nature Camp in Vesuvius, VA.

NCF Service Opportunities

The Nature Camp Foundation is blessed with a community of people who donate their time and talent as well as contribute financially. Nature Camp continues to thrive due to your generous contributions. In addition to growing financial support, we're interested in expanding and deepening relationships with the Nature Camp family. With this in mind, the following is a brief list of areas where we would welcome your expertise in the next year.

Write an article for the Afterglow: We always are looking for guest authors and/or people to interview alumni for the Follow the Gleam feature. If you'd like to pitch a story or write a feature article, please contact Nell Frederickson at: nfredericksen@ferrum.edu

Lead a Service Weekend Project: Have construction, electrical, or plumbing expertise and willing to supervise a work weekend project? Please contact Art Maguire to learn how to get more involved in leading and managing projects for work weekend. artg09m@gmail.com

Advise on Green Building Options: Ventry, Gary, and Art are always looking for ways to green our facilities and occasionally need assistance researching green options. If you have green building expertise or are LEED certified and are available for an occasional call or research project, please contact Ventry and let him know areas in which you are able to advise. ventry@juno.com

Assist with Long Range Planning. The Nature Camp Foundation is collaborating with Nature Camp Inc to develop a long range financial plan for facilities. If you are good with spreadsheets and financials and would like to help, please contact Annie White at annekwhite@yahoo.com

Help plan the May 2015 Reunion – The reunion is scheduled for May 29-31, 2015. If you are interested in helping with the planning or proposing or leading an activity during the reunion, please contact Graelyn Brashear at ghbrashear@gmail.com

Design a Social Media Campaign: What's Nature Camp's equivalent of the ice bucket challenge? If you are well versed in how organizations can utilize social media to increase engagement and reach its goals, we'd welcome your assistance and guidance in developing the Nature Camp Foundation's social media strategy and individual campaigns. Please contact Nell Frederickson at: nfredericksen@ferrum.edu

Help with the Nature Camp History Project: Help preserve the long and rich history of Nature Camp. Learn to take oral histories or help organize photos and documents. Katie Hoffman is heading up efforts to create a permanent collection documenting the history of Nature Camp to be housed at the UVA library. If you would like to help with this project contact Katie Hoffman at hoffmankatie@rocketmail.com

Recruit and Identify Volunteers: If you enjoy recruiting and identifying volunteers and matching them with assignments and would like to further develop this Afterglow feature, we'd love to have you involved. Please contact Annie White at: annekwhite@yahoo.com

News from the Nature Camp Foundation

Through the range of activities reported in this Afterglow, it is clear that the first half of 2014 for Nature Camp and the Nature Camp Foundation has been productive, meaningful and fun.

Over the past year the Nature Camp Foundation and Nature Camp, Inc have made great strides implementing the action plan developed during the July 2013 strategic planning retreat.

On the administrative side, the overarching objective has been to develop the capacity, capabilities and infrastructure to facilitate long range planning and corresponding development goals. To this end the Nature Camp Foundation worked with Nature Camp, Inc to establish a pilot process to ensure ongoing monitoring of facilities, facility maintenance, and funding. This new working relationship between the boards was implemented during Spring Service Weekend and to date has proven to be beneficial in efficiently utilizing board and volunteer time. In addition, we are establishing communications and fundraising infrastructure and database management systems (Blackbaud eTapestry™) to support greater engagement of the Nature Camp family. With strong management tools in place, we are on track to build a long range financial plan for Camp and development plan to support these needs in 2015.

While laying the ground work for future growth, the Nature Camp Foundation continued to support Camp through material and financial support. This year the NCF sponsored two Service Weekends, funded the purchase of a new griddle, range, and oven for the kitchen, a new freezer for the canteen, and an Automatic External Defibrillator to enhance camper safety. The NCF also continues to fund on an annual basis several camper scholarships.

This year has also been one of building and supporting our community. On May 3rd, the Nature Camp Foundation sponsored the Celebration of the Life of Gus Deeds at the Nature Camp Chapel with a little more than a hundred people in attendance, including current staff, campers and their parents, and the Deeds family. On May 17th, we honored and celebrated the service of Powell Hutton and his nine year tenure as President of the Nature Camp Foundation. The celebration commenced with toasts and dinner and ended with cake, ice cream and a Contra dance with dancers ranging in age from eight to eighty. It was another fun, memorable community building activity. And a celebration of NCF's 25th Anniversary was held at camp during Fall Service Weekend and a full report on that event will be in the next issue of the Afterglow.



Thank you to the Foundation's founders and to all of you who contribute to Camp throughout the year.

- Annie White, NCF President

Editors note: We would like to welcome to our ranks our new president, Annie White. Someone we feel has feet big enough to fill Powell Hutton's shoes. She has already shown a high degree of professionalism, and a deep love for and knowledge of Camp as she takes on this challenging leadership role.

NCF Elections

There are two positions up for election this year: Vice President and an At-Large Member (descriptions below). The NCF board also has several positions filled through appointment. The positions up for appointment this year are the Finance Committee Chair and the Communications Committee Chair. The Nominating Committee headed by Chris Chamberlin and consisting of Peter Mehring and Laurel Williamson will be seeking talented individuals for these positions. If you would like to recommend anyone for these positions please contact the committee at ncfnomcom@gmail.com.

We are looking into the addition of an on-line voting system to boost participation in the election process. As we move forward with this we will let you know how it will all work!

Vice-President: The Vice President shall stand in for and perform the duties of President in the President's absence. The Vice President will chair the Nominating Committee, the members of which will be approved by the Board. The Vice President shall undertake to lead special projects as necessary.

At-Large Member: The At-Large Board member is expected to represent the interests of the general membership at all meetings of the Board and to participate in activities undertaken by the Board. At-large members shall be chosen so as to represent the diversity of the membership and to broaden the perspective of the Board.



Nature Camp Foundation Board of Directors

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

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Nature Camp, Inc. Board of Directors

Amy Kasdorf Gonzalez, President
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Mike Meads, Treasurer
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Kajsa Nicholas, Scholarships
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Emily Richardson, Promotion and Publicity
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Contact us: The Nature Camp Foundation, P.O. Box 265, Studley, VA 23162



NATURE CAMP FOUNDATION

Reunion Registration Form

May 29–May 31, 2015

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

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)
Name	M/ F	D	B	L	D	B	L			
I would like to make an additional donation to the Nature Camp Foundation										
								TOTAL COST		

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):